



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
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کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے ہر چیز
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(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5530)

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RAWALPINDI

UN calls Arshad Sharif's death 'tragic', urges probe

The United Nations Monday called for a thorough investigation of the circumstances in which senior Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif was shot and killed in Kenya. "I saw the tragic reports about the incident," UN Secretary-General's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in response to a question at the regular noon briefing at the UN Headquarters in New York.



Rishi Sunak to become Britain's next PM after months of turbulence

Rishi Sunak will become Britain's next prime minister after he won the race to lead the Conservative Party, leaving him with the task of steering a deeply divided country through an economic downturn set to leave millions of people poorer.

News on Page 5

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PM condemns unfounded sloganeering against state institutions



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday condemned the raising of slogans by certain participants against the state institutions at a conference held in Lahore on Sunday and stressed for display of more responsibility at the public level.

The prime minister said that under the Constitution, the coalition government and his party, PML-N were determined to ensure the freedom of expression of every citizen.

The government itself provided such forums to the citizens to express their views and difference of opinion over the issues of public importance, PM Office Media Wing in a press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister regretted the use of such forums for the political purposes and targeting of the state institutions, especially the armed forces, adding their officers and Jawans had been sacrificing their lives for the protection of the country and securing it against all internal and external threats.

He assured the nation that they would ensure the basic right of the freedom of expression and said that he condemned the unnecessary slogans, raised against the state institutions.

Economic cooperation

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif witnessing the signing ceremony of \$1.5 Billion Loan Agreement under BRACE Program of ADB in Islamabad on Monday.



Photo: PID

Tragic incident

Arshad Sharif shot dead in 'mistaken identity' case

PM Shehbaz directs Foreign, Interior Ministries to expedite repatriation of Arshad Sharif's body

Spokesman Report

NAIROBI: Kenyan police on Monday confirmed senior journalist and former anchorperson of ARY News Arshad Sharif was shot dead by the police in a 'mistaken identity' case. The incident took place when he was travelling to Nairobi from the country's Magadi town.

According to Kenyan media, Arshad Sharif was shot in the head and killed by police after he and his driver allegedly breached a roadblock. Detailing the incident, the Kenyan media quoting the police said that the manned roadblock had received information to intercept a car similar to the one, Arshad Sharif and his driv-



er were in, following a carjacking incident in Nairobi in which a child was allegedly taken hostage. The Kenyan police further said the Pakistani journalist was asked to stop for identification but he allegedly drove past the roadblock. This led to a brief chase and shooting that left the journalist dead, it added. "We had an incident of shooting which turned out to be a case of mistaken identity involving a journalist. We will release more

PM phones Kenyan president for impartial probe into Arshad Sharif's killing

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday telephoned Kenyan President William Ruto and emphasised for an impartial and fair investigation into the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif. Discussing the tragic incident with the Kenyan president, the prime minister also conveyed serious concerns of the Pakistan nation and the media community. He also requested the Kenyan president to fast-track the fulfillment of formalities for returning the body of late journalist to Pakistan.

information later," the Kenyan media said.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) sought a report from the interior and foreign ministries into the alleged killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya. Barrister Shoab Razaq moved the plea against the alleged killing of Arshad Sharif in Kenya. Hearing the plea, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah asked about the body of the senior journalist. Where is the body of Arshad Sharif? asked IHC CJ. The body is currently in Nairobi, Barrister Shoab Razaq replied.

PM in Riyadh to attend FII Summit

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday arrived here on a two-day visit, mainly to attend the Future Investment Initiative Summit being held from October 25-27.

The prime minister is visiting the Kingdom at the invitation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman bin Abdulaziz.

At the airport, the Governor of Riyadh Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz Al Saud received the prime minister who was accompanied by a delegation comprising the federal ministers.

During his stay in Riyadh, the prime minister will hold consultations with the Saudi Crown Prince to review the longstanding fraternal relations, with a view to further strengthening the multi-faceted cooperation, especially in the economic field, according to the Foreign Office.

Prior to his departure, the

prime minister in a series of tweets said the present state of the global economy needed "new thinking and bold vision to overcome the irritants and forge new paths".

"The pandemic and climate-induced disasters have already put immense strains on the developing countries," he said, adding that it was high time the world explored solutions to the deepening challenges through candid dialogue.

The FII summit will convene the world's foremost CEOs, policymakers, investors, entrepreneurs, and young leaders to shape the future of international investment and the global economy.

The event will include in-depth conversations about new pathways for global investment; analysis of critical industry trends; and unparalleled networking among CEOs, world leaders, and experts. APP

Azam Nazeer resigns as Law Minister

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar has tendered his resignation for 'personal reasons'.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar's resignation came after he was spotted in the Asma Jahangir Conference where audiences chanted slogans against the institutions.

Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar sent his handwritten resignation to President Dr Arif Alvi. He stated that he could not perform duties as a federal minister for personal reasons.

He also expressed sorrow over the sloganeering against the national institutions during the closing ceremony of the Asma Jahangir Conference in Lahore on Sunday.

"I am disappointed the way a small group of participants



behaved at AJCON22 today by unnecessarily chanting slogans against state institutions not listing to the achievements so far made for their benefits. We must respect each other's point of view - hallmark of democratic society," he tweeted. Agencies

ADB to provide \$1.5b for Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Asian Development Bank's "Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditure" (BRACE) Program would go a long way to improve Pakistan's financial position and help flood victims, besides building the resilience and infrastructure.

