



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
سہل بن سعد رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے رسول اللہ ﷺ کو دیکھا کہ آپ ﷺ اپنی بیٹی کی انگلی اور انگوٹھے کے قریب والی انگلی کے اشارے سے فرما رہے تھے کہ میں ایسے وقت میں نبوت ہوں کہ میرے اور قیامت کے درمیان صرف ان دو کے برابر فاصلہ ہے۔
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Govt raises Kashmir dispute on every Int'l forum: Kaira

Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has reiterated Pakistan's firm resolve of moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their just struggle for freedom. He said the government has raised the Kashmir dispute on every international forum and this is an issue on which all political parties have always been united beyond their political differences.



NA Speaker praises Japan for assisting flood affectees

Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in Parliament House on Wednesday. Matters pertaining to further Pakistan-Japan bilateral ties and worldwide climate change were discussed in the meeting. News on Page 3

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Center extends support to KP govt in curbing terrorism

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Wednesday decided to support the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government in curbing terrorist activities.

Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan chaired the meeting of steering committee, held to discuss the law and order situation. On this occasion, the committee members including MNA Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, MNA Khalid Magsi, MNA Mohsin Dawar, Advisor to Prime Minister Amir Muqam, former governor KPK Shaukat Ali Khan, and former Senator Muhammad Saleh Shah were present. Despite the invitation, the committee members from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Ali Muhammad Khan and Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif did not participate in the meeting.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on the various proposal to completely control the terrorism activities. The steering committee also expressed concerns over terrorist attacks in KPK, particularly in Swat, and expressed solidarity with the people of the province.

It was decided that federal government would support the KP government in curbing terrorist activities. It also stressed upon the provincial government to ensure peace in the province rather than playing petty politics. The committee expressed concerns that extremism and terrorism was increasing in the province, while its provincial government was planning to stage a sit-in against the federal government.

Taking to Twitter, Rana Sana Ullah opined, "It's quite unfortunate that the PTI members of the committee didn't participate in the meeting despite the invitation. It was unanimously decided to support provincial government in curbing terrorist activities". APP

Ensuring peace & security

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah chairing the meeting of the steering committee on Law and Order in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

PM, Hamza acquitted in money laundering case

PM Shehbaz terms the case against him "fake, baseless, and based on political vengeance"

LAHORE: The Special Court, Central, Wednesday acquitted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz in the Rs16 billion money laundering case lodged against them by the Federal Investigation Agency.

The court announced its judgment in the mega money laundering case against the Shehbaz family after the FIA prosecutor informed the court that no money was directly deposited in the accounts of the father-son duo.

The father-son duo, who were summoned on Wednesday, did not appear before the court as their counsel filed a request for exemption as PM Shehbaz had official engagements and Hamza was not well.

The court acquitted the prime minister and his son after the FIA

last week had cleared the PML-N leaders on the charges of laundering Rs16 billion as there was "no direct evidence" against the father-son duo. During Wednesday's hearing, FIA prosecutor Farooq Bajwa opposed acquitting the suspects, saying that Hamza and Shehbaz are allegedly involved in the Rs16 billion money laundering case. "We want this case to proceed. The case should go on till the suspects have been indicted," the prosecutor urged.

However, Special Court Judge Ejaz Awan noted that the FIA has failed to produce "concrete evidence" in the challan submitted before the court against the suspects. Following this, the court acquitted the suspects. In the previous hearing on Tuesday, the judge asked about the number of bank accounts owned by the

Malik Maqsood — also known as Maqsood Chaprasi.

The FIA prosecutor Farooq Bajwa responded that late Maqsood had eight bank accounts to his name. The prosecutor further stated that no money was either directly deposited or withdrawn from the accounts of the suspects, including Shehbaz and Hamza. The judge asked what evidence was there to substantiate that the entire money dealing was being done at Hamza's behest. In response, FIA's prosecutor said the agency does not have "any evidence" linking him to money laundering.

After the verdict's announcement, prime minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked God for his acquittal and termed the case against him "fake, baseless, and based on political vengeance". "No matter

how much I thank God enough for this, it won't be enough," he said in a tweet.

PM Shehbaz said that "despite the worst practices, use of state force, and holding institutions hostage," he still triumphed. In a statement, the former chief minister said the verdict marks the victory of "truth, righteousness, and honesty". "In this politically motivated case, I was kept behind bars for almost 22 months, but despite that, we fought the case vigorously," Hamza said.

"The nation's money was wasted, and the reputation of institutions was also damaged due to the cases lodged on Imran Khan's directions," the PML-N leader said. Hamza said that before Pakistani courts, the United Kingdom's National Crime Agency also gave a clean chit to PM Shehbaz. APP

'Can give call at any time'

IK tells workers to gear up for long march

Imran Khan again demands investigation of the US cypher

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday told his supporters to gear up as he could give a call for the anti-government long march to Islamabad at any moment.

Speaking at the Insaaf Students Federation's (ISF) convention in Lahore, the PTI Chairman said: "It won't take long now. You should remain prepared every day for my call." In his bid to up the ante against the government, Khan has been holding repeated rallies and gatherings across several cities in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Separately, during his party's election campaign for PP-139 in Sharapur, Khan said that the election is a part of Pakistan's struggle for "Haqiqi Azadi". "At this time, massive thieves have been imposed on our country," the PTI chief said, adding that the nation's money is stolen through corruption.

Khan said that politicians go abroad to make deals and then return. The former premier added that the nation's tax money goes into repaying debt instalments.

"For corruption, they destroy institutions which hamper theft. They destroyed NAB's law," Khan said, adding that the nation cannot get hold of "thieves" who send money abroad.

Commenting on the government destroying the country's judicial institutions, the PTI chief said: "Massive thieves are spared." Speaking about his recent brush with the "prohibited funding" case, the PTI chief claimed that the government is trying to get him disqualified.

PTI chairman asked for an investigation regarding the cypher which, according to him, was part of the conspiracy to topple his government in April. Agencies

UN Under Secretary lauds Pak's peace efforts

Army Chief appreciates role of the office of Under Secretary



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The UN Under Secretary General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations Jean Pierre Lacroix called on Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Wednesday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and over-

all regional security situation were discussed.

The Army Chief appreciated the role of the office of Under Secretary in promoting UN core values and their response during crises.

The UN dignitary acknowledged Pakistan's contribution in UN peacekeeping missions and extraordinary achievements in counter-terrorism.

Pakistan has democratically elected civilian govt: US

The US appreciates the longstanding cooperation with Pakistan

WASHINGTON: The state department spokesman said Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met with General Qamar Bajwa as the top officials from the two countries regularly meet.

The US government has a mechanism to ensure the assistance for the flood victims reaches them.

The United States on Tuesday said that there is a democratically elected civilian government in Pakistan and continues to have security and economic interests in the country.

The US appreciates the longstanding cooperation with Pakistan, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said, adding Pakistan and the US share common interests in many areas.

"We value our longstanding cooperation with Pakistan. There are a number of areas where our interests are aligned," he said, addressing a press briefing at the State Department in Washington.

The US State Department spokesperson said



that Washington and Islamabad continue to cooperate in various fields, including security and the economy.

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman met with Pakistan's Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, he said. Price said US officials meet regularly with senior officials of the Pakistani government.

The spokesperson for the state department said that the US government discusses with Pakistan the future of the Afghan people and stability in Afghanistan.

"The stability and future of Afghanistan and the Afghan people and security challenges in the region are

always on the agenda when we have high-level engagements with our Pakistani counterparts. We meet and speak with them regularly on a range of issues," he said.

The two countries constantly discuss issues, including the security situation and challenges in the region, he said. Ned Price said that there is an adequate tracking mechanism for the money given to help the flood victims to ensure the aid lands in their deserving hands. The representatives of the US government and USAID visit the affected areas and submit reports regularly, he noted.

He said that USAID staff make regular trips to monitor the US government's programmes in the field.

The US team visited at least ten districts in Sindh and Balochistan last month to assess not only the humanitarian conditions but also the response activities, he said. This was done to make sure that the response activities meet the humanitarian needs, he said. APP

Cybercrimes on rise with increasing use of social media: DG FIA

Our Correspondent

NAWABSHAH: Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Dr Sanaullah Abbasi said that the importance of digital and smart communication could not be ignored, however, the cybercrimes were also on the rise with the increasing use of social media. Addressing a seminar on prevention of cybercrimes, here at Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University, the FIA director general said that the Cybercrime Bill 2016 had become an Act, adding that its violation was now punishable, and the people needed to be educated on this, according to a press release.

Dr Abbasi said that parents should monitor the activities of their children, while NGOs, media, civil society and other stakeholders should support the FIA in controlling the cybercrimes. He said that the FIA was organizing a series of seminars for creating awareness among the public, especially the students, to ensure prevention of such incidents. APP

PM meets Azeri president; discusses bilateral ties, coop

PM Shehbaz Sharif in Kazakhstan to participate in CICA summit

Spokesman Report

ASTANA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday met the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, and discussed the bilateral relations and ways to further enhance the mutual cooperation.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), being held in the Kazakh capital on October 12-13.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in Kazakhstan's capital Astana to participate in the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), being held on 12-13 October.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Kazakhstan, Yerulan Zhamaubayev received PM Sharif at the Nursultan Nazarbayev International Airport. The prime minister was accompanied by members of the cabinet and senior officials.

During his stay in Astana, PM Sharif will meet the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, and also attend the banquet hosted by President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in honour of leaders of the CICA member states.

The prime minister will address the plenary meeting of CICA on October



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of Azerbaijan H.E. Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of CICA 2022 in Astana, Kazakhstan on Wednesday. Photo: PID

13, where 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 Pakistan'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, and investment.

Prior to his departure from Nur Khan Airbase this morning, PM Sharif in a tweet stressed a greater need to promote engagement and understanding to form win-win partnerships among the countries in Asia.

Solidarity with flood victims

Dadu: Nobel peace laureate Malala Yousafzai witnessing a sketch made by the girls students in memory of their homes which was lost in flood at relief camp on Wednesday.



Photo: APP

Progress linked with Imran's accountability: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said the country's progress and prosperity was linked with the accountability of Imran Khan as he was the "biggest security threat" for Pakistan.

"The country has not faced the biggest security threat in its history like the Foreign Funded Fitna and fraud of Imran Khan, who has played a serious game with the national security and interests," she said while reacting to the remarks of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman.

"The country will surely prosper if Imran Khan were made subservient to the law," she added.

Being the head of government, she said, Imran Khan was solely responsible for all the wrongs committed during the four-year tenure of PTI, but the real power was exercised by his wife Bushra Bibi and her friend Farah Gogi.

Referring to Imran Khan's remarks about his limited powers as the country's chief executive, Marriyum said had he had absolute power, then the gravity of his loot and plunder would have been inconceivable.

With "limited power", Imran Khan had damaged the country's interests and played sinister games to achieve his political motives, she said, adding the state would have been in danger if he had held "absolute power".

She said Imran Khan should have told the masses if he did not enjoy complete power while being in the government for some four years. Ironically, he had unleashed his full power to victimize his political opponents, she added. APP

Scale of flood destruction is astounding: Malala

Noble Peace laureate commends spirit of girls for education despite devastating flood

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Malala Fund co-founders Malala and Ziauddin Yousafzai spent the last two days in Pakistan meeting with leaders, educators and young women from flood-impacted communities in Sindh. Through this visit, they aimed to better understand girls' experiences, refocus international attention on the growing humanitarian crisis and amplify calls for emergency aid.

