



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

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(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 2883)

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RAWALPINDI

Not happy over Imran's disqualification: Shahid Khaqan

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that he is not happy over PTI Chairman Imran Khan's disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in Toshakhana reference. The ECP, in a consensus verdict in the Toshakhana reference, disqualified Imran Khan and ruled that he is no longer a member of the National Assembly.



Xi expresses confidence in creating new, greater miracles

The Communist Party of China is fully confident and capable of creating new and even greater miracles on the new journey of the new era, Xi Jinping said as the 20th CPC National Congress came to a conclusion Saturday. The CPC congress has realized its goals of unifying thinking, fortifying confidence, charting the course, and boosting morale, Xi told 2,338 delegates and specially invited delegates present at the closing session of the weeklong congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. News on Page 5

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Flood-devastated Pakistan needs 'massive' help: Masood

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan needs "massive" support from the international community for the rehabilitation of millions of people displaced by the devastating floods and reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure, Ambassador Masood Khan has said.

In an interview with a leading American TV network, he said that debt restructuring would provide Pakistan with the much-needed fiscal space enabling it to allocate its resources for building climate-resilient infrastructure for its people.

The Pakistani envoy was speaking at anchor Dennis Wholey's programme "This is America and The World" on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Ambassador Masood Khan, who was discussing immediate and long-term needs of Pakistan, urged the international community to find collective solutions to dealing with the challenges of climate change and its dire consequences for the planet.

The floods in Pakistan and the hurricane in Florida have "proved that even if you are a developed country like the United States you have the same challenges when it comes to climate change although you have better, resilient infrastructure."

On Pak-US relations, Masood Khan said that the two countries were pursuing a positive agenda. Pak-US relations, he said, should not be confined to strategic objectives alone. "We must strengthen our cooperation in the economic, trade, investment, energy and climate sector."

Briefing

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses a press conference in Lahore on Saturday.



Photo: PID

ECP's decision proves IK as 'certified thief, liar': PM

Shehbaz Sharif says Imran Niazi had been found guilty of corrupt practices by the ECP

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaf leader Imran Khan who used foul language and leveled false allegations against his political opponents, now stood as the certified embodiment of falsehood, dishonesty and deceitfulness.

Addressing a press conference here, the prime minister said that the decision of the Election Commission of Pakistan over Toshi Khan was not a matter of rejoice, but a matter of retrospection as the person who was continuously indulged in mud-slinging had been proved as a certified thief, liar and dishonest.

Imran Niazi had been found guilty of corrupt practices by the

ECP, he said, adding that the person was brought to power with the worst kind of rigging.

The prime minister said that Imran Niazi had illegally sold out the precious gifts given by the friendly countries which brought bad name to the country.

He said with the ECP's decision, his stance had once again vindicated that the false allegations and political witch-hunting against them, during Imran Niazi's tenure, was a result of NAB-Niazi connivance.

The prime minister also congratulated the nation over the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) announcement over the grey list.

He said it was all possible due to the collective efforts, unity and sagacity of the nation and the hard work of all the relevant authorities,

political leadership of the coalition government and the stakeholders.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif said on Saturday that Imran Khan used to label his every opponent as a thief, but now he himself had been declared as a 'certified thief' in the Toshakhana case by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

He said that Pakistan had now been out of grey list of FATF (Financial Action Task Force) and it was the outcome of collective efforts of all the coalition parties of the government, Pakistan armed forces and other relevant institutions.

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) Attaullah Tarar also accompanied him.

Shehbaz Sharif said that Imran Khan did nothing but divided the

nation through unjustified rallies, harassment, abusive language and blame game and compromised Pakistan's dignity and respect in the world. Imran Khan had never spared any of his opponents, whether they were old men, women and seasoned politicians.

He used to call them thieves and enemies of Pakistan, the premier said and added that today he himself had been declared as a 'certified thief and a liar'. It was not a moment of happiness but a point to fear and a lesson to learn, he remarked.

He mentioned that Imran Khan had himself appointed the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), who convicted him in Toshakhana case. In the past, he (Imran Khan) was all praise for the CEC and used to term him trustworthy, truthful and a fair person.

IK to announce long march's date next week

PTI Chairman warns govt against taking steps to stop the march

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan said Saturday that he will announce the date for his "Haqeeqi Azadi March" next Thursday or Friday, warning the government against taking steps to stop the march.

The government approached the Supreme Court earlier to stop the PTI's long march. However, the apex court rejected the request to issue an interim order for stopping the PTI's planned long march — giving a boost to the Khan-led party.

Before it approached the top court, the government issued repeated warnings to the PTI chief, with a top official saying that the authorities would multiply their May 25 policy by 10 if Khan announces another long march.

If the PTI holds another long march, then it would be the second time they would be coming to Islamabad. The last march was held on May 25 and ended with Khan abruptly call-

ing off the march after reaching Islamabad.

In a press conference alongside PTI Senator Azam Swati, Khan played down the reports of his arrest and said that even if he were behind bars, the long march would take place.

The ex-primier minister was already embroiled in several cases against him, but today, he was also named in a first information report (FIR) registered at a police station in Islamabad after his party workers took to the streets following the Toshakhana verdict — that disqualified him under Article 63(1)(p).

Khan said he would announce the date now as he was not hopeful of the government holding snap elections. "This time, the march will be peaceful, and people will enjoy it."

The PTI chief added that he would not allow the government to torture or harass his party leaders and workers like the last time. "This sort of violence does not take place anywhere in the world."

Appointment of next Army Chief next month: Asif

Defence Minister lauds role of armed forces for removal of Pakistan from FATF's grey list

SIALKOT: Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif has lauded the role of the Armed Forces for getting Pakistan removed from the Grey List of the Financial Action Task Force.

Talking to newsmen in Sialkot on Saturday, he said Pakistan's removal from the FATF Grey List is a great success for the country. Khawaja Asif said Pakistan Army has rendered unpre-

cedented sacrifices for the peace and stability of the country.

About appointment of next Army Chief, the Defence Minister said it will be made next month as per law and the constitution. He said PTI Chairman Imran Khan used donated money to the cancer hospital for his political purposes.

Khawaja Asif said general elections will be held on their scheduled time. Agencies

Armed forces fully supports political govt: Kaira

Says proactive diplomacy, armed forces support helped exit from FATF grey list

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira on Saturday said that proactive diplomacy and strong support of the Armed Forces helped the country to exit from grey list of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The prime minister's aide was talking to media while sharing his thoughts on current political issues.

Kaira said that the FATF was a global forum with representation of the world countries. However, the country was facing its restrictions since 2018; he said and felicitated the entire nation on finally getting removed from it.

He alleged that the previous regime of Imran Khan tried to get out of FATF list but his government had spoiled its ties with world institutions and countries and continued to threaten them and made the country's foreign policy a sitcom at the

global fora.

He argued that how it was possible to manage eviction from FATF's grey list after damaging relationships with the US, Turkiye, China, and KSA. "It needed a practical diplomacy which has been ensured by the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar who addressed and represented Pakistan at various international forums."

"Our armed forces also fully supported the political government and they also extended this favor to Imran Khan regime but it could avail that opportunity."

Commenting on Imran Khan's backdoor contacts with the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, he said that it was a coalition government and all its decisions were made after mutual consensus and consultations with all the parties. We in the Opposition had asked Imran Khan to resolve the national issues through dialogues as it is not possible for a single

party to resolve such pressing and complex issues, he added.

The Advisor commented that it was Khan's own accusations and objections during his tenure on the offers extended by his party to hold talks on national matters. "If he has returned to dialogue, then it will be done in the better national interest."

He noted that there were decisions previously given against the politicians, adding, "Is it a license for a popular leader to do malpractices?". Khan himself demanded universal rule of law but the question is 'did Imran sold the gifts?'

Kaira said that selling out Toshi Khana gifts was ethically wrong but not legally however buying those gifts worth Rs150 million in Rs 30 million was wrong, adding that, and then selling it for Rs150 million is wrong because that amount had to be shown in the assets declaration and proper tax had to be paid which has not been done and is wrong.

PSX seen on firm footing amid inflows hopes

KARACHI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) is largely seen on firm footing next week drawing strength from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) victory amid hopes that Asian Development Bank (ADB) will release \$1.5 billion shortly; however, political risks remain a threat.

The benchmark KSE-100 index, the main gauge of the country's capital market, gained 265 points or 0.62% week-on-week, which analysts attributed to a 73% year-on-year and 53% month-on-month fall in current account deficit in September amid bets it was Pakistan's last week on FATF's list of countries under increased monitoring for money-laundering and terror-financing.

The market got off to a grim start in the outgoing week that was mostly marred by political bad weather as the government remained pitted against the opposition with PTI threatening the ruling coalition with a tougher-than-the-last 'long march' which remains unscheduled so far. APP

Marriyum urges OIC states to step up efforts for combating Islamophobia

Information Minister was addressing the 12th Session of Islamic Conference of Information Ministers

Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday underscored that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should more proactively play its role in protecting the fundamental rights of Muslims across the globe, especially in those areas where they were in minority.

Addressing the 12th Session of Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, she said it was high time for the OIC member states to step up efforts for combating the Islamophobia rising gradually across the world. "The abhorrent phenomenon of Islamophobia is not abating. In our region — South Asia — hate speech and hate crimes against Muslims remain a source of increasing concern. Despite our efforts to the contrary, there has been a constant rise manifested in mob lynching, pre-planned communal riots, and negative portrayal in electronic and social media in India."

As a representative of the collective aspirations of the Muslim Ummah, she stressed, the OIC was uniquely poised to lead the endeavour, and must throw its full political and economic weight and clout in protecting the fundamental rights of Muslims and interests of



Muslim minorities across the globe.

She put forward multiple recommendations coupled with observations regarding the challenges faced by the Muslims, especially their faith Islam in the information domain.

The minister highlighted deliberate use of instruments of information control that define perceptions about Islam and the Muslims.

She cited that many Muslim countries now had independent media which had made inroads into the people's minds about stereotyped image of Islam.

"Information colonialism has to be fought," she said, suggesting that a new independent information regime established. "More needs to be done in terms of creating information synergies among the Muslim states."

The Muslim states should look within, and tackle those currents and trends at home that were feeding misperceptions about Islam and the Muslim societies, she stressed.

"More democracy, more public participation, more inclusivity and focus on freedom of speech that is culturally sensitive and internationally projectable should be our goal to tackle the motivated misrepresentation," she said while highlighting the steps required for taking the hate-mongers to the task.

"We must fight fake news with real news; fight bots with real people's aspirations and fight trolls with genuine polls. Laws are needed to identify and prosecute promoters of hate and deception. However, we must continue to uphold basic freedoms."

All-weather friendship

H.E Mr. Nong Rong, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, Islamabad on Saturday.



Photo: Online

Govt committed to enforcing fundamental rights: Azam Tarar

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar said on Saturday that the government was committed to performing its constitutional obligations and ensuring enforcement of fundamental rights, guaranteed under the constitution.

Addressing the Asma Jahangir Conference titled Crisis of Constitutionalism in South Asia, held at a local hotel, he said that the government was very clear that rights activists and organisations must be provided an environment where they could freely function and serve the neglected and oppressed segments of society.

About conference's subject, the minister said, "It is a serious matter that requires our attention as an aim to progress as a nation that acknowledge and promote rule of law and that is a principle under which all persons, institutions and entities are accountable to the laws that are passed by the legislature."

He said in this year's conference all these issues would be discussed. While paying tribute to the late Asma Jahangir, he said that she was raised to promote the rule of law, constitution, justice, peace and democracy in the Pakistan. He said she was known human rights activist, who bravely fought for less fortunate people in the country.

Azam Tarar said that Asma Jahangir was a brave fighter who established Pakistan's first All Women Legal Firm in Lahore and was one of the founders of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

Pak-China ties

Dar reaffirms resolve to fully implementing CPEC

Finance Minister says Pakistan and China were enjoying deep-rooted friendly relations

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar here on Saturday reaffirmed the firm resolve of the government for successfully implementing China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project as it will play an important role in taking local economy forward as well as cementing the bilateral relationship between both the countries.

