

China firmly supports Palestinian people's cause: Mao Ning

China firmly supports the just cause of Palestinian people to restore their national rights and will work with the international community to make relentless efforts until an independent state of Palestine is established, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning said. She welcomed the agreement reached among Palestinian factions and said that China firmly supported the just cause of the Palestinian people.

Govt taking all possible steps to support flood victims: Sherry Rehman

Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman says the government is taking all possible steps to support the needy flood affected people across the country. Sherry Rehman appealed the philanthropists to come forward and support their countrymen in this testing time.

China supports flood victims

Islamabad: A delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas presents a cheque for PM's Flood Relief Fund, 2022, to Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

UK announces more £10m in relief assistance for Pakistan

PM Shehbaz expresses satisfaction on positive trajectory of Pak-UK trade

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Kingdom has announced an additional 10 million pounds in relief assistance for Pakistan, bringing the total quantum of UK flood-related assistance to 26.5 million pounds.

The announcement was made by British Minister of State for South Asia and Commonwealth Lord Tariq Ahmad, who called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Friday.

Lord Ahmad expressed condolences on behalf of His Majesty's Government on the loss of human lives due to the recent floods in Pakistan. He informed

China always stood by Pakistan in difficult times: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says China has always stood by Pakistan in difficult times and extended support both at the internal and external fronts. He was talking to a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas headed by its President Zhang Guoliang. The PM said

China has helped Pakistan a lot to cope with the disaster caused by recent floods and to rehabilitate the flood victims. He said Pakistan-China friendship is unparalleled. On the occasion, the Chinese delegation presented a cheque of significant amount for the rehabilitation of flood-affected people.

the Prime Minister that British public and Pakistani diaspora were greatly engaged in the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood affected people of Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif thanked the United Kingdom for its support

Stressing the historic nature of Pakistan-UK relationship, the Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen cooperation across multiple sectors, including trade, investment, security, defence, culture and people-to-people linkages.

Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of trade and investment cooperation between Pakistan and the UK, noting that bilateral trade had reached 3.1 billion pounds.

The Prime Minister made special reference to the positive role played by the 1.6 Million Pakistani diaspora in forging closer bonds between the peoples of both countries.

He also highlighted the continuing Indian human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that a peaceful resolution to the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and UN Security Council resolutions, is critical to achieving long-term peace and stability in South Asia.

The Prime Minister reiterated Pakistan's principled support for the universal and consistent application of UN Charter principles - including non-use or threat of use of force, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, pacific settlement of disputes, and equal security for all states.

PM, COAS discuss security situation

PM Shehbaz says terrorism will not be allowed to raise its head again

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that terrorism would not be allowed to raise its head again anywhere in the country. He said this during a meeting with Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad on Friday.

The army chief had arrived at the PM House for a high-level security summit of the government. However, before the summit, PM Shehbaz and COAS Bajwa held a one-on-one meeting in the PM House. The two discussed the ongoing security situation around the country.

The evolving situation in the Swat and Dir valleys, where school children were hurt after targeted attacks. The attack prompted vociferous protests across the valley.

Later, the National Security Committee (NSC) reviewed the overall law and order situation in the country and vowed to ensure the security of people's lives and property at every cost.

The meeting presided over by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was attended by Federal Ministers, Services Chiefs, heads of intelligence agencies and senior officials.

According to a statement issued by the PM media wing here, the officials concerned briefed on the peace and security situation in the country. The attendees appreciated



NSC reviews law & order situation; vows to ensure security of people's lives, property

declared that the nation and the state institutions were united and had the same voice for protecting the life and property of the citizens, defence of the territorial integrity of Pakistan, rule of constitution and law and for enforcing writ of the state.

The whole nation was united with the clarity of mind on these objectives and the achievement of these objectives would be ensured at every cost.

The meeting reviewed the incidents that undermined the law and order in different parts of the country including Swat, consoled with the affected families and prayed for the departed souls.

The leadership made it clear that the blood of every Pakistan was very precious and the law would strictly deal with every person involved in shedding this blood. "Our citizens rendered exemplary sacrifices and played a historic role along with the brave forces in the war against

terrorism."

The meeting decided to form a federal level apex committee headed by the prime minister.

It was decided to activate the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) which would work together with the Counter Terrorism Departments at the provincial level. It was also decided to again make functional the system at the federal and provincial levels for countering terrorism. The counter terrorism system would be reviewed and steps would be identified so that the system could be made more effective. This system would closely monitor the situation and bring improvement in the counter terrorism activities.

They also approved effective steps to make the security of projects of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) foolproof. In this connection, NACTA will act as a coordinator and the provinces will implement the counter terrorism plans. It was decided in the meeting that the counter terrorism system would be equipped with modern technology, with required upgradations.

In this connection, availability of resources would be ensured and steps would also be taken for ramping up capabilities. Member National Assembly Mohsin Dawar and leader of Awami National Party Mian Iftikhar Hussain also attended the meeting. Agencies/APP

Weekly inflation eases by 0.57%

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on October 13 for the combined consumption group witnessed a decrease of 0.57 percent as compared to the previous week.

The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 204.55 points against 205.73 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released here on Friday.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 28.44 percent.

The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 0.79 percent decrease and went down to 210.05 points from last week's 211.73 points.

IK demands end to 'reign of robbers'

PTI chairman asks Karachi's youth to come forward, partake in politics



would form governments in Sindh and the Centre. "Sindh's resources are stolen, and they are siphoned out of the country," the PTI chairman said.

Khan urged Karachi's youth to come forward and partake in politics as political movements in the early days would begin from the metropolis. "Had there not been violence in Karachi, it would have progressed more than Dubai," Khan said as he vowed that now, things would change for the port city as "no power" could stop his party from getting its mayor elected in the upcoming local body elections.

"After the local body elections, we will also emerge successful in the general elections," he said. The PTI chairman also said that the incumbent government, which came into power through a "foreign conspiracy," would not remain in office for long. "My nation has stood up for its future." Agencies

KARACHI: In a veiled dig at Sindh's ruling party PPP, PTI Chairman Imran Khan said Friday that the reign of "dacoits" in the province should come to an end.

Khan's remarks came during his visit to Karachi as he rallies his party workers for the anti-government "Azadi March", for which the date is yet to be announced. In a recent gathering, the PTI chairman told his workers to be ready as he could give the call for the march "at any time".

In his address, the PTI chairman said that in the next general elections, his party

LHC suspends Rana Sana's arrest warrants

Cheema says Rana Sanaullah will be arrested if he enters Punjab

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: The Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi bench on Friday suspended the arrest warrants of Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah in an inquiry related to the purchase of plots in a private housing society.

Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan, while hearing the case, stopped the Anti-Corruption Department of Punjab from taking action against the minister.

Rana Sanaullah had filed an application in the LHC through his lawyer Razzaq A. Mirza for the cancellation of his arrest warrants issued by Special Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Akbar on October 8 in an alleged graft case.

Justice Sadaqat also summoned the Director General Anti-Corruption, Punjab and the investigation officer along with the record on October 17.

Earlier, Advisor to the Chief Minister Punjab on Interior

Omar Sarfraz Cheema said that Rana Sanaullah will be arrested if he enters Punjab.

His statement came after the ACE obtained a non-bailable warrant to arrest Rana Sanaullah. The arrest warrant was effective till October 19.

Cheema also directed the Inspector General of Punjab police to provide assistance to ACE Punjab for Sanaullah's arrest. He directed that the arrest be carried out according to the law.

On October 8, a special judicial magistrate of Rawalpindi Ghulam Akbar issued the arrest warrant for Sanaullah at the request of ACE Punjab in an inquiry pertaining to an estate in a housing society that was purchased at a nominal price.

Earlier, Adviser to Punjab CM for Anti-Corruption Brigadier (ret'd) Musaddiq Abbas told the media that Rana Sanaullah has been found guilty in the corruption case against him.

General elections Asif says won't come under any pressure

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif says next General Election will be held as per schedule in the light of the Constitution. He said this while addressing a joint news conference in Islamabad on Friday, alongside Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik and Special Assistants to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi and Attaullah Tarar.

Khawaja Asif said general elections cannot be held under anyone's pressure and decision regarding elections will be taken by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in consultation with coalition partners.

On the occasion, Ahsan Iqbal added that Sindh and Balochistan are witnessing worst devastation due to recent floods and organizing general



elections in next eight months seems impossible.

He further said efforts are being made to complete the rehabilitation process by April next year.

Ahsan Iqbal said final results of the new census will likely to come in March next year after which four months are required for delimitation of constituencies as per the Constitution. He said the current Assembly is going to complete its tenure in August next year after which general elections will be held.

Ahsan Iqbal said that objective of the campaign being run by Imran Khan is not to have elections in the country but to create chaos and uncertainty.

For economic recovery, growth

WASHINGTON: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a meeting with Martin Raiser, World Bank's Vice President for the South Asia Region and his team on Friday.



Photo: PID

IMF, WB, IsDB assure Pakistan of continued support

IMF lauds Pakistan's policies, assures its continued support

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB) and Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) have assured of their continued support to Pakistan at a time when the country was facing socioeconomic challenges owing to recent floods that have damaged economy badly.

The assurances were made during the separate meetings of Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mohammad Ishaq Dar with IMF Deputy Managing Director, Ms. Antoinette Sayeh; President World Bank, David Malpass and IsDB President, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser.

The IMF Deputy Managing Director appreciated the government's policies and assured of IMF's continued support to Pakistan, according to press statement received

here Friday.

Earlier, the finance minister apprised her of the damages caused by the unprecedented floods in Pakistan. He shared the GoP's vision for stabilizing the economy and carrying out sustainable and resilient recovery.

Dar in his meeting with President World Bank, David Malpass, thanked the Bank for its continued support in the socioeconomic development of Pakistan and for its assistance for rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of the unprecedented devastating floods.

President Malpass assured that the Bank would continue to work with Pakistan government to help it overcome its socio-economic challenges due to the floods, the statement added.

The Finance Minister in a separate meeting with,

Vice President WB's South Asia Region, Martin Raiser thanked him for undertaking a visit to Pakistan to see firsthand the devastation caused

**World Bank
President expresses
support for Pakistan's
flood recovery efforts**

by the floods. The visit helped in projecting the tremendous damages caused by the devastating floods.

The Vice President assured that the Bank would continue to support Pakistan in overcoming the economic difficulties that the country was facing.

The Minister also met with President of the Islam-

ic Development Bank, Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser and thanked him for bank's continued engagement with Pakistan. He appreciated that Pakistan and the Bank had remained trusted partners for decades.

President Al Jasser appreciated the measures being taken by Pakistan government to stabilize the economy while providing relief to the flood victims.

The Finance Minister in his meeting with the leadership of Deutsche Bank and J.P. Morgan elaborated upon the government's vision to stabilize the economy, while also providing relief to the victims of the flood. He assured that his government was committed to completing the IMF's programme.

The Pakistani delegation visiting US also met with

rating agencies and participated in several events being held during the Annual Meetings.

The delegation also engaged at the Pakistan House with a diverse group of Pakistani professionals including leading businessmen, tech entrepreneurs and others.

The Finance Minister is leading Pakistan's delegation in the IMF / World Bank's 2022 Annual meetings being held in Washington DC.

Other delegates include Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha; Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmed; Finance Secretary, Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh; Secretary Economic Affairs Division, Dr. Kazim Niaz and Additional Secretary, Finance Division, Ali Tahir. Agencies

5 new districts to be created in Punjab: CM Elahi

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has announced to create five new districts in the province. Chairing a high level meeting in Lahore on Friday, the

Chief Minister approved to make Taunsa Sharif, Murree, Wazirabad, Talagang and Kot Addu as new districts.

He said the move will improve administration and increase the facilities including health and education.

Dollar continues to gain ground against PKR

KARACHI: The US dollar continues to gain ground against the Pakistani rupee on Friday after a fresh appreciation.

According to details, the local currency depreciated by 62 paise against the greenback and was being traded around at Rs219. On the other

hand, after gaining Rs2 in the Open Market, the US dollar is being traded at Rs224.