Noble Peace laureate Malala Yousafzai visited relief sites in Dadu and met with flood-affected women, girls and their families. They spoke with her about their experiences, challenges and asks of leaders. One young woman, 16-year-old Sohaila said: "I want to go to school, but there is so much water. If there was less water, I'd even go through it. Now we are hearing that the flood waters will stay for five months." The

flood has disrupted learning for nearly 3.5 million children. It also destroyed almost half the schools in the Sindh province — those still standing are now temporary shelters or response centres.

Malala and Ziauddin also met with Sindh government officials in Karachi to discuss the challenges facing education in hard-hit areas. She urged leaders in Sindh and across the country to focus on mitigating education loss in their response plans, including working to reinstate schools as learning centres and providing incentives for girls to return to school after the crisis.

Malala Fund is calling for urgent global and regional action to ensure impacted students receive the support and resources they need to return to school. In addition to Malala Fund's initial emergency relief grant, Malala Fund has committed up to \$700,000 (PKR 154 Million) to organisations in Pakistan, an investment that

includes direct funding to local partners and partnerships to support flood relief.

"The scale of the destruction is astounding and the psychosocial and economic impact on the lives of people, especially women and girls cannot be overstated," said Malala. "Millions of Pakistanis are suffering the consequences of climate inaction. World leaders must step up, accelerate their response plans and mobilise funds needed to help Pakistan rebuild and support impacted populations."

Ziauddin Yousafzai added: "Pakistan had the second highest rate of out-of-school students with nearly 22 million children facing great barriers to education. Without urgent action to undo the devastation caused by these floods, the education of 12 million more children is at risk. Pakistan is my home — and I want to see every child able to access the education they deserve."

Strengthening communication

Pakistan, China hold Spokespersons' Dialogue

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China's Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and Spokesperson, Hua Chunying held consultation with Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad via video link.

The two sides exchanged views on China-Pakistan news media exchange, information release, public diplomacy and other topics, according to a statement issued by Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

They agreed to closely communicate and cooperate in the fields of international communication strategy docking, information release coordination, and cracking down on false information, so as to create an increasingly better public opinion environment for the development of China-Pakistan relations, and work together to enhance the international voice of developing countries.

"Glad to have a very productive consultation with H.E. Asim Iftikhar Ahmad," Hua Chunying tweeted after the meeting.

Asim Iftikhar wished the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China a complete success and firmly believed that under the leadership of the Communist Party of China will embark on a brand-new journey of economic and social development.

In his comments, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque tweeted: "Spokespersons' Dialogue is an institutionalized mechanism between Foreign Office of Pakistan and China's MFA to strengthen strategic communication."

Fawad again criticizes ECP

The PTI leader says ECP decided to hold elections under pressure

ISLAMABAD: Senior Vice-President PTI Fawad Chaudhry said that the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) decided to hold by-elections under pressure. In a statement on Tuesday, the PTI leader said it was due to media pressure that the election commission decided to hold by-elections and local body elections.

Fawad said that despite the fact that the government was not willing to conduct by-polls and local government elections, the ECP decided to hold the elections. The PTI leader's remarks come hours after the ECP announced it would convene by-polls and Karachi's local body elections on their respective dates. Issuing a statement on Tuesday [October 11], the ECP said the by-elections for the national and provincial assemblies' seats will take place on October 16 and the second phase of Karachi's local body elections will also go as

scheduled for October 23. Both elections are behind schedule. Accordingly, the commission refused the requests seeking to postpone the polls.

However, the ECP has delayed the by-election in the NA-45 constituency, citing security concerns. In a separate statement, the PTI leader said the establishment in Pakistan has never been as unpopular as it is today. As long as it [the establishment] supported the PTI government, it was popular, he asserted. The increasing unpopularity of the incumbent government has also drowned the establishment, Fawad said. As the government stands on the shoulders of the establishment, it cannot operate in this manner, he said, adding that the establishment is also suffering in the process.

The ECP meeting, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikan-dar Sultan Raja, decided to hold the

election even after the federal and Sindh governments expressed reservations due to a lack of security personnel, among other reasons. The meeting took place just days after the federal government had asked the commission to delay the October 16 by-elections for at least 90 days as a "political party" was planning to "besiege" the capital later this month.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan has announced he will hold his "Azadi March" in the capital and has started mobilising his party. The ex-prime minister has held several meetings and organised rallies at different points in the country in the lead-up to the march.

The by-elections were originally scheduled to be held during September, but the ECP put them off, citing the unavailability of security personnel in the wake of catastrophic floods — that have left over 1,700 dead. Agencies

Japan to enhance investment in Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Japan has vowed to further enhance its investment in Pakistan particularly in the energy sector. The resolve was expressed by Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada during meeting with Minister for Energy Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Appreciating the solar energy initiative of the incumbent government, he said Japan has been investing in Pakistan's power sector and Japanese companies are also interested in investing in solar energy.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister expressed satisfaction over the momentum of bilateral ties and appreciated Japan's longstanding engagement with Pakistan for improving its economic and social infrastructure.

Commending the Japanese investment in Pakistan, Khurram Dastgir Khan highlighted that Pakistan's energy sector offers vast opportunities for investment especially in renewable energy sector.

During the meeting, the Japanese ambassador reiterated his country's support to Pakistan in tackling the devastation caused by floods.

Flood-hit areas require 2.99m seed bags for Rabi crops



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Flood affected areas across the country need 2.99 million seed bags to fulfill the requirements of upcoming Rabi season, Commissioner Food Security ministry of National Food Security and Research informed a meeting held here at the National Flood Response and Coordination Center (NFRCC) on Wednesday.

The meeting chaired by Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal was informed that around four million acres of cultivable area have been affected by flood across the country.

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz, provincial secretaries of agriculture and other concerned officials also participated in the meeting.

The Rabi crop, especially the culti-

vation of wheat and the measures regarding the supply of subsidy-based seeds were reviewed in the meeting. The forum was also apprised of the progress made so far on the NFRCC web portal and dashboard.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal directed that the requirement of the respective areas and the types of seeds should be determined in advance. Furthermore, he said relief activities in the flood affected areas should be expedited due to the arrival of winter besides immediately finalizing mechanism for procurement of subsidy based seeds and distribution at district level.

He said the provincial governments should confirm about the availing of subsidy-based seeds as soon as possible. There should be no delay in delivering seeds to farmers for the Rabi crop, he said adding that the delay would increase the issue of food security in the country.

Attorney General Ashtar Ausaf resigns

ISLAMABAD: Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Ashtar Ausaf Ali has tendered resignation from his office. According to media reports, the prime minister has directed the AGP to continue work until his replacement found. Ashtar Ausaf in his resignation cited health reasons for stepping down from his office.

The government has initiated search for a new attorney general. Ausaf Ali had replaced Khalid Jawed Khan who had resigned after the change of the government. Advocate Ausaf had also served as AGP from 2016 to 2018 to the PML-N government of Mian Nawaz Sharif. Agencies

Pakistan calls India's occupation of Kashmir a modern-day colonialism

Pakistan stresses UN to actively promote a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Describing India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," Pakistan called on the United Nations to actively promote a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Noting that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, Ambassador Munir Akram told the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee that there were still peoples who were denied the right to self-determination, "most prominently the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine".

The right of self-determination of the Kash-

miri people, the Pakistani envoy said, was explicitly recognized in the UN Security Council Resolution 47 and several subsequent resolutions, which prescribed that the final disposition of the State of Jammu & Kashmir should be decided by its people through a free and fair plebiscite held under the UN auspices.

These resolutions were accepted by both India and Pakistan, he said, adding that under Article 25 of the UN Charter, both parties were obliged to implement the resolutions. After Pakistani envoy's speech, delegates of India and Pakistan engaged in a verbal duel over the Kashmir dispute.

In his remarks, Ambassador Akram said for 70 plus years, through force and fraud, India had avoided the implementation of UN resolutions, and since 1989, it's "brutal" campaign of repression killed 100,000 Kashmiris.

Since August 5, 2019, he said, India had taken "unilateral and illegal steps" to annex occupied Kashmir in what its leaders had termed a "final solution".

"Kashmir today is the most densely occupied place in the world, with 900,000 Indian occupation troops deployed in a region the size of Belgium, with one Indian soldier for every 8 Kashmiri man, woman, and child," Ambassador Akram said, pointing out that they had perpetrated a vicious campaign of extra-judicial killings in fake encounters; and "cordon and search" operations; abduction and enforced disappearances of 15,000 young Kashmiri boys; and collective punishments, destroying and burning entire villages and urban neighbourhoods.

"India has incarcerated the entire Kashmiri leadership since 2019. Several of these leaders

have died in the Indian custody, including Altaf Ahmad Shah, who passed away yesterday," he told the committee. "This brutal campaign of oppression," the Pakistan envoy said, "is turbocharged by 'Hindutva' ideology which asserts Hindu's religious and ethnic supremacy and hate against Muslims and other minorities." Genocide Watch warned that it could very well lead to genocide, he noted.

"A wall-of-silence has been imposed over IIOJK with a physical lockdowns, a total information blackout, and censorship and surveillance to suppress the voice of the Kashmiri people," he said, highlighting that journalists, lawyers, and human rights defenders were routinely incarcerated, beaten, humiliated, harassed and even accused of "terrorism" for reporting on the human rights violations in the territory.

In a classic settler-colonial project, Ambassador Akram said India had initiated a process of demographic to convert Jammu and Kashmir from a Muslim majority state to a Hindu majority territory. Over 3.4 million fake domicile certificates had been issued to Hindus from all across India, as the land and properties of Kashmiris were also being confiscated for military and official use.

All the unilateral measures undertaken by India since August 5, 2019 were blatant violations of international law, including the relevant UN Security Council resolutions — not only illegal but, ipso facto, null and void, he said.

Pakistan, he said, desired peaceful relations with all its neighbours, including India, but to ensure durable peace in South Asia, the resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute was essential.

BISP distributes over Rs65b among 2,603,881 flood affected families

Affected families urged to forward their CNIC number to 8171 for registration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Financial aid of Rs.25000 under Prime Minister's Flood Relief Cash Assistance through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has been provided to every flood affected families in the flood hit areas of Pakistan and so far a total amount of Rs.65,097,025,000 have been disbursed among 2,603,881 affected families under this programme.

In this regard special payment centers have been established in by BISP the flood affected areas through which till to date 201,230 affected families have received Rs.5,030,750,000 in Balochistan; 1,787,027 families have received Rs.44,675,675,000 in Sindh;



294,858 families have received Rs. 7,371,450,000 in KP, 320,324 families have received Rs.8,008,100,000 in Punjab and 442 families have

Rs11,050,000 in Gilgit Baltistan respectively.

Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety / Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Ms. Shazia Marri has stressed upon the concerned staff who is present at the campsites to fully cooperate and facilitate the female beneficiaries in their respective regions.

BISP urges affected families to forward their CNIC number to 8171 for registration in Flood Relief Cash Assistance program and upon receiving payment message they can visit their nearby campsite to receive their payment. A control Room has also been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters with cells at provincial level to ensure smooth payments.

Save The Children pledges \$50 mln for relief, rehabilitation

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: As the post-flood rehabilitation of damaged schools infrastructure across Sindh will take a long time to complete, the provincial government and Save the Children has planned to set up 600 Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in four districts of Dadu, Sanghar, Shikarpur and Khairpur with an aim to resume students' educational activities stalled following the devastating floods.