The prime minister, addressing the signing ceremony of \$1.5 billion program here, thanked the ADB Masatsugu Asakawa and his team for extending timely support to Pakistan at a "critical time."

He said the ADB had always been a great partner and recalled the institution's support for the solarisation of schools and other projects during his stint as the chief minister of Punjab.

The agreement was signed by Secretary Economic Affairs Division Kazim Niaz and the Country Director of ADB Yong Ye. In his remarks, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar recalling his "fruitful" meeting with the ADB president in Washington, said the organization had always supported Pakistan in a pragmatic way and also thanked the Bank's vice president for the timely support. He said the incumbent government was struggling to deal with the economic challenges inherited from the previous government.

He said the floods had inflicted the loss of around \$32.4 billion loss to the country and reiterated the government's resolve to bring the country to the normalcy.

According to ADB statement, the \$1.5 billion countercyclical support is part of a significant response package to support people, livelihoods, and infrastructure in Pakistan in the wake of the recent floods which have affected over 33 million people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure and agriculture.

JCP recommends elevation of Justice Athar Minallah to SC

ISLAMABAD: The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) on Monday recommended the elevation of Islamabad High Court's Chief Justice Athar Minallah to fill the vacant office of judge in the Supreme Court. A meeting of the JCP was held under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial. During the meeting, the Judicial Commission recommended the appointment of three judges in the apex court. The judges who were recommended include Justice Shahid Waheed, Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Hasan Azhar Rizvi.

On the other hand, Justice Shafi Siddiqui's name was postponed due to a lack of consensus while the commission sent the recommendations to the parliamentary committee for approval. It is pertinent to mention that the legal fraternity including Pakistan Bar Council and Sindh Bar Council, and the top court judge Justice Qazi Faez Isa have expressed their reservations over the nominations of the high court judges. Agencies

In Toshakhana case

ECP releases detailed verdict on IK's disqualification

It says ECP is proper forum and has jurisdiction to decide in this matter

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday released its detailed verdict in the Toshakhana reference that led to the disqualification of PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

The detailed order, which has the signatures of all five members of the bench, was issued today after the former premier approached the Islamabad High Court against the electoral body.

On Friday, the electoral body disqualified Imran Khan under Article 63(1) (p) for making "false statements and incorrect declaration" regarding the Toshakhana gifts.

Headed by the Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, the ECP's five-member bench unanimously ruled against the former prime minister.

The commission, in its judgment, stated that the PTI chief is no more a member of the National Assembly and deemed his response "not correct".

The detailed order comes after PTI had raised objections over the delay in its release. The 36-page order released noted that the petitioners submitted that the respondent did not disclose gifts and precious items which he acquired from foreign countries in the statement of assets and liabilities filed



before the ECP from the year 2017-2021.

He added that the list attached with the reference clearly shows the nature of gift items which included flower vases, watches, cufflinks, and decoration pieces, and rules 6(i) can be retained if the price of the item is less than Rs30,000/- and where the valued amount is more than Rs30,000 can be retained subject to deposit of 50% of the value amount of gift received.

"He added that the Election Commission of Pakistan is the proper forum and has jurisdiction to decide the matter," the detailed verdict read. It was also mentioned that it was the obligation of the respondent to declare complete details of assets whether in the shape of gifts or amounts including the transfer of any assets to any during the financial year in the annual statement of assets and liabilities along with

details and its cost value in a column in column number 2 and 3 of Form-B (remarks).

"The commission has the jurisdiction to inquire into any matter or objection raised by any person including a reference from Speaker against any member of the Parliament or an assembly regarding concealment, false or misdeclaration in the statement of assets and liabilities after 120 days," the verdict read.

The document mentioned that the disqualification of the members may be made under any law for the time being in force. "In the instant case Elections Act, 2017 is the relevant law, and the violation or non-compliance or misdeclaration made by any Member of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) comes under the ambit of disqualification and the commission has the jurisdiction to adjudicate upon the question of disqualification on any of the grounds mentioned in Article 63(1).

"The commission is also competent to direct filing of a criminal complaint under Section 190 for violation of sections 137,167 and Section 173 of the Elections Act, 2017 which is a criminal liability while misdeclaration, false declaration, and concealment of assets also bear civil liabilities," it read. Agencies

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Pak-Iran ties

Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb held a meeting with Mohammad Mehdi Ismaili Minister of Culture and Guidance of Iran on the sidelines of OIC Islamic Conference of Information Ministers in Istanbul on Monday.



Photo: PID

PFUJ demands inquiry into incident Arshad Sharif's killing

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) president Afzal Butt on Monday demanded the state to conduct an inquiry into the martyrdom of senior journalist and former ARY News anchor Arshad Sharif in Kenya's capital of Nairobi.

Talking to a private tv channel, the PFUJ president expressed his grief on the tragic demise of Arshad Sharif and demanded of the Pakistan government to investigate the matter.

The responsibility of investigating the matter lies on the State of Pakistan and the findings should be made public, Afzal Butt said.

He also urged the federal government to make arrangements to bring back the body of senior journalist Arshad Sharif to Pakistan for final rituals.

The senior journalist embraced martyrdom after an accident in the outskirts of Kenya's Nairobi city. Police in Kenya have confirmed his death and have opened an investigation into the accident which likely involved a gun attack. Agencies

Kashmir's freedom 'main aim' of Pakistan at UN

Munir Akram says Pakistan will continue to press for implementation of UNSC resolutions on Kashmir dispute

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan's 'primary aim' at the United Nations is to secure the recognized right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, Ambassador Munir Akram said in a UN Day message in which he highlighted the country's active role in various forums of the world body.

