

Kashmiris to get freedom from India: Sultan

Azad Jammu & Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Monday said the day was not far off when the LoC would perish like the Berlin Wall and the Kashmiris would get freedom from Indian yoke. He said October 27 was one of the black chapters of Kashmir's contemporary history as on that day in 1947 Indian forces invaded Kashmir and occupied the territory illegally without taking into account the Kashmiris' wishes and aspirations.



Punjab Ehsaas Ration Programme is a historic initiative: Punjab CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi said on Monday that rapid industrialization could help reduce poverty by providing more employment opportunities. In his message on international day for the eradication of poverty, the CM said that the coronavirus and floods have increased poverty in the country, adding that Pakistan is facing the challenge of poverty alleviation along with other challenges. News on Page 2

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Next general elections to be held on time: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the by-election's results had shattered the narrative of a "foreign funded Fitna" (Imran Khan) who bent upon maligning the state institutions by hurling accusations, abuse and threats.

She, in a news statement, questioned the rationale behind the narrative pursued by Imran Khan against state institutions after his win on six seats of the National Assembly in the recently held by polls.

"Will the absolutely fraud demand resignation of the chief election commissioner in his press conference today. Will the foreign agent make a speech against the 'neutrals' today," she said while posing a series of questions to Imran Khan.

She said whether the thief of Toshakhana would name the "Mr X" and "Mr Y" today. Would the "foreign funded Fitna" continue to target the chief election commissioner by hurling abuse, threats and accusations on him, the minister inquired.

Marriyum ridiculed Imran Khan for celebrating the PTI's further loss of two seats in the Parliament. Imran Khan still lacked the magic number—172 which was required to oust an incumbent government.

She said Imran Khan could not dictate the government and Parliament after losing two of his own seats in the by polls.

He could not change the government by attacking the Federal Capital and creating anarchy in the country.

The minister said Imran Khan did not get the license to launch an assault on Islamabad after winning six seats in the election. "PTI has become a one-man party which has no candidate other than Imran Khan," she added. APP

Update on flood situation

KHUZDAR: The Chief Secretary Balochistan briefed prime minister Shehbaz Sharif about the ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities carried out in the flood-hit areas of the province.



Photo: PID

Politics on elections

Only govt's prerogative to hold elections, says ruling coalition

In joint statement, coalition parties says Imran will not be allowed to use intimidation, dictation tactics to have his own way

ISLAMABAD: Reacting to PTI Chairman Imran Khan's demand of holding by-elections in Karachi's NA-237 constituency — where PPP candidate Abdul Hakeem Baloch emerged as a winner — ruling coalition parties Monday rejected the idea and said that deciding when the polls will take place is only the government's prerogative.

In a joint statement, the coalition parties said that the government will "not allow any mob to impose a decision [related to the elections] on the basis of force", adding that "those who take the law into their hands will be dealt with according to the Constitution and the law."

In the statement, coalition parties strongly condemned the

allegations and statements issued against former president Asif Ali Zardari and PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif.

own way. They further added that the aim of targeting the army chief, leadership of intelligence insti-

the premier has the constitutional authority to make appointments to important posts, including that of the army chief," the statement read.

Referring to Khan, the statement further added that "a person deprived of power is targeting national institutions under a deliberate agenda."

"Actions like dirty campaigns against the martyrs of the Pakistan Army, and encouragement of rebellion in the army are tantamount to anti-nationalism which will be dealt with according to the Constitution and law."

The ruling parties added that the Constitution, democracy, and system will not be allowed to be enslaved on the basis of bullying and intimidation. APP

Constitution, democracy, and system will not be allowed to be enslaved on the basis of bullying and intimidation.

Regarding the appointment of the next army chief, the statement said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will make a decision on the matter as per the law of Pakistan, adding that the "foreign-funded rabble-rouser" Khan would not be allowed to use "intimidation and dictation tactics" to have his

tutions, officers, chief election commissioner, and others is tantamount to "blackmailing", which is definitely not a political act but a part of a conspiracy, which will not be allowed to succeed.

"It is clear that as per the Constitution and law of the country, only

PM orders rapid dewatering of flood-hit areas in Balochistan

Shehbaz says affected people have not been charged electricity bills for the last two month

Spokesman Report

KHUZDAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized the need to utilize all available resources for early dewatering of flood stricken areas of Balochistan.

He said this while talking to the media on the occasion of a briefing given to him regarding progress on relief and rehabilitation activities in District Sohatpur on Monday.

The Prime Minister added that 25 thousand rupees are being distributed among flood affected families. He said that the government will provide seeds to farmers for the next cultivation season. The Prime Minister said that the affected people have not been charged

electricity bills for the last two month.

The Prime Minister directed the concerned authorities to take further measures to control spread of waterborne diseases in flood affected areas. He appreciated the efforts of the provincial government in providing clean drinking water and distributing mosquito nets among affected people.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also visited Jacobabad and reviewed relief and rehabilitation efforts in the flood-affected areas. Later, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visited Flood Relief Camp established in Sohatpur to review available facilities for flood stricken families on Monday.

No delay in CPEC projects: Ahsan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday said that the incumbent government was committed to complete all the projects being executed under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) without any delay.

The minister gave the assurance to the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who called on him here on Monday.

During the meeting, matters related to mutual cooperation on energy and electricity projects especially those being executed under the umbrella of CPEC.

Ahsan Iqbal reiterated that the main objective of the CPEC was to promote the

industrial sector in Pakistan. He said that China's cooperation to make Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a success was commendable and Pakistan would continue its efforts to complete the Zones.

Professor Iqbal further added that on the directions of the Prime Minister, the work on the electricity transmission lines in Gwadar was going on fast track and would be completed in time.

"The supply of electricity to Gwadar will be started from Iran in December this year and from National Grid in March next year," said the minister while, while assuring the Chinese envoy that the incumbent is committed to complete the CPEC projects without any delay and added that self-reliance in the energy sector will stabilize the economy.

Stabilizing economy Govt's top priority: Finance Minister

Dar urges diaspora to take advantage of IT sector's investment potential

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The minister assured them of government's complete support in their efforts to enable Pakistan achieve exponential growth in IT exports in the coming years.

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar apprised the Pakistani-American IT/Tech entrepreneurs that government was according priority attention to IT/ Tech sector to tap its true potential.

In a virtual meeting the entrepreneurs along with Minister for Economic Affairs, Ayaz Sadiq, the finance minister said that the country's tech-savvy youth were an immense resource, which needed to be optimally tapped for IT sector's growth.

State Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ms. Aisha Ghaus Pasha; Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Jameel Ahmed and Ambassador Masood Khan along with other members of Paki-



stan delegation also participated in the meeting, according to press statement issued by finance ministry here Monday.

Dar urges diaspora to take advantage of IT sector's investment potential

The minister appreciated the interest of Pakistani-American tech entrepreneurs in strengthening Pakistan's IT sector. He emphasized that this sector had immense potential for growth and could play significant role in strengthening Pakistan's economy.

Dar assured the participants of government's complete support in their efforts to enable Pakistan achieve exponential growth

in its IT exports in the coming years.

He said, economy was government's top priority and for this purpose, it had taken tough but essential decisions in the past few months to put it on recovery path.

The catastrophic floods, he said, had compounded the difficulty but the government was confident that through prudent policies would help overcome the challenges faced by economy.

In their interventions, the Pakistani-American IT/ Tech entrepreneurs appreciated the government's focus on the IT/Tech sector and reaffirmed their interest in investing in Pakistan.

ECC approves Rs20.2b for SAP, flood-hit farmers

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Monday approved technical supplementary grants (TSGs) of Rs20.2 billion for Sustainable Development Program (SAP) and flood-affected farmers.

The meeting of the cabinet committee was presided virtually over by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

According to the details, ECC approved TSG of Rs.17 billion to finance schemes under sustainable Development Goals Achievement Program(SAP).

It also approved TSG of Rs3.2 billion for Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R) to support flood affected farmers.

The cabinet committee deferred TSG summary for conduct of 7th population and housing census, the statement added. APP

Long march won't be delayed past October: IK warns govt

Dialogue with the ruling elite out of question.

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan said Monday that his party's anti-government "Azadi March" would not be delayed past October as they have completed their preparations.

In a press conference, the PTI chairman said: "My march will be held in October if the government does not announce the date for the next general election."

The PTI chief warned the government that multitudes of people would take to the streets responding to his call to the nation for the anti-government march.

Khan said he was still cutting the government some slack so that they could decide on it. "I am actually giving them some more time before embarking on our long march protest."

"[Interior Minister] Rana Sanaullah won't even know what hit him, such is my preparation," Khan warned the top minister, who recently claimed the government's preparation was 10 times more as compared to May 25.

He said dialogue was out of the question with the ruling elite. "There's no negotiation with criminals. You can hold reconciliation talks with Baloch or Sindh nationalists, but not with the felons like them," Khan added.

Khan's press conference came after his party won Sunday's by-election by



a major margin. The PTI chief won six of the eight National Assembly seats up for grabs and his party added two more by their seat count in the Punjab Assembly.

But not completely satisfied with the results, Khan alleged that the elections were held in the constituencies where PTI was weak and the ruling coalition fielded joint candidates to ensure his party's defeat.

He said that the government did not wish to hold elections and used floods as an excuse. "They said that there were floods. But in the constituencies where elections were held, floods did not have an effect there."

Khan claimed that he lost Karachi's Malir by-polls to a PPP candidate —

Abdul Hakeem Baloch — as it was rigged.

"Sindh's election commissioner was on the provincial government's payroll. We reject [Malir's] by-election and demand re-election. The PPP swung the polls to their advantage through indiscriminate rigging," Khan alleged.

He said the nation had rejected this legislature as well as this government and wanted new polls across the country.

Khan condemned the law enforcement agencies for booking the ageing PTI leader Azam Swati in a "baseless case" and then allegedly subjecting him to grievous bodily harm in police custody. "They beat up the 75-year-old in front of his grandchildren."

Prohibited Funding Case

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and member of the Politburo of the CPC Central Committee and Director of Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Yang Jiechi are leading respective sides in held delegation level talks here on Wednesday.



Photo: Online

Hina, French parliamentary leaders discuss ties

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar, held meetings on Monday with Christian Cambon, President Commission for Foreign Affairs, Defense and Armed Forces of the French Senate and Jean-Louis Bourlanges, President Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The meetings were held at the French Senate and National Assembly respectively.

Pakistan-France bilateral relations including parliamentary cooperation, situation of floods in Pakistan, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meetings.

The minister extended an invitation to both Presidents to visit Pakistan to further strengthen parliamentary contacts and cooperation between the two countries.

Recent by-polls held in free & fair manner: Sana

Says PTI should respect mandate of other parties given by voters in by-election

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Monday said that Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) managed by-election on October 16 with responsibility and neutrality and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf would have to accept the mandate given to its opponent political parties by voters rather than maligning them.

The minister said that PTI secured overall 547,652 votes against all seats during by-elections while its opponent political parties got 4,75,037 votes. "If Imran Khan wants from us to accept the decision of 5,47,000 voters then he would have to accept the decision of 475,000 persons who voted in our favor," the minister said while addressing a press conference.

He said those who voted against PTI are also patriotic and it's unfair to use derogatory language against them. "The results of free and fair elections should be accepted as per democratic attitude and vote to be respected while decisions of voters should be honored," the minister said adding that we would not allow attitude of disrespecting the votes of the PTI's opponents.

"If the PTI leadership wants us to accept the decision of their voters then they will also have to accept the decision of those who voted in favor of the PDM candidates", he said adding that democratic posture

The results of free and fair elections should be accepted as per democratic attitude

warrants that results of free and fair elections are accepted.

He said conduct of by-elections is a testimony to the fact that the institutions are fulfilling their responsibilities within the constitutional ambit. He said ECP especially deserves appreciation for conducting the by-polls in a responsible and impartial manner.