In order to ensure the smooth and effective relief and rehabilitation process, Save the Children has committed USD 50 million for the floods response 2022. In this regard, Save the Children has signed a Letter of Understanding with Sindh Government's Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) and Legal Rights Forum (LRF) to establish 600 Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) besides scaling up the response and support for flood affected



children on immediate basis. To witness the development and ensure continuous support, Country Director Save the Children, M. Khurram Gondal, Global Humanitarian Director Save the Children, Gabriella Waaijman and Director Advocacy, Policy and Government Liaison, Usman Aslam visited temporary learning centers and children friendly spaces being managed in Dadu and also provided Food/ Non-Food Items, dignity kits and other necessary relief items to the flood affected communities in district

Dadu. "We are ensuring resumption of students' education despite the damage caused to the schools due to the recent flood," Khurram Gondal said on the occasion. Gabriella Waaijman expressed deep sorrow and offered her condolences over the losses and expressed solidarity with Pakistani government. She said that Save the Children is putting in all resources and efforts so that students' education activities are resumed to recover education loss as much as we can. The Sindh government

has already declared Save the Children as its strategic partner for the Pakistan Flood Response 2022, following the permission by federal interior ministry to carry out humanitarian activities in all floods-affected districts of Pakistan, in coordination with NFRCC, NDMA, and respective PDMA's.

Main objective of this partnership is to strengthen public private partnership for Education in Emergency in Sindh. All the three signatories will initially work together to respond to the education needs during the current flood emergency as a short term objective and work for the improvement of education in the province in the long term. They will also collaborate for development, implementation, assessment and oversight of the formal and non-formal education projects in the province, including establishment of TLCs in Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Sanghar, Dadu and Khairpur and expansion in other flood affected districts.

CEO Club Pakistan launches Real Estate Academy



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: CEO Club which is a project of CEO Club Pakistan and they launched flagship program Real Estate Academy which will focus on core professionals and the event was organized at Management House Lahore.

The President and Founder CEO Club Pakistan Ijaz Nisar and Project Director Ceo Club Investments Asghar Harris were the hosts of this event. A large number of audience were present on this occasion and they appreciated the CEO Club Pakistan who took nice stand for grooming the young real estate to build up their career in real estate.

On this occasion The Chief Guests who gave the presentation in real estate, included Furqan Aslam, Real Estate Expert, Shoaib Shahid, Ceo Perfectum Pvt Ltd, Shoaib Ahmed, Director HR, Park View City Lahore and Osama Rao, Ceo Ali Baba Marketing.

The training Modules include Delivery Quality customers, Service in real estate, Psychology of selling in real estate, How to close deals, How to face rejections, Art of communication of real estate, How to manage pressure and stress in real estate, Effective negotiation skills, Essentials on press and procedures, Problems solving and decision making skills, Dress Code for succession real estate, Power of Networking and PR, Developing Digital Marketing skills, Telecommunication skills, How to handle difficult clients, Assessment of properties documentation and Ijaz Nisar said that this program will be very affective for every one who want to come in the field of real estate and this will be unique opportunities for real estate learner who want to adopt real estate field.

5th Annual Ombuds Day will be celebrated today

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The fifth annual ombuds day 2022 will be celebrated all over the world, including Pakistan, today.

The purpose of celebrating this day is to sensitize the people about the institutional mechanism of protecting their rights so that no government official or department could be negligent in upholding the legal rights of the citizens.

This was stated by the spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab in a statement issued on Wednesday.

The spokesman explained that the provincial ombudsman office was playing an important role in ensuring good governance through the eradication of corrupt practices and maladministration. It has realised government officials that they are accountable to the people and no dereliction would be tolerated in this regard. In this way, the establishment of a law-abiding society is bolstered and the public trust in the government is also strengthened, the spokesman asserted.

Barrister Sultan visits Harvard University in Boston



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry paid a visit to Harvard University, here on Wednesday.

On this occasion, Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry held a detailed meeting with the high officials and professors of the university. He said that Harvard University is one of the best educational institutions where famous personalities like former American presidents John F. Kennedy, Barack Obama and former prime minister of Pakistan Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto have graduated. Chaudhry said that after getting a Bar at Law Degree from Lincoln's Inn, he was also offered a scholarship to study at Harvard University.

"Since I returned to Pakistan in 1985 and decided to participate in practical politics, I could not avail the opportunity of studying in the University", he said adding that studying at Harvard was his dream and that was the reason he was so curious to visit the varsity. He said that Harvard University is one of the best educational institutions where people from all corners of the world come to get modern and advanced education.

While briefing the university officials and academic staff about the vast educational network and ever-growing literacy rate in Azad Kashmir, the president said, "The literacy rate in Azad Kashmir is quite high and being chancellor of the state-owned universities, I wish Kashmiri students should be given opportunities to seek higher education in this great educational institution".

80 new dengue cases confirmed

ISLAMABAD: As many as eighty new dengue cases were reported during the last 24 hours in the Federal capital raising the number of confirmed patients to 3,423 in the current season also claiming seven deaths.

According to District Health Officer Islamabad Dr. Zaem Zia, 44 cases were reported from the rural areas, in last twenty four hours, raising the tally of total number cases to 2004 cases, while 36 cases were reported from the urban areas with total of 1,419 cases.

He said that highest number of confirmed cases were reported from Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) during last 24 hours, which were 31.

Meanwhile, Director of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Dr Khalid Masood said that several measures have been taken to contain the disease.

He said that as the number of cases was continuously increasing, the PIMS hospital had decided to allocate more wards for the dengue patients. Some 120 beds were being arranged to handle the burden of dengue patients on PIMS, he added.

He asked the people to take extra care during the high-risk dengue season, particularly at the time of sunrise and sunset as the dengue mosquitoes were more active during the very hours.

They should wear full sleeve clothes and they should be careful while walking in the morning and evening, he added.

Keeping in view of constantly increasing dengue cases, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel directed the health officials to look into the increasing number of dengue patients and prepare a comprehensive plan to contain the disease.

Sajid Turi visits flood affected Hanna Urak

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Overseas and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Wednesday visited to the flood-affected Hanna Urak area of Quetta to inspect damaging area.

Provincial Minister of Labor Nawabzada Gohram Khan Bugti, delegations of International Labour Organization (ILO) and All Pakistan Labour Federation accompanied the federal minister during the visit.

Leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Balochistan and other socio-political figures were also present on this occasion.

The federal minister met with the flood victims and reviewed the damage caused by the flood and launched the ILO project Cash for Work in Hanna Urak area of Balochistan.

The federal minister said that the flood disasters in Balochistan was heartbreaking and sad in which more than 3.6 million Pakistani labourers and workers had become unemployed.

He said that daily wages and industrial workers had been affected the most saying that his Ministry and ILO had started Cash for Work for the interest of unemployed people.

Sajid Hussain Turi said that the protection of workers from unemployment was our first priority. He also thanked the ILO for its commitment to help the workers in finding timely employment.

The minister said we were starting the rehabilitation of the affected laborers and workers from Balochistan in collaboration with ILO and Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development.

Relief Activities

SICPA collaborates with Rotary Club of Karachi Metropolitan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: SICPA Pakistan announced that it has partnered with the Rotary Club of Karachi Metropolitan for several initiatives under the club's massive flood relief efforts in Pakistan.

The Rotary Club has been collaborating with Sahil Welfare Association (SWA). SWA is a Non-Profit Organization and a Joint Venture of Pakistan Navy, Bahria Foundation and Civil Society and is engaged in philanthropic, rescue & relief operations in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan. Mr. Asif Ikram, Managing Director and Ms. Serena D'Souza, CSR Coordinator, SICPA Pakistan visited the Naval Head Quarters in Karachi to hand over a donation cheque of Rs. 1 million to the Directors of SWA.

Since mid-June, Pakistan has experienced three times more rainfall than an average monsoon season. Flooding and landslides have destroyed homes, crops, health centres, roads and bridges. More than 33 million people have been affected and there is an elevated risk of the spread of malaria, dengue fever and other diseases.



In addition to the 1 million donation, SICPA employees through their own efforts donated items consisting of non-perishable food items, medicines, clothes, repellents and cash donations. Moreover, a team of volunteers from SICPA also assisted SWA in its efforts to reach out to far flung villages and adjacent areas of district Sujawal. They distributed ration bags among affected populace of old Said Pur, Sahto Goth, Lothio goth, Jamali goth, Mallah goth

and Panhwar goth. SICPA Pakistan has always remained at the forefront of giving back to communities with its dedicated CSR initiatives. It is times like these when SICPA Pakistan steps forth with fervor and extends humanitarian assistance during natural calamities such as this. This partnership with SWA is a manifestation of SICPA's resolve to extend all out support to men and women in the hour of great need.

Former President FCCI to distribute Mospels in Rajanpur

M.A RASHID

FAISALABAD: Atif Munir Sheikh former President FCCI departed for Rajanpur for the immediate distribution of first tranche of Mospel (Mospel) while mosquito nets would be received within couple of days and order has also been placed for the purchase of comforters, disclosed Dr Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

(FCCI). Addressing the flood relief committee, he proposed construction of houses in a traditional way as it would not only suit their socio-economic and environmental needs but also cost much lesser as compared to the cemented houses. He said that a mud house would cost only Rs. 60,000 and we could build maximum houses within the available resources. He requested a local media channel to be a partner with FCCI in motivating people to donate maximum for the flood hit brethren. Former President Mian Javed Iqbal said that 1,650 bottles of 100ML have been prepared for distribution among the displaced families. He stressed the need for early distribution of Mospel as Malaria was rampant in the flood hit areas. He said that collection of relief goods may also be expedited by dividing the city into 6 different zones and giving responsibilities to the volunteers in

each area to collect second hand and used clothes etc. The industrialists in these areas may also be motivated to dedicate their "left over" for the flood victims, he said and added that we must place immediate order for the 100 comforters as winter season would be harsh for the displaced persons living under the open sky. Dr Khurram Tariq said that our focus should be on far flung and inaccessible areas of Baluchistan.

BOP Madadgar launched

With construction of Zero-Carbon Shelters for Flood Affectees at Rojhan City, Rajanpur

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The recent devastating rains and flash floods have inundated vast areas across Pakistan. The Bank of Punjab (BOP), a market leader in Corporate Social Responsibility, has once again been at the forefront of carrying out flood relief activities as it solemnly believes that it's mandatory upon each and every citizen of the country to be actively involved in the rebuilding and rehabilitation of our flood affected brothers and sisters.

The bank recently launched its employee volunteering program called BOP Madadgar which has been designed to give our employees an opportunity to participate in uplifting society and doing good for the public at large.

BOP, under the flag of BOP Madadgar, is constructing permanent basic shelters using eco-friendly building



materials in the flood-affected areas. These shelters are durable and have inherent climate-resilient properties, enabling them to withstand flooding. Additionally, these shelters are extremely low cost, easy to construct, and with virtually zero carbon footprint. The houses have the flexibility of being disassembled and moved for making permanent construction. BOP raised over Rs. 3 billion in various flood relief funds which is probably the highest amount any bank collected from general public.



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:47 am
Zohr 11:54 am
Asr 3:58 pm
Maghrib 5:38 pm
Isha 7:01 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

PRCS to organise national and international donors conference

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society PRCS a leading humanitarian organization, in order to attract and channelize International & National Donors for relief & rehabilitation support to recover from the devastating effects of this season's unprecedented floods of 2022, is organising 'Pakistan-International & National Donors Conference for Relief & Rehabilitation' on November 8th 2022 in Islamabad. As Pakistan moves to the rehabilitation and rebuilding phases in the aftermath of this year's devastating floods, the glaring gaps in funding needed to finance these critical activities are becoming obvious, regrettably, International appeals to help Pakistan at this difficult time have yet to receive a robust response, therefore, the proposed conference is being organised with objective to seek financial commitments as well as material support in current relief and further rehabilitation, the conference funding will contribute to rehabilitation of affected population.

NA Speaker praises Japan for assisting flood affectees

Raja Pervez Ashraf says Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Japan

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in Parliament House on Wednesday.

Matters pertaining to further Pakistan-Japan bilateral ties and worldwide climate change were discussed in the meeting.