"Pakistan has a long history of active participation and constructive leadership at the UN on development, security, human rights, and other issues," he said, having served 8 times on the Security Council; it was elected 6 times as the President of the Economic and Social Council; and has been almost continuously on the Human Rights Council.

Pakistan, he said, is one of major contributors of troops to UN peacekeeping - contributing 200,000 troops in 47 UN peacekeeping missions - with an outstanding record of performance.

On the Kashmir dispute, Ambassador Akram said Pakistan had welcomed the UN Secretary-General statement that the

Jammu and Kashmir dispute should be resolved on the basis of "the UN Charter and the Security Council resolutions" which prescribe that the "final disposition" of the state will be determined through a free and fair plebiscite under UN auspices.

Pakistan, he said, will continue to press for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

"The UN membership furthermore recognizes Pakistan's critical role in stabilizing Afghanistan by preventing a humanitarian crisis and economic collapse, promoting peace through reconciliation, and eliminating the threat of terrorism from Afghanistan's territory."

Pakistan, he said, also plays a key role in promoting Islamic causes at the UN, pointing out that it led the OIC countries in the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly resolution which declared March 15, as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

At present, Pakistan also chairs the Group of 77 and China (125 developing

countries) and is leading the negotiations at the CoP27 Climate Conference and the SDG (Sustainable Developments Goals) Summit next year.

Pakistan is also actively promoting reforms to strengthen the principal organs of the UN - the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council.

Referring to the triple food, fuel and finance crisis the developing countries face, the Pakistani envoy said, "We need emergency action to support the poorest and most vulnerable countries and structural changes to redress the systemic deficiencies that have perpetuated and exacerbated inequality among and within nations."

"In the present turbulent times," Ambassador Akram said, "the UN's Member States must place their faith in the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, which remain immutable and relevant to address the current global and regional challenges confronting the international community."

ECP de-notifies Imran as MNA from NA-95

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday de-notified former PM and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan as Member of National Assembly (MNA) from NA-95.

It is pertinent to mention here that the ECP had disqualified PTI chairman Imran Khan in the Tasha Khana case and declared his native seat vacant.

The ECP while de-notifying the former PM declared the PTI chairman's seat as vacant.

On the other hand, in the meeting presided over by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, the ECP didn't release notification of

Imran Khan's victory in six seats for failing to provide the details of the election expenses during the by-election.

On the other hand, the Commission also declared Imran Khan eligible to contest by-election from NA-45 Kurram. Meanwhile the notifications of returned candidates of four constituencies have also been issued.

The notifications for the victory of Abdul Hakeem Baloch of PPP from NA-237 Malir, Iftikhar Bhangui of PML-N from PP-139 Sheikhpura, Faisal Niazi of PTI from PP-209 Khanewal, Malik Muzaffar of PTI from PP-241 Bahawalnagar have been issued. Agencies

Imran forced to windup long march: Javed Latif

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Javed Latif Monday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, a certified thief, was forced to wind up long march the other day, after seeing people's lackluster response to his protest call.

Talking to media persons, he said despite the illegitimate use of provinces' official machinery, his much hyped long march would also meet the same fate.

In spite of cleared routes and minimal restrictions, Imran failed to bring political workers to Islamabad even when he had provided free transport by respective provincial governments, he added.

Positive discussion on GSP Plus with INTA head: Commerce Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar said here on Monday that he had a positive discussion on the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP+) and cooperation with the head of the international trade committee INTA Bernard Lange.

In a tweet, the minister said that he discussed the matter with the chair of the International Trade Committee (INTA), Bernd Lange who was accompanied by INTA member Maximilian Krah.

Swati files petition against FLA's arrest in SC

Says FLA violated sanctity of his house

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Senator Azam Khan Swati on Monday approached the Supreme Court and filed a petition over his arrest by the Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) in a case related to "controversial" tweets.

The PTI senator was taken into custody by the FIAs Cybercrime Wing (CCW) from his home in Islamabad on October 13 after registering a case against him over tweets against the army chief.

However, he was granted post-arrest bail last week in return for surety bonds worth Rs1 million.

In his petition, Swati said that the FIA violated the sanctity of his house. He alleged that he was beaten in front of his family. He also said that he has been a senator since 2003 till date except for a short period of time.

The PTI leader also alleged that his face was covered with a cloth in the car. "Practically, I have died. Suicide is prohibited in Islam, and this is why I am alive," he wrote in his petition.

The senator said that he will file a suo motu notice tomorrow while requesting the court to take notice of the incident. Agencies

Consultative approach vital to fortify democracy: Kaira

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has said that adopting consultative approach is vital to strengthen democracy in the country.

Addressing a press conference at Governor's House on Monday, he said that when Imran Khan was in power, the opposition faced political victimization. He said, "In view of the challenges the country is facing, we talked about signing a charter of economy."

He said that decisions made with a proper consultation in the light of the Islamic guidelines were best solution to all problems.

Regarding Imran Khan's long march, he said that Pakistan Tehreek-

e-Insaf (PTI) chairman was making tall claims about holding a long march. He said if Imran Khan wanted to create chaotic situation in Islamabad, he must first assured that those days had gone when there was a practice to lay siege to any area. He said, "Now it is a time to make democratic struggle."

He said that the government was duty bound to stop unlawful actions as per law to maintain law and order situation.

About Toshakhana case, Kaira said in Election Commission every elected representative had to declare assets.

"If any member does not declare his asset, then his membership gets suspended and it continues till filing of assets declaring forms," he said.