Talking to Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Nong Rong, who called on him, the minister said that Pakistan and China were enjoying deep-rooted friendly relations which were strengthening with each passing day, said a press release.

The minister further highlighted the economic challenges and policies of the present government with aim to bring

Dar felicitates nation on country's exit from FATF grey list

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has felicitated the nation on removal of Pakistan's name from Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) grey list. In a tweet, the finance minister said that the efforts of the civil-military team under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif in achieving the goal were highly commendable. "Heartiest congratulations to the Nation on removal of Pakistan's name today from the FATF's 'grey list'. Efforts of the civil-military team under the leadership of PM @CMShehbaz in achieving this goal are highly commendable. Pakistan Zindabad", he tweeted.

about economic and fiscal stability. He also appreciated the support extended by the Chinese leadership for flood relief and refinancing of syndicate facility of RMB 15 billion (US\$ 2.24 billion) to Pakistan.

The Ambassador reaffirmed the Chinese Government's continued support to Pakistan and thanked the Government of Pakistan on facilitating Chinese companies

in various projects in Pakistan. He also assured full support and cooperation of Chinese Government in developing Special Economic Zones as part of CPEC.

The proposed visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to China was also discussed in the meeting and both sides hoped that the visit will enhance bilateral relations between both the countries.

Probe launched into PTI leader's humiliation by Islamabad Police

Saleh was arrested for gunfire outside ECP office

ISLAMABAD: Authorities have suspended the investigation officers, who allegedly photographed arrested PTI lawmaker Saleh Muhammad Khan with a white slate — inscribed with his details around his neck — at the Secretariat police station and then released the images on social media.

The picture — made in an attempt to capture the PTI leader's mugshot — went viral and drew condemnations from PTI leaders and supporters.

People on social media largely expressed their disapproval of such humiliating behaviour of the Islamabad Capital Territory police.



According to police, a probe has been kicked off into the incident.

Police had taken into custody Saleh and his two security guards from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police, under terrorism charges for allegedly shooting at the police

contingent deployed outside the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP).

Saleh, who comes from Mansehra, was also booked on the charges of attempted murder, violation of Section 144, and abetment.

In an FIR registered at the Secretariat police station, SHO Ashfaq Ahmed claimed Saleh along with his gunmen was shouting slogans against the verdict of the ECP announced after 2:15pm and also tried to disrupt the law-and-order situation.

Saleh was arrested after PML-N leader Mohsin Shahnawaz alleged that his gunmen opened fire to wound him fatally. Agencies

Pakistan urges int'l coop to counter disinformation

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Warning that disinformation had become a "global pandemic", Pakistan has called for international cooperation to counter this scourge, which fuels hate speech.

"The disinformation operations via cyber-meddling did not stop after EU Disinfo Lab's groundbreaking revelations and comprehensive evidence of targeting the UN bodies, its member states, core institutions and core values," Mariam Shaikh, the Pakistani delegate, told the UN General Assembly's Fourth Committee, which deals with special political and decolonization matters.

Ms. Shaikh, press counselor at the Pakistani mission to the UN, was obviously referring to the investigative reports of EU Disinfo Lab, a Brussels-based independent NGO, that include one that recently unearthed India's 15-year-old disinformation campaign against Pakistan.

Pakistan and its people, she said, have been the victims of targeted such campaigns, whose critical concern is the state-sponsored disinformation in armed conflict and situations of foreign occupation.

"Often occupying forces impose a wall-of-silence with a physical lockdown, a total information blackout, and censorship and surveillance to suppress the voice of the people, routinely incarcerating, beating,

humiliating, harassing and even killing, for reporting on the human rights violations," the Pakistani delegates said in a debate on Information.

Pakistan, she said, also expressed serious concern at attacks and violence against journalists and media workers and associated personnel in such illegally occupied territories.

"Pakistan is committed to countering the virus of disinformation by all possible means including national means and through international cooperation with Member States and other stakeholders under the umbrella of the United Nations," Ms. Shaikh added.

Noting the recent devastating floods in Pakistan, she hoped that the United Nations, among the first responders to the calamity, will continue to spotlight the many crises resulting from climate change. "In the last two decades, recurrent spells of extreme weather events have taken a heavy toll on both life and property and adversely affected Pakistan's economic growth."

The Pakistani delegate also drew attention to hate speech, discrimination and violence against Muslims in several parts of the world and urged the Department of Global Communications to launch awareness campaigns to counter a rising tide of Islamophobia.

"Islamophobia is a reality," she added.

ECP slapped people in the face, says Fawad Ch

ISLAMABAD: Vice-President PTI Fawad Chaudhry said the people have rejected the verdict against party chief Imran Khan by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), which he termed as 'dishonest'.

The ECP, in a consensus verdict in the Toshakhana reference on Friday, disqualified Imran Khan and ruled that he is no longer a member of the National Assembly. The election commission directed criminal proceedings to be initiated against Imran for misdeclaration.

The ECP ruled that Imran Khan submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices under Article 63(1)(p).

Fawad said that the ECP verdict against Imran Khan is nothing but a slap on the face of 220 million Pakistanis. Agencies

4 terrorists killed in North Waziristan District: ISPR

Our Correspondent



RAWALPINDI: Four terrorists were killed in an intense fire exchange that took place between the terrorists and the security forces in Spinwam of North Waziristan District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Inter-Services Public Relations informed that the killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against the security forces.

Meanwhile, the forces also recovered weapons and ammunition from the killed terrorists. Agencies

Toshakhana reference

Imran Khan moves IHC against disqualification

IHC schedules hearing for Monday

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Saturday challenged the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Islamabad High Court, praying to the court to set aside the judgment as ECP had no jurisdiction over the matter.

On Friday, the ECP disqualified the former premier in the Toshakhana reference, stating he had committed corrupt practices by making "false statements and submitting incorrect declaration".

"We are of the considered opinion that the respondent (Imran Khan) has become disqualified under Article 63(1)(p) of the Constitution, read with Sections 137, 167, and 173 of the

Elections Act, 2017, consequently he ceases to be a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan and his seat has become vacant accordingly," read the ECP order.

It said that the respondent made false statements and incorrect declaration; therefore, he has also committed the offence of corrupt practices, defined under Sections 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017, punishable under Section 174 of the Elections Act, 2017. The office is directed to initiate legal proceedings and to take follow-up action under Section 190(2) of the Elections Act, 2017.

Taking the matter to the IHC, the PTI chairman asked it to declare, find

and hold that the ECP order is against the settled principles of law on Article 63 of the Constitution, misconceived and set it aside.

He also requested the IHC to rule that the ECP could not have exercised the jurisdiction to decide any questions of 'corrupt practice or disqualification' under §137 read with §232 of the Election Act and further read with Rule 137 of Election Rules, 2017.

The PTI chairman further asked the court to declare that the reference itself is incompetent, illegal, unlawful and without lawful authority, mala-fide, and devoid of force and in the circumstance of the instant case declare it null and void in the interest of justice. Agencies

ECP decision proved IK's involvement in corrupt practices: Ahsan

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal has said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) decision has proved that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan is involved in corrupt practices.

Addressing a press conference here on Saturday, he said that if the law had declared Imran Khan guilty of corruption and corrupt practices, the matter could not be decided on roads by burning tyres or violence, but through legal battles and in courts.

He said that instead of approaching the courts, the type of violence being committed by them showed that they were guilty and wanted to get decision in their favour through the use of force. He said that Imran Khan had worn many masks and the rule of law was one of those, adding that Imran had a mindset which did not recognise any constitution and law.

The federal minister said that the decision

against the PTI chief had come with consensus and all members of the commission unanimously found Imran Khan guilty of corruption, adding that it was for the first time in the history of Pakistan that a prime minister had been disqualified for corrupt practices.

He said that Panama case was made against Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif, but no evidence of corruption came to the fore against him in the matter despite formation of joint investigation team, adding that Nawaz Sharif was not disqualified in Panama but on the charge of not receiving AED 10,000 salary from his son.

He said that on the basis of Yousaf Raza Gillani case, Imran Khan should have been disqualified when he did not get implemented Supreme Court orders about the Punjab local bodies elections for seven months and violated the court orders.

He said that the PTI chief had not been disqualified over violation of the Supreme

Court order and receiving salary from his son, but for the offence of corrupt practices and for embezzlement in official gifts, received by him as premier.

"We asked Imran Khan many times that he used to pay about Rs 150,000 as income tax till 2018, but suddenly his income tax hiked to Rs 9 million level. What was the sources of his income due to which his income tax had reached 9 million from Rs 150,000, he added. He said that no PTI spokesman replied that question.

He said that the supporters and spokesman for the PTI chief were saying today that Imran Khan was their red line.

He questioned sensible PTI people whether they supported the PTI and Imran Khan for supremacy of law in the country or for one-man rule. "If you were attached with the PTI and Imran Khan on the basis of an ideology, then you must consider with a cool mind that a person defrauded them while giving the

slogan of a new Pakistan," Ahsan Iqbal said.

He accused Imran Khan of collecting donations from masses in the name of Shaukat Khanum and other institutions and using it for his politics and running a publicity campaign, questioning whether it was not dishonesty.

The minister said that the personal rule of Imran Khan might be a red line for a few people within the PTI, but the red line for the 220 million people of Pakistan was different.

He said that Imran Khan crossed Pakistan's red line, as he unconstitutionally rejected the no-confidence motion and unconstitutionally dissolved the National Assembly of Pakistan, and by not implementing the Supreme Court decision he committed the contempt of court.

He asked the PTI chief that if he was truthful, then why he did not file a case against 'Financial Times' in London, adding that Imran Khan knew that if he did so, the case would go against him and a stamp of disqual-

ification would also be affixed by the London court.

Ahsan Iqbal further said that Imran Khan traded the honour of the nation by crossing the red line of the trust of the gift and the dignity of the country in the Toshakhana case.

He said that Imran Khan was not bigger than Pakistan's Constitution, and its parliament, courts, state, army, and the law. "Whenever you want, you strike the institutions like a football, and launch a blame-game, for harassing people to get decisions of your choice by pressurizing them. You call it 'mind game', we call it dishonesty," the minister added.

He said that the PTI was threatening to dissolve the assemblies of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, adding that if they were serious about holding elections early, who was stopping them; they should send a request for dissolving the assemblies to the governors concerned, and the federal government would welcome it. Agencies

IS Anwar Maqsood Made History

Saadhey 14th August concludes 100 performances

IS Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Saadhay 14 August concluded 100 performances in Karachi on October 17, '22, thanks to the fervent support of the city's ardent theatre enthusiasts. The play is set to break records in Islamabad starting on November 9 after receiving a great deal of love and acclaim in Karachi.

People of all ages and genders are eagerly awaiting the performance to begin in a packed theatre. When it does, you can tell that people are already enthralled and fully enjoying what is being displayed since the hall is resonating with laughter. Every single performance of "Saadhay 14 August," a script by the legendary Anwar Maqsood, directed by Dawar Mehmood (KopyKats Productions) was able to accomplish this and much more. The play, which attracted audiences from all walks of life and of all ages on a daily basis, is a theatrical production which has performed 100 performances in a single city.

Govt to fully restore trade activities in Balochistan: Jamali

Acting Governor Balochistan says govt is well aware of problems and difficulties faced by all the owners of mines and minerals

IS Bureau Report

QUETTA: Acting Governor Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali has said the provincial government is well aware of the problems and difficulties faced by all the owners of mines and minerals in the province, especially in the wake of the recent disastrous floods.

He was talking to the delegation of All Pakistan Mines and Minerals Association led by Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Sudan Mir Behrose Reki Baloch, and Syed Fatch Shah Arif

at Governor House, Quetta on Saturday.

Jan Jamali said the traders and farmers were affected the most during the recent floods in Balochistan. However, he added, the government was utilizing all available resources to fully restore trade and business activities, and provide profitable investment opportunities and complete protection to the owners of local mines and minerals in the province.