It is pertinent to mention here that the value of US dollar depreciated at the end of last week. The dollar was closed at Rs222 after losing Rs1.22. Agencies

FM's letter on India's HR abuses in Kashmir delivered to UNSC president



Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, met the UN Security Council President for the month of October, Michel Biang of Gabon, and handed over to him a letter from Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari about the "alarming" situation in Indian occupied Kashmir.

In his letter, the foreign minister urged the Security Council and the Secretary-General to make concerted efforts to help bring about a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes

of the Kashmiri people, according to a press release issued by the Pakistan Mission to the UN.

On Wednesday, Ambassador Akram described India's occupation of Jammu and Kashmir as the "worst manifestation of modern-day colonialism," while underscoring the need for a settlement of the decades-old dispute.

Speaking in the General Assembly's Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee, the Pakistani envoy pointed out that since 1946, 80 former colonies have gained independence, but there are still people who are denied the right to self-determination, "most prominently the people of occupied Jammu & Kashmir and Palestine."

Reconstruction of houses

Chinese experts to conduct survey of flood-hit areas

KARACHI: Chinese Consul General in Karachi Li Bijian on Friday briefed Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah about their rehabilitation activities after the recent floods in the province.

Li Bijian informed that a team of their experts is scheduled to visit the flood-affected areas of Sukkur division to survey the collapsed houses and then select the areas to reconstruct the houses, said

a spokesperson of CM Sindh. The Chinese consul general also presented a \$ 100,000 cheque to the chief minister for Karachi and (Renminbi) RMB 500,000 for CM Fund for flood-affected people.

The CM Sindh thanked the consul general, the Chinese government and the people for helping the Sindh government in the rehabilitation of the affected people of Sindh.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, Syed Murad Ali Shah said the well-reputed people from the private sector have been inducted into the company constituted for the construction of the houses collapsed during heavy rains so that transparency could be ensured.

"The funds raised or taken as loans from the lending agencies for the construction of the houses of the flood-affected people would

be utilized transparently and its audit would be conducted by a well-reputed firm," the CM said.

Murad Ali Shah invited philanthropists, the international community, brothers, friendly countries, and multinational companies to come over and select a locality/Mohalla or a village for the construction of the collapsed houses and undertake the work from the contractors

or construction company of their choice and the provincial government would extend them all kind of support.

He said heavy rains and floods damaged 3.8 million houses for which his government had negotiated a loan of \$ 500 million to reconstruct the houses, but the number of houses was so huge that more help and assistance was needed to house all the displaced people. APP

EU, Pakistan emphasize on enhancing cooperation in diverse sectors

The EU stressed effective implementation of 27 int'l conventions related to GSP+

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: European Union and Pakistan have emphasized on enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including education, culture, science and technology, agriculture, food security, and quality standards.

This was discussed during the 12th EU-Pakistan Joint Commission that took place in Islamabad earlier this month.

Both sides emphasized the importance of EU-Pakistan trade relations and noted that the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+) resulted in an increase in bilateral trade to 12.2 billion euros last year.

They discussed ways to address issues hampering trade and investment. The EU stressed effective implementation of the 27



international conventions related to GSP+.

The EU expressed solidarity with the people affected by unprecedented climate-induced floods ravaging the country and informed about its contribution to addressing the most urgent needs of the affected population.

Pakistan expressed appreciation for the EU's

and its member states' support in mobilizing funds of 123 million euros as well as in-kind assistance for relief efforts.

Pakistan also emphasised the need for additional assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase.

The two sides agreed to further cooperate to address climate change

related challenges.

The EU also welcomed Pakistan's legislation on the protection of women's and children's rights, the protection of transgender persons, as well as the protection of journalists.

The EU and Pakistan also exchanged views on future programmes and longer-term development needs, including achiev-

ing the SDGs. The EU informed Pakistan about Global Gateway, a 300 billion euros co-investment strategy rooted in partnership, sustainability and the rule of law.

Besides, the EU and Pakistan emphasized their commitment to a closer cooperation on a comprehensive approach to migration. They agreed to launch a comprehensive migration and mobility dialogue before the end of this year.

Besides bilateral cooperation, both sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues including Afghanistan and Jammu & Kashmir. They also expressed deep concern over the situation in Ukraine. They stressed the need to find peaceful solutions to conflicts, in full respect of the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Counting votes against party policy a threat to democratic system: SC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday said that the counting of votes against the party policy is a threat to the democratic system.

The Supreme Court issued a detailed written decision on the interpretation of Article 63-A, the said decision was written by Justice Munib Akhtar, while the decision consists of 95 pages. In the written judgment issued by the Supreme Court, the judg-

ment began with the words of Chief Justice Marshall, in which he said, "We must not forget that our job is only to interpret the Constitution."

"Votes of defecting members against party instructions shall not be counted and the period of disqualification of defecting members shall be determined by Parliament," the judgment said. Members of Parliament have complete freedom of expres-

sion but this freedom of voting cannot be exercised in the light of Article 63A.

According to the verdict, "The objections raised to the admissibility of the Presidential Reference are rejected as per the majority judgment. The Supreme Court has already responded to the objections raised in the Presidential Reference in the Wukala Mahaz case." Agencies

Resolution of Kashmir dispute vital for regional dev: FO

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar says resolution of all outstanding issues between Pakistan and India, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir, is vital for the development and progress of South Asia.

Responding to a question during his weekly news briefing

in Islamabad on Friday, he said the Jammu and Kashmir issue is a major impediment in the way of normalization and friendly relations between Pakistan and India as well as for the development of the people of this region.

The Spokesperson said Pakistan has consistently been advocating the need for addressing the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN

Security Council resolutions. He said Pakistan genuinely believes that the resolution of this long-standing issue is in the best interest of both the countries and the people of Kashmir. He said there is a growing understanding and support from the international community, including the UN Secretary General, toward addressing this dispute.

LG polls to open new avenues for development: PM AJK

Pays an unscheduled visit to capital city

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: While terming the announcement of holding local government elections as a big achievement, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the PTI government has fulfilled yet another promise it had made to the people during the pre-election campaign.



The PM made these assertions while commenting on the release of the schedule for elections by the election commission here today. Highlighting the importance of the municipal elections, he said that the elections were being held in the region after a hiatus of 32 years.

Meanwhile, while presiding over the party's parliamentary party meeting the PM said, "By breaking decades long status quo and political inertia in the country the PTI has generated an optimism and rekindled a new hope amongst the young generation to live independently and raise the dignity of our country," the PM said.

"Over the past 23 years Imran Khan created cracks in the country's rotten political system thereby challenging the forces who were forcibly imposed on the country", he said, adding that now the consciousness of the nation has awakened, they have come to know the difference between good and bad. The parliamentary party meeting expressed its full confidence and trust in the leadership of

the prime minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan. The Prime Minister thanked the members of the parliamentary party for reposing trust in his leadership.

He said that unfortunately Pakistan has been a victim of political wrangling that has caused immense damage to the country's economy. He said that amid this political degeneration, Imran Khan is the person who challenged the political forces that shaken the very foundations of the country.

He said that it was high time for the nation to decide whether it wants to live in slavery or move forward with Imran Khan's ideology of true freedom. The people of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, he said, have shown their allegiance with IK by voting in favour of Tehreek-e-Insaf during the previous general elections.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sard-

ar Tanveer Ilyas Khan visited different areas of Muzaffarabad city and mingled with the citizens. The Prime Minister on the occasion, directed the Commissioner and Chairman MDA to speed up measures to beautify the capital and beautify the entertainment places.

He said that the beauty of Muzaffarabad should be increased by dividing the city into different zones. Stressing on the cleanliness of the city, the PM said encroachments should be removed and the city should be made attractive. He was also instructed to remove and restore Bara Dari and establish a tourist point there. On this occasion, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Masood Rehman, Chairman Development Authority Muzaffarabad Syed Azhar Gilani, Vice Chairman Local Government Sardar Ifthikhar Rashid were also present.

Speakers call for bridging gap between industry and academia

M.A Rashid

FAISALABAD: Pakistan could not only overcome the issue of stunted growth in children but also has paved the ways for the export of eggs and chicken by enhancing its production through the latest scientific and technological interventions, said Professor Dr. Shahid Kamal, Vice Chancellor, Government College University Faisalabad (GCUF).



He was addressing a "World Egg Day" function jointly organized by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Pakistan Poultry Association and GCUF here on Friday.

He stressed the need to bridge the widening gap between the industry and academia and said that he had floated an innovative idea of establishing Science Parks in universities and research institutes so that trade and industry could benefit from the latest inventions. Commenting about the poultry sector, he said that it has

been facing ups and down which is detrimental for its future planning and development. He said that we must stabilize this sector so that investors could plan for future growth with complete peace of mind.

He said adding that the price of poultry feed plays a major role in the overall price of eggs and chicken meat. "The Experts could bring it down by suggesting cheaper ingredients without affect-

ing its nutritional value", he said and added that we must promote a variety of egg related dishes to avoid monotony in our menu.

He also explained in detail the various measures to improve the quality of this alma mater and said that due to the dedication and commitment of its faculty and students, GCUF has been ranked first in the province of Punjab and second in the country.

FFC backs breast cancer patients



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: FFC CSR Health concerns envision the philosophy of UNGC Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG-3 "Good Health", beside auxiliary social interventions.

These programs have distinct initiatives for women health associated agendas embracing breast cancer cognizance and care at the predominant position.

In Pakistan, nearly 40,000 womenfolk die each year owing to breast melanoma. Undesirably, in our society there are limited health amenities to accomplish this women concern. Notwithstanding the displeasing mortality rate associated to breast cancer, FFC adores Pink Ribbon event annually, pledging strong commitment and solidarity with women folk throughout the Country and at International forum.

This year, FFC has supported the cure of patients at Shaikat Khannum Memorial Hospital for Breast Cancer, Pink illumining Sona Towers and structured a Breast Cancer Awareness gathering to promote realization on Pink Ribbon with a firm assurance that "Women Health will guarantee the prosperous future and sound growth in Pakistan."

Political conflict damaging the fragile economy: Shahid Rasheed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Friday said political instability is damaging the fragile economy and hampering growth. Apart from protests by an opposition party, people are taking to the streets on different issues including inefficient services and law and order problems, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that politicians are hampering development for ulterior motives, economic conditions are in a shamble and inflation is touching the sky which has cornered the masses.

The government has requested IMF to increase the amount of loan and relax conditions while it is also trying to borrow from World Bank and Asian Development Bank as forex reserves have fell to a record level creating panic in some business circles, he added.

IMF has not accepted requests so far while the disbursement by WB and ADB is not realized any time soon which is putting pressure on the economy. Some economists think that infusion of funds may not result in solutions to the problems as the economy is in very bad shape. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that developments on the political front have raised concerns about the stability of the economy as the political stage is set for confrontation.

Sardar Attique calls for release of Kashmiri prisoners

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan ex-Prime Minister of AJK, now Supreme Head of All Jammu & Muslim Conference has called upon government of Pakistan for urgent meeting of UN Security Council to prevent Indian government from ongoing registration of 6-7 billion Indian nationals as Kashmiri voters in J&K state.



"No one can keep silence over this horrendous demographic crime Indian occupying machinery is committing in occupied Jammu, Poonch and Kashmir valley right these days", he warned.

In an urgent appeal he solicited UN Secretary General Mr Antonio Guterres to call an immediate intervening meeting of the Security Council to pass a prevention resolution. Sardar Attique remind-

ed that no unilateral action can be taken under relevant UN charter by any occupying country in any UN-listed disputed region like Jammu and Kashmir state. Indian government's disregard to UN laws and rulings constitutes institutional rebellion against UN peace body, he asserted in his urgent statement here this afternoon.

He was flanked by senior

cadre of his premier Kashmir political organization which pushes power of peace to actualize settlement of Kashmir dispute. He proposed that Kashmiri representatives should be allowed to proffer their arguments in the UN Security Council as directly affected party. UNSC had directly heard the Indonesian representative in critical

days of Indonesian freedom struggle, he reminded the UN Secretary-General and UN community of nations.