The advisor said that in case of

misdeclaration and concealment of assets, a member had to lose his seat as per law. He further said that gifts which Asif Ali Zardari and Mian Nawaz Sharif took from Toshakhana were in their personal use, and they had not concealed those gifts. He said that Imran Khan had also given wrong affidavit in Election Commission of Pakistan. Selling any gift was not good morally, he said adding that Imran Khan made money amounting to almost 100 million by selling gifts and he did not pay tax on it as well.

Kaira said that the country could not run as per the wishes of Imran Khan.

To a question, the advisor said that dialogue with Imran Khan could be held but without any pre-conditions.

President for addressing reasons of Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday urged the need to identify and collectively address the underlying reasons for the rising incidents of Islamophobia across the globe through the forum of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC).

The president said that OIC was the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah. The president expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador/Permanent Representative-designate to OIC Jeddah, Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher, who called on him, at Aiwani-e-Sadr.

Talking to the ambassador-designate, the president said that OIC should take effective steps for the protection of the fundamental human rights of Muslim minorities across the globe.

He said that the world should take notice of rising incidents of violence against minorities, especially Muslims, in India, adding that Indian Hindutva ideology should be discouraged worldwide.

He expressed the hope that all the brotherly Muslim member states of OIC would be able to make a positive development toward the resolution of the Kashmir issue and address the plight of the people of the illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The president expressed his concern over Israel's violence and illegal actions against innocent Palestinians, adding that such actions were against humanitarian norms, human rights and international law.

He said that there could not be

permanent peace in the Middle East unless the issue of Palestine was resolved.

The president said that Pakistan was working for the promotion of science and technological cooperation among OIC countries through the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC).

"Pakistan can offer online education and IT skills to member countries through Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) and Virtual University (VU)'s educational modules", he added.

He said that almost 9,000 foreign students were benefiting from VU and this number could be increased with further collaboration with Islamic countries in the education sector. APP

Ayaz lauds ADB for \$3m floods assistance

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq here on Monday appreciated the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for its generous and timely financial flood assistance in the form of a US\$3 million grant and approval of the US\$ 1.5 billion Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures (BRACE) Program.

The minister was talking to ADB's Director General Central and West Asia Regional Department, Eugene Zhukov who called on him here, according to a press statement issued by the Economic Affairs ministry.

The minister extended gratitude to Eugene Zhukov for his leadership and support to Pakistan, especially for the recent floods disaster.

He underscored that the BRACE

Program would mitigate the adverse impact of the cumulative exogenous shocks, especially to the poor and vulnerable caused by the unprecedented rains and flash floods.

The Minister for Economic Affairs assured the Director General that the Government is committed to prioritizing and increasing funding for key economic sectors including; social protection (to BISP), food security, domestic resource mobilization, energy reforms, trade and development, and enhanced support for business entities.

He further assured that the Ministry is in consultation with the other concerned Ministries and with the Provincial Governments for better coordination. "We will show you performance by pushing things positively and taking actions against non-performance" said Minister for Economic Affairs.

Earlier, Zhukov apprised the minister about the repurposing of existing ADB portfolio to the tune of US\$ 475 million for an emergency assistance loan for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-affected areas in Sindh, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He also appreciated the regular meetings of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) on Foreign Funded Projects conducted by the Ministry of Economic Affairs which is helping push forward the delayed projects.

Zhukov also highlighted the ADB's support for the government's priority sectors which include; renewable energy, disaster management, and climate resilience, smart agriculture, urban sector development, and social services, which was appreciated by the minister.



Foundation Day

Real independence will be with people of IIOJK: PM AJK

Presidential awards conferred on Hurriyat leaders Shabir Shah, Ashraf Sehrai

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the Kashmiris would celebrate real independence on the day when Occupied Kashmir is freed from the clutches of Indian bondage.

THE AJK premier made these assertions while addressing the main ceremony of the foundation day held at the parade ground of the capital Muzaffarabad here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, the PM said, "The government of Azad Kashmir is the representative government of the entire state, the government and the people of Azad Kashmir stand shoulder to shoulder with

their brothers of Occupied Kashmir in their struggle for right to self-determination".

Highlighting the importance of resolving Kashmir issue peacefully, he said, "The world should remember that the conflict of Kashmir is not just a problem of a piece of land but it is an issue of right to self-determination of millions of Kashmiris".

He said that 75th foundation day of the government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir reminds us of the sacrifices of our forefathers. "In 1947, our forefathers and freedom fighters laid down their lives to liberate this region from the Maharaja's despotic rule", he said.

"On this auspicious day, I promise to the people of Azad Kashmir that we will give you a changed Azad

Kashmir", the PM said, adding that all measures were being taken to implement good governance in the Azad region.

He said his government would play its full role to achieve the objectives for which the base camp government was established.

The PM, while urging United Nations, OIC and other international organizations to help resolve the Kashmir dispute, said that it was high time that the global community should exert pressure on India to implement the UNSC resolutions to resolve the lingering dispute peacefully in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people.

Referring to the worsening human rights situation in Kashmir, he said

India has committed the worst violations of human rights in the region. "The entire Hurriyat leadership has been kept in jails while human rights defenders, members of civil society and political activists have been arrested and left to rot in jails far away from their homes", he added.

He said that the father of the nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had declared Kashmir as the jugular vein of Pakistan. "The entire Pakistani nation stands with the Kashmiris", he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary Muhammad Usman Chachar said that time was not far when Occupied Kashmir will be freed from Indian rule and become part of Pakistan.