He said the economic future of Balochistan was related to mines and minerals and the difficulties faced by

the sector could be overcome only by giving it the status of a regular industry.

He said Workers Welfare Board would take effective measures for the betterment of mine labourers, as well as to address the concerns about the improvement of infrastructure in the mining area and the construction of roads.

In that regard, the acting governor added, the matter would be raised before the Chief Minister of Balochistan, the relevant federal minister and other authorities concerned.

Emirates Skywards kicks off festive season

IS Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Emirates Skywards has kicked off the festive season with incredible offers this winter. The loyalty programme will be rolling out special offers every month to provide members with even more ways to earn thousands of Miles with every flight, hotel stay, car rental, shopping spree and more.

Qamar felicitated nation on exit from FATF grey list

IS Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar on Saturday felicitated the nation on removal of Pakistan from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF). In a tweet, the commerce minister lauded the efforts of all relevant authorities to achieve the goal and bringing country out of the FATF grey list. "Congratulations Pakistan and team FATF. We made it out of grey list. Have become proud nation in comity of nations once again", Qamar tweeted.

Gold rates decline by Rs 1,000

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs1,000 on Saturday and was sold at Rs146,400 against its sale at Rs147,400 the previous day.

The price of 10 gram 24 karat also decreased by Rs 858 and was sold at Rs125,514 against Rs126,372; whereas that of ten gram 22 karat went down to Rs115,055 against its sale at Rs115,841. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola gold witnessed a decrease of Rs10 and was sold at Rs1,580 whereas that of ten-gram silver decreased by Rs.8.56 to Rs1,354.60. The price of gold in the international market increased by \$35 and was sold at \$1658 against its sale at \$1623, the association reported. Agencies

China's central bank conducts reverse repos to boost liquidity

BEIJING: China's central bank Friday conducted a total of 2 billion yuan (about 280.95 million U.S. dollars) of reverse repos to maintain liquidity in the banking system. The interest rate for the seven-day reverse repos was set at 2 percent, according to the People's Bank of China. The move aims to keep stable liquidity in the banking system, the central bank said. A reverse repo is a process in which the central bank purchases securities from commercial banks through bidding, with an agreement to sell them back in the future. Xinhua

Urwa Hocane turns producer with Tich Button

IS Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The renowned Actress Urwa Hocane, is all set to add another feather into her cap by officially becoming the Producer for her upcoming Film "Tich Button." Tich Button, one of the most anticipated movie of Pakistani cinema, will finally be releasing after more than two years. The film production previously experienced many delays because of the COVID outbreak, this marks Urwa Hocane's debut as a producer. A-list performers including Feroze Khan, Farhan Saeed, Iman Aly, and Sonya Hussyn can be seen in different roles in Hocane's debut film as a Producer. "I absolutely love telling stories be it as an Actor or Producer. When I went to meet Salman Iqbal CEO ARY network for this Film and told him that I am producing Tich Button he believed in my vision and said Yes to collaborating," stated Hocane. The film is produced by Urwa Hocane under the auspices of ARY Films, Salman Iqbal Films and Shooting Star Studio and is directed by Qasim Ali Mureed. Urwa Hocane is also currently seen playing the leading role in the hit HUM TV serial "Meri Shehzadi" which is highly enjoyed by the audience, with Urwa garnering a lot of praise for her character and now promises that she will be seen on the big screen as an actor soon as well. After cinema hits like Na Maloom Afraad & Punjab Nahi Jaungi as an Actor, Hocane's debut movie as a Producer is expected to hit theatres on 11th of November.

Govt pays Rs5.2m to flood affectees in Neelum valley

IS Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: On the directions of Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir compensation amount worth 5.2 million rupees was paid to victims who suffered huge human and material losses during the recent monsoon rains that wreaked havoc in Neelum Valley. According to the details, the compensation was distributed by deputy commissioner Neelum amongst 13 families who lost their kith and kin during the flash flooding caused by the torrential rains in different areas of the Neelum district. Of those who lost their lives during the deadly rains included Muhammad Latif son of Abdul Aziz Sukna Machhara, Umar Sajjad son of Muhammad Sajjad, Zubair Sajjad son of Muhammad Sajjad, Talha Javed son of Muhammad Javed, Muhammad Akmal son of Muhammad Arif resident of Naro wall, Hasnat Khattak, son of Inayatullah, resident of Islamabad, Shah Holi, son of Feroze Din resident of Dadhanyal, Musrat Bibi daughter of Mir Alam, resident of Keil, Manzoor Ahmad son of Nazir Ahmed, resident of Khari-gam, Noorun Nisa wife of Muhammad Ayub, resident of Lawat Bala, Manza Irshad, daughter of Irshad Hussain. Sukna Bandi, Mir Zaman son of Abdul Ani Sukna Lawat and Faiza daughter of Sardar Tanveer of Lawat.

For noble-cause

HYDERABAD: Bridals attend a mass wedding ceremony organized by Jeelani welfare trust and Aziz Memon welfare trust funded a mass wedding of 15 couples for people belonging to poorer classes, at Bagh-e-Mustafa Ground.



Photo: Online

1.48m children to be administered polio drops: DC

IS M.A RASHID

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Imran Hamid Sheikh has said that more than 1.48 million children up to age of five years would be administered polio drops during weeklong campaign in the district, from October 24 to 30, 2022.

Inaugurating the next round of anti-polio drive by vaccinating some children at a brick-kiln near vegetable market Chak No.67-JB Sadhar here on Saturday, he said that 4869 teams would perform duty for total success of the campaign.

He said that the anti-polio campaign required deep attention and utmost responsibility for complete eradication of the virus. He directed that each and every child of up to five years age should be vaccinated in the district including children of nomad, gypsy and Pash-tun families.

He said that he would positively check performance of polio teams by visiting different areas of the district and strict action would be taken against negligent, lethargic and delinquent elements.



FAISALABAD: The group photo of The Deputy Commissioner along with children after inaugurating the next Anti-polio campaign.

He also stressed the need of public cooperation and said that all kind of media should be used to inform and convince the parents for vaccination of their kids.

He said that administrative machinery would also remain active during anti-polio campaign for supervision. He said that a comprehensive security

plan had also been devised for protection of polio teams and the officers of district administration would also remain active in the field to supervise the arrangements.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) District Health Authority (DHA) Dr. Kashif Kamboh and others were also present on the occasion.

IRC aims to assist 1.5m flood victims

IS Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As the national coordinated efforts for provision of relief and subsequent rehabilitation of flood-affected people have been accelerated at all levels, there still needs much to protect flood victims from water borne diseases and ensure their rehabilitation.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) was the first among other international organizations who had launched an emergency response in early July. The IRC response has so far supported over 300,000 individuals and aims to assist 1.5 million people in the flood affected districts in Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. An Early Needs Identification (ENI) assessments carried out by IRC and its partners indicate that the immediate reported needs by communities are of cash assistance, food items, protection and health services.

"Currently, IRC is directing its efforts in 16 districts of Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab.

IS Early Detection Initiative of KP

PHA, IRNUM hold awareness session on Breast Cancer

Breast Cancer detection and treatment will be available in seven districts of KP through this program

IS Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: The Public Health Association (PHA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in collaboration with the Institute of Radiotherapy and Nuclear Medicine (IRNUM) held an awareness session on the Breast Cancer Early Detection Initiative of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Saturday.

Taimur Khan Jhagra, KP Health and Finance Minister, who was the Chief Guest at the occasion, said the KP government is committed to provide high quality care to Breast Cancer patients with testing facilities in seven districts.

Despite the fact that the World

Health Organization Global Breast Cancer Initiative (GBCI) has set the target to reduce 2% Breast cancer related deaths per year worldwide, Pakistan lacks Breast Cancer control program. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the first province to initiate Breast Cancer Control Program in Pakistan, which initiated in 2020. The program envisions to provision of modern Mammograph machines in seven divisions of KP namely, Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Hazara, Kohat, Malakand, Mardan, and Peshawar.

Breast Cancer accounts for approximately 40,000 deaths per year in Pakistan. It is one of the leading cause of cancer related deaths among female.

Every woman can develop Breast Cancer. The disease also occurs in 1% of male population. Breast Cancer puts a lot of financial burden on the families while effecting them both emotionally and psychologically. Lack of awareness, and early detection, social barriers and inaccessibility to the health care system is detrimental to the survival of breast cancer patients.

The risk factors include genetic factors like BRCA 1, 2 & p 53 gene mutations, female gender, growing age, high estrogen exposure, obesity, lack of exercise, stress, early menarche and late menopause etc.

The speakers emphasized that majority of the women assume that



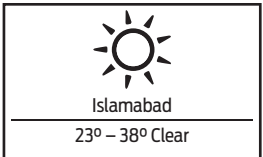
Breast Cancer will not happen to them, while the stats point that 1 out of 8 women is at risk of suffering from breast cancer in Pakistan.

Any women over 40 years, or having family history of breast cancer should

go for the Mammography test, since early detection saves lives. Switching to healthy eating habits, regular exercise, maintaining normal weight, avoiding the use of over-the-counter medication, specially hormonal medicines are

suggested by physicians. Public Health Association (PHA) KPK and FATA which focuses on provision of Public health services and improve health policies initiated the campaign struggle for Breast Cancer Control Program in the province, which was later joined by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (IRNUM) and other high profile partners.

The event was attended by Secretary Health KP, Amer Sultan Tarin; Dr. Aakif Ullah Khan, Director IRNUM; founding President of Public Health Association, Dr. Saima Abid; Director Curative Health Department, renowned oncologists, surgeons, faculty staff and medical students.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings
 Fajr 4:52 am
 Zohr 11:53 am
 Asr 3:50 pm
 Maghrib 5:30 pm
 Isha 6:53 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
 Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

UNICEF expresses alarm over health issues in flood hit areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, Friday warned that in the flood-impacted areas of Pakistan's Sindh and Balochistan provinces, more than 1 in 9 children under five admitted to health facilities were suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

They say estimates based on the pre-existing malnutrition prevalence indicate that close to 1.6 million children could be suffering from malnutrition and in need of urgent treatment in the areas impacted by the floods. UNICEF said it is responding, including by sending ready-to-use therapeutic food. Together with the Pakistani government, the World Food Programme (WFP) and other partners, UNICEF has established 271 outpatient therapeutic treatment centres for the prevention, detection and treatment of cases of severe acute malnutrition and other forms of malnutrition.

They are also working to expand nutrition services through 73 mobile health teams in the flood-affected districts, it said. This is in addition to protection, health, water, sanitation and hygiene services.

Harmain Al-Sharifain's message, a great source of peace: religious scholars

Harmain Al-Sharifain was the center of unity and stability of the Muslim Ummah

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The message received from the Harmain Al-Sharifain can end sectarianism, extremism and terrorism as it is a great source of peace and moderation in the world.

The Harmain Al-Sharifain was the center of unity and stability of the Muslim Ummah, said the religious scholars of various Islamic countries while addressing 'International Tahzeem-e-Harmain Al-Sharifain Conference' in Abuja (Nigeria) on Saturday. They were of the view that unity and stability were need of the day to contain Islamophobia and resolve other issues confronting the Muslim Ummah on the globe.

The conference was chaired by Secretary General of International Tahzeem-e-Harmain Al-Sharifain Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi. Leading Ulema, Mashaykh and religious scholars from all over the Islamic



world, including Dr Ibrahim Jamia Otoy, Dr Dawood Abdul Baqi Muhammad, Dr Imam Issa Abdul Kareem, Dr Sulaiman Usman, Dr Muhammad Abdullah Al-Thani, Dr Sharafuddin Badibur Aji, Dr Muhammad Munir Ilyas, Dr Muhammad Al-Haaj Abu Bakr, Dr Abu Bakr Muhammad Al-Thani, Dr Al-Khizar Abdul Baqi Muhammad and others also addressed the conference, said a statement received here.