He remarked that Indian gangsterism in Kashmir is worsening the regional relations and harmony. He hailed the recently pronounced Kashmir stance of Germany pointing out that German people themselves suffered tragic division of their state and their call for UN settlement of Kashmir dispute is fair assertion of truth and rationality.

He appealed to the world capitals to help release thousands of Kashmiri youth, children and senior leaders languishing in Indian captivity for past several years. Elsewhere the world community talks of human rights but their stress works little in India-occupied parts of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

NFEH demands govt to remove undue import restrictions

To save solar power industry from utter collapse

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH) has appealed to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other relevant federal authorities to immediately step in to save the Pakistani solar industry from utter collapse by removing undue import restrictions on the import of renewable elec-

tricity equipment that are in place for the past several months.

In a press statement, NFEH President Muhammad Naeem Qureshi said that the intervention of the federal government had become inevitable to save the jobs of thousands of professionals and technicians who are associated with the solar industry.

Qureshi said the govern-

ment in no way could achieve its ambitious plans of producing electricity through alternative energy means if the ban on solar equipment remained in place any further.

He lamented that several renewable energy companies that had either joined or had the willingness to join the government's drive to produce clean energy were on the

verge of collapse due to undue restrictions on the import of solar power equipment.

The NFEH President said that up to 500 shipping containers having solar energy equipment had been stuck at the port for the past many months due to import restrictions as the concerned importers had no means to pay millions of rupees as demurrage.

Colorful Korean culture musical program 'GUGAK' held



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A musical program based on Korean cultural dance and music "GUGAK" was organized in Auditorium II with the joint cooperation of the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and the Republic of Korea Consulate.

Arts Council President Muhammad Ahmad Shah, Consul General Korea Kim Haksung, Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon, Consul General Sri Lanka, British High Commissioner, Consul General Germany, Consul General Oman, Consul General Russia, and various diplomats participated. President Arts Council Mohammad Ahmad Shah presented the bouquet to the Consul General of the Republic of Korea H.E. Kim Haksung while delivering the opening remarks.

Show began with Korean artists playing the national anthem of Pakistan on Korean musical instruments. Four various Korean artists presented the cultural music and dance of their homeland, which was greatly appreciated by the people of Karachi. On this occasion, the Consul General of the Republic of Korea Kim Haksung said that today's evening is very beautiful. We welcome our homeland's Traditional Artist here.

Zafar Masud meets Dean & Director IBA Karachi



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The President & CEO of the Bank of Punjab (and Chairman OGDCL), Zafar Masud met with the Dean & Director of the IBA Karachi Prof. Dr. Akbar Zaidi, accompanied by the Head of Alumni Affairs Malahat Awan.

The meeting was an exploration of possible avenues of collaboration between BOP and IBA, to strengthen the existing working relationship between the two entities. Among the considerations was the idea of setting up an Endowment Fund to financially support deserving students through their academic journey at IBA.

In his capacity as the Chairman of the Board of OGDCL, Mr. Masud also discussed the possibility of expanding OGDCL's existing contributions to the IBA's NTHP Program, to sponsor more students. Mr. Masud appraised Dr. Zaidi of his recent initiative, the Zafar Masud Foundation - A section 42 Not-for-Profit Company, focused on Passenger Safety across all forms of transport.

PHA announces annual election results

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hotels Association's annual election results were announced at its 58th Annual General Meeting, held on September 30, 2022.

The following Office Bearers have been elected for the term 2022-23 Mustansir Zakir as Chairman, Mian Akram Farid as Senior Vice Chairman, Mr. Faisal Qayyum Khan as Vice Chairman North, and Mr. Abdul Jabbar Rathod as Vice Chairman South.

Mustansir Zakir has been elected as Chairman, who is associated with Hashoo Group for more than 25 years, and is the CEO of Hashwani Hotels Limited, the owners and operators of Islamabad & Karachi Marriott Hotels and Zaver Pearl-Continental Hotel Gwadar. Zakir is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and Associate Member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICAM).

He has done his certification in Hospitality and Strategic Management from Cornell University, USA. Zakir has remained Chairman and Executive Committee Member of PHA in the past as well, playing a vital role in the hospitality sector on behalf of the Pakistan Hotels Association.



Infinix starts taking pre-order of ZERO 20

Bureau Report


LAHORE: Infinix, leading smartphone brand of Pakistan is now taking pre-orders for World's first 60 MP OIS + EIS based front camera phone - ZERO 20. Being first of its kind camera phone supporting Dual Image Stabilization in the form of Optical Image Stabilization and Electronic Image Stabilization, Infinix ZERO 20 fulfills videography and photography requirements within no time. Infinix ZERO 20 is priced at Rs 56,999 but upon pre-ordering from Infinix Official E-commerce Store - Xpark between 14th October to 20th October, customers can avail a discount of Rs 2000 with a free gift of Infinix XE20 for the first 50 buyers only!

Infinix ZERO's 60MP front camera is stable most and greatest Vlog camera offering hardware based Optical Image Stabilization (OIS) and Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS). Users would just have to switch on Ultra-Stability mode in



order to unlock Dual Image Stabilization for making videos and capturing photos. The front camera also being equipped with Auto Focus (AF) captures accurately every time with crisp details on the go. Not just the front camera, the rear camera of 108MP aids reimagine the mobile photography experiences altogether.

CEO of Infinix Mr. Joe Hu expressed his views about ZERO 20 saying: "We are glad to introduce the ground-breaking and first of its kind camera phone in the world. By providing its devoted users all around the world with the most updated devices outfitted with cutting-edge technology, Infinix has once again set the standard for the industry."



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

- SERVICES**
- Namaz Timings**
- Fajr 4:49 am
 - Zohr 11:54 am
 - Asr 3:56 pm
 - Maghrib 5:36 pm
 - Isha 6:58 pm
- EMERGENCY**
- Rescue (Police) 15
 - Bomb Disposal 15
 - Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad 1122 & 16
 - Emergency Ambulance 1122 & 4451122
 - Motorway Police 9266044
 - Motorway Police 9270601-20

- Women Police Stations**
- Islamabad 9222596
 - Rawalpindi 9270601-20

- ENQUIRY**
- Edhi Ambulance 115
 - PIA Flight Info 114
 - PIA Cargo 9280979
 - Railway 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
 - Potohar Town 9209224
 - Rawal Town 5773343

- COMPLAINTS**
- Water Tanker Service E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
 - G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
 - G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
 - Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
 - Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
 - Wasa Water Tank Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

Chancellor praises NSU students, employees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Chancellor of the National Skills University Islamabad (NSU), Dr. Arif Alvi, congratulated students of the Information Engineering Technology Department of this university for securing the first position in the coding competition. The SoftFest 2022, a National Level Software Skills Competition, was held in NUML Islamabad. The video message released by the Presidency says, "I would like to congratulate National Skills University Islamabad students on winning the coding competition in Islamabad. This success reflects a unique University-Advisory Council initiative of the public-private partnership model. Importantly, all Advisory Council members strive to promote skills education, freely giving their time and resources to the university and country-wide. A skilled workforce always finds better job opportunities with decent earnings than unskilled individuals."

Seminar stresses unity among Muslim Ummah

Iranian embassy holds seminar on the occasion of Eid Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH)

Naveed Ahmad Khan photo by Ghulam Farid

ISLAMABAD: The Cultural Consulate Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran organized a seminar on the theme of "Research work on Hafiz in the subcontinent" on the occasion of the blessed days of Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH) and Hafiz Shirazi Day.

Ehsan Khazaei, Cultural Consular Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamabad delivered the welcome speech and congratulated the audience on the occasion of Milad-ul-Nabi (PBUH). He said unity is a Quranic command and as Muslims, we should strive for it. He said we learn from the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH); where he emphasized unity amongst the Muslims. Hazrat Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution, named the Week of Unity from 12 to 17 Rabi-ul-Awwal due to the keen thoughts of the founder of the Islamic Revolution, which resulted in the establishment of unity between different Islamic religions. He added that 17 Rabi-ul-Awwal was the birth of Imam Jafar Sadiq (a.s.). He said the recitation of Naat is very important in the subcontinent and especially in Pakistan. He said Muslims should strengthen their relationship by following the teachings of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and seeking guidance from the



Holy Qur'an. He shared that October 12 is also Hafiz Shirazi's birthday. Sharing the facts about Hafiz Shirazi, a famous Iranian Persian poet, he highlighted the Diwan Ghazliat of Hafiz Shirazi and said that Diwan Hafiz consists of 500 ghazals and 42 quatrains and some poems. It is translated into many languages from Persian. Hafiz has many nicknames, for example, the tongue of Al-Gheeb. Hafiz Shirazi is buried at the Hafiziya site in Shiraz, Iran. He further said that the poets were great Persian-speaking poets of the Middle East and sub-continent, whose works are full of the theme of love for the Prophet (PBUH) and the family of the Prophet (PBUH) i.e. Ahl al-Bayt (AS) and unity and unity among Muslims. He also recited some poems. He prayed that may Allah bless the people of Iran and Pakistan in these blessed days.

The special guest of this seminar was Dr. Sayeda Chand Bibi, who is a teacher of Persian language & literature, and her Ph.D. thesis on the subject of research on Hafiz in the subcontinent has been published by the Persian Research Center of Iran and Pakistan. She expressed her opinion about her research work. Professor Dr. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri, a well-known intellectual and teacher of the Persian language and literature, expressed his opinion about the Persian poetry of Hafiz Shirazi. In addition, Allama Akbar Saqi and Allama Liaqat Ali Awan, a well-known religious scholar, also expressed their opinion about Milad-ul-Nabi, and emphasized the need for unity, and prayed for the elevation of unity amongst Muslim Ummah. At the end of the program, fortune was also taken from Dewan Hafiz, which was highly appreciated by the audience.

Huawei opens registrations for Huawei Middle East Competition

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei has opened registrations for the Huawei Middle East ICT Competitions 2022. This is the 7th time the event is happening in Pakistan. Through the Competition, the company aims to provide students with a platform to compete and exchange ideas in order to enhance their ICT knowledge, practical and application skills, and raise their innovation awareness. The competition is also a platform that facilitates connections between international talent as well as the collaboration between governmental organizations, higher educational institutions, training agencies, and enterprises, thus promoting the education, growth, and employment of ICT talent. National competitiveness will be increased through develop-



ing ICT talent in Pakistan. Upgrades of teaching methods and connectivity will be focused upon. This will direct the students to perceive employer's perspective by developing their ICT knowledge. Last year, Pakistan teams won first and second place in the Global competition. Throughout the Huawei ICT Competition stages, contestants receive the latest updates on emerging technologies that

are reshaping Pakistan's digital economy. These include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Big Data, the Internet of Things (IoT), and most importantly 5G broadband — seen as a crucial digital-service enabler. The competition is a unique opportunity for students to test their abilities in these cutting-edge fields, and helps colleges and universities to better understand the talent requirements of today's top businesses and government leaders.

COMSTECH celebrates World Food Day

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH in partnership with UPSIGN, SAWIE, ICCFS, IFS & Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) celebrated world food day. The slogan for world food day this year was "Leave No One Behind". To mark this year's World Food Day, keynote talks and panel discussions were arranged with experts from all over the world with several years of experience in Agri-food research systems. The webinar discussed the key challenge faced by our food system from climate change and other threats. The experts said that our food system is suffering from malnutrition and food security. The

debate uncovered how sustainable use of natural resources could help to enhance productivity, soil health, water, and the role of biodiversity. The question of how can we address the food production crisis, protecting our soil microbes, plants, animals & natural capital, and produce healthy food to support a healthy life and a healthy planet was discussed. The panelists also discussed the way forward to address the impact of COVID and recent floods in Pakistan on food security. They talked about how the research, and knowledge exchange of good practices could be translated to develop climate change adaptation strategies, mitigation, and what specific measures can be

taken to support the climate crisis victims. The panelists pondered upon creating the resilient growth that does not leave anyone behind. The experts noted that Pakistan is one of the top ten countries which are most vulnerable to the climate change crisis. They agreed that the climate change disaster has affected its food system with extreme heat, droughts, unpredictable rain patterns, and attacks from invasive species of pests & diseases. COMSTECH the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, joined hands with the leading research, academic & farming organizations from Pakistan and around the world for hosting the World Food Day celebration. These partners were UPSIGN, SAWIE, ICCFS, IFS & Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF). UPSIGN is an educational charity based in the UK supporting collaborations between UK & Pakistan. SAWIE is a digital platform based in the UK and Pakistan offering farm advisory & data insights. International Center for Climate Change, Food Security & Sustainability (ICCF/Consortium on Climate Change, Sustainability & Conservation (CCSC), The Islamia University Bahawalpur are leading research organizations. The International Foundation for Science, IFS, is an international, non-governmental organization.