Rana Sanaullah said we faced imprisonment during our political struggle for democracy but Imran Khan came to Parliament from cricket ground and he could not know what sacrifices were

rendered by other political leadership for democracy. PML-N emerged more strong during this by-election as compared to General Elections 2018 and it's candidates in Sharqpur and Khanewal secured more votes, he added.

During the next General Election, he said PML-N would be stronger due to lack of support of provincial governments for PTI. The minister said that PML-N preferred to interests of the States rather than its own politics and came into power through constitutional manner by voting out Imran Khan in a no confidence motion.

The PML-N led government had to make tough decisions after coming into power because the PTI government put the country on the verge of bankruptcy, the minister said adding that people might not have voted for them due to inflation, increased prices of electricity and petroleum products.

He said that such decisions were critical to put the economy on the right track and PML-N led government would manage economy effectively in coming days and to provide relief to people.

Prohibited funding case

Imran Khan gets interim bail

ISLAMABAD: A special court on Monday granted interim bail to former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan in prohibited funding case till October 31.

Earlier in the day, he moved the court for his bail before arrest.

Special Judge Central Asif Mahmood directed the former prime minister to submit surety bonds of Rs100,000. The court also issued notice to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) over Imran Khan's plea.

The former prime minister in his plea has pleaded with the court to bar the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) from arresting him in prohibited funding case.

On October 12, the Islamabad

High Court (IHC) granted protective bail to the PTI chairman in the prohibited funding case.

The former prime minister was directed by the IHC CJ Athar Minalah to appear before the relevant court.

On Tuesday, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) registered a case against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and 10 others over accusations of receiving foreign funding. The case had been registered by the FIA Corporate Banking Circle.

The case's First Information Report (FIR) stated that the accused including the former premier violated Foreign Exchange Act and all of the nominated persons were beneficiaries of the private bank account. Agencies

Controversial tweets case

Azam Swati sent to jail on judicial remand

Court rejects FIA's request to extend Azam Swati's remand

ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islamabad on Monday sent PTI Senator Azam Swati to jail on judicial remand in the "controversial tweets" case.

The PTI leader was presented before senior civil judge Muhammad Shabbir's court after the expiry of his extended one-day physical remand.

During the hearing, Swati's lawyer Babar Awan told the court that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) was praying for the recovery of the tweet sent by Swati. He also claimed before the court that the senator had an injury on one of his fingers and had a fracture as well.

On the other hand, the prosecutor requested the court that a three-day physical remand of the senator be approved. But the court rejected the request and instead sent Swati to jail on judicial remand.

Before the senator was sent on judicial remand, his lawyer Awan had pleaded to the court to present his client before 1pm as he had to appear before another court.

The court had initially turned down Awan's request but FIA was later asked to present Swati earlier, once his lawyer shared that he had to speak to him.

On Sunday, the court further extended the physical remand of the PTI leader Azam Khan Swati for one day. Swati was taken into custody by the FIA's Cybercrime Wing



(CCW) from his home in Islamabad on October 13, after which he was presented before senior civil judge Shabbir Bhatti's court in the federal capital which approved a two-day remand. The agency's cybercrime wing registered a case against Swati later over the "controversial" tweets. Agencies

Pakistan committed to eradicate all forms of poverty: President

Says Pakistan would continue to abide by the principles of poverty alleviation, and protection of earth and environment

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to eradicate all forms of poverty, said the country would continue taking the required measures for people's prosperity and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The president, in his message to the nation on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty annually observed on October 17, said the

poverty was in fact the violation of basic human rights.

He said the floods and other natural calamities were among the major factors causing the poverty. Due to the recent floods in Pakistan, there was also a risk of rise in poverty ratio in the country.

He said Pakistan would continue to abide by the principles of poverty alleviation, and protection of earth and environment.

The president said the climate change had aggravated the problems

confronting the developing countries like Pakistan.

He said in wake of the floods, the international community should realize its responsibilities.

President Alvi said Pakistan had initiated multiple programs for poverty eradication like National Rural Support Program, Benazir Income Support Program, Ehsaas Program and Sehat Card. The country would also continue to take more measures for poverty reduction in future, he added.

Bilawal pledges to continue struggle for democracy

PPP Chairman and FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari pays rich tribute to the martyrs of Karsaz tragedy

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Chairman of Pakistan People's Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tribute to the martyrs of Karsaz tragedy.

In his message issued on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Karsaz tragedy, the PPP Chairman said that today reminds us the sacrifices of the leadership and workers of Party during the struggle to restore and strengthen

democracy in the country.

Both the leadership and workers fought so many heinous conspiracies and walked through the rivers of blood to accomplish the mission of democracy, equality, peace and prosperity in the country, he added.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that on October 18, 2007, the blood of 180 people was shed to sabotage the gathering of more than 30 lakh people present in Karachi for the historic reception of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir

Bhutto.

He said that we should remember our martyrs on October 18 every year and share the grief of their families as well as inform our young generation about our history and the struggles and sacrifices of the generations before them.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari further said that we have to teach the young generation that developing personal enmities in politics and breaking records of telling lies is not a struggle.

Pakistan calls for int'l protection for Palestinians from Israeli attacks

Pakistan voices concern over adverse impact of "persistent" Israeli practices in occupied Arab territories on all areas of life

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan, speaking on behalf of Group of 77 (developing countries) and China, Monday urged the international community to provide protection to the Palestinians from Israel's repeated attacks, and push for a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly's Second Committee, which deals with economic and social issues, Muhammad Imran Khan, a counsellor in the Pakistani Mission to the UN, voiced concern over the adverse impact of the "persistent" Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories on all areas of life, including the sovereignty of the Palestinian and Syrian people over their natural resources.

Pakistan is the current chairman of G77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest intergovernmental group of emerging countries.

The Pakistani delegate reiterated G77's support for economic development efforts and aspirations of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Syrian people in the occupied Golan Heights.

The G77, he said, remained "deeply concerned" about the further decline of Palestinian people's social and economic conditions resulting from illegal Israeli practices, including the continuing colonization of the Palestinian land in "grave" breach of international norms and relevant UN resolutions.

In this connection, Counsellor Imran Khan reaffirmed G77's demand



for a halt to Israel's confiscation of Palestinian property, construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and the wall, demolition of Palestinian homes, mass dispossession and forced displacement of civilians as well as all measures of annexation, and calls for respect of international law and all relevant resolutions.

The Palestinian people continued to face severe restrictions on access to Area "C", which constitutes more than 60 per cent of the occupied West Bank area as any investment or economic activity in this area requires Israeli occupation-issued permits—a permit that is nearly impossible for the Palestinian people to obtain, as nearly 99 percent of building permit applications have been rejected over the years", it was pointed out.

In Gaza, the G77 chairman said the

Israeli blockade and repeated military aggressions had made development goals ever more elusive.

In that regard, he said, the G77 "reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, and demands that Israel cease their exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment".

"We also emphasize the need for urgent mobilization and the deployment of multilateral efforts to advance the realization of a political horizon and preserve the prospects of achieving a just and lasting solution for the people of Palestine, on the basis of the two-state solution, with the peoples' living side by side in peace and security, within secure and recognized pre-1967 borders," the Pakistani delegate added.

Punjab Ehsaas Ration Programme is a historic initiative: Punjab CM

Says coronavirus and floods have increased poverty in the country

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi said on Monday that rapid industrialization could help reduce poverty by providing more employment opportunities. In his message on international day for the eradication of poverty, the CM said that the coronavirus and floods have increased poverty in the country, adding that Pakistan is facing the challenge of poverty alleviation along with other challenges. "Let us redouble our efforts in the fight against poverty and build a society that is not only poverty-free but also empowers the needy" he said. Poverty affects the entire society, he added.



Sustainable livelihoods, business opportunities and access to productive resources must be improved to reduce poverty at the grassroots, he mentioned. The chief minister said the Punjab Ehsaas Ration Programme is a historic initiative to eradicate poverty, adding that under this programme, ghee, flour, pulses and oil were provided to eight million deserving families at 40 percent cheaper. "The focus of my initiatives is the welfare of the poor," he said. Addressing poverty is indispensable for the elimination of fanaticism and everyone should play a role in this regard, the CM concluded.

PCBDDA announces contractor for Kalma Chowk remodelling

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Monday, October 17, 2022, Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), also known as Central Business District (CBD Punjab), has awarded the contract for the construction of CBD Boulevard and the remodelling of Kalma Chowk underpass to a government-owned contractor National Logistic Cell (NLC). The Executive Director Technical PCBDDA, Mr. Riaz Hussain said, "After completing the documentary formalities, we have awarded the contract to NLC out of the three government-owned organizations invited for the bid including National Construction Company (NCC) and Frontier Works Organization (FWO)".

He further added that the contract was awarded to NLC at the quoted price of Rs 4.218 billion PKR. The authority has already allocated a budget of approx. Rs 5 billion PKR for CBD Boulevard and the remodelling of the Kalma Chowk underpass. The 365-meter-long boulevard will be constructed in two phases within a time span of 180 days. The project will provide a signal-free corridor from Barkat Market and Ali Zaib Road to Jail Road. The master plan is designed to give a hassle-free easy entry and exit to Pakistan's first business district. While expressing his views about the project CEO, PCBDDA, Mr. Imran Amin said, "this project will be a landmark of excellence in the infrastructure development of Punjab. There is a healthy working relationship with

NLC, and with our mutual cooperation and efforts we will turn this dream into reality. NLC has the capacity to deliver this project within the deadline". DG NLC Major General Yousaf Jamal said that "winning this contract is a moment of immense pride that NLC has once again chosen to play its role in national development. We assure you that high-quality standards will be maintained and will complete the project on time". This project will be an amenity for all the residents of Lahore which will not only provide swift entry and exit from the adjoining areas but will be beneficial in different ways including modern infrastructure development, easy mobility, a green sustainable environment and traffic flow uniformity.

Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi organizes function on Liaquat Day

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Literary Committee (Shair-o-sakhun) organized a function on the occasion of "Liaquat Day" at Hasina Moin Hall. The ceremony started with a recitation of the Quran. The program was presided over by Dr. Masooma Hasan, while Mahfouz-ul-Nabi Khan was the chief guest. On this occasion, chairperson of the literary committee, Anbreen Haseeb Anbar, Khawaja Razi Haidar, Raees Fatima, Agha Masood Hussain, Muhammad Usman Jamee, Altaf Mujahid, and Liaquat Ali Khan were present. Liaquat Ali Khan's son Akbar Liaquat Ali Khan spoke online. In the presidential speech, Dr. Masooma Hassan said that Nawabzada was a great leader. He was a great leader in



his own right. Liaquat Ali Khan is the hero of all of us. The conditions in Pakistan were very bad at the time of the partition. Liaquat Ali Khan gave stability to Pakistan with hard work, dedication, and honesty. Nawabzada was a very enlightened person. The chief guest Mahfouz-ul-Nabi Khan said that all the moments spent with him are precious to him and I thank President Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah

who remember their elders. The services of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan should be written with a golden pen. He was such a prime minister who always thought for the betterment of the people. Altaf Mujahid said that Liaquat Ali Khan, once said in a meeting that I do not have any property, I do not have wealth, I have life and I will sacrifice it for Pakistan and he sacrificed his life for the sake of his country. Agha Masood Hussain said that Liaquat Ali Khan had said that he was ready to give his life for the protection of Pakistan. When Liaquat Ali Khan was leaving this world, then he said that God should protect Pakistan. Faiz Ali Khan performed the duties of Moderator at the event. On this occasion, Muhammad Usman Jamee presented a ghazal, while Afsar Ahmed presented a song for Liaquat Ali Khan.