They commended the services of Khadim-e-Harmain

Al-Sharifain Shah Salman bin Abdul Aziz and his Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman.

They said the entire Muslim Ummah's stance was loud and clear that they would not compromise on the security, sanctity and stability of the soil of Harmain Al-Sharifain. They also supported and endorsed the stance of Saudi Arabia on all the issues.

On the occasion, Ashrafi, who is also prime minister's special representative for inter-faith harmony and middle east

and Pakistan Ulema Council's chairman, said, "to get rid of sectarianism, extremism and terrorism, we had to disseminate the message of Islam in its actual context, which we received from the Holy Lands of Makkah and Madinah."

He said the message of Islam was peace, security and moderation, and its teachings completely rejected sectarianism, extremism, and terrorism anyway.

With the advent of Islam, slaves and women got their respective rights as the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) taught to love the humanity, he added.

He said the situation of unrest in some Islamic countries was due to the external interference which should be stopped on immediate basis.

Ashrafi said Kashmir and Palestine were the two burning issues of Muslim Ummah, and they should be resolved as per the will of the Kashmiris and Palestinians.

Normalcy returns

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Islamabad Highway in day hours after the end PTI protest on Friday night, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

JKSM Chief remembers Bijbehara Massacre

Says Killing of more than 50 innocent people is Still a Raw Wound

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu & Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a statement paid glorious tributes to the innocent souls of Bijbehara Massacre. On October 22, 1993, Indian Border Security Force opened fire in Bijbehara town, killing 43 civilians. No one was ever punished for the crime.

Chairman JKSM Bhat denouncing Indian occupation of IIOJ&K and the grave human rights violations its occupation forces committing since 1947 said that, 29 years ago today, more than 50 innocent civilians were shot and killed in a terrorist attack by the usurping Indi-

an soldiers. The civilians were protesting peacefully in the town of Bijbehara in IIOJ&K.

There are hundreds of such incidents in which Indian terrorist soldiers massacred innocent Kashmiri people. Citizens demanding their freedom, rights and justice are target of Indian occupation forces. Kashmiri people will never forget the holy blood and tremendous sacrifices of thousands of martyrs who were victims of Indian brutality. Chairman Bhat added.

Paying homage to the innocent martyrs of Bijbehara, he said that the entire nation will protect their great sacrifices and cultivate the cause. We have paid with blood for the freedom

of our motherland, and will only rest until it is free from the dark clouds of Indian Occupation.

Even today, the people of Kashmir are fighting the Indian atrocities with full courage. The Kashmiri people have not recognized Indian Military might even for a moment in the last seventy-five years. Kashmiris will continue all kinds of resistance against India to complete the unfinished mission left by the martyrs.

He appealed to the United Nations, Intl Humanitarian organizations, OIC, P5 to take notice of the war crimes committed by Indian soldiers in the last 30 years in IIOJ&K and pressure India to respect Intl law and UN resolutions and start the process of plebiscite.

55 more diagnosed with dengue fever in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 55 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 3,965.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC) Dr Sajjad Mehmood on Saturday said among the new cases, 14 patients had arrived from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, eight from Potohar Town urban area, seven from Rawalpindi Cantonment, while one of each case arrived from Chaklala Cantonment, Taxila rural, and Gujjar Khan.

Dr Sajjad further said 165 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 61 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 55 to the District Headquarters Hospital (DHQ) and 49 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH).

Out of the total admitted patients, 117 tested positive, with 87 belonging to Rawalpindi, he added.

He informed that five patients were in a critical position at BBH and one in DHQ. Agencies

Health Corner

Why late-night eating leads to weight gain, diabetes

Northwestern Medicine scientists have uncovered the mechanism behind why eating late at night is linked to weight gain and diabetes. The connection between eating time, sleep and obesity is well-known but poorly understood, with research showing that over-nutrition can disrupt circadian rhythms and change fat tissue.

New Northwestern research has shown for the first time that energy release may be the molecular mechanism through which our internal clocks control energy balance. From this understanding, the scientists also found that daytime is the ideal time in the light environment of the Earth's rotation when it is most optimal to dissipate energy as heat. These findings have broad implications from dieting to sleep loss and the way we feed patients who require long-term nutritional assistance.

The paper, "Time-restricted feeding mitigates obesity through adipocyte thermogenesis," will be published online today, and in print tomorrow (Oct. 21) in the journal Science.

"It is well known, albeit poorly understood, that insults to the body clock are going to be insults to metabolism," said corresponding study author Dr. Joseph T. Bass, the Charles F. Kettering Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He also is a Northwestern Medicine endocrinologist.

"When animals consume Western style cafeteria diets -- high fat, high carb -- the clock gets scrambled," Bass said. "The clock is sensitive to the time people eat, especially in fat tissue, and that sensitivity is thrown off by high-fat diets. We still don't understand why that is, but what we do know is that as animals become obese, they start to eat more when they should be asleep. This research shows why that matters."

Bass is also director of the Center for Diabetes and Metabolism and the chief of endocrinology in the department of medicine at Feinberg. Chelsea Hepler, a postdoctoral fellow in the Bass Lab, was the first author and did many of the biochemistry and genetics experiments that grounded the team's hypothesis. Rana Gupta, now at Duke University, was also a key collaborator.

In the study, mice, who are nocturnal, were fed a high-fat diet either exclusively during their inactive (light) period or during their active (dark) period. Within a week, mice fed during light hours gained more weight compared to those fed in the dark. The team also set the temperature to 30 degrees, where mice expend the least energy, to mitigate the effects of temperature on their findings.

"We thought maybe there's a component of energy balance where mice are expending more energy eating at specific times," Hepler said. "That's why they can eat the same amount of food at different times of the day and be healthier when they eat during active periods versus when they should be sleeping."

Hazrat Abu Talib conference held at PAC

Staff Reporter



RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council hold Hazrat Abu Talib conference in collaboration with central Imam Hussain Council here on Saturday. The conference was presided over by prominent religious scholar Dr. Ghazanfar Mehdi, while Dr. Sakhawat Hussain Sundaralvi and Mushtaq Ahmed Kambhoh participated in the conference as special guests.

In his address to the conference, Dr. Ghazafar Mahdi said that Islam and Islamic values need sincerity and passion like Hazrat Abu Talib. By promoting the teachings of the Prophet, the Muslim scholars can regain their lost position. The biggest reason for the decline of the Islamic world is the distance from the teachings of Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W). Mushtaq Ahmed Kambhoh said that Muslims can regain their lost position if they maintain their love for the Prophet (S.A.W) and his family. Celebrating the Day of Hazrat Abu Talib is the Sunnah of the Prophet (S.A.W).

He has appealed to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, to celebrate 26 Rabi Awwal officially in all government offices and educational institutions. Special events should be organized in connection with the death anniversary of Hazrat Abu Talib.

Secretary General of Jamiat Islamia Pakistan Allama Sabatin Shirazi, Allama Ayaz Zaheer Hashmi, Ihsan Kabria, Allama Salim Haider, Muhammad Rafiq, Maimunah Mushtaq, Akhlaq Zaidi and others addressed the conference and highlighted the services of Hazrat Abu Talib for Islam. A large number of people from the root cities participated in it.

President okays Dyslexia Special Measures, Domestic Workers bills

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has accorded his approval to Dyslexia Special Measures and Islamabad Domestic Workers bills 2022. The president approved both bills under Article 75 of the Constitution of Pakistan, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Saturday. Under Dyslexia Special Measures Bill 2022, special steps would be taken for those children suffering from dyslexia and related diseases. APP

Islamabad police lodges FIR against Sophia Mirza, Shahzad Akbar

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Police has registered a case number 465/22 against model Sophia Mirza, former accountability minister Shahzad Akbar and others on the request of Umar Farooq Zahoor for conspiracy, forgery and misuse of public office.

At the Police Station Secretariat in Islamabad, Norwegian origin Pakistani businessman Umar Farooq Zahoor has registered a case alleging that Miss Sophia Mirza and Mirza Shahzad conspired to create a fabricated story against him by misusing authority and using undue influence.

Mr. Umar Farooq Zahoor has engaged lawyer Mian Ali Ashfaq to represent him at all forums in relation to this matter. The lawyer said there is overwhelming evidence against the accused persons and conviction is possible through efficacious and

robust prosecution of this matter. Mian Ali Ashfaq stated that Islamabad Police should make every effort to bring Shahzad Akbar into the fold of inquiry and prosecution of this matter, including arrest through Interpol if he disregards or does not comply with the notices issued by Islamabad Police in due course.

Umar Farooq Zahoor has stated in the application that both Sophia Mirza (also known as Sofia Mirza and Khushbakht Mirza) and Shahzad Akbar conspired against him and intentionally misled former PM Imran Khan's cabinet by not disclosing to the federal cabinet that he was Ambassador at Large of Liberia for Middle East and South East Asia including Pakistan and that criminal prosecution was not possible for a diplomat in a family dispute. Umar Farooq Zahoor has

been living in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for the last two decades as ambassador at large for the republic of Liberia since 2019 for the middle east and south east and Pakistan region.

Umar Farooq Zahoor has also accused two senior officers of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) of being part of the conspiracy against him.

The application says: "That Shehzad Akbar, Sofia Mirza and Sanaullah Abbasi (EX DG FIA) with criminal intent and consultation with each other got registered FIR No. 36/20 and 40/20 in FIA CCC Lahore and Shehzad Akbar and Sanaullah Abbasi with criminal intent by misusing their position and authority pressurized the investigation officers of the case especially Mr. Umair Butt, Deputy Director AHTC, Syed Ali Mardan Shah Inspector FIA ACC, Habib Ur

Rehman Inspector FIA/AHTC, Hina Khan IP/SHO Banking Crime, Beenish Rehman SI/SHO Anti-Corruption, Uzma Ashiq SI/SHO Corporate Crime to prepare a forged and fabricated warrant of arrest of the applicant so the enable them to get Red warrant from Interpol. They further prepared a fake warrant of arrest and order of court after consultation with each other with criminal intent and prepared another fake Non bailable warrant of arrest."

His application to the police station says that the accused "prepared false, fabricated and forged documents in the name of Honorable court and the Honorable Judge and used the same as original one and on the instructions and will of Sanaullah Abbasi (EX DG FIA) to mislead the Honorable Supreme Court a fake, false and

fabricated report dated 12-01-2022 was prepared.

"The applicant filed an application in the court of Ghulam Murtaza Wirk learned Judicial Magistrate Section 30 Lahore for summoning of record of the case and to get attested copies of the case record, the Honourable court summoned the challan as well as the record, the accused persons submitted 1 page report dated 04-06-2022 and did not mention a word about the case rather narrated another fake and fabricated story, upon which the court held vide detailed order dated 04-06-2022 that neither any non bailable warrant of arrest have been issued from court nor any report u/s 173 crpc has been submitted by the FIA which proves the fabrication of non bailable warrants of arrest prepared by the above named accused persons."

Umar Farooq Zahoor requested to the police station to register a case against the accused persons for preparing fake and fabricated documents by "forging the signature and stamp of Honorable Judge, using forged documents as original one, deliberately preparing a fabricated report with criminal intent on the basis of forged documents for Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan and misusing the authority with criminal intent by breaching the trust of public office which was entrusted to them and above name accused persons be prosecuted for justice and fair play".

The FIA Lahore branch registered cases of money-laundering and corruption against Mr Zahoor on the request of his former wife Sophia Mirza in March 2020 to get him on the Interpol database. Agencies

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Everyone benefits when countries talk to each other

Sinem Cengiz

A country's foreign policy toolbox consists of several means of diplomacy which is nowadays more comprehensive and multi-layered than ever. Today, diplomacy enlists other actors at the state level besides diplomats in shaping international relations, and they pursue different methods such as public diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, paradiplomacy, sports diplomacy and more.

As a complementary tool to traditional diplomacy driven by diplomats and foreign ministries, the developing concept of parliamentary diplomacy is gaining more attention. It involves elected members of a national parliament playing an important role in developing international relations and cooperation. Although parliaments are legislative bodies, most have foreign affairs committees and joint friendship groups that build and maintain relations between countries at the parliamentary level.