Zeb Bangash performs to raise funds for flood affectees

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Azaadi, a concert to raise funds to facilitate flood relief efforts in Pakistan. Zeb Bangash took to the stage the Alderman Arts Center at Tufts University held recently. On special invitation from Prof. Ayesha Jalal and as part of the Harvard-Tufts Conference to mark the 75th anniversary of independence and partition titled 'Empire, Nation, Federation: South Asia's Freedom in Global Perspective',

The performance received not only a standing ovation but also an encore from an august gathering. A wonderful conference with superb intellectual contributions and a fabulous musical performance by Zeb Bangash, remarked Dr. Sen "As India and Pakistan turn 75, so does their unique equation. 'Azaadi' is my personal bid to celebrate the shared cultural richness of the subcontinent. Music has always helped me transcend boundaries and 'belong' — it's been a freeing experience, and a privilege, to access audiences across South Asia even in times of estrangement; which is why I am deeply honoured and humbled to be given the opportunity to take the stage at Tufts at this very special gathering," says Zeb. Zeb who through her music has become one of the region's most loved voices, curated for the performance a multilingual set-list that began with 'Maula Maula' and concluded with 'Paimona' with an interlude of 'Rosh'e' and 'Chan Kithan' among a host of other classics, showcased her versatility of style, genre and language. Zeb's performance included her well known signature tunes such as 'Aaja Re Moray Saiyan', as well as rare inclusions such as her rendition of Majaz Lakhnavi's famous poem 'Awaara' and 'Wahan Kahn Hai Tera' an ode to the iconic Sachin Dev Burman. The repertoire for the evening seemed to be a reflection on the concept of the theme and Zeb's trained vocals easily flowed through the varied genres languages and styles. "Zeb Bangash's enchanting voice mesmerized the audience of scholars and students in a packed Distler Performance Hall at the Harvard-Tufts Conference on the 75th anniversary of South Asia's freedom. Her soulful and uplifting music enables us to cross so many lines of difference in today's troubled times," says, Prof. Sugata Bose of Harvard University.

Prof. Jalal summed up Zeb's showcase very aptly: "A wonderful and scintillating performance that was joyous, soulful and entertaining. Zeb is at the peak of her singing career. We are very fortunate to have had a chance to hear her sing live."

Al-Shifa observes World Sight Day

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: President Al-Shifa Trust General (r) Rehmat Khan on Friday said according to World Health Organization, 2.2 billion people around the world live with vision impairment or blindness of which one billion people have conditions that could have been prevented. He said that almost two million people were prone to eye-related diseases in Pakistan while eighty percent of them could be cured with timely intervention.

Briefing media on World Sight Day, a global event meant to draw attention to blindness and vision impairment, he said that one of the major obstacles in providing eye care to the needy is the lack of the required facilities. General (r) Rehmat Khan said that we need to accelerate efforts to ensure that everyone, everywhere has equitable access to high-quality and comprehensive eye health services. He added that Al-Shifa is trying its best to serve as many patients as possible with a focus on children. He said that we have organized awareness talks and hospital activities in this regard. Prof. Dr. Tayyab Afghani, Senior Consultant, and HOD Orbit and Oculoplastics at Al-Shifa also spoke on the occasion and raised awareness about eye care in various age groups. He informed that the prevalence of blindness in Pakistan is mostly related to an increase in population and delays on the part of patients and their families to consult a doctor. The ophthalmologists in the awareness session advised the parents to ensure timely eye checkups of their kids. If a child complains of headaches and watery eyes, there is a high likelihood that he suffers from poor eyesight. Parents must not delay consultations with a pediatric eye specialist. The doctors also discussed the effects of diabetes on the eyes and advised the patients to have their eye checkups by vitreo-retina specialists.

PAC organizes calligraphy exhibition



RAWALPINDI: An exhibition of Islamic calligraphy was organized in Punjab Arts Council in connection with the blessed month of Rabi-ul-Awwal. The exhibition was jointly inaugurated by the Vice President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers and Commerce, Raja Muhammad Anwar, and the Director of the Arts Council, Waqar Ahmed. More than 50 works of Islamic calligraphy by young artists were displayed in the exhibition.

The special guest Raja Muhammad Anwar said that all the art pieces displayed in the exhibition are excellent. The young painters expressed their deep love for Allah and the Holy Prophet by painting the Quranic verses on the canvas. The Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) is dearer to all Muslims than their own lives. The chief guest further said that Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry is working with the Punjab Arts Council to promote culture. In the near future, arts, literature and performing arts programs will be organized through the Punjab Arts Council.

World Food Day 2022 celebrated in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: World Food Day 2022 was celebrated at an event on Friday with the participants noting that while the challenges of restoration of food impacts, food security and climate change remain formidable, there is also more awareness, commitment and collaboration behind efforts for the restoration and rehabilitation of flood affected people, and the transformation of agri systems so that better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life could be ensured for everyone and no one is left behind. The event was held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) and was organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) along with the World Food Program (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN-Women, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), and Ministry of National Food Security & Research. Speaking on occasion, Julien Hameis,



Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Pakistan, talked about the importance of food and how every celebration in life revolves around food. However, he stressed the fact that many people do not have enough to eat and particularly after the floods, food insecurity and malnutrition are rising as existing vulnerabilities are intensified. He stressed that on this World Food Day, we as a nation must address food waste, not only at an individual household level but also in how we produce, process and store food in Pakistan. As we go forward with the efforts of reconstruction and rehabilitation, we must ensure that building better and more efficient

food systems is included in that process. Zafar Hassan, Secretary Ministry of National Food and Security, highlighted the fact that the damage to Pakistan's agricultural sector would also be felt across the globe. Pakistan is one of the world's top producers and exporters of cotton and rice, which the flood destroyed. He further said that agriculture has special importance for Pakistan's economy, which at present is contributing about 19 per cent to the national GDP, and generating employment opportunities for more than 35 per cent of the labour force. Currently, we are facing serious challenges for food and nutritional

security that needs enough resources and funds to compensate for the loss of crops and livestock to our farmers. However, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research is making extensive efforts to meet these challenges in an effective manner. In order to provide relief to the farmers and uplift the agriculture sector, the government is devising farmer-friendly policies, focusing on strengthening the seed system, enhancing farm mechanization, promoting value addition, minimizing post-harvest losses and creating digital marketing platforms. On behalf of the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (NFS&R), he appreciated FAO's support and technical assistance in developing and implementing agricultural policies. A special mime performance by Nighat Chaudhary, Pakistan's renowned Kathak dancer, and her team was also part of the event. Their performance showcased the importance of food in our lives and the impact of floods on food security.

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Pakistan supports rights of Kashmiri people

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

The unabated series of atrocities against the Kashmiri people and unresolved status of IIOJ&K is the unfinished issue of the partition of the sub-continent. India conspired to malign Pakistan at all the world forums but could not achieve its objective. On the other hand, Pakistan is enjoying the support of all important countries of the world. The Hindutva ideology is on rise in India, under which minorities are facing the worst kind of atrocities by the fascist Indian government and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir is not an exception. It is high time that the world community puts pressure on India to stop its human rights abuses against Kashmiris and come to negotiating table to resolve this long standing dispute with Pakistan.

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

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

OPEC+ and the baby milk price increase

Wael Mahdi

To say that the alliance of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its global counterparts, known as OPEC+, is taking "shortsighted" decisions is an oversimplification of the current global energy crisis.

I don't need to go deeper in reminding everyone who is saying what, but in brief, OPEC+ members are saying that they are doing what they see best for the global economy with their decision to take out 2 million barrels a day of oil from the market starting from November, while the US is saying that OPEC+ is serving its self-interest and siding with Russia, a key member of OPEC+.

The jury is still out on this and every day a new statement or report is issued on this matter. More recently, the International Energy Agency, which reflects the views of its member countries including the US, said in its monthly report that OPEC+ cuts will push the global economy into recession.

During a midterm election, it is very easy for a US president or an administration to blame OPEC+ or Saudi Arabia for high prices at the pump because this

is how political candidates get votes. Nothing new here.

But to take the full blame for what is happening and try to fix it takes courage, planning, determination, and self-criticism.

I don't want to join the chorus and side with any party. I want logic to dictate my arguments. So what does logic tell me?

First, if there is anyone to be blamed for where the world is heading today, it is the West, more precisely, the US, the G7, and the EU.

The pursuit of unrealistic climate goals and selling the illusion of a 10 or 20-year transition to cleaner energy should be questioned not accelerated.

It is because of the aggressive policies against fossil fuels we now see this sharp decline in energy investments that led to a thin global oil production and oil refining capacity.

The world needs at least \$13 trillions over the next two decades to respond to energy demand but no one wants to think about where will the money come from.

Who is foolish enough to build a refinery in a country that aims to stop selling combustion-engine vehicles in a decade or so? Yet politicians in that country just realized that the fuel should come from OPEC+ and these countries help to make prices of gasoline and diesel affordable.

This is not to say that the world doesn't need cleaner energy or to fight global warming, but the aggressive approach has consequences that those who back it have to stand for it.

We can live with these contradictions but we must admit them.

It is not fair to say that lower oil prices are the only factor that leads to lower oil products. There are other factors such as high taxes on products as well as refining capacity and supply availability.

Second, wasn't it rational for the countries that are complaining today about an energy crisis to diversify their energy sources?

Many countries, including Qatar, had asked the EU countries to invest in LNG terminals but they declined because Russia was supplying gas via pipelines at a much cheaper cost.

Well, there is a cost for everything and the cost of long-term energy security should be higher than the cost of securing short-term cheap gas contracts.

Third, Washington's belief that OPEC+ is the cause of the crisis is neither fair nor rational. OPEC+ is the only entity that can regulate the energy market today. It is due to the alliance's effort that crude prices are growing at a much slower pace than coal or gas.

That does not mean oil prices

should escalate to levels that can hurt the global economy, but to keep thinking about cheap oil prices will mean fewer investments and therefore fewer supplies in the future. And the future can't be fully electrical, at least not in a decade.

Funny enough, demand for coal today is higher than at any time, and in 2021 it was the fuel for around 37 percent of the electricity generated worldwide.

If we can't get rid of coal, so it is possible to say that we need to get rid of oil quickly?

Last but not least, the West is taking political decisions on its own and wants OPEC+ to deal with them.

It does not work this way. If you want to plan a world order, you have to include those concerned in the planning.

Consider the EU ban on Russia or applying an oil price cap on its oil sales. How will this lead to lower prices for oil-consuming nations?

No one has the answer. If it is applied, it may result in less Russian crude, therefore, higher oil prices.

OPEC+ does not have all the solutions. In fact, there is not enough spare capacity in OPEC+ to do anything.

That is why the OPEC+ decision to cut 2 million barrels a day did not have an impact on the

market because the alliance did not even produce what it agreed on in the first place.

The alliance can only lower output by 1 million barrels, which is what everyone seems to agree on.

OPEC+ cannot increase production even if it wanted to do so and thus it cannot be blamed. Yet during a midterm US election, it is the easiest choice.

I don't want to defend or blame any side. I have one message i.e. before we solve the world's issues, we must admit them and work on them and decide what the priorities are.

Cheap energy, clean energy, or energy security. We can't have them all together.