The Speaker extended profound condolences over the sad demise of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He said that the late Japanese Prime Minister made invaluable contributions to improving the Pakistan-Japan relationship. He also remarked that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Japan and acknowledged the valuable contributions made by Japan in supporting Pakistan's development efforts over the years.

He said that Pakistan-Japan bilateral relations have strengthened over time and would be further strengthened in the future through enhanced Parliamentary cooperation between the legislatures of both countries.

He said that members of the vibrant Pakistan-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group established in the National Assembly of Pakistan were playing a pivotal role by



building bridges of friendship and bringing Japan closer to Pakistan. He extended an invitation to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan to visit Pakistan.

Speaker while talking about the destruction caused by floods in Pakistan said that Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change despite being responsible for only less than one percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. He appreciated Japan's emergency aid & grant for flood affectees of Pakistan and Japan's overall support for the socio-economic development of Pakistan. He also expressed a desire to learn from Japan to efficiently tackle climate-induced disasters.

The Japanese Ambassador expressed gratitude to the Speaker for the hospitality & condolences. He also expressed solidarity with flood affectees & highlighted certain activities undertaken by Japan in Pakistan for the promotion of bilateral cooperation over the course of 70 years since 1954.

He shared that the Parliament of Japan considers supplementary grants for flood-hit Pakistanis as a token of brotherhood & aiding each other in times of calamity. He also shared the letter by the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan to the Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan to express solidarity with people devastated by the flood.

Four new board members appointed in CDA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government appointed four new Members to the Board of the Capital Development Authority (CDA), as CDA Chairman Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Usman Younis had opted for fresh faces in his team.

Following the approval of a summary by the Cabinet Division, separate notifications were issued by the Ministry of Interior regarding the



appointment of four career officers, two of them from the Inland Revenue Service, as CDA Board Members.

Waseem Hayat Bajwa, a BPS-20 officer from Inland Revenue Service has been notified as Member Planning with immediate effect. He is considered a competent officer also served as Director General of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority.

Afnan Alam Khan, a BPS-19 officer of Audit and Accounts Service has been appointed as Member Planning with immediate effect. Afnan Alam was already serving as Deputy Director of

General Estate in CDA and also held charge of Director Land.

Naveed Ilahi, a BPS-20 officer of the Customs Service, was Member Estate and also held charge of Member Planning. In his capacity as DDG Estate and Director Land, he endeavoured to resolve the problems of affectees.

Syed Mazhar Hussain Shah, another BPS-19 officer of the Inland Revenue Service has been posted as Financial Adviser/Member.

Australia, Indonesia commemorates 20th anniversary of Bali bombings

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission and the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia marked the 20th Anniversary of the Bali terrorist bombings on October 12 with a commemorative ceremony in Islamabad.

The memorial paid tribute to the courage and resilience of those affected by the attacks of October 12, which killed 202 innocent people, including 88 Australians and 38 Indonesians, and wounded hundreds more.

Speaking at the commemorative ceremony on Wednesday, Australian High Commissioner Neil Hawkins highlighted the subsequent close cooperation between Australia and Indonesia and emphasized the commitment of both countries to counterterrorism and violent



extremism. "The shared grief of the Australian and Indonesian peoples gave rise to a shared

resolve: Australia and Indonesia have worked together to strengthen regional responses to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism," Ambassador Hawkins said.

Indonesian Ambassador Adam Tugio remarked that successful prevention of violent acts of extremism calls for an inclusive approach involving youth, professional media, religious leaders, and relevant stakeholders at the national and global levels.

"Two-decade remembrance of tragedy in Bali is a valuable opportunity to renew and reiterate our collective commitment to strengthen the voice of moderation, tolerance, and respect for cultural diversity," added Ambassador Tugio.

The ceremony was attended by representatives from across the diplomatic community, including other nations that lost citizens in the bombings.



Zayed charitable & humanitarian foundation UAE donated 5000 Relief Tents & 7000 foodstuff packages. These stuffs were purchased, organised & distributed by office staff of His highness Sheikh Nayan bin Zayed Al Nahyan Karachi in district Dadu, UC Farid Abad, district Kambar Shahdadkot Sindh & tehsil Sani Shoran Baluchistan among the poor & flood affected families.

APHC leader Altaf Shah's funeral prayers in absentia offered



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The funeral prayers in absentia were offered for the Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Altaf Ahmad Shah here on Wednesday morning.

The incarcerated leader, Altaf Ahmad Shah breathed his last on Monday night at New Delhi's AIIMS Hospital, where he was shifted after being diagnosed with last stage of renal cancer. Shah, the son-in-law of late Syed Ali Gilani, had been languishing in infamous Tihar Jail since 2017.

In Islamabad, a large number of people including APHC (AJK Chapter) leadership, civil society and journalists participated in the funeral prayers, led by senior Kashmiri leader, Ghulam Muhammad Safi.

On the occasion, rich tributes were paid to the deceased leader who sacrificed his life for the cause of freedom of Kashmir.

In addition, the world community was also urged to help stop the ongoing genocide of Kashmiris and take notice of prisoners' plight who are not even allowed to get treatment for their ailments.

Meanwhile, funeral prayers in absentia were also offered in Kotli city of Azad Jammu and Kashmir for the deceased leader. The prayer was organized by APHC (AJK Chapter) senior members, Ishfaq Balwal and Advocate Mehmood Akhtar Qurashi.

Essays on Dr Qadeer's life should include in curriculum



ISLAMABAD: Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, Malik Ibrar Hussain has demanded of the government to include the essays in the curriculum of educational institutions on the life and achievements of late Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan and his outstanding works as nuclear scientist.

The initiative would create an awareness among the new generation about their real heroes, said Malik Ibrar Hussain while talking to APP.

Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan's services in making Pakistan an invincible nuclear power, are unforgettable, he added. The patriotism, courage and bravery of the Late Qadeer Khan will be remembered forever, Malik Ibrar added. Malik Ibrar Hussain used to say that nations that remember their national heroes, would achieve high status in the world.

The credit for making Pakistan the seventh nuclear power in the world and the first Islamic power undoubtedly belongs to a great personality like Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, who worked tirelessly to make Pakistan a nuclear power despite the world's restrictions. And finally, on May 28, 1998, Pakistan conducted nuclear tests which put Pakistan on the frontline in the world nations" he mentioned.

He said that there is an urgent need to educate the new generation about national heroes so that we can know their real achievements.

In this regard, he said, it is necessary to include regular articles on Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, Mohsin e Pakistan in the curriculum and to provide awareness to the children about their eternal struggle.

He also reiterated his commitment that on the occasion of Mohsin Pakistan's death anniversary, we all pledge that no omission will be made in making and maintaining Pakistan an impregnable Islamic power.

DIPLOMATIC CORNER

Mauritius offers expertise for tourism promotion in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Mauritius High Commissioner to Pakistan Rashidally Soobadar on Wednesday offered his country's expertise to exploit Pakistan's untapped potential of tourism sector, saying he believed it can significantly contribute to the national economy.

"Mauritius has a very organized tourism sector which contributes 25 per cent to its economy and I offer my country's technical assistance to promote services and system to make Pakistan an international tourists' hub" he said.

Quoting Pakistan's "mesmerizing scenic northern areas and weather conditions" Soobadar said Pakistan was an ideal country and, "I suggest the authorities concerned to adopt Mauritius model to make



it an ideal tourists' destination." He said his country, a small island with 1.2 million population, annually attracts over 1.5 million tourists which, "reflects how we have exploited tourism sector to contribute in our national economy."

The Mauritius High Commissioner also offered to train Pakistani youth in hotel management as tourism sector's success "lies in the quality services being offered at these facilities establish around tourist destinations."

"We have a very soft visa policy for Pakistanis and his country is ready to further facilitate to the willing students from here, who can benefit from the education opportunities available there."

The Mauritius has 100 percent literacy rate and its national are enjoying free education, however, intending Pakistani students can be accommodated on a nominal fee structure, he added.

He said that tourism sector had emerged as an engine

of growth in Mauritius, and it is one of fastest growing socio-economic sectors that was fueling economic growth and creating jobs and business opportunities.

Recommending Pakistan to make tourism a national subject, Rashidally said, besides good road infrastructure and standard hotels quality transport was also vital to facilitate and attract tourists.

He also highlighted opportunities for the Pakistani manpower in Mauritius health sector and said, "the country has \$13000 per capita income which is quite attractive for the Asian workforce."

To a question about China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project, he said his country was interested to reap trade benefits from One Belt One Road initiative but some

modalities were required to be determined for Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

After completion of the CPEC project the trade ties would be boosted with the entire region especially the African continent and Pakistan's access to those markets can help its economy, he remarked.

The High Commissioner noting the cultural and historic similarities between the two countries said the cooperation could be extended in this area of common interest.

Mauritius, Rashidally said, stood by the people of Pakistan in the times of calamities and his country's government and people's recent air shipment of relief goods for the flood affected here was testimony to this. APP



ISLAMABAD: Turkey's Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pachajli led by Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry M. Khurshid Barlas, Executive Member Muhammad Amin ur Rehman, Fahad Barlas Convener Diplomatic Affairs and Mohsin Khalid giving invitation to H.E of Pakistan Property Expo during the meeting.

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How to manage the menace of floods and predicted drought in Pakistan

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif

The writer invited the attention of the Government of Pakistan to the forthcoming catastrophic of devastating floods vide his article titled "Saving every drop of rain water- select better option" published in several English dailies including Pakistan Observer, Islamabad, dated March 10, 2022. It was specifically stressed that the latest studies conducted by the United Nations experts reveal that climate threat to Pakistan is acute with 40 % of population likely to be severely affected. Despite early warning systems and a history of natural disasters, Pakistan has never paid much attention to climate change. Pakistan ranks 8th among countries most vulnerable to climate crises although it contribute less than one percent to global carbon emissions.

Many eminent scholars and experts on the subject of climate change have been emphasizing the gravity of the climate change with feasible and plausible suggestions to deal with the threat of floods and drought in Pakistan. The versatile writers include Imtiaz Rafi Butt, Raja Shafaatullah, Waqas Nasrullah, Kamran Yousaf, Muhammad Ali Falak, Hassan Aftab and Raja Shahzeb Khan. The said intellectuals and intelligentia have been making appeals to the Government to adopt ways and

means to harness the blessing of rain water and thereby safeguard the interest of the nation.

The response of the Government, however has been disappointing as they have added another department designated as "Climate Change" with a Minister and other necessities. The Government is oblivious of the fact that there are already so many departments dealing with water and disaster management, check dams, irrigation, artificial recharge wells, and small lakes. The only need is to cool all existing resources on war footing. Otherwise the tragic phenomenon will confront us every year.

A few months ago, the forest fire in Balochistan turned over 30 percent pine trees into ashes. Similar tragedy took place in district Kotli and Bhimber last year where forest fire caused colossal damage to valuable forest including painful death of a forest guard in district Bhimber. Had there been lakes in these forests the fire fighting could be easier and more effective in addition to other inherent benefits of these small water reservoirs. So now the strategy of forest department of indulging in formal annual exercise of plantation functions should be replaced by construction of lacks as many as possible, phase wise, and space retrieved by the reclamation of water courses should be filled with suitable fruit trees.

Having said that the writer feels that matter is not insurmountable. The efforts should be two pronged. The rain water storage solutions like arti-

ficial lakes in every village, city, forest enclosures, housing projects, and artificial ground water recharge wells would help manage rain water, control floods, and sure the supply of water during the predicted drought in the year 2025. A healthy campaign should be launched on national level to motivate the public at large. The support of Government departments with effective coordination in the field, in rural areas, in Barani vast tracts, school teachers, scouts, religious leaders, local NGOs, on the one hand, and paving way for the unity of thought for the construction of Kala-Bagh Dam, which is naturally constructed dam on three sides and needs to be taken up sooner the better. The personalities nursing misconceptions may be prepared to reconsider their policy in view of the devastation of 2022 floods knocking at their doors. It can help reduce the damage and help store excess water for irrigation during the months of needs. The KalaBagh dam project would have help immensely in controlling flood water, generating electricity, and improving our irrigation system.