GB govt to ensure eco-friendly disposal of waste: CS

Bureau Report

GILGIT: Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani on Monday said that the government was committed to ensure the disposal of waste as per international eco-friendly standards.

He said that in this regard fencing of the open dump site at Chilmish Das Gilgit would be completed in next four days.

He said that this would restrict the dumping activity only to the designated place, making it easy for GBWMC to cover the waste properly with soil.

He said It would prevent stray and wild animals from scavenging the waste and spreading the hazard content.

He said that the fence would also make the Nomal/Naltar road safer for traffic by reducing the chances of accidents caused by stray animals.

PA Speaker suspends entry of 18 PML-N lawmakers

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker Muhammad Sibtain Khan on Monday suspended the entry of eighteen PML-N lawmakers for fifteen proceedings of the provincial legislature.

The action was taken due to their alleged misconduct by impeding the house's proceedings on October 22, when former chief minister Sardar Usman Buzdar was presenting a resolution against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision of disqualifying former premier Imran Khan.

Mian Abdul Rauf, Samiullah Khan, Malik Muhammad Waheed, Azma Zahid Bukhari, Saba Sadiq, Raheela Khadim Hussain, Rabiya Nusrat, Rabia Farooqi, Zaibun Nisa Awan, Zeeshan Rafiq, Kanwal Liaquat advocate, Gulnaz Shehzadi, Nafesa Amin, Muhammad Afzal, Adil Bukhsh, Saadia Nadeem, Rahat Afza and Sumbal Malik Hussain were MPAs facing suspension of entry. APP

Balochistan govt okays Rs2.20b to provide subsidy on seeds

QUETTA: The Balochistan government has approved the release of Rs 2.20 billion for the provision of wheat seeds on subsidize rate to the farmers of the flood-affected areas.

Balochistan government has allocation of Rs 15 billion to provide fertilizers, seeds and agri equipment to farmers affected by flood on subsidies rates as the province were hit by worst natural calamity in the history, said Minister for Agriculture and Cooperative Mir Asadullah Baloch while talking to APP On Monday.

He said the government has also approved a summary to provide 400,000 bulldozer's hours to the farmers to bear the losses and already awarded 100,000 bulldozer's hours to the farmers.

"The flash floods have washed away embankments on 5,000,000 acres land which would require 1,000,000 bulldozers hours and 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 hours of trackers for rebuilding the mound and flattening the land.

Asadullah Baloch said the flood has affected the agriculture sector, faced around Rs. 150 billion loss. He said the flood has badly affected the farmers, caused loss of over 500,000 livestock and destroyed their tube wells and solar panels.

He demanded the Federal government to provide subsidy on electricity and gas bills, provision of free yields, acquittal of agricultural loan, provision of tractors on subsidize rates and provide bulldozer's hours to the farmers to bear the losses. Agencies

End Polio Now

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel administers polio vaccine drops to a child during a vaccination campaign at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

NA condemns brutal killing of Arshad Sharif in Kenya

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly has adopted a unanimous resolution, strongly condemning the brutal killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif.

The Resolution, moved by Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri, called for an independent and impartial inquiry into the incident.

It demanded that a fair and transparent investigation should be conducted to ascertain facts behind this brutal killing. The House also extended deepest condolences to the family of the

deceased journalist and the media community.

Meanwhile, speaking at floor of the National Assembly, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has assured the National Assembly that Foreign Office is closely monitoring the situation pertaining to the killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held a telephonic contact with Kenyan President and requested an inquiry into the incident. He expressed the hope that the inquiry will soon be completed and shared with the government of Pakistan.

Welcoming the newly elected Members of the House, the Foreign Minister said we collectively defeated the lies and negative propaganda being spread by our opponents. He said the previous government led by PTI not only ruined the country's economy, but also brought Pakistan to the brink of default.

He said we, along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, saved the country from default. The Foreign Minister also felicitated the Hindu community of Pakistan on the eve of Happy Deewali. The House has now been prorogued.

Football exports witness 59.10% increase

ISLAMABAD: Footballs exports during the first three months of fiscal year of 2022-23 grew up by 59.10 percent as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July 22 to Sep 22, Footballs worth of US \$59,121 were exported as compared to the exports of \$ 37,159 during the same period of last year.

According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of sports goods increased by 31.18 percent, worth \$ 102,178 as compared to exports of \$77,892 during the same period of last year.

Meanwhile, Others exports also increased by 10.40 percent as



the exports during current fiscal year recorded worth \$25,061 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which recorded \$22,699. APP

Two Pakistani scientists elected as VP and SG of IAS

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In the 24th General Assembly Meeting of the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) held during the IAS 23rd Conference in Rabat, Morocco, two Pakistani Distinguished Professors, Fellows Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Internationally known Scientists Profs. Zabta K. Shinwari and Tasawar Hayat got elected unanimously as Vice President and Secretary General respectively.

The nascent idea of establishing the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) first appeared in the plan of action developed by the OIC Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTEC). IAS came into being as an independent, non-political, non-governmental, and non-profit organization of distinguished scientists dedicated to the promotion of all aspects of science and technology in the Islamic world.

The IAS seeks to act as a functional platform for improving, facilitating and nurturing interaction, collaboration, networking and enhancing knowledge sharing in a bet to address pressing challenges facing socio-economic development in OIC member states. The IAS aspires to avail its capacity and



capability to serve as an Islamic Brain Think Tank and to respond effectively and timely to current and futuristic

needs for advancing and promoting developmental goals and objectives to realize the aspirations of the Ummah.

Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari former Vice Chancellor of Kohat University of Science & Technology; Qarshi University-Lahore. He has been declared a Distinguished National Professor by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. Former Secretary General, Pakistan Academy of Sciences and Vice Chair UNESCO-COMEST. Government of Pakistan awarded him two civil awards (Tamgha-e-Imtiaz and Sitara-e-Imtiaz). While recognizing his efforts in Ethics in Science and Technology UNESCO awarded him, Avicenna Gold Medal, in 2015.

Prof. Dr. Tasawar Hayat also a Distinguished National Professor at Quaid-i-Azam University was awarded Tamgha-e-Imtiaz, Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Hilal-e-Imtiaz by Govt. of Pakistan, He was also a winner of Prof. Abdus Salam Prize in Mathematics, TWAS Young Scientist Award, 17th Khwarizmi International Award, Govt. of Iran, COMSTEC International Award, ISESCO International Award, Distinguished Scientist of the Year Award (2010) by Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Alexander Von Humboldt Fellowship, Obada Prize, 2021 and many others. Currently, he is Secretary General of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

EU overjoyed with Pakistan's exclusion from FATF Grey List: Kionka

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Ambassador of European Union Dr. Rina Kionka has said that they are overjoyed with the announcement that Pakistan is out of the FATF Grey List. It has added to overall positive narrative which they want to see much more of Pakistan.

She was speaking at a meeting at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Senior Vice President Chaudhry Zafar Mahmood and Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt also spoke on the occasion.

The Ambassador said that the successive Pakistani governments have put in lot of efforts in this achievement. She said that EU-Pakistan relations have a strategic engagement which covers all the areas including counter terrorism, trade, climate change, GSP Plus Status (Generalized System of Preferences) and various others.

She said that 10-year period of GSP Plus is going to end and a mission is preparing 4th and final report of the last 10-year which will be discussed in Brussels and EU Parliament. These two bodies will decide that which country is eligible and which is not for GSP Plus Status.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan will have to re-apply for the GSP Plus Status and EU will inform within next four to five months. She said that during this period of application, Pakistan will be enjoying all facilities under GSP Plus Status.

She added that Federal Minister Syed Naveed Qamar is in Brussels and doing a good lobbying work which will be useful for Pakistan. Talking about the areas identified by the LCCI, she said that the scope under GSP Plus Status to Pakistan has not been utilized. It is confined to textile sector which should be spread to the other sectors as well.

"The floods played a havoc and it is a difficult time for Pakistan," she said, adding that EU members countries have extended assistance in this regard. She said that EU commissioners are distributing aid in Sindh and other flood-affected areas. "The assistance will be upgraded with the passage of time", she added. She said that Pakistan needs to develop infrastructure in order to curtail the loss if catastrophe-like situation born in future.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar extended deepest gratitude to the European Union for expressing solidarity with the people of Paki-

stan affected by the worst floods and extending financial assistance of 123 Million Euros as well as in-kind assistance for flood relief efforts. He also appreciated the EU's commitment to address the climate change related challenges jointly.

He appreciated the fact that European Union has been welcoming the progress made by Pakistan in the implementation of FATF Action Plans and now, when Pakistan has been excluded from the grey list, "we thank EU for all the support extended during the process." Kashif Anwar said that GSP Plus status holds paramount importance for Pakistan's Economy as it has played an important role in expansion of multilateral trade. According to the trade statistics from ITC World Trade map, Pakistan's exports to EU, which were around 6.2 billion Dollars in 2013, Plus Status (Generalized System of Preferences) and various others.

He said that 10-year period of GSP Plus is going to end and a mission is preparing 4th and final report of the last 10-year which will be discussed in Brussels and EU Parliament. These two bodies will decide that which country is eligible and which is not for GSP Plus Status.

The LCCI President added that European Union is the biggest destination for Pakistan's exports as more than 30 percent of our exports reach EU market. The business community is well aware that the EU continuously monitors GSP Plus beneficiary countries' effective implementation of the 27 international conventions on especially human rights, labour rights, environmental protection and good governance etc.

He said that European Union has also been benefiting from GSP Plus as it has enabled the businesses in EU to import high quality textile items from Pakistan at competitive prices. Furthermore Pakistan's imports from EU also increased from 4.4 billion dollars in 2013 to 6.4 billion dollars in 2021 as the textile industry in Pakistan has been importing machinery from the EU.

The LCCI President said that the increased multilateral trade through GSP Plus means more jobs, reduction in poverty, better working conditions, promotion of sustainable policies and improvement of the macro-economic indicators of Pakistan.

In this context, the extension of GSP Plus for Pakistan holds great significance for economy. A strong EU-Pakistan relationship, with GSP Plus at its core will certainly augment Pakistan's economic and social development including poverty reduction, human development, environmental protection, good governance and women empowerment etc.



Islamabad

23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:56 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:45 pm
Maghrib	5:24 pm
Isha	6:47 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
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Rawal Town	5773343

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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

Anti-polio drive inaugurated in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) General Marzia Saleem on Monday inaugurated the five-day anti-polio drive by administering drops to children under five years of age here at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry office.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC directed officials concerned to cover refusal and non-attended children on the same day. She said no polio case had been detected in the district for a decade due to frequent drives launched by the district administration, but there was a need to remain attentive.

She informed that as many as 917,285 children below five years of age would be covered during the drive while the security of polio workers must be ensured. Sharing details of the arrangement for the campaign, Incharge anti-polio drive Chaudhry Muhammad Hussain told APP that over 3,000 polio teams, 396 areas in-charge and 204 medical officers were participating in the campaign.