We can't blame OPEC+ for everything as to what the Saudi energy minister said in Vienna a week ago that with baby milk prices going up, OPEC+ will be blamed for it.

So let's ask ourselves who is now shortsighted. A group that defends oil market interests in the long-term, or a group that seeks short-term political gains with no sound energy-security policy in place for the long run?

Wael Mahdi is a senior business editor at Arab News and co-author of "OPEC in a Shale Oil World: Where to Next?" Courtesy: Arab News



Turkmenistan towards SDGs; Humanitarian Response to Pakistan-II

There are myriads of cultural, religious and economic ties between the two brotherly countries that link them closely with each other. Pakistan and Turkmenistan share a common religion and have many commonalities between the cultures. TAPI will revolutionize the economies of the regional countries. If Europeans can connect the entire continent by rail, roads, and air routes, why not we Asians, can connect South Asia, or South and Central Asia or entire Asia through rail, roads and air routes to eradicate poverty and bring prosperity, harmony and peace to the continent. China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor (CPEC) is a great opportunity for the Central Asian countries and Russia to get access to Pakistani warm water ports and connect with the wider world.

Moreover, Embassy of Turkmenistan in Pakistan following Turkmenistan's Foreign Policy of Positive Neutrality is actively cooperating with intergovernmental organizations for supporting peace and economic development in the global south in close collaboration with the Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development

in the South (COMSATS). On the UN International Year of Peace 2021, the Turkmenistan Embassy in Pakistan and COMSATS have jointly organized a seminar titled "2021 as the International Year of Peace and Trust" where the Ambassador of Turkmenistan H.E. Atadjan Movlamov said that Pakistan is our brotherly country and we attach great importance to enhancing cooperation with Pakistan. Along with natural gas Turkmenistan can provide a big volume of electricity to Pakistan at rates, competitive to what presently are in Pakistan. Turkmenistan is actively engaged with Afghanistan to lay down the pipelines for gas and transmission lines for electricity meant to reach Pakistan. Turkmen-Afghan relations are a vivid example of how a neutral country can actively contribute to stability and development in the region. Taliban has assured safety of our infrastructure for TAPI.

Turkmenistan earlier, in 1995, adopted a Neutrality policy and celebrated its silver jubilee in 2020. The policy

of Neutrality from all blocks, political or military, helped Turkmenistan and central Asian republics to build up peaceful cooperation on the way to achieve progress and prosperity for their nations after independence from the USSR.

Since 1995 Turkmen people were celebrating December 12 as Turkmenistan's Neutrality Day and in respect to it and to highlight the importance of Neutrality in the globe, United Nations passed a resolution in 2017 in which December 12 was declared as International Neutrality Day.

Turkmenistan moved a resolution at the United Nations in 2019, in which the world body was asked to declare 2021 as the year of peace and trust. The resolution was adopted with a majority vote. In its sovereign state, 2021 has been declared as "Turkmenistan is the Motherland of peace and trust".

H.E. Atadjan Movlamov said that the Year of Peace and Trust means to mobilize international efforts to promote peace and trust among nations on

the basis of political dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation in order to build sustainable peace, solidarity and harmony.

Peace and trust are the things the people and countries need most of all at present time and serve as the main condition of cooperation and development. Security and prosperity of all nations, development and humanity, spirituality and friendship, all of these were absorbed by the ideas of Turkmen leaders.

In the recent flood devastation, Turkmenistan extended fullest humanitarian support to the relief activities which shows its generosity and good neighborhood.

Humanitarian diplomacy is one of the important components of Turkmenistan's Positive Neutrality Policy and is aimed at strengthening peace, people contacts, and persuading decision makers and opinion leaders to act, at all times, in the interests of vulnerable people, and with full respect for fundamental humanitarian principles.

Concluded
 The author is a Global Peace and Climate Activist, Pakistani Youth Leader, UN SDGs Advocate, Freelance Journalist and an expert on Central Asia.



US Democrats are spinning out of control

Faisal J. Abbas

There has been a deluge of opinion emanating from Washington in the past few days on the subject of the decision by the OPEC+ producers' alliance to reduce oil output by 2 million barrels a day from November. The nature of that opinion—ranging from intelligence-insulting assumptions to merely inaccurate information—leads to the inevitable conclusion that it is now extremely hard to take anything said on this issue by any US official seriously.

According to the White House's National Security Council spokesman John Kirby, the Saudi view of events—defined with admirable clarity in a statement on Thursday by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which said that the oil output decision was a consensus of the whole alliance in the interests of global energy market stability—is no more than "spin." But in truth, all the "spin" is coming from Washington, which has been on an embarrassing spree of self-contradiction.

For example, despite all the angry rhetoric from Democratic lawmakers who assumed that Saudi Arabia had backed away from its oil price commitments to President Joe Biden, the president himself told CNN on Wednesday that oil was actually NOT discussed during his visit to Saudi Arabia in July, which was rather about US strategic interests in the whole region.

Furthermore, Tom Cotton, the Republican senator from Arkansas, revealed that the White House had no objection in principle to a cut in oil output—but merely wanted an announcement later so as not to influence the US mid-term elections in November. That view was indirectly confirmed by the Saudi Foreign Ministry statement, which said the US had been consulted about the decision and had asked for it to be delayed for a month, but not canceled. So what we have here is a clear case of the Demo-

cratic Party putting its own interests first, dressed up as concern for both Ukraine and the global economy; and if that's not spin, I don't know what is.

Despite their dire warnings about the OPEC+ decision "making no economic sense"—in other words, that oil prices would soar—in fact, precisely the opposite has happened.

What genuinely makes "no economic sense" is Biden's contention in his CNN interview that he does not expect a recession in the US. Perhaps the president knows more than the 70 per cent of leading academic economists polled by the Financial Times, who believe the US economy will tip into a recession next year.

For real "spin," however, it is hard to beat the assertion that in cutting oil output Saudi Arabia is somehow supporting Russia in its war against Ukraine. Seriously? The same Saudi Arabia that voted at the UN on Wednesday to condemn Russia's annexation of Ukrainian territory in the Donbas? The same Saudi Arabia whose principled position earned the gratitude of the Ukrainian ambassador to the Kingdom? The same Saudi Arabia that was thanked by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky—in this very newspaper—for its role in a brokering a prisoner swap?

In the end, if Biden and other US politicians wish to say that Saudi Arabia is serving its own interests, or that OPEC+ is serving the interests of the global oil market, then that is not an accusation—it's a compliment. The Kingdom and the oil alliance would merely be doing their job.

What is not their job is to help one particular US political party to achieve success at the ballot box, at the expense of the stability of the global oil market. The sky will not fall in either house of the US Congress changes political hands. But if we lose control of energy markets, the impact could be truly terrible.

Faisal J. Abbas is the editor in chief of Arab News. Courtesy: Arab News

Putin says draft vital to hold Ukraine front line but will end soon

Ukraine defends Bakhmut in east in 'brutal' fighting

ASTANA/KYIV: President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia's call-up of reserve forces to fight in Ukraine, criticised as chaotic by some Kremlin allies, had been vital to hold the front line but would be wound up in the next couple of weeks.

Russia has conducted a broad mobilisation of Russians to reinforce its long front after Ukraine won back territory in recent weeks. Moscow has also threatened to use nuclear weapons to defend territory including four regions of Ukraine it annexed late last month but does not fully control.

The line of contact is 1,100 km (680 miles), so it is practically impossible to hold it with forces formed only of contract soldiers, especially since they take part in offensive activities," Putin told a news conference at the end of a summit in Kazakhstan, adding that those mobilised were being properly trained.



Putin said there were no plans for new massive strikes on Ukraine "for now" after what Ukraine said was the firing of 100 Russian cruise missiles this week, mainly at

its electricity and heat infrastructure. It was Russia's biggest air assault yet in an nearly 8-month conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people. "We do not set ourselves the task of destroying Ukraine. No, of course not," Putin said, describing the war he started

on Feb. 24 as unpleasant but saying he had no regrets.

Putin's comments will add to speculation that Russia's supply of cruise missiles is dwindling. Over the two weeks, he said, Russia would wind up the mobilisation, which has been criticised by some of the Kremlin's hard-line nationalist allies and led thousands of Russians to flee to neighbouring countries to avoid service.

Most of the 300,000 people due to be called up had been, Putin added. He also repeated the Kremlin position that Russia was willing to hold talks to end what it calls a special military operation, although he said talks would require international mediation if Ukraine was willing to take part.

Taken together, Putin's comments appeared to suggest

a slight softening of his tone as the war nears the end of its eighth month, after weeks of Ukrainian advances and significant Russian defeats.

Ukraine launched a counter-offensive in late August against Russian forces occupying the country since the start of their invasion in February, pushing them out of a large part of the northeast and putting them under heavy pressure in the south.

Moscow's close ally Belarus ordered troops to deploy with Russian forces near Ukraine this week, prompting concern it may send its forces across the border for the first time.

On Friday President Alexander Lukashenko placed Belarus in what he called a state of heightened terrorism alert due to tension on its borders. Ukraine has denied attacking Belarus.



On October 13th, 2022, the Fourth Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor Meeting is held in Washington D.C., United States of America as a part of the 2022 IMF-WBG Annual Meetings.

This meeting is an opportunity for G20 countries to continue their leading role in overcoming global challenges, especially addressing the issue of food insecurity, by encouraging and strengthening global initiatives and collaborations. Furthermore, the meeting deep dive into the six priorities agenda in Finance Track, which includes (i) Global Economy, (ii) International Financial Architecture, (iii) Financial Sector Regulation, (iv) Infrastructure Investment, (v) Sustainable Finance, (vi) International Taxation.

Sarfaraz Malik lauds Cardiff Muslim School's role in education



Spokesman Report

CARDIFF: The education and training of Cardiff Muslim School is playing an important role according to Islamic values in Cardiff city of UK. These views were expressed by special guest of the event, MD SLS College Pakistan and Ex Chairman Jhelum Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Sarfraz Malik.

He further said that such schools should be opened in every city of UK so that Muslim children have education and training according to Islamic values in the true sense. He said that Muslim community should support the initiative. On this occasion, MD SLS College Sarfraz Malik and Hon Investment Counselor for Pakistan Wales Faheem Azhar awarded Best Performance Award to Chairman Cardiff Muslim School Sajid Hussain for outstanding services to the Muslim community. They reiterated all possible support in the mission of upgrading this school to a high school.

Death toll rises to 50 in Venezuela landslide

LAS TEJERÍAS: The death toll has risen to 50 from a devastating landslide that swept through a Venezuelan town near the capital Caracas, officials said on Thursday.

"So far we officially have 50 people who unfortunately lost their lives and (their bodies) have been handed over to their relatives," Interior Minister Remigio Ceballos told a local television channel, updating the earlier toll of 43.

Unusually heavy rains on Saturday had caused a major river and several streams to overflow in Las Tejerías, a town of about 50,000 people nestled in the mountains near Caracas.

The rains caused a torrent of mud that washed away cars, parts of homes, businesses and telephone wires, and felled massive trees.

About 3,200 people had been deployed to help the rescue and clean-up efforts in the town, Ceballos said. President Nicolas Maduro said earlier in the week that the toll from Venezuela's worst natural disaster in decades was likely to reach 100.

Experts say the storm was aggravated by the seasonal La Nina weather phenomenon gripping the region, as well as the effects of Hurricane Julia, which claimed at least 26 lives in Central America and caused extensive damage.

Crisis-hit Venezuela is no stranger to seasonal storms, but this was the worst so far this year following historic rain levels that caused dozens of other deaths in recent months.

Maduro has vowed to rebuild "each and every" home and business destroyed in the landslide. "Las Tejerías will rise like the phoenix, Las Tejerías will be reborn," he said.

EU to unveil Ukraine training mission, weapons fund support

BRUSSELS: The European Union is set to announce next week that it's setting up a military training mission in Europe for thousands of Ukrainian troops and will provide around half a billion more euros (dollars) to help buy weapons for the war-torn country, diplomats and officials said Friday.