Members of the Turkey-Saudi Arabia Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group held talks in Riyadh last week to support the normalization process between the two countries. Saudi Shoura Council Speaker Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Asheikh hosted the Turkish Parliamentary Friendship Group chairman Halil Ozcan and his accompanying delegation. The meeting focused on ways to improve cooperation between the council and the Turkish parliament.

The Turkish delegation was the first to visit the Shoura Council since it began a new session on Oct.16. After the meeting, members of the friendship committee had

discussions at the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then moved to Jeddah for other contacts.

Meetings among other actors at the state level are important. Joint parliamentary friendship groups can play a critical role in institutionalizing relations on the state-to-state level and act as a crucial mechanism to deepen inter-parliamentary relations between countries.

Inter-parliamentary friendship groups are established mainly to develop cooperation between countries and parliaments, carry out official visits and exchange views on international affairs. There are now 147 inter-parliamentary friendship groups in the Turkish parliament, which recently established a new friendship group with Egypt and Libya. Turkey still does not have friendship groups with the parliaments of countries such as Greece, Syria and Armenia. Parliamentary friendship groups continue their contacts even at times of tension in bilateral relations and when other forms of diplomacy, including personal diplomacy, fail to solve the crises.

Although parliamentary diplomacy is by no means a substitute for state-level relations, it is important in supplementing official bilateral cooperation as a complementary forum that can serve strategic national interests and find common ground in ways that governments cannot. It enriches and stimulates traditional diplomatic channels. Thus, it is important to seize such incentives to emphasize the Turkish-Saudi normalization phase with institutional tools.

Perhaps one of the most significant initiatives that institutionalize political dialogue between Turkey and Saudi Arabia is the presence of the joint parliamentary friendship group, which continues to serve as a mecha-

nism of greater institutionalized collaboration.

Parliamentary diplomacy between Ankara and Riyadh can provide a forum to promote political dialogue. Turkish-Saudi relations based on solid institutional cooperation can enable the two countries to find other ways of dealing with misunderstandings in relations. Therefore, such meetings among parliamentary friendship groups, which should also include different voices within, need to be promoted and given more space at the state level.

Moreover, parliamentary diplomacy should also be supported with public diplomacy, which refers to government activities to enhance a country's image. For instance, Turkish soap operas have become non-governmental public diplomacy tools representing Turkey globally. It is noteworthy that the Saudi-owned MBC Group, the Middle East's largest broadcaster, has just signed a five-year partnership with two Turkish production houses. MBC expanding its Turkish content is a significant indicator that the Turkey-Saudi Arabia normalization process is being supported at different levels.

Thus, both public and parliamentary diplomacy are crucial for inter-state and societal relations. The resilience of Turkish-Saudi relations largely depends on utilizing several tools of diplomacy in relations. If Turkish-Saudi relations develop along stable institutional and organizational lines, the two countries and their societies will benefit in the long term.

Sinem Cengiz is a Turkish political analyst who specializes in Turkey's relations with the Middle East. Courtesy: Arab News

Exiting from FATF's grey list a remarkable achievement

The Financial Action Task Force has announced to formally remove Pakistan from its grey list. This was announced by FATF President T Raja Kumar in Paris on Friday. T Raja Kumar said Pakistan had been on the grey list since 2018 and after a lot of work by the Pakistani authorities, they completed a combined 34 action items to address deficiencies in the anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financing systems. Raja Kumar said FATF welcomes this significant progress as a result Pakistan can now more effectively tackle anti-money laundering and terror financing. He said an FATF team has verified that the reforms are in place and that there is a high-level of commitment and capacity to sustain those reforms. Raja Kumar said these reforms are good for the stability of the country and the region. Inclusion into grey list of FATF had been one of the major sources of strain on Pakistan's economy which created a lot of challenges for the country. Due to this nuisance created by our enemy, it cost us decline in foreign direct investment, dwindling foreign exchange reserves and a nerve racking experience for businesses in Pakistan. The banking sector also faced a stress as it had to operate under a lot of restrictions. Finally, due to our diplomatic lobbying efforts and various measures required to fulfill the FATF conditions, we are successfully out of this list. It will have an impact on flight of dollars from Pakistan and the price of rupee will appreciate vs. dollar. It will also open the door to foreign investments into the country. Prime minister rightly said it was the national endeavour and all the stakeholders played their role. It will also help bringing stability in the system with improvement in financial well-being of the country.

It is very good news that Pakistan has come out of FATF's grey list. We suffered for a long time under the list. Now, we are fully integrated into the international financial system which will help us work smoothly. Our banks will now be able to open the LCs without any issue, and foreign direct investment will pour into the country in various sectors. All the stakeholders played their full role in getting the country out of this penalty. Now, we need to be watchful in future in the areas of terror financing, money laundering and financial transactions. We have to ensure proper documentation of financial transactions of individuals as well as institutions.



Global health from the ground up

Paul Hudson

While the end of the Covid-19 pandemic may be "in sight," as the World Health Organisation (WHO) recently declared, the world faces numerous emerging health risks. Some are exacerbated by climate change, others by travel, online misinformation, food scarcity, poverty, or wars. Fortunately, the pandemic has taught us valuable lessons for managing these risks – and for helping vulnerable developing economies better prepare for future health crises.

The WHO's Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT-A) Accelerator has been a massive global effort that facilitated testing, treatment, and vaccination worldwide. But it is clear that ACT-A failed to address the longstanding structural obstacles that impeded vaccination rollouts in low- and middle-income countries. Doing so requires a new framework that emphasises local relationships with workers and entrepreneurs on the ground.

Developing countries have fewer health workers per capita than developed countries do. Africa, Southeast Asia, the eastern Mediterranean, and parts of Latin America face a shortfall of 5.9m nurses and 18m healthcare workers by 2030. In 2019, 13.8m infants worldwide did not benefit from routine immunisation services, including 8.8m from lower-income countries. It is hardly surprising, then, that only 16% of people in low-income countries have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose as of May, even though global supply now far outstrips demand.

Pharmaceutical companies have a crucial role to play in overcoming the various obstacles to boosting vaccination rates in lower-income countries. And, as we seek to ensure access for a broader array of treatments, the challenges extend beyond vaccinations.

Current efforts by several manufacturers, Sanofi among them, include providing a portfolio of essential medicines at cost. For example, Sanofi's Global Health Unit distributes 30 essential drugs – including insulin and treatments for cardiovascular disease, tuberculosis, malaria, and cancer – to 40 developing countries.

But while reducing treatment costs is vitally important, the pandemic demonstrated the need for a more holistic approach that views medicine, healthcare systems, and the global supply chain as interconnected challenges. As Covid-19 showed, assistance that does not empower local capabilities can do more harm than good, which is why companies must go beyond merely providing financial aid. To help improve access to healthcare in low- and middle-income countries, companies can tackle logistical and supply issues, use their data and analytics capabilities to assist frontline responders, and train local officials in innovative technologies.

Public-health experts around the world are increasingly focused on identifying and managing emerging diseases and hot spots and reshaping attitudes and behaviours, while technology facilitates the data collection and information-sharing needed to improve outcomes. But gathering and assessing these data depends on collaboration with traditional and non-traditional partners. Such efforts must move rapidly, be driven by local communities' priorities, and build on shared data derived from diagnostics, tracking, and modelling. During the pandemic, South Africa stood out for its prompt genomic sequencing, which involved co-operation among many actors and enabled the country to detect the Beta and Omicron variants early on.

Similarly, combining large data sets, computing power, and algorithms would allow public-health officials to monitor disease spread, material shortages, logisti-

cal challenges, and drug reactions. Cloud technology facilitates data mining, information-sharing, and research and development, and enables us to identify disease outbreaks, new pathogens, and communities most in need of immediate help.

To this end, the global public-health community should work together to enable innovation and cultivate entrepreneurial ecosystems by focusing on local startups. An Impact Fund to provide capital to local startups would need to be created, together with mechanisms for sharing skills and operational expertise. Sanofi Global Health's \$25m Impact Fund, launched in July, is already supporting local innovators that are able to deliver scalable solutions for sustainable health care in underserved regions.

Given lower-income countries' need for more medical workers, fostering local expertise is crucial. In emerging markets, local medical professionals and supply-chain experts must train to become "expert generalists" who can address pressing public-health concerns and reduce barriers to care.

Increasing access to health care in low-income countries in a meaningful way requires more than providing them with low-cost medicines. We need a new framework of co-operation to address the myriad interconnected challenges we face as we adapt to new technologies and nurture local innovation. As pharmaceutical companies, our job is to disrupt our own thinking and encourage on-the-ground innovators. This multi-pronged approach must centre on a sustainable, locally-driven care model designed to reach vulnerable populations. As the Nobel laureate economist Angus Deaton wrote, aid that gives but does not strengthen is unhelpful – and can even hinder future gains. – Project Syndicate

Paul Hudson is the CEO of Sanofi. Courtesy: Gulf Times

Every Afghan girl deserves a place in school

Gordon Brown and Yasmine Sherif

Thousands of women and girls have taken to the streets of Afghanistan's cities to protest the repeated violation of their right to an education. The trigger for the protests – occurring simultaneously with protests in Iran – was last month's terrorist attack on an education center in Kabul that killed 53 students and injured more than 110 – most of them girls and young women. But this was just the latest in a long series of attacks against female students, many of which targeted girls from the Hazara community.

September's deadly attack, which occurred as female students were getting ready to take a practice university entrance exam, came on the heels of an extremely damaging year for girls' education in Afghanistan.

When the Taliban took over Afghanistan following the US military's withdrawal in August 2021, its leaders promised to keep all primary, secondary, and tertiary schools open for both boys and girls. But it soon reneged. In March of this year, it barred girls from attending school beyond the sixth grade, effectively revoking the right to learn. When women in Kabul and other cities protested, Taliban forces responded violently, beating protesters and firing warning shots over their heads. Most of the 1,880 girls' secondary schools in Afghanistan are currently shuttered, and the Taliban has threatened to close those that remain in operation.

At the same time, increased levels of conflict and violence, together with a severe drought and a succession of economic shocks, have made Afghan girls and women more vulnerable. These developments have resulted in an even greater degradation of women's rights, as evidenced by Afghanistan's higher rates of early marriage and child labor since the Taliban takeover.

What makes the Taliban's decision to prohibit

girls' secondary education even more tragic is that it reversed two decades of significant progress in expanding girls' access to education in Afghanistan. The number of Afghan girls enrolled in school increased from just 100,000 in 2000 to more than 3.5 million in 2019, and female literacy doubled between 2011 and 2018. But while the Education Cannot Wait fund and its partners – including UNICEF, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and Save the Children – continue to try to reach these girls, the Taliban ban has undoubtedly forced many more girls out of school.

We must follow the lead of the Afghan women and girls protesting in the streets, risking their lives to fight for their fundamental rights, and take immediate action. For starters, the members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation must use their platform and demand that Afghanistan's de facto authorities ensure that secondary-school girls return to school and that educational institutions, teachers, and students, particularly girls, are protected from attacks. Moreover, every young and adolescent girl must be welcomed back into classrooms with the teachers, infrastructure, and supplies needed for a quality education.

Given the disastrous economic and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the international community must ensure that schools have sufficient resources to provide safe and protective spaces and quality education for all girls and boys, including those living with disabilities. We must also provide Afghan educators with the training and materials they need to teach their students.

Gordon Brown, a former prime minister and chancellor of the exchequer of the United Kingdom, is United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, Chair of Education Cannot Wait's High-Level Steering Group, and Chair of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. Yasmine Sherif is Director of Education Cannot Wait. Courtesy: Arab News

CPC congress concludes

Xi expresses confidence in creating new, greater miracles

The CPC congress has realized its goals of unifying thinking, fortifying confidence, charting the course, and boosting morale

BELJING: The Communist Party of China (CPC) is fully confident and capable of creating new and even greater miracles on the new journey of the new era, Xi Jinping said as the 20th CPC National Congress came to a conclusion Saturday.