In Housing Sector, the supreme head of Bhabra Town projects Malik Riaz Hussain, has setup an ideal model of Housing Schemes, which has definitely contributed for an admirable image of Pakistan to be followed by other entrepreneurs and in catering for housing needs of the growing population. He also generously contributed not only in national social activity and disaster,

but his organization approached Rohingya Muslims community in Bangladesh as well. Malik Riaz Hussain should undertake on top priority basis building of artificial lakes in every housing project in each sector as many as possible and feasible treating as a step to prevent floods calamity in the country in future. Besides, he should sponsor plantation of fruit-bearing trees. Lakes in housing schemes must precede the construction work because the presence of lakes would reduce the construction cost and facilitate vegetation and vegetables. The housing projects accomplished by Malik Riaz Hussain, unfortunately have developed fruitless trees in twin cities as described centuries ago, in Mughal Empire, about Rawalpindi, (Kullo Ashjar bila asmar). This practice still continues in twin cities. Leaving aside local fruitful trees like Mango, Lemon, Orange, Jaman etc, the Islamabad Authorities, in sixties, imported trees from Japan which are causing annually dreadful disease of allergy to its residents. All the Housing Schemes have been planting ornamental trees which policy should be reviewed.

An on the ground study in twin cities would show that there are beautiful and wonderful sights for natural lakes. In Gulberg Green Scheme Islamabad where houses have been built but the beautiful and vast lakes sights has not yet been undertaken.

The author is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and advocate SC, AJK.

CICA to promote regional cooperation

It is important to understand that CICA was established with the aim to resolve the issues through consensus and enhance regional cooperation and come to effective regional policies. But the fact is that confidence can only be built when all the members sitting on a table agree to an outcome. Any country with the aim of regional hegemony could become a hurdle in the positive outcomes of the discussion. Pakistan at its end should make all possible efforts to come to the conclusion regarding all regional issues through mutual understanding.

We have to accept the reality that current focus of the Western countries is on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. This is the main reason that despite the UN appeal the response of the international community to provide financial assistance for the flood hit people in Pakistan is not as was expected. Some Gulf countries have expressed willingness to invest in Pakistan. For example, Qatar is interested in investing in Pakistani airports. The Prime Minister during his participation in CICA summit will convey to the regional powers that Pakistan is the one of the most vulnerable states to climate change, although it is contributing less than 1% in carbon emissions. The diplomats across the globe must be apprised of the prevailing economic challenges in Pakistan and attract the foreign investment into the country.

CICA is an important forum and Pakistan can gain maximum benefit through this platform. Most importantly, the Prime Minister will present narrative of Pakistan on impacts of climate change in the country. Pakistan is the least contributor to carbon emissions, yet among the most vulnerable to climate change. Basically, CICA is a unique forum for promoting interaction, understanding and collaboration amongst countries across Asia to address common challenges. On the side lines 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 energy. The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan will also come under discussion in the summit.

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, regional cooperation, security and stability in Asia. The emphasis was on economic development. In the summit, leaders from different countries are present in Kazakhstan. I am of the view that both the United States and the Pakistan are vital for each other. The United States wants to keep all the regional stakeholders on board in order to ensure peace and prosperity in the world.



More ambition, scale and speed are needed in climate talks

Sameh Shoukry

Some fear that this year's UN Climate Change Conference — to be held in Sharm El-Sheikh from Nov. 6 to 18 — will be an unintended casualty of the geopolitical tensions and economic challenges the world is facing. I believe the opposite: COP27 represents a unique and timely opportunity for the world to come together, recognize our common interests and restore multilateral cooperation.

The human cost of climate change is making headlines almost daily. Global warming is no longer a distant or theoretical threat, but an immediate material one — a phenomenon that affects each of us, our families and our neighbors. No society has been left unscathed by more frequent and intense droughts, wildfires, storms or floods. Millions of people are already battling for survival.

And that is with temperatures having risen by just 1.1 degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels. As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has made clear, every additional tenth of a degree makes matters worse. But the changes needed to avert catastrophe are not being made, at least not fast enough, and the developing world is increasingly frustrated with rich countries' refusal to pay their fair share for a crisis for which they bear overwhelming responsibility.

On the mitigation front, we must move from rhetoric to action in cutting our greenhouse gas emissions and removing carbon from our atmosphere. All countries must embrace more ambitious Nationally Deter-

mined Contributions and then translate those pledges into programs. We must act now to ensure appropriate resources are available to developing countries to unlock their potential.

At the same time, we must craft a transformative adaptation agenda, so that communities — especially in climate-vulnerable regions — can protect themselves from the effects that are already unavoidable. The bill for this agenda must be divided fairly.

To date, a disproportionate share of climate finance has been directed toward mitigation, leaving developing countries largely to fend for themselves in financing adaptation investment. But even the finance provided for mitigation is far from sufficient and has not been delivered with the appropriate instruments.

In 2009, developed countries pledged to provide \$100 billion annually for climate action in the developing world by 2020. This is only a small portion of the more than \$5.8 trillion that is needed (up until 2030), according to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Standing Committee on Finance. And yet this amount has not been delivered. We need an increase in the scale of finance pledges — especially for adaptation — at COP27, compared to those made at COP26 in Glasgow.

Developed countries must also honor the pledge they made last year to double adaptation finance by 2025, and they should provide the assurances needed for the Green Climate Fund's new replenishment.

And the time has come to address the loss and damage suffered by countries that did not cause the climate crisis. This

remains contentious, but I believe that we can approach it constructively, guided by the priorities of developing countries, for the benefit of all.

A just transition must account for the needs of various regions. For example, African countries are committed in principle to adopting renewable energy and refraining from exploiting their fossil fuel resources. But 600 million people in Africa — 43 percent of the continent's population — currently lack electricity and about 900 million do not have access to clean cooking fuels. The climate action bargain demands that this be addressed and the continent's broader development needs be met in sustainable ways.

All of these imperatives must be pursued together, with a carefully designed package of actions, rather than through piecemeal measures. They are the pillars of a just transition. If one is missing, the entire edifice collapses.

Ahead of the 2015 COP in Paris, few believed that an agreement would be reached. Yet delegates from all over the world came together and, through skill and perseverance, reached a groundbreaking deal. In 2022, we face even higher hurdles, so we must work even harder to clear them. If we do, we will usher in a new age of clean energy, innovation exchange, food and water security, and greater climate justice.

As daunting as this challenge is, we have no choice but to confront it. We must negotiate with one another because there can be no negotiating with the climate.

Sameh Shoukry is COP27 President-Designate and Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Courtesy: Arab News

US should beware the consequences of taking on OPEC

Osama Al-Sharif

America's reaction to last week's decision by OPEC+ to slash production as of November by 2 million barrels per day has been hysterical, impulsive and politically motivated. President Joe Biden blamed Saudi Arabia and Russia for tightening production when the US wanted the opposite in the hope of lower energy prices. The White House threatened to take action, while US lawmakers from both sides of the aisle called for retribution against the "cartel" by passing "NOPEC," the proposed No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act.

Others called for taking direct action against Saudi Arabia, such as denying it access to military hardware and ending military cooperation. But it is important to note that, while Washington was looking at the possible impact of the oil cut on American consumers, the midterm elections and the war in Ukraine, OPEC+ was doing what it usually does, which is to regulate the flow of crude oil to world markets in a bid to control prices. That is what OPEC+ is all about.

The fact that Russia is part of the group has no bearing on what Washington policymakers want or hope to achieve. The organization is not party to any war, conflict or dispute. It simply seeks to protect the economic interests of oil-producing countries, as it had done for decades before the conflict in Ukraine.

Calls to make OPEC+ legally accountable under NOPEC are reckless. Such an act, if it passes and is signed into law by Biden, would end up hurting the global economy and the US in particular. Saudi Arabia is not an enemy of America but a close friend. OPEC+ is not a political weapon but an organization that seeks to protect the interests of its members.

Saudi Arabia and other long-term US allies in the Gulf are committed to the peaceful resolution of conflicts. At the same time, they are not ready to be dragged into an anti-Russia alliance over conflicts they have nothing to do with. This position has been clear

from the beginning and it is shared by other non-Arab countries, such as India, Brazil and China. The US-Russia wrangle is complicated and ideologically based. Both parties lack trust in each other and, while Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ members support the territorial integrity of Ukraine, they have no qualms about dealing with Russia over mutual interests. This is the way the world is run today. Common interests are important and America's allies see no reason to take sides in a conflict that is turning into an East versus West confrontation.

While US lawmakers blame OPEC+, they should listen to French President Emmanuel Macron, who last week rebuked both Norway and the US for selling much-needed liquefied natural gas at "four times" the price they charge their own industries. "In a spirit of great friendship, we will say to our American and Norwegian friends: 'You're super, you supply us with energy and gas, but one thing that can't go on for too long is us paying four times more than the price you sell to your industry,'" Macron said. "That is not exactly the meaning of friendship."

Macron's statement underlines US hypocrisy when it comes to controlling energy prices. America is one of the world's biggest oil producers, with an average production capacity of 11.8 million barrels per day, which is expected to rise to 12.6 million bpd in 2023. Meanwhile, its crude oil imports of about 6.1 million bpd in 2021 accounted for about 72 percent of its total gross petroleum imports, while it exported about 8.5 million bpd of petroleum to 176 countries and four US territories. In short, the US can also influence energy markets and help its European allies by supplying both oil and liquefied natural gas at acceptable prices. Why should OPEC+ be the one that conforms to America's foreign policy priorities? Finally, most oil transactions today are made using so-called petrodollars. This is what keeps the US currency buoyant and, if America wants to wage war against OPEC, it will have to be ready to handle the consequences.

Osama Al-Sharif is a journalist and political commentator based in Amman.

Courtesy: Arab News

Kremlin believes Erdogan will offer Ukraine mediation

Ukraine says recaptured 5 settlements in Kherson region

MOSCOW: Moscow believes Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will "officially" offer at an upcoming meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Kazakhstan to mediate negotiations with Ukraine, a Kremlin aide said Wednesday.

"The Turks are offering their mediation. If any talks take place, then most likely they will be on their territory; in Istanbul or Ankara," Kremlin foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters in Moscow.

He added that "Erdogan will probably propose something officially" during talks with Putin in the Kazakh capital Astana on Thursday.

NATO member Turkey, which has stayed neutral throughout the conflict in Ukraine, has good relations with its two Black Sea neighbors — Russia and Ukraine, and has refrained from joining Western sanctions on Moscow.

"Turkey on principle does not join the illegal sanctions of the West. And this position of Turkey gives an additional impetus for the expansion of trade and economic cooperation," Ushakov said.



Turkey has twice hosted talks between Moscow and Kyiv, including a March in-person meeting of Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba, the first high-level talks to take place after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine.

However, peace negotiations have since stalled and Ukraine's President

Volodymyr Zelensky said he will not hold any talks with Putin after the Kremlin claimed to have annexed four territories of Ukraine.

Asked about Zelensky's pledge, Ushakov told reporters: "I would like to tell him: never say never."

Turkey and the United Nations had brokered a landmark deal with Moscow

and Kyiv that designated three ports for Ukraine to send much-needed grain supplies through a Russian blockade.

But Russia has criticized the deal, complaining its own exports had suffered and claiming without evidence that most deliveries were arriving to Europe, not in poor countries where grain was needed most.