The aim is to train almost 15,000 Ukrainian troops in a number of EU countries, chiefly Poland and Germany, the officials said. It would range from standard military training to specialized instruction, based on Ukraine's needs. The EU hopes to have it operational by mid-November.

EU foreign ministers will endorse the plans at a meeting in Luxembourg on Monday. The officials and diplomats spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details before the plans are officially announced.

Palestinians protest as Jerusalem refugee camp locked down

JERUSALEM: Hundreds of people protested at checkpoints into a refugee camp in Jerusalem and clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces broke out across the West Bank on Wednesday, with a Palestinian killed near the southern city of Hebron.

The violence spread to the streets in East Jerusalem where Israeli police said they clashed with rioters and arrested several people who set fire to tires, threw rocks at passing cars and attacked officers.

The incidents continue months of escalating tensions that have deepened since Israeli forces began a crackdown in the occupied West Bank in late March following a series of attacks by Palestinians in Israel that killed 19 people.

More than 100 Palestinians have been killed this year, most since the army launched its operation, which has been marked by a near-daily series of raids



and clashes with militant groups in West Bank cities like Nablus and Jenin.

Wednesday's protests erupted as security forces continued a hunt for the killer of an 18-year-old soldier who was shot while on duty at a checkpoint into the Shuafat refugee camp, a heavily built-up area on the northern outskirts of Jerusalem that is home to an estimated 60,000 people.

The area has been blockaded for days as police have imposed strict vehicle checks and combed through streets

and houses looking for the shooter.

On Wednesday, long lines of cars formed at checkpoints leading out of the area while groups of youths hurled stones at police and set fire to rubbish containers, sending plumes of black smoke billowing into the sky.

Clashes also broke out in cities across the West Bank, including Bethlehem and Nablus, where security forces blocked roads into the city.

Around the southern city of Hebron, Israeli troops opened fire on a crowd

throwing rocks at cars on a highway, hitting at least one person. The Palestinian Health Ministry said an 18-year-old had died after being hit in the abdomen.

The army operations and frequent confrontations between Palestinians and Israeli settlers in the West Bank have fuelled increasing anger among young Palestinians who have hurled rocks and Molotov cocktails at the troops. On Tuesday, a second Israeli soldier was killed near a Jewish settlement between Jenin and Nablus.

Many shops in East Jerusalem and parts of the West Bank were closed on Wednesday as a mark of protest, while private schools also told pupils to stay at home. "The strike is in solidarity with Shuafat refugee camp and how it is being dealt with," said Jerusalem resident Khaled Alqam. "It looks like it will be the start of a civil disobedience (campaign), and let us hope for the best."

North Korea fires missile, flies warplanes near border

SEOUL: North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile into the sea off its east coast on Friday, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of launches by the nuclear-armed country amid heightened tensions.

South Korea also scrambled fighter jets when a group of about 10 North Korean military aircraft flew close to their heavily fortified border, and North Korea fired some 170 rounds of artillery into "sea buffer zones" off its east and west coasts, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said.

South Korea's National Security Council (NSC) condemned the North for escalating tensions, calling its moves a violation of a 2018 bilateral military pact that bans "hostile acts" in the border area.

Seoul imposed its first unilateral sanctions against Pyongyang in nearly five years, blacklisting 15 North Korean individuals and 16 institutions involved in missile development. The JCS issued a warning to North Korea, urging it to stop provocations and escalating tension. South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol told reporters that Pyongyang has been "indiscriminately carrying out provocations," vowing to devise "watertight countermeasures."

Yoon's spokesman said that his government respects inter-Korean agreements, and that scrapping the 2018 military pact hinges on Pyongyang's behaviour.

North Korea's military issued a statement via state media KCNA on early Friday that it took "strong military countermeasures," over South Korea's artillery fire on Thursday.

South Korea's NSC said the firing was a "regular, legitimate" exercise. The incidents came after KCNA said leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the launch of two long-range strategic cruise missiles on Wednesday to confirm the reliability of nuclear-capable weapons deployed to military units.

The unprecedented frequency of North Korea's missile launches has raised concerns it may be preparing to resume testing of nuclear bombs for the first time since 2017. Some analysts do not expect any tests before neighbouring China concludes a key ruling Communist Party congress, which begins on October 16.

The US Indo-Pacific Command said it was aware of the latest missile launch and "it does not pose an immediate threat to US personnel or territory, or to our allies."

Iraq elects new president and premier, ending stalemate

BAGHDAD: Iraq's parliament elected Kurdish politician Abdul Latif Rashid as president, who immediately named Mohammed Shia al-Sudani prime minister-designate, ending a year of deadlock after a national election in October last year.

The presidency, traditionally occupied by a Kurd, is a largely ceremonial position, but the vote for Rashid was a key step toward forming a new government, which politicians have failed to do since the election.

Rashid, 78, was the Iraqi minister of water resources from 2003-2010. The British-educated engineer won against former President Barham Salih, who was running for a second term.

He invited Sudani, the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc known as the Coordination Framework, an alliance of Iran-aligned factions, to form a government. Sudani, 52, previously served as Iraq's human rights minister as well as minister of labour and social affairs.

Sudani now has 30 days to form a cabinet and present it to parliament for approval. Thursday's vote, which was the fourth attempt to elect a president



this year, took place shortly after nine rockets landed on Thursday around the Iraqi capital's Green Zone, according to a military statement.

At least 10 people, including members of the security forces, were injured in the attack, according to security and medical sources. Similar attacks took place last month as the parliament was holding a vote to confirm its speaker.

Thursday's parliament session comes a year after an election in which populist Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr was the biggest winner but failed to rally support to form a government.

Sadr withdrew his 73 lawmakers in August and said he would quit politics, prompting the worst violence in Baghdad for years when his loyalists stormed

a government palace and fought rival Shi'ite groups, most of them backed by Iran and with armed wings. Sadr, who has not declared his next move, has a track record of radical action, including fighting U.S. forces, quitting cabinets, and protesting against governments. Many fear protests by his supporters.

Security personnel had deployed checkpoints across the city, closed off bridges and squares and erected walls across some of the bridges leading to the fortified Green Zone on Thursday.

Under a power-sharing system designed to avoid sectarian conflict, Iraq's president is a Kurd, its prime minister a Shi'ite and its parliament speaker a Sunni.

The presidency was fiercely contested between Iraqi Kurdistan's two main parties—the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) which backed Rashid after withdrawing its own candidate, and its traditional rival, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), which nominated Salih. Rashid's election raises concerns about escalating tensions between the KDP and PUK, who fought a civil war in the 1990s.

More effective diplomacy stressed to highlight Kashmir issue

Sohail Anjum Malik

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed has said that Pakistan needs more effective diplomacy to highlight the Kashmir issue at the global level in the current scenario.

He was addressing a seminar at National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad, a well-known educational institution of Pakistan, yesterday. Political analyst and university professor Tahir Naeem Malik, international relations teacher and researcher Dr. Syed Sibtain Shah and management sciences professor Dr. Abdul Wahid and

student leaders Ubaid Khan and Mansoor Qaisrani also addressed the seminar.

Ali Raza Syed said that although the Kashmir issue has been a recognized global issue for the past seven decades, but after August 2019, this conflict has once again become the focus of the world's special attention. Especially the way India has removed two provisions of its constitution for ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and increased atrocities on Kashmiris, the issue needs to be highlighted with a new strategy.

He said that the Pakistani

political leadership and Pakistan authorities should come together and formulate a new strategy on this issue by which they can stop India's illegal actions in Jammu and Kashmir and expose India's terrible face to the world.

Ali Raza Syed said that along with revoking the special status of Kashmir, India has changed the domicile law of Jammu and Kashmir and its nefarious purpose is to bring people from other regions of India to settle in Jammu and Kashmir. Work on this conspiracy has already started. India's aim is to change the proportion of the population in Jammu and Kashmir in order

to achieve its objectives in case of any possible plebiscite in the region of Jammu and Kashmir.

He further said that many political leaders of occupied Kashmir, human rights activists and journalists are imprisoned in Indian jails and their lives are in danger.

Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed also addressed another gathering called by Kashmir Council at NUML, an organization of Kashmiri students, on the occasion of his visit to the University main campus in Islamabad. During this event, Dr. Syed Sibtain Shah and Prof. Tahir Naeem intro-

duced the guest.

Ali Raza Syed urged the Kashmiri students to pay full attention to their studies and try to understand the Kashmir issue in the current context. Try to make the world aware of Kashmir conflict and Indian atrocities against the people of Kashmir.

He asked all the students present on the occasion to play their role for the development and prosperity of the society. A cake was also cut by the organization office bearers on the occasion.

Kashmir Council EU Chairman Ali Raza Syed also visited the Press Club on the invitation of Pakistan Federation of Unions

of Journalists (PFUJ)'s President Afzal Butt. The host, press club officials and other senior journalists welcomed the guest and people accompanying him. Afzal Butt paid tribute to Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed for highlighting Kashmir issue in Europe.

Ali Raza Syed thanked the host and while talking on situation of human rights in occupied Jammu and Kashmir said, the occupied land needs attention of the world. He appreciated the services of Khurram Parvez, Parvez Imrooz, Parveena Ahangar, Ahsan Untoo for raising human rights of the Kashmiris. He demanded the

immediate release of Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah, Khurram Parvez, Ahsan Untoo and other Kashmiri prisoners.

On this occasion, Professor of Politics Tahir Naeem Malik and International Relations teacher and researcher Dr. Syed Sibtain Shah, Professor Saeed Ahmad, Mohsin Raza Khan, Abid Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion. Specially Professor Saeed Ahmad talked on historical and cultural aspect of Jammu and Kashmir with particular reference to Sufi poetry. Afzal Butt hosted dinner in honor of Chairman Kashmir Council EU Ali Raza Syed at the press club.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,948.50	42,085.72
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,237.29	41,897.05
Index Value	Change
7,148,635,144	-137.22
Percentage	Time
-0.33%	14 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
6,858.79	+ 8.52
Percentage	Time
+0.12%	14 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
29,749.56	-289.16
Percentage	Time
-0.96%	14 Oct, 12:59 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,090.76	+853.34
Percentage	Time
+3.25%	14 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	137.44	138.69
Bahrain Dinar	582.18	586.68
Canadian Dollar	159.15	160.5
China Yuan	30.52	30.77
Danish Krone	28.76	29.11
Euro	217	219
Hong Kong Dollar	27.7	28.05
Indian Rupee	2.66	2.74
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.15
Kuwaiti Dinar	705.99	710.99
Malaysian Ringgit	46.68	47.13
New Zealand \$	122.95	124.15
Norwegians Krone	20.67	20.97
Omani Riyal	568.55	573.05
Qatari Riyal	60.14	60.64
Saudi Riyal	59	59.6
Singapore Dollar	152.72	154.02
Swedish Korona	19.46	19.76
Swiss Franc	219.09	220.84
Thai Bhat	5.76	5.86
U.A.E Dirham	61	61.6
UK Pound Sterling	250	253
US Dollar	220.5	222.5

QistBazaar.pk,
PQFTL sign MoU



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: As part of providing tailored solutions and unique value-added features for our customers, QistBazaar.pk a fintech start-up which has recently developed an e-commerce marketplace for electronics that customers can avail on installments, has signed an MoU with Pak-Qatar Family Takaful Limited (PQFTL). With this initiative, the company aims to provide additional benefits to its new customers that would impact their life along with the lifecycle. Hence, when a customer buys any product from QistBazaar.pk, they will get FREE 1-year Accidental Life Takaful Coverage of Rs.200,000 through Pak-Qatar Family Takaful along with unlimited FREE Doctor consultations for their family through Sehat Kahani app and Sehat Kahani tele-health helpline. To mark the occasion, a ceremony was held at Qist Bazaar head office, Karachi, where the MoU was signed by Mr. Nasir Sheikh (Head of Marketing, QistBazaar.pk) and Mr. Zeeshan Haider (Head of Bancat Takaful and Alternate Distribution, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful). Arif Lakhani—Co-founder—Qist Bazaar said, “Qist Bazaar was founded on the principle of democratizing access to finance and the partnership with Pak-Qatar Family Takaful will further help the common Pakistani who in the past has shied away from Takaful and other financial products.” Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Zeeshan Haider—Head of Bancat Takaful and Alternate Distribution, Pak-Qatar Family Takaful said, “Through our collaboration with QistBazaar.pk, our focus is to instil a sense of security whenever someone buys anything from QistBazaar.pk by not only covering them with accidental life takaful but also with tele-medicine.”