HNA organizes Seerat Conference for Children

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A Seerat Conference for children on the theme: "Elegant manners of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)" comprised of recitation of verses from the holy Qur'an, hamd, mehfil-i-na'at, rasm-i-bismillah and speeches, was held on Sunday at PECHS Community Centre Karachi, under the auspices of Hamdard Naunehal Assembly (HNA). Renowned Industrialist and a member of Shura Hamdard, Naushaba Khalil Sattar was invited as a guest speaker in the congregation. Ms. Sadia Rashid, President (HNA), presided over the event.



known to have a pleasant and friendly countenance. He was a paradigm of excellent manners with flawless character, which no one else comprehensively possessed. The best way to express love, loyalty and respect for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) should be measured by the extent to which the message of Islam codified in his entire life is imbibed and practiced by his followers. Young speakers from different schools highlighted many of the virtues of Prophet Muhammad and said that throughout his life, Prophet Muhammad PBUH maintained an impeccable demeanor. His character imbued virtue and righteousness. He was a great leader, warrior, husband, father and role model for all mankind, until the end of time. Prophet Muhammad PBUH portrayed a message of peace, unity, morality and justice. Earlier Rasm-i-bismillah of young children was also held on the occasion. Speaker of Naunehal Assembly Karachi chapter, Nabihah Jamal moderated the Seerat Conference. Fatema Munir Ahmed, Managing Director & CEO Hamdard Pakistan, Educationists, teachers, parents and children participated in the conference in large numbers.

DC chairs meeting regarding flood relief activities

BADIN: Deputy Commissioner Agha Shah Nawaz Khan on Monday said that all 68 union councils of Badin district were affected due to recent floods out of which some dehs and union councils were badly affected. He was presiding over a meeting with WFP and other NGOs, said a handout issued by district information office. DC said that a survey of ascertaining losses was being carried out from October 15 which will be completed



by November 13. He said that officers of all district departments and other employees played a laudable role for helping flood victims however Non Government Organizations (NGOs) were also assisting in relief and rehabilitation of flood hit people.

World food Programme (WFP) representative Syed Khadim Hussain Shah on the occasion said that WFP was working on starting a welfare project in most flood hit areas of Badin with the objective to ensure financial assistance of around 6750 affected families to make them self-sufficient. He said that in this connection he has coordinated with Assistant Commissioners and NGOs working in the district so that the maximum number of flood-victims could be helped. Additional Deputy Commissioner Najeem-ur-Rehman Jamali and other relevant officers also attended the meeting.

PFA discards 12,600-litre formalin contaminated milk

LAHORE: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) has lodged the First Information Report (FIR) against seven accused on account of adulteration in food and violation of the Punjab Pure Food Regulations. On the tip off of the vigilance cell, a food safety team of PFA raided a factory on Kasur Road and caught a group of milk adulteration mafia with 12,600-litre of fabricated milk which was produced with hazardous and harmful chemicals. The team also recovered 50kg skimmed milk, 32-litre oil and a huge quantity of chemicals during the raid. This was informed by PFA Director General Mudassar Riaz Malik. He said that the authority took action against the enemies of public health over proven contamination of formalin or formaldehyde in hundreds of maunds of milk that causes digestive disorders and even cancer. Mudassar said that formalin is a toxic material that is commonly used to preserve dead bodies in mortuaries. He said 20,000 litres of fabricated milk was produced on a daily basis and supplied to different local shops in small milk storage drums just to deceive the authority. PFA has been working on to make a strict legislation so as to eliminate the scourge of milk adulteration from Punjab while the authority will make all-around efforts to ensure sound legislation. He directed food business operators to follow the Punjab Pure Food Regulations otherwise, lawbreakers would be dealt with iron-handedly.

Another 71,130 IDPs return to homes from relief camps: Sindh Info Minister

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday said that another 35,100 people, displaced due to flood, had returned to their homes from the relief camps in the last 48 hours. The minister, in a statement, issued here said that so far, there were 207,458 IDPs including 47,220 children and 41,455 women, at relief camps, who were being provided with two times meals a day and medical facilities. He informed that the government's relief activities were continue in flood affected areas and ration bags had been provided to 51,735 more families across the province while 9000 tents and many mosquito nets were also distributed among the victims. He informed that since beginning of relief activities in total 1,724,399 ration bags, 626,597 tents, 539,922 plastic tarpaulins, 3,272,837 mosquito nets, 803,496 litres of mineral water, 162,323 cauldrons of cooked food and other supplies have been provided to the flood affected population across the province. Sharjeel Memon informed that due to recent heavy rains and floods, 780 precious lives had been lost while 8422 people got injured.

Experts suggest wheat cultivation by Nov 20 in arid areas

MULTAN: Punjab Agriculture Department urged farmers to cultivate wheat from October 20 to November in arid areas to achieve bumper production of the golden grains. According to a press release issued by the Agriculture Information Department, the experts suggested farmers to cultivate only recommended varieties including Markaz-19, Arooj 22, Barani 17, Pakistan 13, Fatch Jung 16, and MA 21, in arid areas. They proposed that the farmers should use 40 to 50 kilogram seed per acre. The seeds germination percentage should be over 85, the experts added. The soil should be prepared properly after consultation with the local experts of the department. The farmers should cultivate wheat on maximum areas in order to address the issue of food security. The government is also offering subsidy on inputs to facilitate the farming community.

Governor inaugurate auditorium, sports complex at Cholistan University

BAHAWALPUR: Governor Punjab Engr Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated the newly constructed auditorium of the Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences on Monday. The total cost of the auditorium was 65 million rupees and it had seating capacity of 500 people. He also inaugurated the Sports Complex of the university which had been built at a cost of 50 million rupees. The sports complex will provide facilities for the gym, badminton court, and various indoor and outdoor games. Governor Punjab inaugurated the Semen Production Unit at Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences. It was established in collaboration with the Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and the Sahiwal Cattle Breeding Society. Vice Chancellor Cholistan University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Prof Dr Sajjad Khan, Registrar Salman Mirza and others were present on the occasion.

159 new dengue cases reported in Punjab

LAHORE: The Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD) Secretary Irshad Ahmad said that 159 new dengue cases were reported in Punjab during the last 24 hours. In a statement issued here on Monday, he said that 50 dengue cases were reported in Lahore, 38 in Gujranwala, 35 in Rawalpindi, 11 in Multan, five in Faisalabad, three each in Okara and Sahiwal, two each in Sialkot, Sargodha and Bahawalpur, one each in Pakpattan, Layyah, Bhakkar, Jhelum, Toba Tek Singh, Narowal and Kasur.

KIPS CSS hosts annual dinner in honor of 50 CSS qualifiers



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: KIPS Central Superior Services (CSS) hosted the 50th CTP Annual Dinner on 16th October 2022. The event was held in honor of the CSS qualifiers, and to acknowledge and celebrate the success of the esteemed finalists. A prize distribution ceremony was held to felicitate CSS front-runners who had brought laurels to the academy. Additional Director KIPS CSS Mr. Shahrukh Shahid said, "I congratulate the 50 KIPS CSS qualifiers from Punjab and KPK, and envisage even greater development and successes for their journey at Civil Service Academy. I am proud of KIPS CSS for what it has achieved in the past 2 years during the pandemic, by facilitating the students with comprehensive, safe and free of cost strategies. Today, we are leading the market by providing three modes of education to students i.e. online, virtual and physical." KIPS CSS is one of the largest and oldest CSS preparatory networks in Pakistan, with 10 campuses and one virtual learning application. It is the only institute in Pakistan offering On Campus, Online and Virtual Learning Classes; with more than 20 years of experience in the field as premium educationists. The institute specialises in preparing candidates for competitive exams and promises best preparation for interviews and psychological tests.

On this occasion Director KIPS CSS, Mr. Shahid Wazir Khan said "At KIPS, for CSS preparation, our prime focus is on "SUCCESS IN MAIDEN ATTEMPT" and we plan and conduct instructional classes to get the candidates equipped with the knack they need to succeed in their first endeavour." Furthermore he added, "KIPS is the only brand in the market which broke the shackles of time and space, and introduced its state of the art virtual campus called KIPS LMS, an online learning management system for a wide range of academic programs. It is platform that let students learn from wherever they are and whenever they feel like it. KIPS had recently collaborated with Akhuwat Foundation, giving opportunity to more than 100 students bearing their educational and accommodation cost for a four and a half month session." Executive Director, Mr. Arsalan Khalid said "KIPS CSS has started a new venture, Global Age. It currently deals with educational and immigration consultancy, and skill based short courses with the aim of making our youth financially independent. Global Age learning is currently operating in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Sargodha, Lahore and Karachi." KIPS CSS is playing an integral part in teaching and training the youth of the nation so that they are prepared and trained to face the external and internal challenges of professional life.



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:51 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:52 pm
Maghrib 5:32 pm
Isha 6:55 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 555489
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

CDA digitizes 112 mouzas of Islamabad Capital Territory

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Interior on Monday informed the National Assembly that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) had digitized 112 Mouzas of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The written reply by the Ministry indicated that CDA plot records regarding the settled sectors had been computerized. The organization digitized 943 sq km, including 400 sq km of CDA and 543 sq km of ICT rural areas, it added. It pointed out that in total 112 Mouzas in ICT had been digitized which was incorporated through cadastral mapping (Survey of Pakistan) and was launched in September 2021.

The OCDA had also completely computerized sale/purchase/legal heirship administration and associated transactions through NRTC installed system, it added.

It was informed that citizens could now track their case status through a web link which was provided the moment the citizen submitted a case at CDA facilitation center.

The citizens could interact through a 12-hour dedicated help line 918190 through which they might check the status of their case. The case history of each property and transaction was maintained and recorded for future reference.

It was also informed that CDA land records (Plots and allotted Properties) stood digitized since September 2021 wherein the record of allotted plots was available with complete details (Owner, Street Number and Sector).

The CDA has also digitized rural land records wherein it has partnered with SUPARCO and Survey of Pakistan. Geo-mapping of the CDA Rural Record has also been carried out with the assistance of the two organizations.

BISP strives for welfare of needy, poor: Shazia Marri

Says we will continue our efforts to eradicate poverty from Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Ms. Shazia Marri on Monday International Day for the Eradication of Poverty stated that the launch of the "Benazir Income Support Program" reflects the vision of Ms. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed, which aims to provide a comprehensive system of social security to the disadvantaged sections of the society, especially women.

"It is to bring a sustainable and positive change in the lives of deprived families by providing economic and social security and ending poverty", she added.

17th October is celebrated worldwide as the International Day for Eradication of Poverty. On the occasion the Minister said that the significance of the Benazir Income Support Program increases with respect



to this day as the purpose of the day is to acknowledge the efforts and struggles of people living in poverty, to provide them with opportunities to move forward and to recognize that Poverty is a violation of basic human rights which we need to be addressed.

The main theme of this day is that honor is universal, that is, honor is not relat-

ed to the economic condition of a person, but to his human values, the Chairperson BISP continued and observed that in Pakistan, men and women are equally victims of social oppression due to poverty.

Under the Benazir Income Support Program, Rs. 7000 on quarterly basis are given to the deserving women through the Benazir Kafalat program, and

the children from 4 to 22 years of age of these women are given Benazir Taleemi Wazaif from 1500 to 4000 rupees so that they can get education. The Chairperson BISP emphasized that compared to boys; the educational scholarships of girls are a little higher so that parents can educate their children with a relative ease.

Through Benazir Nashonuma, deserving pregnant women and lactating mothers are provided nutritious and balanced food. The nutritional needs of the new-born children are met for their better nourishment.

She also established that the aim of such initiatives of the Government of Pakistan under BISP is to build a strong society. "Today we pledge together that we will continue our efforts to eradicate poverty from Pakistan so that we can give a better future to the coming generations", the Minister concluded.