The CPC congress has realized its goals of unifying thinking, fortifying confidence, charting the course, and boosting morale, Xi told 2,338 delegates and specially invited delegates present at the closing session of the weeklong congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. "This has been a congress of holding our banner high, pooling our strength, and promoting solidarity and dedication."

At the closing session presided over by Xi, the congress elected a new CPC Central Committee, with 205 members

and 171 alternate members, and a new Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) consisting of 133 members.

The congress passed a resolution on the report of the 19th CPC Central Committee, a resolution on the work report of the 19th CCDI, and a resolution on an amendment to the CPC Constitution.

"We believe that all the decisions and plans set out at the congress and all its outcomes will play a significant role in guiding and underpinning our efforts to build a modern socialist country in all respects, advance national rejuvenation on all fronts, and secure new victories for socialism with Chinese characteristics," Xi said.

Xi called on the delegates to firmly keep in mind the Party's original aspi-



ration and founding mission and the country's most fundamental interests, and firmly keep in mind that "this country is its people; the people are the country."

During the congress, the central

committees of other political parties, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce as well as public figures from all ethnic groups and all sectors in China offered their congratulations, as did members of the public through various means. Political parties and organizations in many countries around the world also sent congratulatory messages.

"The presidium of the congress wishes to express its heartfelt thanks to each and every one of them," Xi said.

Having come through a century of great endeavor, the Party is once again embarking on a new journey on which it will face new tests, Xi noted. "We are fully confident and capable of creating new and even greater miracles on the new journey of the new era -- miracles that will amaze the world." Xinhua

15 killed when passenger bus, truck collide in central India

NEW DELHI: Fifteen people were killed and dozens injured in a passenger bus accident in central India's Madhya Pradesh state, police said on Saturday. The crash occurred in Rewa district late Friday when the bus that was headed to northern Uttar Pradesh state, collided with a trolley truck, according to Navneet Bhasin, a top police officer in Rewa. He told Anadolu Agency that in addition to the deaths, "around 40 are injured in the accident. The injured are stable." Officials said the injured were transported to a hospital and rescue work continued throughout the night. Anadolu Agency

Far-right leader Giorgia Meloni sworn in as Italian premier

ROME: Giorgia Meloni, whose political party has neo-fascist roots, was sworn in on Saturday as Italy's first far-right premier.

Meloni, 45, took the oath of office before the Italian president at the presidential palace, becoming also the first woman to be the nation's premier. Her Brothers of Italy party was the top vote-getter in last month's national election. Meloni announced her Cabinet on Friday evening. Her coalition allies include the right-wing League of Matteo Salvini and the conservative Forza Italia party headed by former Premier Silvio Berlusconi. AP

Officials recover 36 bodies after attack in Nigeria's north

ABUJA, NIGERIA: At least 36 bodies have been recovered after gunmen attacked a village in northcentral Nigeria, officials said, prompting calls for the nation's government to license sophisticated guns for local guards. The gunmen reportedly arrived in a large group in the remote Gbeji community of Benue state Wednesday and opened fire on villagers in the latest deadly violence in the West African nation's troubled northern region. Two police officers were among those killed in the attack that left many injured, said Terver Akase, a spokesman for the Benue state government. Details of the incident remained sketchy Friday. Akase blamed the assault on herdsmen, while local media said it was a reprisal for herdsmen in the community being targeted by an earlier attack. Benue officials visited Gbeji on Friday and met with families of the victims, urging the national government to license sophisticated guns for the state's local security force to defend residents.

"The security agencies have been overstretched. That being the case, our people have to defend themselves," a government statement quoted Gov. Ortom's representative as saying.

Gabriel Suswam, who represents the affected area in Nigeria's Senate, said the Nigerian government "has failed woefully in the protection of lives and property." Such attacks are frequent in Nigeria's middle belt and central regions where deadly clashes between local communities and herdsmen have continued for many years, defying government and security measures. At least 14 people were killed in a similar incident in another part of Benue a month ago. The herdsmen are mostly young pastoralists from Nigeria's Fulani tribe caught up in a decades-long conflict between host communities and herdsmen over limited access to water and land. Attacks sometimes take a religious turn between Muslim and Christian communities amid Nigeria's deep religious divide and it is common for authorities to not announce any arrests in many cases. AP

Grand opening ceremony

Saudi Arabia starts Riyadh Season 2022

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Season 2022 started in its capital on Friday with a grand opening ceremony.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the General Entertainment Authority Turki Alalshikh inaugurated the opening ceremony of the city-wide celebration, which featured a drone show, performances from the internationally-known circus company Cirque du Soleil and British singer Anne-Marie, and fireworks.

Under the slogan "Beyond Imagination," this year marks the third edition of the Riyadh Season, one of the initiatives taken by Saudi Arabia to boost economic and tourist activity.

According to the Saudi Gazette report, Riyadh Season 2022 will include 8,500 entertainment, cultural, sports, and artistic activities that will be organized in 15 zones, each "represented by a unique entertaining figure."

The season was first launched in 2019 and succeeded in attracting more than 7 million visitors. Xinhua

Taliban kill six Daesh members in raid in Afghan capital

KABUL: Taliban security forces killed six Daesh members in an overnight operation in the Afghan capital, Kabul, a spokesman for the ruling group's administration said on Saturday. Daesh members killed in the raid on their hideout were involved in two major attacks in recent weeks, one on a city mosque and the other on a tutoring institute in which dozens of female students were killed, said the spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi. "They were the attackers of the Wazir Akbar Khan mosque and also ... of Kaaj Institute," said Ahmadi, who said one Taliban security force member was killed in the operation. No group claimed responsibility for either attack.

The blast at the female section of the Kaaj Institute education center on Sept. 30 killed 53 people, most of them girls and young women. On Sept. 23, at least seven people were killed and more than 40 wounded in blast near a mosque in Wazir Akbar Khan, a heavily fortified neighborhood once home to a "Green Zone" of embassies and foreign force bases. Agencies

Riyadh Season

RIYADH: Fireworks are seen during the opening ceremony of Riyadh Season 2022 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's Riyadh Season 2022 started in its capital on Friday with a grand opening ceremony. Under the slogan "Beyond Imagination," this year marks the third edition of the Riyadh Season, one of the initiatives taken by Saudi Arabia to boost economic and tourist activity.



Photo: Xinhua

Power cuts after Ukrainian infrastructure pounded again

Ukraine's air force reports that 33 missiles had been fired at Ukraine on Saturday morning

KYIV: Critical infrastructure across Ukraine was pounded by more than a dozen Russian missiles on Saturday, the Ukrainian air force said, with several regions reporting strikes on energy facilities and power outages.

Ukraine's air force command reported that 33 missiles had been fired at Ukraine on Saturday morning, and that 18 of those had been shot down.

Since Oct. 10, Russia has launched a series of devastating salvos at Ukraine's power infrastructure, which have hit at least half of its thermal power generation and up to 40% of the entire system.

Local officials in regions across Ukraine reported

strikes on energy facilities and power outages as engineers scrambled to restore the ruined network. Some advised residents to stock up on water in case of cut-offs.

After the first wave of missiles hit early in the morning, air raid sirens rang out again nationwide at 11.15am local time (0815 GMT).

State grid operator Ukrenergo said the attacks targeted transmission infrastructure in western Ukraine, but that power supply restrictions were being put in place in ten regions across the entire country, including in the capital, Kyiv.

"The scale of damage is comparable or may exceed

the consequences of the attacks (between) October 10-12," Ukrenergo wrote on the Telegram app, referring to the first wave of strikes on Ukraine's power system last week.

"Another rocket attack from terrorists who are fighting against civilian infrastructure and people," the Ukrainian president's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, wrote on the Telegram app.

Ukrainian forces shot down a Russian missile over the Kyiv region, local police chief Andriy Nyebytov said, posting a photograph of a column of smoke rising from a forest where he said the missile's debris had landed. Reuters

League of Islamic Universities launches climate action on campuses

NEW DELHI: The League of Islamic Universities will launch environment courses at the campuses of its member institutions, following a climate action summit held in India earlier this week. Based in Cairo, Egypt, the league is an association representing Islamic universities around the world.

Its members, including 200 universities from 60 countries, gathered at Jamia Markaz, an Islamic university in Kozhikode, Kerala, for the International Climate Action Summit on Oct. 17-20. The event was inaugurated by the league's secretary general, Dr. Osama Al-Abed, who urged global stakeholders to employ new strategies in addressing climate problems, as the world is "facing challenges that are structurally different from the past."

"Even a minor variation in the ecosystem in a remote village can have huge global impacts. The

human population across the globe is now entangled with each other in unprecedented ways," he said. "This demands policymakers and governments to resort to more international approaches toward issues such as climate change and come up with global solutions for even local issues."

The summit concluded with a joint declaration for climate action that obliges the league's members to include environmental science in their curricula and allocate resources for research on confronting climate change-related problems.

"We thought that the real community who has to work on climate change is students. In every country, if the universities go for some course on climate then the future generation would be working on climate change," Jamia Markaz rector Dr. Abdul Hakeem Al-Kandi told Arab News on Friday. Agencies

Trump ordered to testify in Capitol assault probe

Former US President was ordered to testify on his involvement in the January 6, 2021 violence

WASHINGTON: Lawmakers probing the 2021 attack on the US Capitol subpoenaed former president Donald Trump Friday to testify on his involvement in the violence, in a major escalation of their sprawling inquiry.

The summons came after the House panel of seven Democrats and two Republicans voted unanimously last week to compel Trump's appearance before investigators.

It requires the 76-year-old Republican to produce documents by November 4 and to appear for a deposition beginning on or around November 14 — the Monday after the crucial November 8 midterm elections.

"As demonstrated in our hearings, we have assembled overwhelming evidence, including from dozens of your former appointees and staff, that you personally orchestrated and oversaw a multi-part effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election and to obstruct the peaceful transition of power," the committee told Trump in a letter. The

White House declined to comment on the matter but offered the broad statement that it is "important to get to the bottom of January 6."

Subpoenas from the panel have proved difficult to enforce, with former White House aide Steve Bannon the only target convicted of contempt of

Congress for refusing to comply. Bannon was sentenced to four months in prison on Friday, although he remains out on bail pending an appeal.

Trump is notorious for his ability to run down the clock on congressional



investigations and legal action, and it remains highly unlikely that he would agree to give evidence.

The subpoena expires in any case with the new congressional term in January. Republicans are expected to win back the House of Representatives in November's elections, and plan immediately to end the investigation.

But the move marks an aggressive escalation of the probe, which has issued more than 100 subpoenas and interviewed more than 1,000 people since its launch in 2021.

While no sitting president has ever been forced to testify before Congress, lawmakers have summoned several former presidents to discuss their conduct in office.

Trump's compliance would mean testifying under oath and could result in being charged with perjury were he to lie.

If he refuses to comply, the full House can hold him in criminal contempt in a vote recommending him for prosecution, as it did with Bannon.

The panel unveiled reams of evidence across eight hearings in the summer on the former president's involvement in a complex series of connected schemes to overturn the 2020 election.

Witness testimony provided stunning examples of Trump and his allies pressuring election officials and trying to get lawfully cast votes nullified in swing states, and of Trump's inertia amid the mob uprising.