ICCI urges govt to help reviving women businesses in flood-hit areas

Ahsan Bakhtawari says ICCI ready to connect women entrepreneurs of rural areas with online platforms

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that a large number of women businesses have been destroyed in flood-hit areas due to which women entrepreneurs are facing great hardships and urged that the federal and provincial governments should come forward to provide support to businesswomen of rural areas in reviving their businesses. He said this while addressing the 15th Annual Rural Women Leadership Conference 2022 organized by ICCI in collaboration with National Commission on the Status of Women and Potohar Organization for Development Advocacy (PODA). Women from four provinces of Pakistan, Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Kashmir attended the event.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that ICCI is ready to connect the women entrepreneurs of rural



areas with online platforms like Amazon so that they could get easy access to interna-

tional markets to improve exports and earn more foreign exchange for the country. He assured that ICCI can organize exhibitions of the products of rural businesswomen to showcase their potential for trade export.

Nilofar Bakhtiar, Chairperson, National Commission on the Status of Women in her address said that economic empowerment and financial inclusion of women is the best option to reduce poverty and promote prosperity in the country. She shared the initiatives of her organization to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

Sameena Nazir, Founding President, PODA said that women entrepreneurs in rural areas are exporting their products to many countries, but the destruction of their businesses due to recent floods have created financial problems for them. She stressed that all stakeholders including the government should support them in reviving their businesses.

More restrictions should be imposed on unnecessary imports

Value of the dollar should be reduced by twenty rupees, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said friendly country China should waive or reschedule loans extended to Pakistan.

Rescheduling loans worth twenty-three billion dollars will make repayments easy for Pakistan which is facing financial problems, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank should release loans as soon as possible so that the rehabilitation work of the victims can be carried out in a vigorous manner and the upcoming crops are not affected.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Pakistan and China have always supported each other and both countries have the same position on regional and global issues. Both countries are each other's best friends, so China should either waive the loans or defer



the loans, he added. The business leader said that if China does not want to waive the loans given to Pakistan, it can reduce the interest so that the financial pressure on Pakistan is reduced to some extent.

He said that unnecessary imports should be kept under strict control and no one should be allowed to use the back door of smuggling. The value of the dollar has recovered somewhat after falling for thirteen days, but its value should not be

allowed to increase further because its stability destabilizes the rupee, while the business community holds decisions to reduce the prices of their products.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that in order to provide relief to the public, the value of the dollar needs to be brought below 200 rupees, for which further steps should be taken. A reduction in the value of the dollar by more than 200 rupees will reduce inflation and the people will be relieved. Some international organizations are frequently portraying the Pakistani economy negatively and are busy releasing disappointing figures that should be taken into account.

According to some organizations, poverty, inflation and current account deficit in Pakistan will increase while production and employment will be reduced while the growth rate will decrease. He said that the government should accelerate efforts to control inflation, restore the economy and provide relief to the people and pay special attention to increasing the production of food items so that the food security situation remains under control.

RCCI urges govt to deseal Centaurus Mall



Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Saqib Rafiq has demanded the government to immediately de-seal Centaurus Mall, the major business center of Islamabad. In a statement Saqib Rafiq said that the employment of millions of families is connected to this center. Apart from political affiliation, the Mall should be opened in public interest, he added. He said that business activities have already slow down due to the economic crisis. The government should facilitate the masses and the business community. He further added that the Centaurus administration is fully cooperating with the district administration.

3rd BuiltByHer Hackathon concludes

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: National Incubation Center Karachi, in collaboration with The Asia Foundation, concluded the 3rd BuiltByHer Hackathon by hosting the top eleven teams for a competitive grand finale.

BuiltByHer is a 48-hour long hackathon that requires women lead teams to hack and find solutions to the most pressing issues prevalent in society. The 3rd iteration of competition focused exclusively on the issue of climate change and received applications from more than 130 teams to resolve the problem sets. After the three day hackathon that was held recently, 11 teams were invited to pitch in the grand finale.

Farva Minhas, Program Coordinator at The Asia Foundation, said, "BuiltByHer 3.0 is another successful collaboration between NIC Karachi and the Asia Foundation.

Through our work together we have been able to empower young women across the nation. Apart from the hackathon we



are also collaborating with NICK for implementing 'Impact Collective' an initiative that will promote research based dialogue among the academia and policymakers on understanding ESG frameworks to build climate resilience in Pakistan."

BuiltByHer was launched in 2020 amidst the COVID19 pandemic to identify STEM based solutions to empower women of Pakistan. The second built by Her hackathon was focused on STEM and climate change based issues, whereas the third BuiltByHer focusing primarily to

address climate change related issues, a timely initiative given the impact climate change has had on the nation.

Sana Shah, Program manager NIC Karachi said, "Pakistan is going through one of the toughest times in its history, the country is facing catastrophic floods, and we can't rely on conventional ways to address this problem. We are hopeful that the third BuiltByHer is going to produce hundreds of climate change activists that will educate their communities and build climate resilience.

Customs inaugurates its Online Complaint Management System



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has welcomed the inauguration of Pakistan Customs online complaint management system & digital dashboard. It was long-awaited for resolution of a myriad of complaints & issues pertaining to customs; as WeBOC had many shortcomings and a user-friendly system was highly-desired, he added. It is pertinent to note that the inauguration ceremony took place at the Federation House, Karachi; which is home to FPCCI's head office – the apex trade body of the country, having

approximately 250 chambers, trade bodies and associations under its umbrella. The inauguration was well-attended by prominent business personalities, traders, custom agents and diplomats as well. Wajid Ali, Director General of Customs, highlighted the main objectives of the online complaint management system and digital dashboard as minimizing the dispute resolution time; minimizing physical visits to customs; better oversight by the senior management of customs over each collectorate and improving Pakistan's ranking in ease of doing business index as a result.

Textile exporters perturbed over delay in sales tax refunds: Jawed Bilwani

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Textile Exporters are highly perturbed over excessive and unjustified delays in GST refunds against approved Electronic Refund Payment Orders (ERPOs) claims in violation of Rule 39F of the Sales Tax Rule 2006 causing liquidity problems. All the requests and reminders to FBR to urgently release refunds are gone deaf on the ears of officials. FBR Member IR Operations Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana in a meeting at Islamabad held yesterday has stated that the Government cannot release Sales Tax Refunds payments against ERPOs to Textile exporters till the end of December 2022.

In view of this ill experience and uncalled-for response from FBR, the Value-Added Textile Exporters are worried and upset as to how the Government will keep its commitment for timely

refunds which have been accumulated to billions of rupees stuck up with the Government. The Value-Added Textile Sector strongly opposed the discontinuation "Five Zero Rated Sectors-GST No-Payment No-Refund Scheme" previously regulated under SRO-1125" and agreed only on the strict condition that GST Refunds shall be released swiftly under FASTER system whereby the ERPOs shall be approved within 24 hours of filing and sales tax refunds shall be released within 72 hours strictly in accordance with the Rule 39F of the Sales Tax Rules 2006. Contrarily, the Government has not kept its commitment and promises and acting against the Rules stating that such fund to be paid against refunds is not readily available.

Textiles Exporters have questions as to why their GST payments have been mismanaged and utilized by the Government elsewhere and they have

been penalized to face the liquidity hardships causing disruption in export production? Textile exporters are stranded in the middle of nowhere and can't decide about the future of their businesses in a scenario when the global business is facing slowdown as the Foreign Buyer have asked the Pakistan Textile Exporters to either stop the production orders in progress or go slow. Several cases of cancellation of export orders are also reported causing colossal financial losses to exporters.

In this connection, the small and medium exporters are fearing high sense of insecurity and uncertainty. Hence, the Value-Added Textile Exporters demand the Government's genuine support and assurance to release the Sales Tax Refunds within 72 hours as per rules and commitment or else restore "GST Zero-Rating No Payment No Refund system" restoring SRO-1125. Failing

Aleemrk makes it from Fresh Finds PK

To Spotify's Global Viral 50 List

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: After Abdul Hanman, the first face of Spotify's 'Fresh Finds', who rose to dominate streaming charts with tunes like 'Bikhra' and 'Iradya', the trend continues with AleemRK, an emerging Hip Hop artist who has found global fame with his track 'Cold Hours' trending at number 4 and 5 on Viral 50 India and Spotify's Global Viral 50 respectively. With close to 800,000 monthly listeners, Aleem-

RK is rapidly on his way to the top as the second 'Fresh Finds' artist to pop up on Spotify charts due to 'Fresh Finds PK'. This locally curated editorial playlist shines light on tracks from independent artists in multiple genres, giving a broader platform to independent artists to get discovered by new audiences. AleemRK's track, 'Cold Hours' has witnessed a 1095% increase in times played over the past month putting it at 5.3 million streams and counting.

Pakistan off to T20 World Cup with triumph in New Zealand

Pakistani skipper appreciates his middle-order batters for stepping up and perform

CHRISTCHURCH: All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz helped Pakistan to a five-wicket victory over New Zealand on Friday to win the tri-series Twenty20 final in Christchurch with three balls to spare. It was a good sign for Pakistan going into the World Cup in Australia, with an opener against arch-rivals India on October 23. After the hosts finished on 163-7 at Hagley Oval, spinner Michael Bracewell checked Pakistan's early momentum in their reply, before Nawaz stepped up with his decisive 38 off 22 balls.

Having also steered Pakistan out of trouble in Thursday's dead-rubber win over Bangladesh, Nawaz produced another stellar inning before Iftikhar Ahmed sealed victory with a six in the final over.

The Black Caps had started well with captain Kane Williamson the top-scorer with a masterful display of stroke play to chalk up 59 off 38 balls. The hosts flew out of the traps with Finn Allen hitting three fours before he was caught by Naseem Shah for 12 off six balls.

Williamson came in to settle nerves with his first half-century in any format in 2022 after struggling for form following



an elbow injury. In reply, Pakistan openers Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan smashed Tim Southee, on his 100th T20 international appearance, for nine runs in the opening over, then hit Trent Boult

for 10 in the second. Spinner Bracewell took the ball and grabbed the wickets of Azam and Shan Masood. Bracewell finished as man of the series. Ish Sodhi then trapped danger-

man Rizwan lbw for 34 runs off 29 balls. But just as he did against Bangladesh, Nawaz came to the crease to wrestle back control of the match and Iftikhar's towering six with three balls left clinched victory in style. Speaking after the match, the Pakistani skipper appreciated his middle-order batters for stepping up and perform.

"The way our team played deserves all the credit. The bowlers were brilliant at the death. The way the middle order played was outstanding. Haider and Nawaz are outstanding, so we need to step up and perform."

Going to Australia for the mega tournament, Babar said, "we have good confidence".

Playing XI:
Pakistan: Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Shan Masood, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Haider Ali, Asif Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf.
New Zealand: Devon Conway, Finn Allen, Kane Williamson, Glenn Phillips, Mark Chapman, James Neesham, Michael Bracewell, Ish Sodhi, Tim Southee, Blair Tuckner

Neymar faces five-year jail-term request

BARCELONA: Brazil forward Neymar will stand trial next week on fraud and corruption charges over his transfer to Barcelona from Santos in 2013 and the complainant, Brazilian investment firm DIS, said on Thursday it was demanding a five-year jail term.

Along with Neymar, the defendants in the trial being brought by Spanish prosecutors, which begins in Barcelona on Monday, are his parents, the two clubs, former Barca presidents Josep Maria Bartomeu and Sandro Rosell, and ex-Santos president Odilio Rodrigues.