Acknowledgement

Mushaal Hussein Mullick Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation receiving Human rights Award from Pakistan Human Rights Society at Lahore Avari for highlighting gross human rights violations in IIOJK



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

Capital's ambience starts tainting amid steady rise in air pollutant

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Capital's air quality on Monday was healthy air polluting particles and pollution was recorded low in the atmosphere amid cold and dry weather, and less anthropogenic activities.

The Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) daily air quality report noted that the air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits and the air quality was healthy.

The air quality data was collected by Pak-EPA for 24 hours based on three intervals of eight hours of data collection from different locations of the federal capital.

The Pak-EPA data revealed that the air quality

throughout the three intervals of data monitoring remained low as the ratio of pollutants was below the permissible limits of national environmental quality standards (NEQS).

The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a lethal atmospheric contaminant, remained 23.2 micro grammes per cubic meter on average which is lower than the NEQS of 35 mic-grammes per cubic meter and denotes the air quality healthy.

The PM 2.5 is generated through combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by

fast moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads. Moreover, the frequent forest fires in the federal capital also created high suspended particles, dust and particulate matter in the atmosphere.

The nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and sulphur dioxide (SO2) were recorded below permissible ratio as it were recorded 3.55 and 17.03 micro-grammes per cubic meter in past 24 hours in the atmosphere against the NEQS of 80 and 120 micro-grammes per cubic meter respectively.

These effluents were mainly produced during the operational activities of industrial plants and factories that were already under control.

Youth role imperative in elimination of drugs

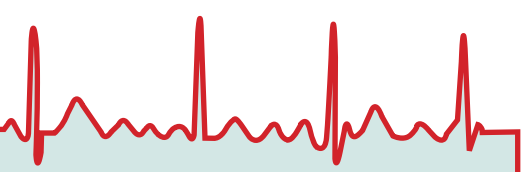
RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Joint Director Ehsanul Haq on Monday said that educated youth could play imperative role in elimination of drugs as youth were the real force of any country.

It was a well-known fact that the youth of any country was a great asset. They were indeed the future of the country and represent it at every level.

The national development, prosperity and the elimination of social evils would be possible only under the supervision of talented youth leadership.

Ehsanul Haque expressed these views while talking to the representative organization of Young Journalists Association (YJA) President Muhammad Yousaf Khan at ANF Headquarters here. ANF Public Relations Officer Dr. Noreen Kanwal was also present on this occasion.

Health Corner



Researchers develop novel antibiotic cement to treat bone infections

ISLAMABAD: Each year, 700,000 people die due to antibiotic resistance. A growing global population unfortunately generates a growing resistance to established antibiotic treatments -- a threat that has been met with insufficient funding and dwindling inspiration, as commercial incentives for developing new antibiotics have fallen.

A new study by investigators from Brigham and Women's Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, addresses this growing problem in antibiotic development using a novel, interdisciplinary approach to construct a robust, computer-program-generated library of antibiotics and to identify an effective antibiotic for targeted use in a bone cement matrix. This approach could potentially be used to treat bone infections, a common complication after surgical orthopaedic procedures. Their results are published in Nature Biomedical Engineering.

"Currently, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has only approved of bone cements loaded with antibiotics not originally developed for bone tissue," said Hae Lin Jang, PhD, co-director of the Brigham's Center for Engineered Therapeutics and principal investigator of the Laboratory for Developing Advanced Biomaterials and Biotechnologies. "In addition to not being bone tissue-specific, resistance has emerged against these antibiotics. We must create a new generation of antibiotics that are optimized to meet this emerging need."

This increasing struggle with antibiotic resistance has fused with a similarly increasing aging population, which now requires more orthopaedic procedures than ever. Common procedures such as knee and hip replacements can result in bacterial infection, such as Staphylococcal, which is currently treated with systemic antibiotics.

Systemic exposure to antibiotics does not precisely target infection; therefore, huge doses are needed, resulting in the unintended consequences of drug resistance and destruction of beneficial microbiota. To remedy this growing issue, collaborating researchers from the Brigham's Department of Medicine and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery aimed to create a locally delivered and potent combination of antibiotic and bone cement.

To engineer a new antibiotic for specific local delivery via a bone cement matrix, polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) bone cement was used -- the accepted FDA gold-standard. The team shortlisted molecules for antibiotic design and screened for drug-susceptible and drug-resistant bacteria in a preclinical model. Finally, the team compared clinically used PMMA bone cement and the new antibiotic-loaded PMMA bone cement using a prophylactic and an established Staphylococcal-infected tibial injury model.

Researchers pinpointed dual-action antibiotic VCD-077, studying its activity and efficacy in cells and in animal models. VCD-077 not only exhibited desired drug release kinetics without affecting the stability of PMMA bone cement, but it also demonstrated high efficacy against a broad range of drug-resistant bacteria strands and slowed development of future resistance. In fact, VCD-077-loaded PMMA bone cement exhibited greater efficacy than all currently used antibiotic-loaded bone cements against Staphylococcal bone infections in a rat model.

Rana Sohail appointed as Advisor to CM Punjab

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervez Elahi has appointed Central Vice President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Rana Sohail Ahmed as Advisor to Chief Minister for Environment Protection Agency Punjab. According to the notification issued yesterday by the Punjab government, Rana Sohail Ahmed, the Central Vice President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, has been appointed as the Advisor to the Chief Minister of Punjab for Environmental Protection Agency, which has also been issued. The Central President of All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association, Malik Abrar Hussain, has congratulated Rana Sohail Ahmed, calling this appointment an honor for the private education sector of Pakistan and expressed his determination that the development of the private education sector Rana Sohail Ahmed's unforgettable services for welfare and improvement will be accelerated and no effort will be left to solve all the problems of private educational institutions on the platform of the association. Member Federal Board and Secretary General All Pakistan Private Schools and Colleges Association Muhammad Ashraf Haraj, Additional Secretary Zulfiqar Siddiqui, Malik Deen Muhammad Awan and other leaders have also congratulated Rana Sohail Ahmed on being appointed as an adviser.

Numlian gets 1st prize in Korean Speech Contest

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Student of Department of Korean Language & Culture "Munawer Ali" participated in "2022 Asian Smile Festival" held on Oct 09, 2022 and got 1st position. In the competition candidates from various countries participated. Munawer Ali is from Larkana, Sindh and completed Advance Diploma Korean from NUML and currently working in South Korea.



AJK Chief Secretary Usman Chachar is chairing annual meeting of AJK rural sports board of governors on Monday.

Pak-China enjoy broad space of cooperation in TCM, Unani Tibb: Experts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional Medicine, World Health Organization (WHO) and Co-Director of Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on TCM (SPCCTCM), Prof Liu Xinmin said that Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Unani Tibb (traditional medicine in Pakistan) enjoy a broad space of collaboration in research and development, management and production.

Prof. Liu Xinmin said in an interview that, "International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi is internationally influential in the field of natural product chemistry. This is another recognition of traditional Chinese medicine in Pakistan and even the international community after the successful clinical trial of Yinhuang Qingfei Capsule in Pakistan, and it is also a major booster to promote cooperation in traditional

medicine between China and Pakistan," China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Pakistani herbal medicines have rich resources in the treatment of respiratory and skin diseases, and the products are exported to Central Asia and other countries. Pakistanis are accustomed to taking herbal medicines and are highly receptive to TCM.

"In recent years, the industrial scale and research & development level of TCM have been significantly improved. China's management experience of high-quality herbal medicine resources can be shared with Pakistan. Pakistan is very active in international and exchange platforms, and Pakistan and China can jointly increase the popularity and influence of traditional medicine in the world," Prof. Liu Xinmin suggested.

After thousands of years of development, TCM has developed numerous effective treat-



ments for plague. TCM has sustained efficacy in the face of complex and variable viruses, and it is well-suited to cope with the ever-changing COVID-19 virus.

Prof. Liu Qingquan, President of Beijing Hospital of TCM introduced that TCM has formed an extremely strict theoretical law, and its rapid accessibility is one of its greatest advan-

tages and characteristics.

JHQG is produced by Juxiechang (Beijing) Pharmaceutical Company. According to Mao Zhibing, R&D Director of Juxiechang, the clinical testing of JHQG in Pakistan was carried out with the support of the Chinese and Pakistani governments and top-level research teams.

The protocols were approved by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan, Ethics Committees in Pakistan, etc.

"We intend to have more cooperation with Pakistan, such as conducting clinical studies in Pakistan on JHQG for additional indications, including upper respiratory tract infections of influenza. Pakistan also invites us to build a factory there, and we will send a local operation team to conduct clinical trials and market some other varieties there. In this way, both sides can form a cluster effect in the clinical application, sales, and use of products," Mao concluded.

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 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Importance of water and sanitation in Pakistan

Syeda Alina Saeed

Every day, on the way to work, I pass a clean drinking water station, where regardless of the hour, lines of men are filling containers with water to take home, and I thank my luck that my water comes to my door, courtesy of the ubiquitous water services in Islamabad.

I am in the fortunate, privileged group of Pakistanis who have access to clean drinking water and access to in-house toilet facilities. According to a study by WaterAid, 21 million people in Pakistan lack access to clean water; this number includes 20 percent of Pakistan's rural poor and 2 percent of Pakistan's rich. Moreover, different studies suggest that between 22 and 80 million Pakistan's population (mostly in rural areas) lack proper toilet facilities, making Pakistan the third-largest country where people practice open defecation.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 40 percent of all diseases in Pakistan are caused by unsanitary drinking water. Furthermore, according to the

Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), 62 percent urban population and 84 percent rural population of Pakistan do not treat their drinking water, which also leads to water-borne diseases.

As a woman, I also find it close to my heart that due to a lack of resources and cleaning facilities, many girls and women in my country stay at home rather than partaking in normal activities, due to a lack of menstruation supplies and proper facilities. Many of them use unsanitary methods for managing menstruation, such as homemade sanitary pads, which may lead to infections.

Access to clean water is also deeply linked to poverty. Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices and educational opportunities for poor families, especially for women and girls who spend endless hours fetching water over long distances.

The recent catastrophic floods have worsened the water and sanitation situation, leaving hundreds of thousands of affected people in need of emergency water and sanitation support. Unfortunately, many of the flooded areas were among the poorest

in the country, with low access to clean water and sanitation even before the disaster struck. The floods have only made an already bad situation immeasurably worse.

Flood waters have invaded wells and water reservoirs, landfills and sewerage lines, car workshops and fertilizer stores – mixing it all into one huge sea of contaminated water full of chemicals and bacteria, creating fertile breeding ground for insects and diseases. Even the mighty Indus River got contaminated to the point where it's no longer safe for humans: ARY News reported on October 11, 2022 that the Sindh Irrigation Department has declared water from Indus River as 'unsafe for drinking' and directed authorities to take safety precautions before supplying water. "The flood water being released from Lake Manchar is entering the Indus River," the department stated; "human lives may be at risk".

I shudder trying to imagine how those affected communities have survived in the immediate aftermath. Were they able to safe any clean drinking water or did they have to drink the dirty contaminated cocktail of the flood? How were they able to prepare meals? And what about

those hundreds and thousands of men, women and children who had to wade through dirty water to reach safety? Many of them must be suffering from wound infections, skin rashes, gastrointestinal illnesses, and tetanus. Do they have any medical care? And even as the flood waters recede and the communities are able to return home, their water sources will remain contaminated. It will take days, weeks, months or even years to restore access to clean drinking and cooking water. Repairs or expansions take time – time that people who need them don't have.

According to UN Office coordinating of Human Affairs, "some 20 percent of water systems are damaged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, around 30 percent in Baluchistan, and up to 50 percent in the hardest hit areas of Sindh and Punjab. Access to safe drinking water is a significant concern, and communities are increasingly resorting to open defecation, heightening the risk of water and sanitation-related diseases. Cases of diarrhoea and water-borne diseases, respiratory infection, and skin diseases have already been reported".

"Universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water" is one of the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) that the United Nations introduced in 2015. To meet this goal, water should be available when needed, free from contamination, and ideally located on premises; if not on premises, water should require a total collection time of less than 30 minutes.

The flood affected communities rely on the support from the government, international and non-governmental organizations to access their clean drinking water. But how long will these assistance efforts last before resources run out?

I hope that any assistance effort, regardless of the source, will help these flood affected communities to not only survive the immediate aftermath of the floods but also build long-term skills and systems to ensure that clean water and sanitation are part of daily life for every community and every citizen of the country. To build a future for Pakistan, we need full contribution from every man, woman and child, and their ability to do so depends, in part, on access to clean water and proper sanitation.

The writer is Communication Specialist at Ministry of Planning Development and Special Initiatives.

Pakistan supports rights of Kashmiri people

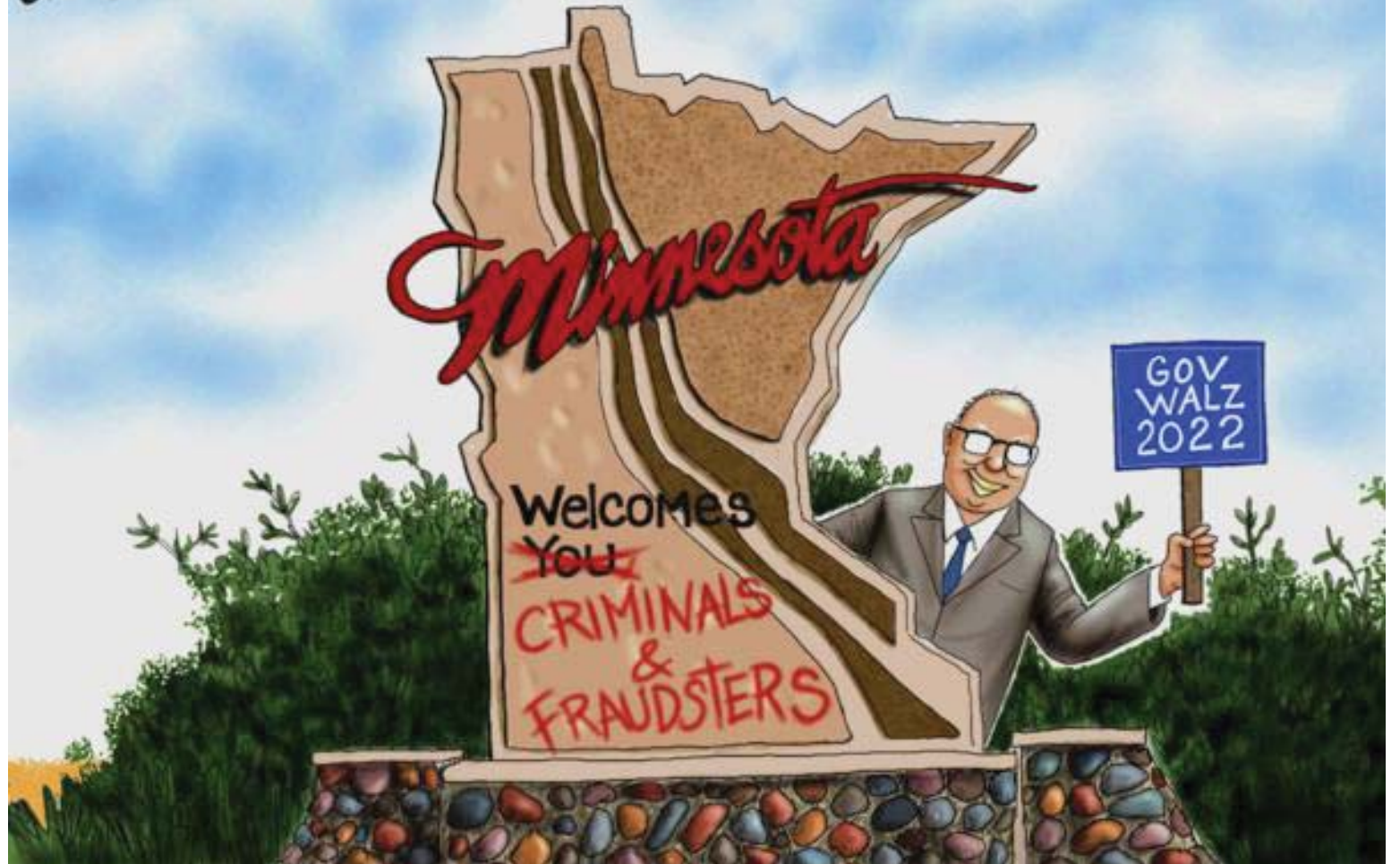
The Indian government is severely frustrated that Pakistan is supporting the rights of Kashmiri people on every world forum and condemning the human rights violations of India troops on a regular basis. India is trying to hoodwink the world by claiming that everything is peaceful in IIOJ&K. On the other 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.

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The COP of no return

Sameh Shoukry

Some fear that this year's UN Climate Change Conference – to be held here on November 6-18 – will be an unintended casualty of the geopolitical tensions and economic challenges the world is facing. I believe the opposite: COP27 represents a unique and timely opportunity for the world to come together, recognise our common interests, and restore multilateral co-operation.

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

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

At its heart, climate action is a bargain. Developing countries have agreed in good faith to help tackle a crisis they did not cause, on the understanding that support – particularly financial support – would be provided to complement their own efforts, which are often limited due to their scarce resources and competing development needs. Developed countries must uphold their end of

that bargain, by supporting both mitigation and adaptation, thus fulfilling their envisaged responsibilities in the Paris agreement.

On the mitigation front, we must move from rhetoric to action in cutting our greenhouse-gas emissions and removing carbon from our atmosphere. All countries must embrace more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, and then translate those pledges into programs. We must act now to ensure appropriate resources are available to developing countries to unlock their potential.

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

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

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

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

And the time has come to address the loss and damage suffered by countries that did not cause the climate crisis. This remains contentious, but I believe that we can approach it constructively, guided by the priorities of developing countries, for the benefit of all.

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

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

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

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

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

Courtesy: Gulf Times

A new era of paramilitary supremacy in Iraq

Baria Alamuddin

The actual occupant of the post, Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani, is a nobody with zero parliamentary support who is entirely beholden to those who placed him in power. There are excellent reasons why hundreds of thousands of Iraqis brought Baghdad to a halt in August over Al-Sudani's candidacy.

In 2010, when Al-Maliki was prime minister, he appointed Al-Sudani minister of human rights – at a time when there were no human rights to administer. During this black phase of Iraq's history, Al-Maliki co-opted militia forces such as Asa'ib Ahl Al-Haq, the Mukhtar Army and the Imam Ali Brigades to embark on bloody sectarian purges and to assassinate journalists, activists and political opponents. Al-Maliki weaponized the judiciary against his enemies and purged Sunni fighters who had risked their lives combating terrorist groups.

As chairman of the commission for de-Baathification, Al-Sudani assisted Al-Maliki in purging hundreds of Sunnis and political rivals from administrative roles. The Iraqi Commission of Integrity estimated that \$500 billion was corruptly siphoned off from the Iraqi budget during Al-Maliki's tenure, much of which went toward funding paramilitary violence.

Blame for this debacle also lies with the Kurdish and Sunni political factions. They know very well that Al-Maliki and the Hashd have hostile anti-democratic ambitions for Iraq, but they have allowed themselves to be divided and bought off cheaply at the cost of Iraq's sovereignty.

Former President Barham Salih was widely seen as a trusted pair of hands. His successor, Abdul Latif Rashid – an independent Kurd whose main claim to fame is having once been water resources minister – will struggle to emerge from Salih's shadow. With both Al-Sudani and Rashid such weak and malleable figures, it is clear who is intended to govern Iraq next. However, Al-Sudani is already struggling to put together a

Cabinet, amid reports of fierce rivalry between Hashd faction leaders over who gets to benefit from key posts.

With the Hashd hemorrhaging popular support over the past year, Tehran worries about the future electability of its Iraqi puppets. Hence, plotting is certainly already afoot for how the next elections can be undermined – either by preventing them occurring at all or by seeking to dominate the aftermath.

The worst fears for Iraq are being realized and matters are set to deteriorate as militias seek to reinforce their already unwieldy presence at every level of this administration in order to exact control and extract every last corrupt dinar of public money. Outgoing Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi had acted as a vital bulwark against Hashd preeminence. Over the coming weeks, watch these militias make a bonfire of his legacy.

Yet, at this moment of apparent victory, these Hashd militias are looking nervously over their shoulders. To the east of Iraq, for the past five weeks a nationwide uprising has been gaining momentum. Tens of thousands of brave Iranian girls and women are burning their hijabs and calling for the downfall of the hated ayatollahs and Revolutionary Guard commanders who control the Hashd.

The Iraqi Hashd and all Iran's other client militias are living on borrowed time. Maybe not this year, but sometime soon, enough courageous Iranians will take to the streets to erase their hated tyrant regime once and for all.

At that moment, the Hashd, Hezbollah and the Houthis should ensure that their bags are packed and plane tickets purchased; because once their Iranian masters have been vanquished, nobody will be there to protect them from public wrath for the damage they have wreaked upon their respective homelands' sovereignty, stability and identity.

Baria Alamuddin is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster in the Middle East and the UK. She is editor of the Media Services Syndicate and has interviewed numerous heads of state.

Courtesy: Arab News

Russia launches deadly new attacks on central Kyiv using drones

Zelenskiy vows 'fair punishment' for Russian invaders

KYIV: Russia attacked Ukrainian cities with drones on Monday, killing at least four people in an apartment building in downtown Kyiv during morning rush hour, and targeted infrastructure across the country in the second wave of air strikes in a week.

Ukrainian soldiers fired into the air trying to shoot down the drones after blasts rocked central Kyiv. An anti-aircraft rocket could be seen streaking into the morning sky, followed by an explosion and orange flames, as residents raced for shelter.

A pregnant woman was among four people killed in the attack on the residential building, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko said. Ukraine's Interior Minister Denys Monastyrskyi said there had been deaths in other cities but did not give a full toll.

Black smoke poured out of the windows of the Kyiv apartment building and emergency service workers toiled to douse flames. "I have never been so afraid...It is murder, it is simply murder, there are no other words for it," said Vitalii Dushevskiy, 29, a food delivery courier who rents an apartment in the blasted building.



His flatmate, who gave his name only as Nazar, said they had tried to leave their flat only to find the staircase "all gone". Nearby, Elena Mazur, 52, was searching for her mother, who had managed to call her to say she was buried under rubble. "She is not picking up the phone," Mazur said, hoping she had been rescued and taken to hospital. Ukraine

said the attacks were carried out by Iran-made "suicide drones", which fly to their target and detonate. Russia's defence ministry said it had carried out a "massive" attack on military targets and energy infrastructure across Ukraine using high-precision weapons. All night and all morning the enemy terrorises the civilian population. Kamikaze drones and missiles

are attacking all of Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Telegram. "The occupiers will get only fair punishment and condemnation of future generations. And we will get victory."

Reuters saw pieces of a drone used in the attack that bore the words: "For Belgorod"—an apparent reference to Ukrainian shelling of a Russian border region.

The strikes took place one week after Russia unleashed its heaviest aerial bombardment of Kyiv and other cities since the start of the war, also during morning rush hour.

"This is already a tradition: to wake Ukrainians with missiles on Mondays," said Alla Voloshko, a 47-year-old lawyer who took shelter in the basement of her apartment block.

Ukraine's military said it had destroyed 37 Russian drones since Sunday evening, or around 85% of those used in attacks. Elsewhere, Russian shelling near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest, caused it to be disconnected again from Ukraine's power grid, Ukrainian state energy firm Energoatom said.