The committee also pressed its position that Trump — who continues to be a wellspring of disinformation about the 2020 presidential election — remains a "clear and present" threat to democracy. Lawmakers plan to release a final report by the end of the year. The committee has not announced whether it will make direct criminal referrals over the Capitol attack, although the move would amount to little more than a gesture as the Justice Department is already investigating. Agencies

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
42,137.04	42,226.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,422.22	42,097.31
Index Value	Change
3,909,105,647	-89.01
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	20 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
6,943.91	+18.92
Percentage	Time
0.27%	20 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
30,285.01	-138.80
Percentage	Time
0.46%	20 Oct, 2:26 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,006.96	-250.42
Percentage	Time
0.92%	20 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	139.96	141.21
Bahrain Dinar	587.6	592.1
Canadian Dollar	161.05	162.4
China Yuan	30.62	30.87
Danish Krone	29.18	29.53
Euro	217.6	219.8
Hong Kong Dollar	28.15	28.5
Indian Rupee	2.67	2.75
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.17
Kuwaiti Dinar	711.6	716.6
Malaysian Ringgit	46.72	47.17
New Zealand \$	126.37	127.57
Norwegians Krone	20.87	21.17
Omani Riyal	573.82	578.32
Qatari Riyal	60.7	61.2
Saudi Riyal	59.1	59.7
Singapore Dollar	155.59	156.89
Swedish Korona	19.72	20.02
Swiss Franc	220.85	222.6
Thai Bhat	5.8	5.9
U.A.E Dirham	61.2	61.9
UK Pound Sterling	249.5	252
US Dollar	222.7	224.9

Chinese delegation keen to explore investment scope in Pakistan

Co-Chairman PCBF says Forum would cooperate with ICCI in its efforts for new industrial zone in the region

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Pakistan-China Business Forum (PCBF) led by its Chairman Sheikh Nasir Ali visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and showed keen interest to explore business and investment opportunities in Pakistan. The delegation discussed various options to boost Pak-China business and investment cooperation. The delegation vowed to work jointly for facilitating the business matchmaking and sharing the relevant information regarding the B2B events, exhibitions and trade fairs.

Speaking at the occasion, Sheikh Nasir Ali, Chairman, PCBF said that the Forum was working to promote business linkages between Chinese and Pakistani companies to enhance business collaboration, joint ventures and investment between the two countries. He said that PCBF would bring more Chinese companies to Pakistan for JVs and investment in special economic zones of Pakistan being set up in CPEC.

Sheikh Ejaz, Co-Chairman PCBF said that their Forum would cooperate with ICCI in its efforts for a new industrial zone in the region as it would improve Pakistan's exports, reduce imports and attract more investment from China as well. He said that by investing in Pakistan, Chinese companies can export to Africa, Middle East and other countries. He said that a showroom would be set up in China to display Pakistani products in order to improve their exports.

Liu Shao Hong, Vice Chairman PCBF said that Chinese companies were interested to invest in green energy in Pakistan and PCBF would like to work with ICCI to bring Chinese



investors to Pakistan.

Addressing the delegation, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Chinese companies should transfer technology and set up industrial units in Pakistan to produce imports substitutions. He said that Pakistan's annual imports of electronics was around US\$ 10 billion and Chinese companies should invest

in Pakistan to produce electronics goods. He said that many sectors of Pakistan's economy including IT, engineering, manufacturing, construction, tourism, warehousing, cold chain logistics, air freight & transportation, trucking and urban transport offered great investment opportunities and stressed that Chinese investors should take advantage of them by investing in Pakistan.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Cdr (Rtd) Muhammad Ayub Director PCBF, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Shaukat Masud, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Baser Daud, Ameer Hamza, Dr. M. Usman, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and offered useful proposals for promoting Pak-China bilateral trade and economic relations.

Festival of North will promote tourism based SMEs

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Festival of North will prove to be a big milestone in promotion of the tourism based SMEs in the country. It was stated by Hashim Raza, Chief Executive Officer of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) while addressing the inaugural ceremony of the four-day business and cultural fair jointly organized by SMEDA and PTDC in Gilgit Baltistan's upper Hunza town "Passu". The inaugural ceremony was largely attended by the local and foreign tourists along with the high officials of SMEDA, PTDC and government of GB, who spoke on this occasion.

CEO SMEDA said that Tourism is closely linked with SMEs in hospitality services, tour guides, sports activities and products like souvenirs, eatables and handicrafts. But, they have not been able to take full advantage of the growing tourism in Pakistan due to the limited range of products and services, which also lack in product development, diversification, categories, packaging, visibility and marketing. Though services have been improved but are still not at par with world standards. Hashim Raza told that Tourism had been identified in the recent SME Policy as a priority sector, therefore, promotion of SMEs within the tourism sector is part of the main action plan

of the SME Policy and Festival of the North will prove to be a strong opening towards this direction by bringing all stakeholders of the sector together. The Festival will include a lot of attractions for visitors as well as for SMEs that include SME stalls, Local foods, Cultural Music, Bonfire, Camping eats. This is our first year and we will focus on brining tourists to SMEs at the festival, he said adding that Products would be displayed and through other attractions, people would be encouraged to buy SME products and services, he said adding that on government level, our ministry of Industries & Production as well as Govt of GB were fully supporting our initiative

and PTDC had partnered as a main organizer along with the private sector that had also stepped up with active participation. Since it is not a one-time activity therefore, we will work with local SMEs throughout the next year and keep improving their standards for a bigger better festival in 2023, CEO SMEDA said. Under the current Festival, the festivities have been spread from Passu to various towns across Gojal valley, he said assuring that "Festival of the North" would be continued as an annual episode by focusing on improvement and diversification of the products and services of the local SMEs.

FBR played key role in exit from FATF grey list

Chairman FBR commends efforts of officials who worked for exiting from FATF grey list



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad Saturday felicitated all the government organizations and their key personnel including the concerned officers of Inland Revenue Service and Pakistan Customs who worked tirelessly for the removal of Pakistan from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

In a press statement, the Chairman FBR reiterated unflinching resolve and an unwavering commitment to continue implementing the anti-money laundering and combating terror financing regimes in the areas supervised by FBR.

He said that like many other governmental organizations, FBR has played a key role in completing the FATF action plans relating to Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs), cash smuggling, investigating tax crimes for money laundering and confiscating the proceeds of tax frauds.

In 34 items of the FATF

action plans, FBR has directly dealt with at least 8 actions and spearheaded the process of their implementation, he said adding that in order to ensure compliance with regard to DNFBPs, FBR has issued anti money laundering and counter terror financing regulations, conducted extensive outreach programs to educate about DNFBPs.

It also established a dedicated IT-based DNFBP Management System, launched customized mobile App for registrations and screening purposes, carried out a large number of onsite inspections and imposed a wide range of penalties for non-compliance, he added.

Similarly, he said that in the area of cash smuggling, FBR Customs has fortified cross-border controls and implemented a comprehensive mechanism to combat cash smuggling by all means possible, adding that FBR has also undertaken a large number of money laundering investigations against the tax crimes and made significant confiscations in this regard.

Agri-Economy

ISLAMABAD: labourers unloading Cauliflower vegetable from a loading van at vegetable market in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

President FCCI expresses concern that govt treated refunds as its own property

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Three to four times every year refund claim stoppage creates unnecessary financial complications for the exporters, which adversely affects the efforts to increase exports. Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq said this while meeting a delegation of export businessmen.

He said that the government institutions should understand about the refund that it is actually the capital of the exporters and the government is obliged to return it. He said that the government uses the capital of the exporters to solve its financial problems, while due to this, the exports are hit by the disruption in the cash flow of the exporters.

He said that in the current situation, the government urgently needs to increase exports to improve the constantly decreasing reserves of foreign exchange. He expressed concern that the government has treated refunds as its own property, which are paid at the request of the exporters, even though there should be a clean, transparent and ultra-fast computerized system for its payment. Refund to concerned exporters account only after 24 hours of exports should be transferred.

LCCI holds seminar on 'empowering women through facilitation'

LAHORE: Economic empowerment of the women should be cornerstone of the government's agenda for a sustainable economic development of the country.

This was stated by the President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Kashif Anwar while speaking at a seminar on "Empowering Women through Facilitation" at the LCCI. LCCI Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Senior Deputy Chief Manager, State Bank of Pakistan Muhammad Tahir, Syed Hassan Ali Qadri, Head International Resource Center, Lahore College

University Dr. Hifsa Batool, Faisal Wahab and LCCI EC Member Fariha Younas also spoke on the occasion.

The LCCI President said that said Lahore Chamber has declared this year as the business compliance and facilitation year. He said that LCCI is a facilitator and not a policy maker. He said that importance of women empowerment should be realized, islam has raised the status of women from below the earth to so high that paradise lies at her feet. He said that women empowerment is one of the most vital issues which should be addressed on priority.

It holds the key for the betterment of our families, society and ultimately the economy of country.

LCCI Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood gave a detailed briefing on tax incentives and LCCI membership for women entrepreneurs. He said that many women entrepreneurs have complained that the relevant information is not communicated to them so that serious efforts are being made to take all relevant Government departments on board for providing information to the women entrepreneurs He said that

many women entrepreneurs have the misconception that LCCI can financial assist them.

He said LCCI is a facilitator body. LCCI Executive Committee Member Fareeha Younas said that that it is her vision to facilitate women entrepreneurs. She also called for timely dissemination of the business related information for the women. She requested the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry to support women from SME sector who have limited market access. She said that a permanent display center should be made for women

entrepreneurs at LCCI. She said that many women entrepreneurs from rural areas have brilliant ideas but have not a platform to implement their ideas.

Senior Deputy Chief Manager, State Bank of Pakistan Muhammad Tahir gave a detailed presentation on "Loans offered at low interest rate by different banks for Women Entrepreneurs." He also threw light on Punjab Rozgar Scheme, Exclusive Account Services for women in banks, Sindh Bank's Mohtar-ma Account, MCB Ladies Account and Faysal Islami Amal Women accounts Syed M. Hassan Ali Qadri also gave

a presentation on "Tax Incentives for Women Entrepreneurs." He also discussed Taxpayers and Its Categories.

Presentation on "Women Empowerment" by Dr. Hafsa Batool, Head of International Resource Center (DFDI), Lahore College for Women University. She discussed women empowerment, Economic Empowerment, Familial/ Interpersonal Empowerment, Psychological Empowerment, Legal Empowerment, Political Empowerment, Socio-Cultural/Social Empowerment, Digital empowerment and Policy Suggestions. Agencies

T20 World Cup

Babar Azam upbeat ahead of India clash

Says Pakistan have match-winners; confirms Fakhar will not play against India

MELBOURNE: Pakistan's captain Babar Azam has backed his team ahead of the T20 World Cup game against India saying that he has full confidence in all members of the squad and any player can win a match for the team on any given day.

Talking to journalists at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), Babar said that team doesn't rely on two players and anyone can win the match for Pakistan.

"It is not a correct impression that our team is just a two men show," the Pakistani captain responded when a journalist claimed that the Pakistan team mainly depends on the batting duo of Babar and Rizwan.

"We have players who can win matches and they've won games for Pakistan in past. As captain, I have full confidence in every member of my side," said the Pakistani captain.

Pakistan have defeated India in two of

their last three encounters in 12 months and Babar is confident of continuing with the momentum but warned against any complacency.

"In T20s, you can not afford mistakes and you can not take any team lightly. You've to be at your best," he said.

"We have our plans in place and will try to execute them properly on Sunday," Babar said.

The Pakistani captain added that players from both teams are respectful to each other on and off the field.

"As sportsmen, we are taught to respect our opponents and we have good terms with all the players; when we are competing, we give 100% for our team, rest we all are on good terms with each other," he said.

Babar also confirmed that Fakhar Zaman will not be available for selection while Shan Masood is fully fit and available for the game against India.



"Fakhar is not fully fit yet, he will take a few more days so he is not available tomorrow. Shan has fully recovered and fully fit and has cleared his tests," Babar said.

Replying to a question, the Pakistani captain said that weather is not in

anyone's control but he would like to see a contest of full 40 overs being played on Sunday.

However, he added that team is prepared for any situation.

Babar said that a final XI is in his mind but it will be finalised only after seeing the conditions.

The Pakistani skipper said that Haris Rauf has played a lot of cricket at MCG and has shared information about the venue.

He also praised the fast bowler for his recent performances.

"Haris has been an outstanding bowler for us and one of the most improved players we have. He recently played tremendously, especially in absence of Shaheen," Babar said.