The case stems from a complaint by DIS, which owned 40% of the rights to Neymar when he was at Santos.

The company argues that it lost out on its rightful cut from the transfer because the true value of the deal was understated. Neymar, who is a key member of the Brazil team that will be heading to the World Cup in Qatar next month, has denied the allegations but lost an appeal in Spain's High Court in 2017, which paved the way for the trial.

Baker McKenzie, who



will be defending Neymar and his family in the trial, told Reuters they will argue that the Spanish courts "lack jurisdiction to prosecute the Neymar family" since the transfer involved Brazilian nationals in Brazil.

Spanish prosecutors want a two-year prison term for Neymar and the payment of a 10 million euros (\$9.78 million) fine plus a five-year jail term for Rosell and an 8.4 million euros fine for Barcelona.

DIS is also requesting jail terms for Rosell and Bartomeu, and a total fine of 149 million euros for the defendants. Rosell has previously denied any wrongdoing. His representatives did not respond to a request for

comment. Barcelona and lawyers representing Bartomeu declined to comment on the case. Santos did not immediately respond to a request for comment and Rodrigues could not be immediately reached.

DIS acquired 40% of Neymar's rights when he was aged 17 in exchange for two million euros. It argues that the player's sale to Barcelona was well below his real market value.

Barca said at the time of Neymar's move that the transfer figure was 57.1 million euros, of which 40 million was paid to Neymar's family. DIS received a 40 percent share of the remaining 17.1 million that was paid

to Santos.

"Neymar's rights have not been sold to the highest bidder. There were clubs that offered up to 60 million euros," DIS lawyer Paulo Nasser told a news conference in Barcelona on Thursday.

Neymar's lawyers argue that competition rules relate to products and services and do not apply to the transfer market. "The rules of free competition do not operate since the transfer from one club to another depends on the free will of the player," a Baker McKenzie spokesman told Reuters.

"The player is not a service or a commodity. He is a person of his own free will," he added, saying Santos granted Neymar a written authorisation to negotiate with other clubs in 2011.

The court in Barcelona where the trial will be held said Neymar will have to appear in person on Monday for the first day but it is unclear if he will be asked to stay for the whole hearing that could go on for two weeks. Neymar, his parents, Rosell and Bartomeu will start their testimony next Friday.

LIV is golf's World Series Cricket, says Mickelson

RIYADH: Six-time major-winner Phil Mickelson compared Saudi-funded LIV Golf to the short-lived but influential World Series Cricket of the 1970s on Thursday, insisting he had picked "the winning side".

Mickelson, speaking ahead of LIV's first event on home soil in Saudi Arabia, said the divisive tour was following a similar template to Australian tycoon Kerry Packer's rebel cricket series.

LIV, bankrolled by oil-rich Saudi's giant Public Investment Fund (PIF), has lured dozens of players with head-turning signing fees and \$25 million purses, opening a deep rift in the sport.

"I think you look back into the 1970s, what happened with cricket is probably the best analogy," Mickelson told reporters at Royal Greens Golf and Country Club on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast.

"For a long, long time, like 30 years, pretty much all the best players played on the PGA Tour. That will never be the case again.



"You have to pick what side you think is going to be successful, and I firmly believe that I'm on the winning side of how things are going to evolve."

The 1977-1979 World Series divided cricket but popularised one-day and day-night matches, still staples of the sport, before the breakaway venture ended when Packer struck a deal with the Australian board.

When asked what was to stop LIV following a similar path, Mickelson reiterated that the World Series had "totally changed" cricket. "I didn't grow up with cricket but I am becoming some-

what aware of what Kerry Packer did to evolve cricket and to pay professional cricket players a reasonable fee," the American said.

"I think they were making \$200 a game back in the '70s and they weren't getting paid and there wasn't television rights and they were all having other jobs, and yet there was still money coming in.

"And when Kerry Packer came and got involved and started paying the guys what they were worth and what they were bringing in, it totally changed and we're seeing that happen now."

LIV, whose name is made up of the Roman numerals for '54', is played over 54 holes and three days, instead of 72 in four days, with no cut. Only 48 players take part, rather than the usual field of about 140.

Like Packer's rebels, LIV players have been heavily criticised by fans and golf's establishment, including the US PGA Tour which has barred them from its

events and Team USA at the Ryder Cup.

With no points available on LIV they are slipping down the world rankings, endangering their chances of playing in the majors. The financial rewards are huge, however. Mickelson, who has plunged to his lowest ranking in decades, 138th, coincidentally banked an estimated \$138 million by July, most of it from his LIV signing fee, according to Forbes. Mickelson said players stand to "make a bunch of cash" at this week's tournament in King Abdullah Economic City, an isolated development an hour's drive north of Jeddah.

"I see LIV golf trending upwards and I see PGA Tour trending downwards, and I love the side that I'm on," he said. "The game of golf is very lucky to have the PIF invest in the game," added the left-hander. "The game of golf is being influxed with billions of dollars now. And the ability to go global and make golf a truly global sport is really beneficial for the game."

Pakistan bolster batting stocks with change to T20 World Cup squad

LAHORE: Pakistan have added more experience to their batting line-up for the T20 World Cup as spinner Usman Qadir is ruled out of the squad.

Pakistan have made a change to their squad at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup with experienced batter Fakhar Zaman promoted into the 15-player squad for leg-spinner Usman Qadir.

The veteran left-hander Zaman hurt his knee while fielding in the final of last month's Asia Cup against Sri Lanka and was only initially named in the travelling reserves for the four-week tournament in Australia.

But selectors have opted to bolster their batting, with Zaman now included in the final 15 and in line to play against India in Pakistan's first match at the T20 World Cup in Melbourne on October 23.

Zaman only managed 96 runs from six innings at the Asia Cup, but the 32-year-old hit an impressive half-century against Hong Kong during an early group match.

He also has 71 T20 caps in his name for Pakistan and provides the Asian side with another option to use in their middle order.

Qadir hadn't played for Pakistan since he hurt his thumb while fielding during the fourth T20 against England last month and the 29-year-old is yet to fully recover.

Azhar, Moazzam elected as PSB members



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cycling Federation Syed Azhar Ali Shah and General Secretary Moazzam Khan Klair have been elected members of Pakistan Sports Board.

President Punjab Cycling Association and Legal Advisor of Federation Adnan Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Shelzada Butt congratulated to both the personalities after electing the members of Pakistan Sports Board.

Adnan Ahsan Khan appreciated the role of Syed Azhar Ali Shah and Moazzam Khan Klair for the promotion of the cycling in the country and he said that this decision of PSB will produce the better result in cycling and other game in nationally and internationally after electing the members of PSB Syed Azhar Ali Shah and Moazzam Khan Klair Moazzam Khan Klair.

Adnan Ahsan Khan and Shelzada Butt also paid the rich tribute to General Secretary PCF Moazzam Khan Klair who is playing wonderful role for the promotion of cycling in Pakistan and they expected that in future fruitful result will be produced after electing both the members of Pakistan Sports Board.

Gujranwala Giants defeat Rawalpindi Raiders

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: In the 11th match of Pakistan Junior League at Gaddafi Stadium Lahore, Gujranwala Giants got the first victory in the tournament and they defeated Rawalpindi Raiders by 6 wickets.

Gujranwala won the toss and put Rawalpindi into bat and they were all out 128 in 19.3 overs. From Pindi Habibullah was the top scorer who made 55 runs which included five fours and two sixes. Ali Ishaq 26 and Hassan Esa 22 were the other scorers. From Gujranwala Muhammad Abtisaam and Mathew Tromp achieved 3 wickets each. Gujranwala achieved the target in 19.1 overs at one stage Gujranwala falling two wickets early when the score was 10 then 98 runs partnership was established between Aziz Mumtaz and Shaiwan Daniel for the 3rd wicket who changed the complexion of the game Aziz Mumtaz made unbeaten 56 and Shaiwan Daniel scored 50.

From Rawalpindi Ali Raza captured 2 wickets while Afan Khan and Aamir Hassan took one wicket each. Gujranwal Giants Aziz Mumtaz was declared man of the match.

Two more matches decided in Sindh Inter School Cricket

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Two more matches were decided in Sindh Inter School Cricket Tournament being organized by Sindh Cricket Association with collaboration of Sports Dept. Govt of Sindh.

In district East Five Star School defeated GBSS Clayton Road by nine wickets. Batting first GBSS Clayton Road were bundled out for just 91 runs. Muzammil Abbas was the top scorer with 16 runs. M. Bilal bowled well and captured 3 wickets for 08 runs. M. Murtaza got two wickets. In turn Five Star School achieved the target in 15th over by losing a wicket. M. Anus scored unbeaten 40 runs with five fours. Abdul Razzak made 34.

Pacquiao says exhibition fight 'my comeback to the ring'

LOS ANGELES: Manny Pacquiao called an exhibition fight in December against a South Korean YouTuber "my comeback to the ring," saying he wants to show he "is still there in boxing."

The 43-year-old boxing legend retired last year from the sport to make a failed crack at the presidency of his country and is now following in the footsteps of his old rival, Floyd Mayweather, in staging an exhibition bout.

The Philippine great will fight DK Yoo in Seoul on December 11 (December 10 in the United States) with money raised going to Ukraine and the homeless in his homeland.

But, after appearing in the form of a hologram in Los Angeles on Thursday to promote the exhibition, Pacquiao hinted that he may not have totally retired just yet. "I'll try to prove that Manny Pacquiao is still there in boxing," he said, also refusing to rule out a rematch with Mayweather.

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy fourth round action from today

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The fourth round action of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 will commence today at three different venues of the country with Northern leading the table with 59 points and defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa sitting at the bottom with 22 points.

In the fourth round, Northern will take on second-placed Central Punjab at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad; in the live-streamed match on the PCB YouTube channel, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will meet fourth-placed Sindh at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi; and fifth-placed

ATF Southern Punjab will take on third-placed Balochistan at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium in Abbottabad.

After nine matches, three have produced results at two venues with Abbottabad witnessing two of those results. Balochistan surprised Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 134 runs in the first round action but lost by 10 wickets in the third round match against Northern but not before putting up a strong fightback.

The other result was at the Iqbal Stadium when Northern defeated ATF Southern Punjab by 10 wickets.

Results apart, the three matches in round three produced some

exciting and close finishes with all the six teams fighting tooth and nail for glory in the Pakistan's oldest and most prestigious Trophy.

Sindh batted whole day against ATF Southern Punjab to hold them for a draw, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Sahibzada Farhan made the most of a rain-affected match against Central Punjab by notching up his fourth career century. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's spin duo of Khalid Usman and Sajid Khan shared all 10 Central Punjab wickets to slowly warm-up for the upcoming matches.

The competition is also providing an exciting battle between the bat and the ball. To date, 21 centu-

ries have been struck, while the bowlers have picked up six fivers and one 10-fer.

After three rounds, Test opener Abdullah Shafique of Central Punjab leads the batting chart with 380 runs from four innings. He is followed by ATF Southern Punjab's Zain Abbas (352), Tayyab Tahir of Central Punjab (335), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Sahibzada Farhan (335), Northern's Faizan Riaz (326) and Waqar Ahmed of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (303).

Mubasir Khan of Northern, who was adjudged the player of the 2021-22 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, is leading the bowlers table with 15 scalps. Sindh's mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed



is second place with 11 wickets, which he took in his first appearance of this season's event against ATF Southern Punjab. He is followed by Central Punjab's

Ahmed Daniyal, Southern Punjab's Ahmed Bashir and Mir Hamza of Sindh (all 10 wickets apiece).

Meanwhile, three matches in

the fourth round Cricket Associations Championship will also commence from Saturday. Central Punjab are on top of the table with two wins from three matches, with 55 points. Southern Punjab and Sindh are on the second and third position, with 51 and 50 points, respectively. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Northern and Balochistan have won one match apiece.

In the fourth round matches, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will square off against Sindh at the KCCA Stadium, Central Punjab will lock horns with Northern at the NBP Sports Complex and Balochistan will meet ATF Southern Punjab at the UBL Sports Complex.