KANSAS: Over 100 USA citizens volunteers work together to prepare hygiene kits for Pakistani flood victims.

Germany launches new program to help at-risk Afghans

BERLIN: The German government said Monday that it is launching a new program to help to bring about 1,000 people who are at risk of persecution in Afghanistan to Germany each month.

The program is part of an agreement between the three governing parties. It provides a formal structure for the way German authorities were already handling applications from Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover last year.

Officials said the program is aimed at Afghan citizens who are at risk because of their work for women's and human rights. Also eligible are journalists, scientists, political activists, judges, educators and those persecuted for their gender or religion.

Germany has given refuge to about 26,000 people from Afghanistan since August 2021. Many of those had previously worked for the German military or police during their deployment in Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said the new humanitarian relocation program is intended to give those persecuted by the Taliban "the chance of a free, self-determined and secure life."

She acknowledged that it would be a "mammoth task" to implement the program, including safely getting applicants from Afghanistan to Germany.

"But we won't let up," she said. Applicants will need to be nominated for the program by civil society groups approved by the German government.

NATO holds 'routine' nuclear drill amid Russia tensions

BRUSSELS: NATO on Monday launched its regular nuclear deterrence drills in western Europe, after tensions soared with Russia over President Vladimir Putin's veiled threats in the face of setbacks in Ukraine.

The 30-nation alliance has stressed that the "routine, recurring training activity" — which runs until October 30 — was planned before Moscow invaded Ukraine and is not linked to the current situation.

It will involve US B-52 long-range bombers, and up to 60 aircraft in total will take part in training flights over Belgium, the United Kingdom and the North Sea. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has rejected any calls to scrap the drill after Putin ratcheted up his nuclear rhetoric as his troops lose ground in Ukraine.

"It would send a very wrong signal if we suddenly now canceled a routine, long-time planned exercise because of the war in Ukraine," Stoltenberg said last week. "We need to understand that NATO's firm, predictable behavior, our military strength, is the best way to prevent escalation." NATO says it has seen no change in Russia's nuclear posture despite the tougher language from the Kremlin. "But we remain vigilant," Stoltenberg said.

Xi calls on Chinese to pull together with one mind to realize national rejuvenation



BEIJING: Xi Jinping on Monday called on all Chinese people to stay united as "a piece of hard steel" under the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and pull together with one mind to power the giant ship of national rejuvenation through the wind and waves to reach its destination.

Xi made the remarks when he joined a group discussion with delegates from south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region who are attending the 20th CPC National Congress. Xi said the 20th CPC National Congress further points out the direction for the development of the Party and the country's cause, and serves as a political declaration and program of action for the Party to unite Chinese people to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics. Xinhua

Hindutva goons ransack APHC office in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: In yet another act of brazen terrorism, the Hindutva goons supported by Indian army ransacked APHC head office, at Rajbagh in Srinagar, on Monday.

Hurriyat leaders and activists, civil society members and lawyers while condemning the act said that RSS-backed BJP regime intends to stoke communal discord in the territory to defame the freedom movement, internationally.

Meanwhile, APHC in a statement issued in Srinagar denounced the hooliganism demonstrated outside its Rajbagh office in Srinagar, by the Hindutva goons with police as bystanders.

On the other hand, in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, protest demonstrations and candlelight marches were held in the valley against the



deteriorating law and order situation in the territory.

One such demonstration was held in Main town Shopian which saw participation of hundreds of general public of the district. Protest demonstrations and candlelight marches were held in Kupwara and Bandipora districts in north Kashmir and Shopian district in the south against the new spate of killings including that of a Kashmiri Pandit, Puran

Krishan Bhat.

General public who participated in the long candle light march across the town shouted slogans against the innocent civilian killings.

Similar demonstrations were held in all three major towns of Bandipora, Sumbal and Gurez. Number of persons including civil society members, traders associations and others participated in the evening marches. The participants raised slogans

against the failure of the administration in preventing the killings.

Later, the participants held candle marches at Bandipora, Sumbal and Gurez along prominent chowks of the respective towns. In Kupwara, a rally started from Fountain Point Derzipora Kupwara, went through by pass road and culminated at DC Office Kupwara.

Slogans like "Stop Innocent Killings" and "Stop Terrorism in Kashmir" were written on banners.

It is worth mentioning here that killing of innocent Kashmiris in fake encounters and cordon and search operations by Indian troops and in some targeted attacks has increased manifold since the Modi regime revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status in August 2019.

Brunei, Bangladesh agree to strengthen ties

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN: Leaders of Brunei and Bangladesh agreed to advance bilateral relations and strengthen the existing mechanisms between the two countries, including regular meetings at the level of foreign minister.

According to a joint statement between Brunei and Bangladesh released on the website of Brunei's foreign ministry on Monday, Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah paid a state visit to Bangladesh from Oct. 15 to 16 and met with Bangladeshi President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.



Leaders of the two countries acknowledged with satisfaction that the relationship has reached a new height with the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Brunei in 2019 and the Sultan's first-ever visit to Bangladesh in 2022.

Both sides agreed to work closely together as development partners in view of the strong commonalities existing in faith, tradition and culture, and shared vision of prosperity, peace and stability.

Both sides identified trade

and investment as areas of vital bilateral cooperation and expressed their keenness to work to increase the volume of two-way trade, which is currently far below the potential.

The leaders also agreed to work in new and emerging areas, including information and communications technology, green technology, and blue economy.

Both sides reiterated that the visit of the Sultan would usher in a new chapter in the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Brunei. They expressed optimism for a stronger and deeper partnership for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Iraqi president calls for quick formation of new govt

BAGHDAD: Iraq's newly-elected President Abdul Latif Rashid assumed office on Monday, expressing his hope for a quick formation of the new government.

"We keep in mind what the Iraqi people are waiting for from the new government, which we hope will be formed quickly, and be strong, efficient, and unified to meet the people's aspirations for security, stability, and services," Rashid said in a televised speech during a ceremony held in the presidential palace in Baghdad.

Rashid pledged to protect the constitution, sovereignty, unity, and independence of Iraq, and to exert every effort to bring the political forces



added. On Oct. 13, the Iraqi parliament elected Rashid as the new president, marking a crucial step toward forming a new government for the country and ending a year of political deadlock. According to the power-sharing system in Iraq after 2003, the presidency should be reserved for the Kurds, the parliament

speaker's post for the Sunnis, and the prime minister's post for the Shiites. Rashid's election came as political tensions have been rising in the past months between the Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's Sadrist Movement, the biggest winner in the parliamentary elections in 2021, and their rivals in the Coordination Framework (CF), an umbrella group of Shiite parliamentary parties.

Al-Sadr demanded to dissolve parliament and hold early elections, but it was rejected by the CF parties, which became the largest bloc after al-Sadr ordered his followers to withdraw from the parliament in June.

KAMPALA: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has put the country's capital Kampala on a high Ebola response alert as the east African country grapples with the deadly disease.

Museveni in a tweet on Monday said while two cases that tested positive in Kampala came from Mubende, the epicenter of the outbreak, there are contacts to the cases and a risk of infection.

"For Kampala city, while the two cases that tested positive came from Mubende district and are regarded as Mubende cases, because of the presence of contacts of these two cases and the risks



of infection, I have directed a full mobilization of Kampala city into a response mode," Museveni said. Museveni's latest update on the outbreak in the country comes after he instituted a 21-day lockdown and night

curfew in Mubende and Kassanda districts on Saturday in an effort to contain the spread of the deadly disease. Of the two patients who tested positive in Kampala, one died, while the other one is under isolation.

Museveni last week warned that if the public does not heed medical advice, there is a possibility of Ebola erupting in Kampala. He said already 24 contacts are under quarantine.

"Several such alert cases have been tested and the results have turned out to be negative. The Ministry of Health teams will continue to investigate any such cases and inform the public accordingly," Museveni said.

According to government figures, as of Oct. 15, the country has 58 confirmed cases of Ebola, 19 deaths, and 20 people have recovered since the index case was reported on Sept. 20.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,755.45	41,948.50
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,988.50	41,725.96
Index Value	Change
3,267,841,711	-193.05
Percentage	Time
-0.46%	17 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
6,918.54	+59.75
Percentage	Time
+0.86%	17 Oct, 3:54 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
30,054.89	+420.06
Percentage	Time
+1.42%	17 Oct, 10:54 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
26,775.79	-314.97
Percentage	Time
-1.16%	17 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	135.11	136.36
Bahrain Dinar	580.18	584.68
Canadian Dollar	157.01	158.36
China Yuan	30.4	30.65
Danish Krone	28.52	28.87
Euro	219	221
Hong Kong Dollar	27.79	28.14
Indian Rupee	2.65	2.73
Japanese Yen	1.15	1.2
Kuwaiti Dinar	700.76	705.76
Malaysian Ringgit	46.4	46.85
New Zealand \$	121.4	122.6
Norwegians Krone	20.53	20.83
Omani Riyal	566.92	571.42
Qatari Riyal	59.93	60.43
Saudi Riyal	59.2	59.8
Singapore Dollar	152.93	154.23
Swedish Korona	19.29	19.59
Swiss Franc	216.87	218.62
Thai Bhat	5.76	5.86
U.A.E Dirham	60.8	61.4
UK Pound Sterling	253.5	256
US Dollar	222.5	224.5

Hanif Abbasi, Dr. Tariq Fazal assure support for industrial zone project

ICCI has been making efforts since long for setup of new industrial zone, says Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Hanif Abbasi former Special Assistant to Prime Minister and Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry former Federal Minister along with Senator Ahmed Khan, Zia ullah Shah & Raja Hanif Advocate former MPAs, Sardar Nasim Khan former Mayor Rawalpindi and Farah Naz Akbar President PML-N Women Wing Islamabad visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) to congratulate the new Office Bearers of ICCI.

Addressing the business community, Hanif Abbasi and Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry assured that they would fully support ICCI in its efforts for the establishment of a new industrial zone and representation of sitting President ICCI in CDA Board. They said that 11 new routes for Islamabad have been finalized and very soon the citizens would see electric businesses on the roads of the Capital that would provide quality transport and reduce 50% traffic flow. They said that all dead development projects of the twin cities including Bara Kahu Bypass and Rawal



Road Interchange have been revived to address traffic issues and facilitate the growth of business activities. They further assured that they would cooperate in addressing all highlighted issues including expediting work on IJP Road and de-sealing of Centaurus Mall. They also

asked the business community to cooperate with the government for providing relief to the flood affectees.

Senator Ahmed Khan also stressed that the government should cooperate with ICCI in materialization of the industrial zone project

and representation in the CDA Board.

In his welcome address, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that ICCI has been making efforts since long for the establishment of a new industrial zone in the region to boost industrialization and representation of sitting President in CDA Board to safeguard the interests of business community and requested that both politicians should cooperate with ICCI in these important initiatives.

He stressed that the Capital should be made a protests free city and a separate venue may be earmarked for such political activities to save the businesses from any losses. He said that the DC rates for land prices have been hiked by 400-500 percent due to which the business of real estate sector was suffering and emphasized that these rates should be rationalized to facilitate the growth of business activities. He said that work on IJP road may be expedited to save businesses and commuters from problems and a parking plaza in every major market in Capital may be built to address the parking issues.

Concern expressed over restabilization of dollar

Inflation in Pakistan may rise to thirty percent, 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 Monday expressed concern over the weakness of the rupee against the dollar.

The people and many business sectors have breathed a sigh of relief due to the increase in the value of the rupee, but the exporters are worried, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that with the improvement in the value of the rupee, the trend of using imported goods



is developing among the people, which should be stopped by increasing the taxes.