Turkey also played a key role in one of the largest prisoner swaps between Russia and Ukraine since the start of Moscow's military campaign, in which over 200 prisoners were released.

Erdogan is keen to boost trade with Moscow as he tries to stabilize the battered Turkish economy in the run up to elections next June.

Ahead of their meeting, Putin proposed the creation of an energy hub in Turkey after several leaks were discovered on the Nord Stream gas pipelines to Europe.

Russia could "move to the Black Sea region... its main route for the supply of fuel and gas to Europe through Turkey, creating the largest gas hub in Turkey," Putin said at an energy forum in Moscow.

Pakistan, Niger vow to strengthen bilateral ties



Spokesman Report

NIAMEY: Mahamadou Lawaly Dan Dano, Minister of Communication of Republic of Niger received Ahmed Ali Sirohey Ambassador of Pakistan in his office.

During the meeting, they discussed various areas of bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

The Ambassador of Pakistan highlighted the ongoing, devastating impact of the floods in Pakistan which resulted in more than one third of the country being submerged in water. He briefed about the role of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of Pakistan, Electronics and Print Media, Film & Drama Industry. Ambassador of Pakistan proposed that Niger TV & Radio may telecast Pakistani products.

Mahamadou conveyed his condolences and sympathies to the people and the government of Pakistan on the devastation caused by the floods. He appreciated the role of Pakistan's Embassy and accepted Pakistan's cooperation & assistance in entertainment sectors.

He directed Secretary General of M/o Communication to direct Niger TV/Radio to coordinate and prepare for cooperation with brotherly Muslim country Pakistan. He underscored that Niger will prefer Pakistani dubbed program i.e. Dramas and films. He wishes to signed an MoU at the earliest.

The Ambassador thanked the Minister for his time and solid response to the proposal to air Pakistani-drama serials and films in Republic of Niger. He assured full support in all field of bilateral cooperation.

Palestine calls on UN to provide protection to Palestinian children

Spokesman Report

RAMALLAH: In a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Secretary-General, the State of Palestine urgently called on them to provide special protection for Palestinian children.

Since the beginning of 2022, Israel, the occupying Power, has wilfully killed over 44 Palestinian children and minors. Today, 12-year-old Mahmoud Samoudi, succumbed to his wounds, after the Israeli occupying forces had critically shot him in the abdomen twelve days ago in Jenin.

Over the past few days alone, Israel, the occupying Power, has killed over five Palestinian children and youth, including: Adel Adel Daud (14), Mahdi Ladadwa (17), Mahmoud Sous (17), Fayez Khaled Damdoum (17), and Ahmad Draghmeh (19). Deliberately aiming at the upper parts of their bodies, Israeli soldiers are applying Israel's infamous shoot-to-kill policy that has resulted in the killing of hundreds of Palestinian children. These appalling crimes took place days following the killing of 7-year-old Rayan Suleiman by sheer terror of the Israeli occupation soldiers.

Israel deliberately targets Palestinian children and minors with the stated aim of killing and maiming them, thus, denying them their right to life. Children must never be killed or maimed. The State of Palestine warns that Israel's escalating crimes and deliberate targeting of Palestinian children will continue unabatedly and exponentially if accountability is not urgently and effectively pursued.

The evidence of Israel's mounting crimes against Palestinian children is undoubtedly overwhelming. The State of Palestine calls on the Secretary-General to rightly add Israel on the list of shame for its systematic violations against Palestinian children. Willfully exempting Israel from facing consequences for its crimes is inconsistent with international law and resolutions that form the basis for protection of children in armed conflict.

NATO cautious to avoid war, struggles with dual challenges

BRUSSELS: NATO defense ministers met Wednesday as the alliance's member countries face the twin challenges of struggling to make and supply weapons to Ukraine while protecting vital European infrastructure like pipelines or cables that Russia might want to sabotage in retaliation.

In the almost eight months since President Vladimir Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, the 30-nation military alliance has been treading a fine line, as an organization, providing only non-lethal support and defending its own territory to avoid being dragged into a wider war with a nuclear-armed Russia.

Individual allies though continue to pour in weapons and ammunition, including armored vehicles and air defense or anti-tank systems. They're also training Ukrainian troops, building on the lessons NATO has taught Ukraine's military instructors since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

"Ukraine is a big country, many cities. So we need to scale up to be able to help Ukraine defend even more cities and more territory against horrific Russian attacks against their civilian populations," Stoltenberg told reporters before chairing the meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

'Pakistan Trade & Cultural Centre' inaugurated in Bulgaria

SOFIA: A 'Pakistan Trade and Cultural Centre' was inaugurated in the Embassy of Pakistan on Wednesday.

The centre displays samples relating to main Pakistani export items i.e., textile products, leather goods, sports goods, surgical instruments & medical supplies, Himalayan salt product and traditional Pakistani handicrafts. Different paintings depicting the rich cultural diversity of Pakistani provinces are also displayed in the centre.

The inauguration of the centre was carried out by Mr. Tsvetan Simeonov, President of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a simple and dignified ceremony which was attended by different businessmen from Sofia as well as representatives of regional chambers.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Simeonov thanked the



Embassy for its continuous efforts and initiatives to strengthen trade relations between the two friendly countries, including by organizing exhibitions and arranging online B-2-B meetings. He appreciated the initiative of the Embassy to establish this 'Trade & Cultural Centre' which would help the Bulgarian businessmen immensely as they could

see the samples directly and get information about the respective businesses. On the occasion, he also encouraged the Bulgarian businesses to take advantage of GSP+ status of Pakistan which allowed the import of products duty-free in the European Union markets.

In her remarks, the Ambassador thanked Mr. Simeonov and officials of

BCCI for their continuous support to all initiatives of the Embassy aimed at cementing the trade relations between the two countries. She said that the actual trade volume between the two countries was still not commensurate with the actual potential that exists between the two economies.

In this regard, she encouraged the Bulgarian businesses to take advantage of still-unexplored Pakistani market and established useful business linkages with their counterparts there. She assured full support of the Embassy to the concerned business associations and companies in Bulgaria in this regard.

On the occasion, documentaries depicting the trade and tourism potential as well as rich cultural diversity of Pakistan were also shown to the participants.

Chinese expert team on disaster management leaves for Pakistan

BEIJING: A Chinese experts' team on disaster management left for Pakistan on Wednesday to share their expertise in flood damage assessment and assist the country's reconstruction works.

The team, organized by the ministry, also had personnel of the Ministry of Water Resources and China Meteorological Administration, according to official sources. The group will help Pakistan in disaster assessment and flood prevention and mitigation.

China's Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) and China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) held farewell ceremony for the team.

In his remarks while seeing the team off at airport in Beijing, China's Vice Minister of Emergency Management, Zhou Xuewen said, since June, Pakistan had been hit by severe floods, which resulted in heavy casualties and property losses.

Hurriyat leaders term custodial death of Altaf Shah as cold-blooded murder

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Hurriyat leaders have strongly denounced the custodial death of senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Altaf Ahmad Shah, terming it a cold-blooded murder.

The illegally detained APHC Vice Chairman, Shabbir Ahmed Shah in a message sent from New Delhi Tihar jail and released in Srinagar expressed deep shock over the demise of Altaf Ahmad Shah in the Indian captivity.

He denounced in strong terms the Indian apartheid regime's brutal attitude towards the Kashmiris and said Altaf Ahmad Shah's tragic death in custody speaks volumes about the dangerous tactics the communal Modi regime has been using to eliminate legitimate political voices of Kashmir that have refused to toe its diktats.

The APHC Vice Chairman termed

the death of Altaf Shah as a cold-blooded murder. He said that it was quite unfortunate that the Indian authorities blatantly refused to provide him medical care and remorselessly ignored his fast-deteriorating health condition. "Detaining Kashmiri leaders and political activists under bogus cases and leaving them to rot in jails far away from their homes is part of the Modi government's policy intended to render the ongoing freedom struggle a leaderless movement," he said. Thousands of Kashmiris including the top rank Hurriyat leaders who have been arrested before and after 5th August 2019 have been lodged in Indian jails, he said.

Shabbir Shah said denying medical facilities and other basic amenities to Kashmiri prisoners in jails is a dangerous killing tactic Indian authorities have been using to punish and perse-

cute Kashmiris. He paid rich tribute to Altaf Shah's life long struggle and his sacrifices saying that the deceased leader devoted his whole life for the sacred cause of freedom from India. He extended his heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace for the departed soul.

APHC leader, Engineer Hilal Ahmad War, in a statement in Srinagar condemned the custodial death of Altaf Ahmad Shah. He termed his demise as huge loss for the resistance movement. "Altaf Ahmad Shah devoted his whole life for the Kashmir cause. He was a sincere and an honest leader. His contribution and role would be remembered in the history of Kashmir," he said.

Engineer Hilal War appealed to the international community to impress upon the Indian government to release all illegally detained Kashmiri political

prisoners languishing in different Indian jails including the infamous Tihar Jail to save their precious lives.

APHC leaders Khadim Hussain and Syed Sibte Shabbir Qummi in a joint statement said the custodial killing of Altaf Ahmad Shah has once again exposed the ugly face of India. They maintained that currently a large number of Hurriyat leaders, including APHC Chairman, Masarrat Aalam Butt, are languishing in Tihar and other Indian jails, many of them have developed serious ailments due to unhygienic food, lack of medical care and other basic facilities. They deplored that the Modi-led Hindutva government is following the policy of slowly pushing all the detained leaders to death. They said that earlier senior Hurriyat leaders Syed Ali Gilani and Muhammad Ashraf Sehrai also died in the Indian captivity.

Documentary on intl coop for peace in Mindanao screened

Spokesman Report

MANILA: A documentary film about the international peace building efforts for Mindanao in the Philippines, one of the world's long-term conflicts sparked by violence that left over 120,000 deaths and millions of displaced persons since the 1960s was released and screened in the Philippines.

In celebration of the National Peace Consciousness Month, a peace documentary titled "Great Legacy" premiered in a cinema in Davao City on the evening of September 6, 2022. Around 500 representatives from the government, education sector, media, as well as civic society leaders, religious leaders across the country and peace advocates from Mindanao have attended.

The documentary was produced by SMV Media

Group, a broadcast company based in Seoul, South Korea, in collaboration with Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL), an international non-profit organization affiliated with the UN ECOSOC advocating for global peace. The film showcased HWPL and actors who engaged in peace-related activities in Mindanao.

Davao City Mayor Baste Duterte congratulated by saying, "By showing people documentaries and films on peace, we may encourage more to be one with us in our peace-keeping and peacebuilding efforts for our communities."

HWPL's peace movement in the Philippines started when HWPL Chairman Lee Man-hee, a Korean war veteran and peace activist, visited Mindanao several times since 2013. He medi-

ated a civilian peace agreement signed by Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla and then Maguindanao Governor Esmarcel "Toto" G. Mangudadatu on January 24, 2014 in General Santos City. Before the audience of 300 people including politicians, university professors, religious leaders, and students, the representatives on that day promised to cooperate in ceasing the conflict and building peace especially in the Mindanao region which has long suffered the aftereffects of war.

This agreement became the starting point of HWPL in raising public awareness about peace not only in Mindanao but throughout the Philippines, based on the universal principles of mutual understanding, respect, and harmony. HWPL's peace initiatives include law enactment for peace, interfaith

dialogues, peace education, and youth and women empowerment, which has brought leaders in different countries to support peace in Mindanao.

In the film, Martin Lee Hojisan, former chairperson of the UN Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, praised HWPL led by Chairman Lee, and the Filipino people who had a keen passion for peace. Also, Nabil Tirmage, Asia Pacific Broadcasting Development Organization program manager, said that the civil peace agreement in 2014 is an "amazing case of realization of peace that the world should study".