In addition, children were also immunized at 307 fixed centres and 182 transit points in the district.

Hussain said the drive was also being utilized to create awareness about COVID-19 and anti-dengue preventive measures.

Grief & Sorrow

Journalists and relatives stand outside Arshad Sharif's residence in Federal Capital, as the senior journalist Arshad Sharif died in Kenya's Nairobi city after reportedly being shot, confirmed his wife Javeria Siddiqui early Monday.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Steps being taken to promptly repatriate dead body of Arshad

Marriyum visits Arshad Sharif's residence to condole tragic death with family members

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday visited the residence of deceased journalist Arshad Sharif, to condole the tragic death with his mother.

She sympathized with the widow, children and other family members of Arshad Sharif.

Speaking on the occasion, she said government was taking all possible measures to promptly repatriate the dead body of deceased journalist. She said the dead body would be

repatriated as soon as possible.

She urged media to not to speculate over the tragic death, adding specific details of tragic incident would be shared with media immediately after receiving from Kenyan authorities.

She said Pakistan high commissioner in Kenya was in contact with Kenyan authorities, adding the envoy had solicited services of a lawyer for fulfilling legal requirements.

She said Prime Minister was grieved over the untimely death and he, in a telephonic conversation with mother of Arshad,



condoled the tragic death. The mother of Arshad Sharif

had asked the prime minister to ensure early repatriation of Arshad Sharif's body from Kenya, she added.

She said Prime Minister assured of completing arrangements on war footing basis adding the government was in contact with Kenyan authorities in this regard.

The minister said that the mother of Arshad has informed that the prime minister also visited their residence on sad demise of Arshad's younger brother some years back. APP

ICCI urges govt to address Panadol shortage in market

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the people are facing great problems and the business of pharmacies is also suffering due to the shortage of Panadol in the market and urged that the government should address this issue on priority basis to save the consumers from further troubles. He said this while talking to a delegation of Pakistan Chemists and Druggists Association, Islamabad Chapter that visited ICCI led by its Chairman



Mian Tariq Saeed.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that there is a great demand for Panadol in the market due to rising cases of dengue virus and malaria, across the country, especially in flood-hit areas, but its shortage has exposed the patients to serious health problems. He said that the

manufacturer has suspended the production of Panadol due to twofold increase in the prices of its raw material and emphasized that the government should take urgent measures to rationalize the prices of raw material to ensure re-start of its production and easy availability in the market.

Arshad assassination case Govt to acquire investigation reports from Kenyan govt: Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum, Dr Musadik Malik on Monday said the government would use all diplomatic resources to acquire reports of investigation from Kenyan government in Arshad Sharif killing case. He said the report would be presented before the nation after receiving from a Kenyan investigative team. The government would also seek options with the help of the Kenyan government regarding renowned journalist killing. Replying to a question about the long march as planned by the PTI Chairman, he said that Imran Khan has allowed lodging protest demonstrations as per the law of the country and warned that no one is allowed to damage property during protests.

ITP takes action against violation of traffic rules

25,467 road users issued tickets over violation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have issued 25,467 fine tickets to road users over violation of traffic rules, so far this year.

Keeping in view the safety of citizens and the implementation of road safety rules, the ITP have expedited action against

those involved in violation of traffic rules.

The ITP spokesperson said that special squads were constituted which would be deployed exclusively on all major highways of Islamabad, including Expressway, Srinagar Highway, Margalla Road, IJP Road, Murree Road, 7th Avenue and 9th Avenue.

All the DSPs have been issued directions to intensify action against traffic rules

violators. Special awareness campaigns have also been launched on the dangers and harms of violating one-way and other traffic rules.

The Chief Traffic Officer said that strict action would be taken against violators, adding that drivers would not only be fined, but also prosecuted in police stations as per law.

Health Corner

How heart failure disrupts the cell's powerhouse

ISLAMABAD: Investigations in Japan have uncovered some molecular mechanisms behind mitochondrial dysfunction in chronic heart failure. Chronic heart failure causes the cell's powerhouses to dysfunction, in part due to overconsumption of an important intermediary compound in energy production. Supplementing the diet to compensate for this could prove a promising strategy for treating heart failure. The findings were published in the journal PNAS by Hokkaido University scientists and colleagues in Japan.

Mitochondria are small organelles found in almost every cell and are responsible for converting carbohydrates, fats and proteins into energy to power biochemical reactions. Chronic heart failure is known to be associated with mitochondrial dysfunction, but much is still unknown about how this happens at the molecular level.

A research team consisting of molecular biologist Hisataka Sabe (Hokkaido University), cardiovascular medicine specialists Shingo Takada (Hokkaido University and Hokusho University) and Shintaro Kinugawa (Kyushu University) and their colleagues studied the biochemical processes that occur in mice with chronic heart failure caused by surgically blocking part of the blood supply to their hearts. They specifically looked at heart cells outside the boundaries of dead tissue.

They found a significant reduction in a compound called succinyl-CoA, which is an intermediary in the cell's tricarboxylic acid cycle. This cycle, which happens inside mitochondria, plays an important role in breaking down organic molecules to release energy.

Further investigations revealed that this reduction of succinyl-CoA levels was at least in part caused by its overconsumption for the synthesis of heme, which is essential for mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation. This latter process is needed for transferring and synthesizing energy-carrying and storage molecules by mitochondria.