Talking to the business community the veteran busi-

ness leader said that according to IMF estimates, the global growth rate which was six percent in 2021 will fall to 3.2 percent this year, while it will fall to 2.7 percent in 2023, while average inflation will be twenty percent which will cause huge problems. Inflation will remain up to 20% globally, but in Pakistan, it can reach up to 30% which will make life difficult for the people, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that most of the countries of the world are dependent on America for their economy, whose growth rate is likely to be one percent, which may affect Pakistan's exports. He said that currently, economists all over

the world are worried about how to avoid recession if interest rates are increased to control prices.

The global economy is facing problems like inflation, rising interest rates, rising debt, destruction of the housing market, and the war between Russia and Ukraine, while the oil exporting countries are trying to increase their profits. Apart from these problems, Pakistan is to face destruction by floods, climate change, and political instability, so the conditions here could be worse than in other countries.

He asked the authorities to take prompt decisions to tackle these problems on a war footing.

Bank Alfalah kept up its growth momentum in Q3

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The Board of Directors of Bank Alfalah Limited (BAFL), in its meeting held on October 17, 2022, approved the bank's financial results for the nine months that ended September 30, 2022.

The Bank announced profit after taxes of PKR 14,090 billion. The Bank's Earning Per Share stood at Rs. 7.93 (Sep 21: Rs. 5.90).

The Bank's deposit base stood at PKR 1.385 trillion at the end of September 30, 2022, representing year-on-year (YoY) growth of 33.7%. This is reflective of the bank's focus on growth. The Bank continues to outpace the industry in deposits mobilization driven by a strong momentum in its current deposits, which have grown by 29.8% YoY.

The Bank's gross advances reached at PKR 777.643 billion, showing a growth of 15.9% YoY. Despite challenging market fundamentals, the Bank's credit performance remained strong. As at September end, the Bank's gross advances to deposits ratio (ADR) stood at 56.1%. Underwriting disciplines and rigorous monitoring of loan portfolios continued to serve

the bank well and reflects in bank's non-performing loans ratio which stood at 4.1%, this is despite a few prudent classifications. Furthermore, non-performing loans remain fully covered with coverage being 103.9%.

The Bank remains adequately capitalized, and CAR, well above the regulatory requirement, stood at 14.49% as at September 30, 2022.

Bank Alfalah has also been leading the way on the Corporate Social Responsibility front having embarked on a comprehensive programme aimed at giving back to the country after the massive devastation caused by the recent floods. During the last quarter, the bank's Chairman, His Highness Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan, and the Board of Directors, graciously announced a donation of USD 10 million for flood relief, rehabilitation & rebuilding efforts, an unprecedented gesture, in the wake of one of the biggest calamities to hit Pakistan. This is a testament to the strong bond between UAE and Pakistan, while reaffirming the strong positioning of Bank Alfalah as being a truly caring bank.

Convention of Dealers organized by GFS Builders and Developers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: GFS Builders and Developers have organized a Dealers convention. GFS CEO Irfan Wahid on this occasion said that the purpose of the Dealers convention by GFS is to encourage its dealers as GFS is not only a rapidly growing brand of the year 2020 in the Builders and Developers category but also is like a family institute for its dealers.

The GFS Dealers Convention event was largely attended by business community tycoons, industrialists, and real estate representatives beside GFS Managing director Mansoor Wahid and director of marketing and sales Mohsin Wahid. CEO of GFS Builders and Developers Irfan Wahid said that in the modern era of industrial development GFS is playing a vital role in the prosperity and progress of the country.

Irfan Wahid further said that GFS builders and developers carry a vast



experience in investment and development in the country. GFS enjoys reputable terms with its clients, architects, engineers, suppliers, and relevant institutes. Dealers are like a backbone for GFS builders and developers thus it is also one

of our duty to encourage our esteemed dealers. The grand convention of GFS Builders and Developers was also graced by renowned Media persons, Anchors, and social and political celebrities of the country.

President KATI Faraz-ur-Rehman hopes improvement in KW&SB

Water board machinery will be allocated specially for KATI, says MD Salahuddin Ahmed

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Managing Director of Karachi Water and Sewerage Board Salahuddin Ahmed has said that on the request of KATI, water board machinery will be allocated for the needs of the Korangi Industrial Area. Ever since taking charge, there is no pressure, the Water Board has been undergoing revolutionary changes. He expressed these views during his visit to the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI).

On this occasion, KATI President Faraz-ur-Rehman, KITE Limited CEO Zubair Chhaya, Water Board Chief Operating Officer Asadullah, Senior Vice President and Standing Committee Chairperson Nighat Awan, Vice President Muslim Mohammadi, Former Presidents Salim-uz-Zaman, Masood Naqi, Danish Khan, Farrukh Mazhar, Ehtishamuddin and other members and officials were also present.



MD Water Board Salahuddin Ahmed said that the Water Board complaints and tankers system will be digitized. In the coming 15 days, all tankers, complain centers and XCN offices will be digitized and geo-tagged. Salahuddin Ahmed said that immediate steps will be taken to resolve the complaints of the members of KATI and in this regard, modern technology will be resorted to. He said that in the coming day's people will

feel a big change in the performance of the water board. MD Water Board said that they are taking strict measures to eradicate corruption. He said that no orders were issued regarding subsoil.

Earlier, KATI President Faraz-ur-Rehman said that there are heaps of water board problems in the Korangi Industrial Area. The Water Board is full of problems that need a responsible and capable officer like Salahuddin Ahmed. He said

that even after the recent rains in the country, industrialists were left with no other option but to buy their rightful water by paying millions of rupees. The water board staff blackmails the industrialists, they choke the line of the industrial area and demand money. He said that the water board staff threatened them with severe consequences when the industrialists fixed the sewage system by spending money and fixing their problem on their own.

Zubair Chhaya, CEO of KITE Limited, said that the biggest problem in Korangi Industrial Area is water and sewage. Changing the names and positions in the water board alone will not solve the problems, it is imperative to replace the corrupt staff. He said that the Water Board does not take any action on complaints. There are also video proofs of waterboard vehicles and crews watching the problems as silent spectators.

PTCL signs agreement with evision

To launch its video streaming platform in Pakistan



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistani telecom company, PTCL has signed an agreement with evision - the media and entertainment wing of global telecom services provider, e& - to launch its own video streaming platform in Pakistan. The new Digital Video Over-The-Top (OTT) platform will host the richest collection of Hollywood and Pakistani entertainment content besides a rich assortment of national and international news and sports channels, thereby catering to the diverse news and entertainment needs of everyone in the family.

Group Chief Commercial Officer, PTCL & Ufone, Adnan Anjum and Chief Executive Officer, evision, Olivier Bramly inked the agreement during GITEX Global 2022 in Dubai, where senior executives including President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf and Chief Executive Officer, e& life, Khalifa Al Shamsi were also present. evision is the media and entertainment wing of global telecom giant, e& and the leading provider of media and entertainment content in the MENA region.

evision-led consortium has the majority shares in the leading video streaming platform in MENA, StarzPlay that will technically help PTCL with deploying the new Digital Video OTT Platform to host movies and seasons from leading Hollywood studios in addition to Pakistani films and dramas to cater to a wide range of viewership in the country. The new Digital Video OTT platform will also offer access to over one hundred news and sports channels and a lot of educational and fun content for children.

ABL presents Fintech Hackathon 2022 in collaboration with NIC



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Allied Bank Limited in collaboration with National Incubation Center Fintech Hackathon 2022 Finale was held in Lahore on Monday.

The NIC and ABL aimed to find practical innovative solutions, prototypes and disruptive ideas that can transform Fin-tech, not just in Pakistan, but across the globe through this hackathon.

The following thematic areas were identified to hack solutions in the Fin-Tech space for the hackathon:

1. Innovation in Fintech Banking 2. Financial Inclusion and Literacy 3. SME & Startup Banking

A nation-wide call for application was made, which resulted in over 1100 applications from coders, UI/UX experts and finance problem-solvers, that covered 53 cities and 26 universities across Pakistan. The final Twelve short listed teams went through a three-day training bootcamp which consisted of 8 hours of mentorship, 7 hours of training followed by 12 hacking hours to help the

teams get better equip for their innovation Challenge. A total of six teams were selected for the ABL NIC Fintech Hackathon Finale, based on their final pitches post the boot-camp.

The event started with the recitation of the holy Quran, followed by a welcome note by Parvez Abbasi, Project Director, NIC. Where he welcomed all the participants, guests, and judges. The judges include Fatima Mazhar, Advisory board member, COLABS-Mujahid Ali, Chief Information Technology Group, Allied Bank Limited and Sohail Aziz, Chief Digital Officer, Allied Bank Limited.

"In 2016 we proposed to the government of Pakistan a program where youth can be engaged in creating sustainable technology-based solution, and subsequently creating employment opportunities. I am happy to share that, this program has not only shown exponential success and growth but also leading the change and innovation in Pakistan to real time problems of existing in large scale organizations in Pakistan.

Sharks, Royals, Raiders and Warriors eye PJI trophy

Table-toppers Gwadar Sharks will play first playoff match against Bahawalpur Royals

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The first edition of the Pakistan Junior League has reached its business end at the end of an absorbing 15-match group stage.

The first of its kind league produced some memorable moments including a century, a five-fer, a hat-trick, and a 32-run over as the future cricket stars from around the world lapped up the opportunity of playing at the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, the iconic Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

Table-toppers Gwadar Sharks will play the first playoff match (Qualifier 1) against second-placed Bahawalpur Royals. Third-placed Rawalpindi Raiders will take on fourth-placed Mardan Warriors in the Eliminator on Wednesday. The loser of the Qualifier 1 and the winner of the Eliminator will clash in the Qualifier 2 on Thursday with the winner joining the Qualifier 1 winner in the tournament final on Friday evening.

The winners will pocket PKR10 million with the runners-up to be given PKR5 million. The individual performers will have the player of the tournament, best batter, best bowler, best wicket-keeper and best fielder awards to grab.

The player of the tournament will be rewarded with PKR1 million while the other individual award winners will be rewarded with PKR500,000 each.

Qualifier 1 - Gwadar Sharks vs Bahawalpur Royals: Sharks, mentored by Sir Vivian Richards, have played some outstanding cricket, winning four out of their five group stage matches. Led by Shamyul Hussain, the players have put in some remarkable performances. Leg-spinner Saad Masood took a five-fer in their thumping 77-run win over Warriors last night. Saad currently leads the tournament bowling charts with 10 wickets.

All-rounder Arafat Minhas has been excellent with both bat and ball and is so far the third highest run-getter (159 runs) and joint second highest wicket-taker in the tournament (eight wickets). Opener Luc Martin Benkenstein, who scored a scintillating 74 last night, is fourth on the batters chart with 155 runs.

Royals, mentored by Imran Tahir, finished second on the points table with

six points - three wins in five matches. Opener Basit Ali has been one of the stellar performers of the PJI. The right-hander is at the top of the batting charts with 233 runs, his tally includes the only century of the event, a brilliant unbeaten 102 against Gujranwala Giants.

Amongst the bowlers, Royals' stand-in captain Arham Nawab has taken eight wickets with his off-spin. The tall 6 feet 8 inches pacer Mohammad Zeeshan has also captured eight wickets.

Royals recorded a comfortable eight-wicket win over Sharks in the group stage clash between the two sides, Sharks surely have the depth and quality in their squad to turn the tables in what is expected to be a thrilling encounter between the two sides tomorrow evening at the GSL.

Eliminator - Rawalpindi Raiders vs Mardan Warriors: The Colin Munro-mentored Rawalpindi Raiders have also witnessed some unforgettable moments in the tournament. Captain Habibullah was the striker and hit four sixes and one four in the most expensive over of the season with Hyderabad

Hunters' Fahad Amin the unfortunate bowler. Habibullah, who has so far hit the most sixes in the tournament (eight), occupies the fifth spot in the batting charts with 153 runs.