"The conflict in Mindanao has been a major variable in not only in Southeast Asian but global situation. The establishment of peace in Mindanao was a global task and required



constructive intervention from the international community. In particular, it will be possible to

understand through this documentary film that the efforts at the private sector, like HWPL in

Mindanao, are the foundation for peace to settle down," said an official of HWPL.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,007.14	42,155.48
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,195.36	41,950.98
Index Value	Change
5,981,787,623	-148.34
Percentage	Time
-0.35%	12 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
6,826.15	-59.08
Percentage	Time
-0.86%	12 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
29,384.38	+145.19
Percentage	Time
+0.50%	12 Oct, 12:23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
26,396.83	-4.42
Percentage	Time
-0.017%	12 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	137.61	138.86
Bahrain Dinar	578.36	582.86
Canadian Dollar	160.71	162.06
China Yuan	30.91	31.16
Danish Krone	28.78	29.13
Euro	212	214
Hong Kong Dollar	27.7	28.05
Indian Rupee	2.65	2.73
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.15
Kuwaiti Dinar	700.77	705.77
Malaysian Ringgit	47.24	47.69
New Zealand \$	122.66	123.86
Norwegians Krone	20.5	20.8
Omani Riyal	564.73	569.23
Qatari Riyal	60.37	60.87
Saudi Riyal	58.4	59
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	60.2	60.8
UK Pound Sterling	242	244.5
US Dollar	218.3	220.5

Thar coal can help reduce import bill by \$6b: Mian Zahid

Says politics deprived the country of this vital resource for decades

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday welcomed the decision of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to use Thar coal to benefit the country.

Thar has 175 billion tonnes of coal reserves that contain more energy than the combined oil and gas reserves of Saudi Arabia and Iran but it is still untapped, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that with the coal buried in Thar, Pakistan can not only meet

its energy needs but also earn huge foreign exchange by selling electricity to neighboring countries, but this project has never caught the full attention of leaders in the past.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif wants to reduce the oil import bill by reducing the dependence on imported fuel through Thar Coal, which is commendable.

By making 1200 megawatts of electricity in Thar, two billion dollars will be saved this year, while six billion dollars can be saved next year, which can start a new era of development in Pakistan.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that currently

high-grade coal is being imported for power plants and factories, which is a waste of precious foreign exchange. Power plants and factories can also be run on local coal but the efforts in this regard are not satisfactory and need to be increased.

If Thar Coal had not been politicized, coal would have been produced on a large scale, local coal would have been protected from price fluctuations in the global market, and at least 10 to 12 thousand megawatts of electricity would have been generated from coal, he noted.

The import bill would have been reduced by twenty-five percent and the most backward area of Thar would have been developed if this project was given proper attention.



Innovative minds learning

Ericsson Pakistan launches Graduate Program

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Ericsson has announced the launch of its graduate program in Pakistan to offer young talents world-class learning and career development opportunities. The Ericsson Pakistan Graduate Program is focused on nurturing Pakistan's technology leaders of tomorrow.

With experts from Ericsson training and supporting young Pakistani talent, the Ericsson Pakistan Graduate Program provides on-the-job, project-based, classroom training, and online learning in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and advanced technologies within the advanced connectivity era and as a contribution to the Digital Pakistan Policy.

The graduates are gaining valuable work experience, skills and knowledge that enable graduates to gain profession-



al project-based knowledge, in a fast-changing ICT sector.

Aamir Ahsan Khan, President and Country Manager of Ericsson Pakistan says: "Ericsson has been in Pakistan for 60 years and giving back to society is one of our strong pillars. The Ericsson Pakistan Graduate Program enhances the skills and knowledge of the young

and bright graduates while empowering them as technology experts. The youth are the catalysts to the realization of the Digital Pakistan Policy and will lead Pakistan's digital future in different areas like FinTech, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, and more. The graduates have great potential,

and we are looking forward to their success." The young, curious, and innovative graduates are working alongside world-class industry expertise at Ericsson and are supporting the development of projects that are changing the world of communication in Pakistan and the region.

Chief Collector Customs assures to address customs issues of traders

Business community playing a key role in promoting trade and economic activities

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Business community is playing a key role in promoting trade and economic activities and all possible measures would be taken to address their customs related issues. This was said by Muhammad Imran Khan Mohmand, Chief Collector (Customs North), Islamabad while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI).

Muhammad Imran Khan Mohmand said that an improved Export Facilitation Scheme would be rolled out soon to facilitate the exporters. He said that the business community should take advantage of the Trade Information Portal of Pakistan to improve their knowledge about import and export matters. He said that the We-BOC system is also facilitating the traders in customs clearance and they should take advantage of it. He said that the business community should cooperate with the customs department in identifying those who misuse the green channel to make it more effective for clearance of containers. He assured that the customs department would consid-



er the issues highlighted by the business community to address them.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the best option to resolve the current economic crisis is to boost exports and foreign reserves.

He stressed that short, medium and long term measures should be taken to improve exports. He further said that the customs should arrange seminars in chambers of commerce across the country to educate the business community

about improving exports.

Mian Akram Farid former President ICCI said that industry in FATA/PATA is tax exempted, but its products are reaching the settled areas due to which industry of settled areas including Islamabad is suffering and urged that customs should look into this situation.

Zafar Bakhtawari and Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, former Presidents ICCI said that customs should cooperate with the private sector in promoting exports in order to steer Pakistan out of current economic crisis.

Pakistan was saved from sinking into economic quagmire: Atif Ikram

Says serious economic issues present, should be resolved

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Wednesday said Pakistan was temporarily saved from sinking into the economic quagmire but serious economic issues are present which should be resolved without further delay.

He said that erroneous economic priorities and wrong decisions can push the country to bankruptcy sooner than expected therefore merit should be given priority.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA, VP FPCCI and President ICCI said that a solution to the current economic crisis



is possible with political will.

The lack of unity also hinders the resolution of the crisis, he said, adding that those who matter give priority to personal and political interests over the national interest and instead of expanding the economy they try to boost their vote bank.

Most important economic

decisions are made on political grounds and without consulting the independent economist or the business community.

Atif Ikram Sheikh warned that the loss of resources cannot last long because the economy is not strong and it cannot withstand more extravagance, bad decisions and poor governance.

Exports and remittances have always failed to fill the gap between imports leading to borrowing. The reasons for low export volume include inflated business costs, tax system, inconsistency in policies, poor governance, difficulties in starting a business and shortage of energy.

At present Pakistan has

become a net importer of food items and we will have to import cotton worth billions of dollars, he observed. The business leader said that the losses of the power sector have reached six to seven hundred billion rupees, the circular debt of the electricity sector has reached two and a half trillion rupees, the circular debt of the gas sector has reached seven hundred billion rupees reforms have not been initiated.

Incompetence in the import of LNG caused the loss of billions of dollars but no one was held responsible while hundreds of billions of rupees are being wasted annually to keep state-owned corporations artificially alive.

JS Group secures multiple accolades

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: JS Group and its subsidiaries have won three awards at the Best Corporate Report Award Ceremony jointly hosted by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP).

Jahangir Siddiqui & Co. Ltd. (JSCL) secured First Position in the NBFIs & Mutual Funds sector. Additionally, JS Bank and JS Global have won the prestigious Certificates of Merit in their respective sectors i.e., Banking and Brokerage.

Held annually since 2000, the Best Corporate Report Awards has been

instrumental in encouraging entities to follow transparency in preparing their annual reports according to international best practices. The Award recognizes commitment to promoting corporate accountability and transparency through the publication of timely, informative, factual, and reader-friendly annual reports.

Suleman Lalani, Chief Executive Officer of JSCL stated, "This recognition is a testament to JS Group's commitment towards ensuring open, transparent, and investor-friendly communication. We will endeavor to continue providing our stakeholders with value-adding, accurate and timely information."



KARACHI: A new sales center of HMR Waterfront inaugurated on Abdus Sattar Edhi Avenue, DHA Phase-8. Chairman of HMR Waterfront Haji Rafiq Perdesi and Husnain Perdesi presenting shield to Administrator DHA Brigadier Rai Asim Mustafa.

Ordercall signs MoU with ICMAP

Bureau Report

KARACHI: One of Pakistan's fastest-growing B2B marketplaces, Ordercall, has signed an MoU with ICMAP, the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan. The agreement was signed by Amir Aijaz Khan, Executive Director, ICMAP and Farhan Hidayat, Head of People and Culture, Ordercall.

The partnership will strengthen Ordercall's talent acquisition and management capabilities, create strategic networking opportuni-

ties and facilitate employee engagement through ICMAP's extensive experience in the field of management consultancy. The companies will work closely to empower Pakistan's 2 million+ retailers and digitize B2B conventional retail trade.

Commenting on the alliance, Farhan Hidayat said, "Ordercall's people lie at the heart of its business. We are pleased to partner with one of Pakistan's most prestigious institutions to fuel our mission with the right talent and create a long-term positive impact."

SECP enhances sales load limit for AMC's selling

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In order to encourage third-party distribution and increase competition in the non-banking financial sector, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has enhanced sales load limit for Asset Management Companies (AMCs) through circular 10 of 2022.

This relaxation has been made for AMCs selling through a third-party online distribution channel/portal. The limit has been revised upwards from 1.5% to up to 3%, considering the costs that AMCs have to share with the third parties. The relaxation is not applicable on AMCs selling through their own online portals and not sharing any cost with a third-party.

PCA delegation meets with newly elected office bearers of LCCI

LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan Coating Association (PCA) led by the Vice Chairmen PCA, M Imran Sulehria and M Waqas Mughal, had a meet and greet meeting with the newly elected office bearers of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI).

Kashif Anwar, President LCCI admired the efforts of the PCA for taking different initiatives to facilitate the business community of the country, particularly, the initiatives to enhance the export of the member industries. He reiterated that PCA and LCCI would join hands together to further enhance the scope of initiatives for the ease of doing business in Pakistan.

While addressing on the occasion, M Imran Sulehria, M Waqas Mughal and Moazzam Rasheed demanded the Government to include the PCA member industries in the list of Export Oriented Sector and if the same facilities are given to the PCA member industries, they can enhance exports to one billion USD.

Meeting was also attended by many notable industrialists and members of PCA and LCCI.

Menzies-Ras celebrates its launch at Cargo Facility in ICT



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Menzies-RAS Team gathered in their state-of-the-art cargo warehouse at Islamabad International Airport to celebrate the partnership between Menzies Aviation and Royal Airport Services - a collaboration which has laid the groundwork for monumental success and progress. As global experts in high value and

time critical cargo handling, the ceremony allowed an exclusive look into the heart of Menzies-RAS operations.

Menzies-RAS is a joint venture between Menzies Aviation and SPARS Group operating since January 2021 - bringing together the excellence of Royal Airport Services of Pakistan and the experience of Menzies Aviation, global leaders in the aviation industry.

England name Test squad for tour of Pakistan

Will Jacks is called up to the Test squad for the first time

Spokesman Report

LONDON: England Men's selection panel have named a 15-strong squad for the three-match Test tour of Pakistan starting in December.

Surrey all-rounder Will Jacks is called up to the Test squad for the first time after an impressive summer saw him play an integral part with bat and off-spin, helping Surrey win the LV= Insurance County Championship Division One title.

Lancashire all-rounder Liam Livingstone will be looking to make his Test debut, having been called up to a Test squad for the first time since England's tour of New Zealand in the spring of 2018.

Lancashire opening batter Keaton Jennings returns to the Test squad for the first time since February 2019 after a stellar summer with the red rose county, where he was the top run-scorer in Division One of the LV= Insurance County Championship, scoring 1233 runs at an average of 72.52 with five centuries.