"Having players like Shadab and Nawaz also gives us an advantage, they're sort of players who can bat any position for us," the skipper added. Agencies

UB Sports beat FFC by 10 wickets

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: In Professor Mukhtar Butt Memorial cricket Tournament match UB Sports beat FFC by 10 wickets and achieved the convincing victory.

FFC won the toss and batting first they scored 143 all out Usman 23, Saad Lodhi 22, and Mohsin Naveef 35 were the main features of the inning from UB Sports Tawab got 3/11, while Arshad Butt, Mujahid Ilyas, and Rehmat Sharif got two wicket each. In reply UB Sports achieved the target of 144 in 13.4 overs Iqbal unbeaten 72, with the help of seven fours and four sixes while Waheed also unbeaten 62 with mine fours and one six Syed Shahid Hussain was the cricket commentator.

Formula One planning female junior series

AUSTIN: Formula One is planning to set up an all-female junior series to help women racers climb the motorsport ladder, according to media reports.

Sky Sports television and other media said the series could debut as early as 2023 with a focus on 16- to 22-year-old drivers.

They said it would complement the existing W Series, which cancelled its last three races this season after running into financial difficulties but whose organisers are confident it will return in 2023.

Motorsport.com suggested any new series would use Formula Four cars with the new series feeding into Formula Three and Formula Two.

W Series, a free-to-enter championship which has been part of the F1 support programme at selected races this season, uses mechanically identical Tatuus Formula Three cars.

Formula One would not confirm the reports but said it was committed to ensuring greater opportunity for talented female racers to progress and would provide more details in due course.

No female driver has started a grand prix since the late Italian Lella Lombardi, also the only woman to score a top six finish, in 1976.

Seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton told reporters on Thursday that he felt Formula One could have done more to help W Series and female racers.

"There has not been enough focus on women in sport, the whole of Formula One's life, and there's not enough emphasis on it now," said the Briton.

"There is not enough representation across the board, within the industry," added the Mercedes driver.

"And there's not really a pathway for those young, amazing drivers to even get to Formula One, and then you have some people who say we're never going to see a female F1 driver ever. So that's not a good narrative to be putting out." Reuters

Struggling Juve cruise past Empoli

MILAN: Juventus comfortably beat Empoli 4-0 in Friday's Serie A match ahead of their Champions League clash at Benfica which could seal their elimination from Europe's top club competition.

Goals in each half from Moise Kean and Weston McKennie and a late Adrien Rabiot brace gave struggling Juve their second straight win in Italy's top flight, the first time this league season that they have managed to win two matches in a row.

Massimiliano Allegri's side moved up to seventh, seven points behind Serie A leaders Napoli and three away from Roma who sit in fourth and host the pacesetters at the Stadio Olimpico on Sunday night. Kean's eighth minute opener, tapped in from Filip Kostic's cross, was his first league goal of the season and rewarded Allegri's decision to start the Italy international ahead of in-form forward Arkadiusz Milik. The 22-year-old thought he had another shortly after McKennie headed in Juve's second in the 56th minute, a header of his own from another Kostic ruled out for offside. It was France international Rabiot who rounded off the scoring, first forcing another header just across the line from Juan Cuadrado's corner with eight minutes remaining before tapping home the fourth in stoppage time. Empoli sit 11th on 11 points after their fourth defeat of the season in which the closest they came to scoring was when Mattia Destro wasted a great chance to equalise one-on-one with Wojciech Szczesny in the 33rd minute. Friday's match served as a warm up to Juve's trip Lisbon to take on Benfica with elimination from the Champions League staring them in the face. Juve are five points behind both their hosts on Tuesday and Group H leaders Paris Saint-Germain and have to win their final two matches to have any chance of making it through to the last 16. AFP

Deschamps not worried about France's run of form

PARIS: France manager Didier Deschamps said he was not worried about disappointing results over the last few months as "Les Bleus" only have won one of their last six games. Deschamps' squad ended up third in League A Group 1 of the Nations League after losses at home to Denmark and Croatia and a draw with Austria. "We're the defending world champions. When you're at the very top, it's difficult to do any better," Deschamps told the FIFA website. "It's perfectly normal for a team to go on slightly less successful runs, but France remains a really competitive force and are among the top teams in Europe and the world." France will come up against Australia, Denmark and Tunisia in Group D of the World Cup, with Denmark being seen as the biggest threat to the current champions. They're a very strong side and are most likely underrated. They're not a team people tend to talk about all that much, but they possess individual quality and are a strong unit," Deschamps said. "Their performance at the latest Euros and position on the World Ranking tells you all you need to know. On paper, they definitely provide the biggest threat." The 54-year-old, who celebrated 10 years as manager for France this summer, warned about the other two teams in the group, adding that Australia knocked out Peru in the qualifying play-off for the tournament.

Kiwis thrash defending champions

Devon Conway carried his bat with a majestic unbeaten 92 to help New Zealand blast 200-3 before Australia were skittled for 111 in Sydney to make a nightmare start to their title defence.



Photo: Twitter

NZ thrash defending champions Australia at T20 WC

Australia next meet Sri Lanka in Perth on Tuesday

SYDNEY: New Zealand thrashed hosts and defending champions Australia by 89 runs on Saturday to start the Twenty20 World Cup Super 12 in style and avenge defeat in last year's final.

Devon Conway carried his bat with a majestic unbeaten 92 to help New Zealand blast 200-3 before Australia were skittled for 111 in Sydney to make a nightmare start to their title defence.

Conway's knock came from just 58 balls with seven fours and two sixes, joining a select group to make 90 or more at a World Cup. Mitchell Santner and Tim Southee both took three wickets each.

It was New Zealand's first win against Australia in Australia in any format since 2011.

The match at a sold-out Sydney Cricket Ground was a repeat of the 2021 final in Dubai when Australia powered to an eight-wicket win and maiden crown.

Aaron Finch's men now have their work cut out to match the feat in a tough Group 1 with Afghanistan, England and qualifiers Ireland and Sri

Lanka awaiting them. Only the top two make the semi-finals.

New Zealand got off to a sensational start after Finch sent them in to bat, with Finn Allen cracking two fours and a six off Mitchell Starc's opening over.

Not to be outdone, Conway then crunched two blistering boundaries off Josh Hazlewood as the Black Caps plundered 29 from the first two overs.

Adam Zampa dropped Allen in the next over as Pat Cummins was similarly punished, taken for 17.

But the young right-hander's luck ran out when Hazlewood returned and the wily pace spearhead bowled him for 42 -- off just 16 balls -- as he charged down the crease.

The introduction of Marcus Stoinis and Zampa helped stem the run flow, but Conway brought up his 50 with a six off the spinner Zampa, who trapped Kane Williamson (23) lbw in the same over.

Hazlewood removed Glenn Phillips for 12 before Jimmy Neesham hit a six off the final ball to reach 200.

Australia's chase started badly when

David Warner, the player of the tournament in the 2021 event, fell for three in the second over, dragging the ball onto his stumps off Southee.

Finch (13) hit a giant six off Trent Boult but didn't last much longer, striking Santner straight to Williamson at cover as his miserable form continued.

It was a similar story for Mitchell Marsh, briefly hitting big to make 16 before being caught by Neesham going for another slog to leave Australia teetering at 34-2 in the fifth over.

Phillips pulled off one of the catches of the tournament so far to remove Stoinis for seven, leaping full length to his left as he ran from deep cover.

And when the big-hitting Tim David, preferred to Steve Smith, became Santner's third wicket, out for 11, it was all but over at 68-5 in the 11th over.

Matthew Wade (two) and Glenn Maxwell (28) were their last hope with the tailenders offering little resistance.

Australia next meet Sri Lanka in Perth on Tuesday while New Zealand face Afghanistan in Melbourne a day later. AFP

Bahawalpur Royals win final of first edition of PjL

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Bahawalpur Royals won the final of first edition of Pakistan Junior League when they played ruthless cricket to defeat Gwadar Sharks by 85 runs in front of over 10,000 spectators and PCB cameras at the Gaddafi Stadium on Friday evening.

Bahawalpur's X-factor category players Shahwaiz Irfan and Mohammad Tayyab Arif struck electrifying half-centuries to help their side score 66.66 per cent runs in boundaries to post event's highest total of 225 for three after being put into bat. Gwadar Sharks came out all guns blazing when they raced to 103 for four in the first half of the innings before collapsing to 140 all-out in 15 overs.

It was a sweet revenge for Bahawalpur Royals who had suffered a crushing eight-wicket defeat against Gwadar Sharks in the first Qualifier on Tuesday. In the preliminary round match, 12th of the competition, Bahawalpur Royals had defeated Gwadar Sharks by eight wickets.

Lahore-born Central Punjab right-handed opener Shahwaiz, named player of the final, was in sublime form when he stroked the fastest half-century of the tournament from 16 balls on way to an eye-catching 79 from 32 balls. His blistering innings included seven fours and six sixes -- most by a batter in an innings in this first-of-its-kind tournament.

In the company of Dera Murad Jamali-born Basit Ali, Shahwaiz switched a 95-run first wicket partnership in 46 balls, including a record 86 for no wicket at the end of the PowerPlay overs. Basit, who finished the tournament as the top-scorer with 379 runs with one century and two half-centuries, scored 35 from 23 balls with four fours and two sixes. He was later adjudged best batter and player of the tournament.

After Momin Qamar sent both the openers in the hut in a space of 29 runs, Sialkot-born Mohammad Tayyab Arif joined forces with Afghanistan's left-handed batter Nangeyalia Kharote to add 87 runs for the third wicket in 53 balls.

Tayyab, who notched up his maiden half-century in 29 balls, scored a 34-ball 56 with seven fours and a six, whereas Nangeyalia belted three fours and two sixes in a 30-ball 47 not out.

If Bahawalpur batters collected 124 for two in the first half of the innings, they maintained the momentum by adding 101 runs for the loss of one wicket in the second half of the innings to finish with 225 for three. Gwadar Sharks' run-chase was led by left-handed Shamyul Hussain, who scored a 34-ball 67 with seven fours and four sixes. However, when he became Mohammad Zeeshan's scalp at the total of 96 in 9.1 overs, it was the beginning of the end for the side that had topped the points table with four wins in five matches, which became five wins.

'Show your best game': Ramiz tells Pakistan ahead of T20 WC

PCB chairman says Australia difficult for Pakistani batters

LAHORE: Before the Babar Azam-led team left for Australia ahead of the T20 World Cup, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ramiz Raja advised the captain to dream of winning the international tournament and bringing the trophy home.

The Men In Green will start their T20 World Cup journey tomorrow (Sunday) with the first game scheduled against archrivals India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

"World Cup is a mind game. It is a task of not losing courage and a fulfillment of a dream -- which is to win a world cup," he said, speaking to Geo News.

The former cricketer advised the team's captain to dream about winning and remind himself that there is no option but to win the mega event.

Ramiz expressed hope that Pakistan will win the world cup.

Before the team left to participate in the T20 event, the board's chairman also shared some tips with them to play in Australia -- where he played as a member of Pakistan's World Cup-winning team in 1992.

He said that Australian pitches are usually difficult for Pakistani batters and they will have to increase their bat's speed in a technical way because the ball's pace accelerates after its bounces back from the ground.

"In Pakistan, players get the time to play shots, but that's not the case in Australia," he shared, advising bowlers not to experiment a lot.

Ramiz further added that Pakistan has a team that can win, while performances may fluctuate.



"The other team can also play well some day or the weather might play a role [in the match]. But fans must support the team, as it is the best to have been sent to [play] the

field," Ramiz remarked.

The board's chief, in his message to the team, advised them to play with utmost morale and courage.

"Play while considering yourselves as the world champions. Show your best game," he said, encouraging the Green Shirts to compete.

He added that even if the team loses after fighting, no one will have a problem.

"Fans have an emotional attachment to the team," he said.

The PCB chairman highlighted that Pakistan's bowling attack is brilliant and Shaheen Afridi's return will have a huge impact on the team.

"The dressing room comes alive with Shaheen's presence. His existence refreshes the team with hopes of winning," Ramiz said. Agencies