Left-arm-spinner Afnan Khan registered the competition's only hat-trick to date as he achieved the feat in his side's 14-run DLS Method win over the Hunters. Afnan is currently placed number two on the bowling charts with eight wickets.

Warriors, mentored by Shahid Afridi, have produced some high-octane moments of their own especially with their pace bowlers Abidullah (six wickets), Aimal Khan (five wickets) and Mohammad Nabeel (five wickets).

Openers Shahzaib Khan (137 runs) and George Thomas (125 runs) occupy ninth and tenth spots in the batting charts.

In the group stage clash, Raiders prevailed by five wickets. However, the Warriors will come out all guns blazing in the knockout clash on Wednesday, Raiders too will be ready to take on the challenge in what promises to be an engrossing contest.



Karachi: Muhammad Rizwan is giving man of the match award to Muhammad Anas of Five Star School District East in the Sindh Inter School Cricket Tournament. First class cricketer and coach Tahir Khan is also present.

Hotshot Esports to represent Pakistan at Free Fire World Series in Thailand



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's first and largest esports league, Free Fire Pakistan League held the Grand Finale for its fourth edition, FFPL IV, on Sunday 16th October.

FFPL II champions Team Hotshot Esports have reclaimed the championship narrowly winning FFPL IV and the ticket to FFWS in Thailand where they will be competing for a prize pool estimated at \$2 Million.

Free Fire is the world's leading mobile battle royale game with over 1 Billion downloads and has been at the forefront of the esports revolution in Pakistan. FFPL is the highest professional-level esports tournament in Pakistan hosted under the International esports giant Free Fire.

The final 12 teams competed for a piece of one of the largest prize pools for any Esports tournament in Pakistan valued at PKR 10,000,000 with Hotshot Esports claiming the lion's share and the default qualification for FFWS. Agon Demons Pride and House of Blood finished second and third respectively, with Anas from Hotshot finishing the day as the MVP for the finals.

Superb Scotland stun West Indies in Hobart romp

HOBART: Scotland has made it a second consecutive day of upsets at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup by recording a stunning 42-run victory over the West Indies in Hobart on Monday.

Opener George Munsey set the tone by carrying his bat throughout at Bellerive Oval to finish with a stylish 66 from just 53 deliveries as Scotland amassed 160/5 from their 20 overs. Calum MacLeod (23), Michael Jones (20) and skipper Richie Berrington (16) all played valuable hands, but it was with the ball and in the field that the Scots really shone.

The West Indies couldn't get a hold of Mark Watt, with the left-arm spinner collecting superb figures of 3/12 from his four overs, while fellow spinner Michael Leask (2/15) was just as impressive.

And the duo were well supported by their team-mates in the field, with Scotland holding on to some excellent outfield catches and showing the rest of the world they will be difficult to beat at the tournament.

Raza leads Zimbabwe to win over Ireland

HOBART: Sikandar Raza smashed 82 off 48 balls to set up a convincing 31-run victory for Zimbabwe in their opening match of the Twenty20 World Cup against Ireland on Monday.

Zimbabwe lost three early wickets after being invited to bat first in Hobart, but Raza put on key partnerships to guide the team to 174-7 in Hobart.

Returning paceman Blessing Muzarabani took three wickets as Zimbabwe restricted Ireland to 143-9.

"We are ecstatic. To put up a performance like that first game, it shows that we do belong here," said skipper Craig Ervine, whose side missed the last edition in the UAE.

"It's a pity that it has been a long way since we have played a World Cup." Zimbabwe are on track to make the Super 12 after winning the first of their three matches in round one.

Raza set the tone for the team's domination after he put on attacking stands with Sean Williams and then Milton Shumba. Ireland pace spearhead Josh Little got Regis Chakabva for nought with the second ball of the match and then dismissed Wesley Madhevera for 22.

Schedule announced for Bangladesh U19 tour of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan will host Bangladesh U19 for one four-day and five one-day matches from 4 November till 18 November. Bangladesh will arrive in Pakistan on 1 November and famous Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad will stage the six matches.

The tour will begin with the four-day game from 4 November. The five limited overs (45-over) matches will be played between 10-18 November.

Bangladesh U19 last toured in November 2007 - which was also the last international U19 tour to the country. The two teams played a four-day match at the National Stadium, Karachi, which ended in a draw,



while the tourists won the five 50-over matches - played across Hyderabad and Karachi-3-2.

As per the ICC's eligibility criteria for the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2024, players born on or after 31 August 2004 will be eligible to get selected.

Bangladesh will be first junior team and fourth international cricket team

to visit Pakistan in 2022 after Australia, West Indies and England senior men's sides toured earlier this year. Zakir Khan, PCB Director - International Cricket: "2022 has been all about hosting international teams and in this relation, we look forward to welcoming Bangladesh U19 side. While this will be the first junior international series in Pakistan

in 15 years, third time in as many years Bangladesh will send their side to Pakistan following their women's tour in November 2019 and the men's team for a Test in February 2020.

"The U19 series comprising a four-day and five limited-over matches will provide opportunities to players from either side to showcase their skills and earn the nod of their coaches and selectors.

"With this series to be played in the backdrop of the first of its kind Pakistan Junior League, the U19 series underscores Pakistan Cricket Board's vision and efforts to invest in its PCB Development Programme." The squad and training schedule of Pakistan U19 team will be announced in due course.

Rizwan records title triumph in PGA Jinnah Development Tour Golf Tournament



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The 5th Punjab Golf Association (PGA) Jinnah Development Tour Golf Tournament brought elation and high spirited triumph for Muhammad Rizwan, a multiskilled golf professional of Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course who was effective in ushering in fame and cash for himself and family by raising his golf playing skills to consume heights.

As a result he saw his golfing career flourishing and thriving and he now finds a huge opportunity as a golf professional of Pakistan. Undoubtedly the achievement evolved from a vehemently fought out championship that concluded at the Royal Palm Golf Course after three fiercely fought out rounds of golf. At the conclusion of the three rounds and 54 holes Rizwan ascended heights of attainment by assuredly keeping at bay his main challengers Shahzad Ali of Lahore Garrison and Misal Khan of DHA, Karachi.

With three rounds daily scores of 70,67 and final rounds 74 M. Rizwan had an aggregate score of 211.50 under par while his purposeful adversaries had to concede defeat and the top slot to a golf professional who was not overwhelmed by his rivals resoluteness. Shahzad Ali and Misal Khan ended the three rounds bracketed together at a score of 214, three strokes in arrears.

While M. Rizwan enjoyed the limelight because of his striking performance, Shahzad Ali and Misal Khan made a mark by staying in contention and in patches were masterly.

Others who did well were Asad Khan (PAF) fourth position, Arif Ali (PTV), fifth, Ghazanfar Mehmood (Garden City) sixth, Asif Shafi (Garrison) sixth, Muhammad Azam (quetta) seventh and Omer Farooq (Garrison) eighth.

At the conclusion of the Championship the prizes were awarded to the winners by Lt Gen (r) Hilal Hussain, President, Pakistan Golf Federation in a ceremony attended by Chaudry Hamid Asadullah of Punjab Golf Association, Jameel Khalid of Royal Palm, Muhammad Zakir of PGA, Dr Asma Shami of Ladies Golf, Nauman Khushi of Faysal Bank and participating golf professionals.

Inter-hostel cricket tournament kicks-off at IIUI

ISLAMABAD: An inter-hostel cricket tournament kicked-off here at the new campus of International Islamic University on Monday.

The activity is part of the vision and initiatives of the IIUI President for providing a healthy and quality education environment to the students.

The tournament is being organized by the Office of Provost (male) and Protocol and Public Relations (P&PR). All the teams of the hostels of the new campus and Kuwait hostels have been provided separate kits and mentors to lead.

The colorful ceremony was joined by enthralled players of 7 teams. The IIUI President inaugurated the event by playing a ball on the pitch as a batsman. The IIUI Pres-



ident appreciated the efforts of organizers saying that sports activities are equally important along with the academic activities. He reiterated his resolve that there will be stone left unturned to provide a healthy and peaceful milieu of learning to the students. He appreciated the joint venture of the offices of Provost and Protocol and Public Relations saying that the tournament is an omen of a new start after a hiatus due to global pandemic.

Vice President A&F,

Prof. Dr. N.B. Jumani and Vice-president Academics and Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar were also present on the occasion. The ceremony was also joined by the organizing committee headed by Provost Male, Dr. Ibrar Anver. It was also attended by Incharge P&PR Nasir Farid, Assistant Director P&PR, Al-Hassan, Assistant Director P&PR, Muhammad Nauman, officers of Provost office Khalid Chaudhary, Assistant Director, Ali Rafiq and supporting staff members.

Addressing the opening ceremony Dr. N.B. Jumani said that co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are part and parcel of the education process. He said the administration is keen to follow the instruction of IIUI President to let students excel in all the fields. He said that IIUI leadership intends to provide best opportunities to talented youth of IIUI to shine.

Dr. Ibrar Anver thanked the President IIUI, Vice Presidents and organizing committee for the untiring efforts to kick off the tournament. He added that the tournament is a start of healthy activities that will also continue in future. The Office of the Provost shall also start a sports gala at the end of this month that will include a number of sports events.

Red Bull Campus Clutch Pakistan Finals 2022 Winner: Team Mystics

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Campus Clutch Pakistan saw the culmination of the National Finals of Red Bull Campus Clutch, the world's biggest university Valorant tournament in Pakistan.

The second season of the competition brought over 100 teams, comprised of more than 600 student gamers, battling to take the top spot at the Red Bull Campus Clutch Pakistan National Finals.

Four qualifiers with five rounds each later, we had our fantastic four in SALT Esports, Team PPeeks, Team Genesis and Team Mystic - formerly known as Team Snakes. Two semi-final matches and a final battle later, we had our Red Bull Campus Clutch 2022 Pakistan champions: Team Mystic.

After losing to SALT Esports in Qualifier #1, we were shocked and disappointed at the same time because we had underestimated them. However, we knew that if we work hard, we can easily win the National finals. We did!" - Abdul Sami Khero aka KING, member of Red Bull Campus Clutch Pakistan 2022 winner Team Mystic

It's a classic redemption story for Team Mystic. SALT Esports defeated them in the first qualifier final to book their spot in the national finals. Team Mystic still made their way into the finals and the eventual, much-anticipated face-off between the two teams was just the perfect bookend where Team Mystic got their win back. It's almost like this season of Red Bull Campus Clutch was written by Aaron Sorkin.

Representing ILMA Univer-

sity, Bahria University and the Youngstown State University, Team Mystic came into the finals hungrier and more confident than ever as they had been practicing day and night since securing the final berth in the finals. The grand battle was played on three maps: Ascent, Bind and Icebox. Team Mystic won the first two maps (Ascent and Bind) to win the title.

"Things were not in our favour in the first half of the first map. But our In-Game Leader (IGL) Storax told us during the pause that no matter what we will win this game. Everybody started feeling confident and we came back in the second half. I believe that a professional player should not give up until the last round," said KING, who's a student of ILMA University.

The motivation worked and

the game didn't even go to the third map Icebox as Team Mystic clean swept the first two maps (Ascent and Bind). Even their opponents were all praise for Team Mystic and had expected a tough fight in the finals.

The team had been practicing for Red Bull Campus Clutch for two months, so winning it all in a storybook ending was naturally their favourite moment of the journey. They celebrated the victory with a kingly feast after an exhausting uphill fight.

Team Mystic now has their sight set on the Red Bull Campus Clutch World Final. "We will work very hard and double our practice for the World Final and show the world what Pakistan is capable of," said Sami.

The clock now ticks in anticipation of the Red Bull Campus Clutch World Final where the



cream of the Valorant crop from different countries around the world will compete against each other in a fight to win the crown and to be called the world champions.