Nottinghamshire batter Ben Duckett could be in line to return to Test cricket for the first time since November 2016



after impressing in the County Championship and the England Lions across the summer.

Durham fast bowler Mark Wood, who is currently playing in Australia in England's campaign for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, returns to the Test

squad for the first time since March, and Surrey quick Jamie Overton is included after making his Test debut earlier in the summer against New Zealand at Headingley.

Nottinghamshire seam bowler Stuart Broad was not considered for selection,

with his partner expecting their first child towards the end of November.

Commenting on the selected squad, ECB Managing Director for England Men's Cricket, Rob Key, said:

"We are looking forward to touring Pakistan as a Test team for the first time since 2005. It will be a historic tour and a compelling series against a good side.

"The selectors have picked a squad for the conditions we can expect in Pakistan. There is a strong blend of youth and experience and players who will adapt well to the types of pitches we are likely to get across the three-match series.

"I wish the players every success, especially those new to the squad and those returning after a period of time away."

England Men's Test squad: Ben Stokes (Durham) captain James Anderson (Lancashire) Harry Brook (Yorkshire) Zak Crawley (Kent) Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire) Ben Foakes (Surrey) Will Jacks (Surrey) Keaton Jennings (Lancashire) Jack Leach (Somerset) Liam Livingstone (Lancashire) Jamie Overton (Surrey) Ollie Pope (Surrey) Ollie Robinson (Sussex) Joe Root (Yorkshire) Mark Wood (Durham).

Ireland qualify for women's World Cup as Scotland, Wales miss out



GLASGOW: Amber Barrett came off the bench to send the Republic of Ireland to the Women's World Cup finals for the first time in their history with a 1-0 win over Scotland at Hampden Park on Tuesday.

Barrett produced a cool finish 18 minutes from time after Real Madrid star Caroline Weir had a first-half penalty saved for Scotland.

Both sides started the night unsure of their respective fates, but Portugal's win over Iceland meant a win would be enough for either side to seal their place in Australia and New Zealand next year.

Switzerland are also headed to the World Cup after coming from behind to beat Wales 2-1.

Rhainnon Roberts put the visitors in front in Zurich, but Ramona Bachmann levelled to sent the game into extra-time. Fabienne Humm then struck the winner for the Swiss.

Portugal's extra-time win over Iceland was not enough to guarantee qualification as they now face an inter-confederation playoff in New Zealand in February.

Details of Pakistan v Ireland women's series announced

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Ireland women's cricket team will travel to Pakistan for the first time for the three ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 fixtures from 4-9 November, which will be followed by three T20Is from 12-16 November.

All the six matches will be played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. The visitors will arrive in Lahore on 29 October and will have four days of practice in the lead-up to the ODI series.

This will be Ireland and Pakistan's second successive series in the ICC Women's Championship. While Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka 2-1 in Karachi in June, Ireland lost all three matches to South Africa in Dublin in June.



Ireland will be the fourth international cricket team to visit Pakistan in 2022 after Australia, West Indies and England men's sides toured earlier this year. England men's side will return late November for the December Tests, while New Zealand men's side is due here in the third week of December for the two Tests and three ODIs with the series opener to be

played in Karachi from 27-31 December.

Head of Women Cricket Tania Mallick: "We had a great experience of hosting Sri Lanka earlier this year in Karachi and are now excited to host Ireland here at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. This is just a beginning of a new era in women's cricket, after hosting Ireland we are looking forward to organising

women's league soon.

We want fans to come to the ground and support women's cricket for what promises to be exciting six days of cricket in Lahore."

Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof: "We are all up for an exciting series against Ireland. The series will help us in attracting new fans to the women's game. The series will provide an opportunity for young cricketers to upskill themselves as per the demands of international cricket.

"We are eager to perform in front of our home crowd and win crucial ICC Women's Championship points as qualifying directly for the next ODI World Cup is one of our main targets." The ODIs and T20Is will begin at 1000, toss will take place at 0930 PKT.

Stephens, Pliskova win opening matches at San Diego Open



SAN DIEGO: Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens and Karolina Pliskova, a one-time US Open runner-up, won their opening matches at the San Diego Open WTA 500 on Tuesday.

Stephens, a wild-card entrant from the US who won the 2017 US Open, got her second win in 2022 over lucky loser Jil Teichmann, beating the Swiss lefthander 6-1, 7-6 (2). Pliskova, a former No. 1 from the Czech Republic who was the 2016 US Open runner-up, beat American Caroline Dolehide 6-3, 6-4 to advance to the second round.

"It's always a tough match with her. She's a great player," said the 52nd-ranked Stephens, who saved a set point in the second set. "I knew she was going to come out and give me a good fight. I just tried to stay calm and play my game. In the end, it went my way."

Leylah Fernandez, the US Open 2021 runner-up, dropped her second match this year to No. 8 seed Daria Kasatkina, 6-2, 6-2, in just 59 minutes.

"Dasha is an amazing player. She's improved so much over the years," Fernandez observed. "I watched her play on TV when I was still a junior. Seeing her now in the top 10 and doing so well this year is truly inspiring. I think today she showed how well she can play. She didn't make too many mistakes. I, unfortunately, did."

Croatia's Donna Vekic beat fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari of Greece for the fifth time in seven meetings, 7-6 (3), 6-1.

"Maria is a really good friend of mine. I wasn't happy to play her. I think we were both pretty nervous at the beginning, but I managed to calm down a little bit and I think I found my zone in the second set," said the 77th-ranked Vekic, who now owns nine career wins over Top-10 opponents, including an upset of No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka last summer at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I was really happy when I found out that she took a wild card at the last second and was coming here," added Vekic. "I texted her straight away. When the draw came out, I was like, 'Oh, my God, we're playing each other!' It's not easy. We fight on the court, but we're still close off the court."

Mbappe reportedly wants out of PSG amid growing frustration

PARIS: Less than six months after Kylian Mbappe extended his contract with Paris Saint-Germain, the French star is reportedly looking for a way out.

The World Cup winner had been close to joining Real Madrid on a free transfer this summer but finally agreed to stay at PSG for two more years with an option for an extra season.

A series of reports published in France on Tuesday by several media including L'Equipe sports daily, RMC, and Le Parisien, as well as Marca in Spain, say that Mbappe is frustrated and wants to leave during January's transfer window.

PSG sports adviser Luis Campos, who is close to Mbappe, told Canal+ broadcaster that the France forward never told him he planned to move away in January. "It's information that comes before a match,



it's very serious, this is the reason why I'm here, to deny," Campos said.

Other PSG officials declined to comment when asked whether Mbappe expressed his desire to join another club and if he would be allowed to leave. The club has dominated the French league since cash-rich Qatari investors took over in 2011 but has failed to replicate that success on the European stage despite spending massive amounts on star players.

Club officials had hoped

Mbappe's decision to snub the Spanish giant would finally lead to the conquest of club soccer's biggest trophy — the Champions League — and it's unlikely they will let him go without a fight.

PSG hosted Benfica later Tuesday in the Champions League at the Parc des Princes. Earlier this season, Mbappe ducked a question on the project that had been presented to him in late May to convince him to stay, refusing to say if he was happy with how it materialized.

More recently, he suggested that he would rather play alongside with another striker — like he does with the France national team — rather than in a pivot role up front.

PSG coach Christophe Galtier said this week that the club tried to recruit another striker with a different profile to allow Mbappe to play in his preferred position, but that it did not happen.

"I don't know what Kylian has been told before I joined or when he prolonged with Paris Saint-Germain," Galtier said.

Mbappe joined PSG from Monaco in 2017 when he was still a teenager. He has often said that playing for Madrid was his childhood dream. Even when he signed his extension, the Frenchman did not rule out making the move one day. "What will happen in the future, I don't know," he said in May.

Man City into Champions League last 16

COPENHAGEN: Pep Guardiola admitted Manchester City were "so tired" after his 10 men qualified for the Champions League last 16 with a 0-0 draw against FC Copenhagen on Tuesday.

Guardiola's side had Rodri's goal controversially disallowed by VAR before Sergio Gomez was dismissed for a professional foul at the Parken Stadium. City forward Riyad Mahrez also missed a penalty prior to Gomez's premature first half exit.

With Erling Haaland rested on the bench ahead of City's trip to Liverpool on Sunday, the Premier League champions failed to score for the first time in 24 games in all competitions.

City had to be satisfied with avoiding defeat after playing with 10 men for an hour. Guardiola's men got their reward just hours later when they advanced to the knockout stages with two games to spare thanks to Borussia Dortmund's 1-1 draw with Sevilla in the other Group G fixture.

"To play one hour like that is tough. The players gave absolutely everything," Guardiola said. "It's a good point and we will take it. I'm so satisfied. Tomorrow we will regenerate and then we have two days to prepare for Liverpool."

It was notable that City lacked a cutting edge without Haaland, who has scored 20 goals in 12 competitive games since signing

from Dortmund in the close-season.

Haaland scored twice in just 45 minutes during last week's 5-0 drubbing of Copenhagen, but Guardiola might have expected his team to dominate the Danish minnows even without him. Guardiola said he wanted to give Haaland a break because the striker showed signs of fatigue after Saturday's win against Southampton.

"He finished the game against Southampton so, so tired and didn't recover well. Yesterday was not good, today a little better but not perfect so we decide not to take the risk," Guardiola said. "I thought about energy levels. Many players didn't start because they are really exhausted

with fatigue and some niggles.

"Phil Foden has also some problems and Bernardo Silva was so tired yesterday, he told us. The players I played felt better." Julian Alvarez deputised for Haaland and the young Argentine wriggled into the Copenhagen area for a low strike that flashed just wide in the opening minutes.

Rodri thought he had given City the lead with a 25-yard rocket in the 11th minute. But after a lengthy VAR check the midfielder's goal was harshly disallowed for handball by Mahrez in the build-up.

Ederson had to tip over Lukas Lerager's drive from just outside the area after City's defence were caught out of position moments



later. After being denied by VAR, City could have benefitted from the system in the 24th minute,

However, not for the first time in a City shirt, Mahrez was unable to convert the spot-kick as Kamil Grabara dived to his right to make a fine save.

Remarkably, VAR would intervene again after half an hour when City left-back Gomez was caught the wrong side of Hakon Haraldsson and hauled down the Copenhagen midfielder.

After play had continued for several seconds without a foul being given, referee Artur Dias went to the pitchside monitor and returned to show Gomez the red card.

City were the first team to miss a penalty and have a player sent off in the first half of a Champions League game since Arsenal against Bayern Munich in 2014.

New Zealand to face Pakistan in finale after beating Bangladesh

WELLINGTON: Glenn Phillips and Devon Conway struck half-centuries as New Zealand beat Bangladesh by 48 runs in Christchurch on Wednesday to book their place in the Twenty20 tri-series final.

The hosts now face Pakistan on Friday, also in Christchurch, in the final of a series which is a tune-up for this month's T20 World Cup in Australia.

Fresh from dispatching Pakistan in a nine-wicket victory on Tuesday, New Zealand put in another strong batting display to set Bangladesh a target of 208, but the visitors only managed 160-7.

New Zealand rested captain Kane Williamson as his side comfortably backed up Sunday's eight-wicket win over Bangladesh to underline their World Cup credentials.

A third straight defeat means Bangladesh cannot reach the tri-series final and their match against Pakistan on Thursday is a dead-rubber.

New Zealand opener Conway smacked 64 off 40 balls and his partnership of 45 with Finn Allen, who went on 32 after a superb Yasir Ali catch, set the tone.

South African-born Phillips produced a man-of-the-match performance by firing 60 runs off 24 balls to drive New Zealand to 208 runs for the loss of just five wickets.