Adding a compound called 5-aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) to the drinking water of mice immediately after cutting off the blood supply to part of the heart significantly improved their heart function, treadmill running capacity and survival. At the molecular level, it improved the oxidative phosphorylation capacity of heart muscle mitochondria and appeared to restore their succinyl-CoA levels.

Further research is needed to clarify other factors involved in reducing mitochondrial succinyl-CoA levels in heart failure. For example, the scientists found evidence that succinyl-CoA may also be overconsumed in heart failure-affected mitochondria in order to break down ketones as a source of energy. But more investigations are needed to understand why this might happen and whether there really is a direct link between the two.

"Our results further the understanding of the detailed metabolic changes that occur in chronic heart failure and could contribute to the development of more natural prevention and treatment for the condition," say the team members. "In addition, a combination of nutritional interventions that can correct the metabolic distortions that occur in chronic heart failure -- as revealed in this study -- and currently used therapeutic drugs could be very effective in the treatment of this disease."

Courtesy: Science Daily

Ali Musa, Hakeem Baloch take oath

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The newly elected legislators of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Abdul Hakeem Baloch and Ali Musa Gillani Monday took oath as Member of the National Assembly.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf administered the oath from both the members.

Later, they signed the roll of members as required by the rules.

All out effort being made to resolve citizens' problems: CDA Chief

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) Chairman Captain (Retd.) Muhammad Usman Younis has said that all out effort is being made to resolve the problems of the citizens, especially the land affectees of Islamabad.

For the purpose, the CDA chairman said, concrete steps had been taken which would help resolve the problems of the affectees more effectively, according to a press release issued here. He himself visited different areas in the first phase to better understand the problems of the affectees and also chaired khuli kachehris at the sites to solve the problems of the affectees at their doorstep. The CDA chief along with the officers of the departments concerned visited various areas, including Chak Mojohan, Dakhli Kuri, Sheikhpur and Sarai-e-Kharboza, in E-12 and other sectors.

Moreover, on special instructions of the CDA chairman, Member Estate, Deputy DG Land and Director Land are visiting various areas on a weekly basis to listen to the problems of the affectees, the press release says. Immediate steps are being taken to solve their problems on the spot. Usman has directed that any negligence or incompetence in this regard will not

be tolerated, it further mentions.

Similarly, on the instructions of the CDA chief, camps were also established in different areas for addressing problems of the affectees, including name correction, correction in records and to resolve other issues, it said.

According to the details, a comprehensive plan has been devised to resolve the longstanding problems of affectees after reaching out to them. Under the plan, the affectees who have not yet received rehabilitation benefits, will be given rehabilitation benefits in accordance with rules and policies.

The rehabilitation process which has been halted since long will be restarted. Furthermore, steps are also being taken to announce the BUPs awards soon for those sectors where the awards in respect of BUPs have not yet been announced.

The rehabilitation benefits will be released phase-wise so that the problems of the affectees of Islamabad could be resolved and the development works in the relevant sectors can be accelerated.

In this way, development works in the sectors and rehabilitation process of the affectees will be completed simultaneously. Agencies

Egyptian players win CAS-Serena Hotels Int'l Men & Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports Int'l Women Squash C'ship

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The prestigious Chief of Air Staff (CAS)-Serena Hotels International Men & Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Women Squash Championship organized by Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with Pakistan Air Force, Serena Hotels and Combaxx Sports, concluded at Mushaf Squash Complex, here on Oct 23.

World No 27 Mr Moustafa El Sirty from Egypt defeated World No 28 Mr Mohamed ElSherbini also from Egypt with a game score of 4-11, 11-5, 11-8,

11-7 in 49 minutes in the Men's final to win the title of CAS-Serena Hotels International Men Championship while the Women Final was played between World No 72 Ms Fayrouz Aboelkheir from Egypt and World No 82 Ms Malak Khafagy also from Egypt in which Fayrouz outclassed compatriot Malak 11-6, 10-12, 11-4, 6-11, 12-10 in 37 minutes to win the title of Serena Hotels Combaxx Sports International Women Squash Championship.

Air Marshal Muhammad Zahid Mahmood, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force (PAF), graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest and

awarded trophies and prize money to the finalists. "PAF regularly contributes in nation-building efforts by organizing such tournaments. The successful hosting of the mega event signifies that Pakistan is a sports loving & perfectly peaceful country to host international sports events", the speakers said at the concluding ceremony.

In the five-day mega event played from Oct 19 to 23, as many as 48 players from 16 countries including Germany, Spain, Egypt, Singapore, Austria, Malaysia, Serbia, USA, Brazil, Hungary, England, Qatar, Czech Republic, Iran, Kuwait & Pakistan participated in both i.e., Men and Women events.



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Biden's Security Strategy shows foreign policy as a distraction

Luke Coffey

Last week the Biden administration finally released its long-awaited National Security Strategy. It took the White House 21 months — nearly half of President Joe Biden's first term in office — to publish the document. In this dangerous world, it beggars belief that the administration was able to publish a "National Gender Strategy" in half the time.

The security strategy runs to 47 pages but only four of them are devoted to Russia or China. Only one page is devoted to the role of the US military in dealing with these threats. Much of the document is dedicated to the political causes of the American left, such as climate change and "social justice" issues.

Even less attention is given to the Middle East. Out of the 23,000 words in the document only 870 are devoted to the region — less than 4 percent of the total.

To be fair, this lack of focus on the Middle East in the strategy follows a similar situation over the summer with NATO. There was barely any attention of the

Middle East in the alliance's new Strategic Concept, which was published in June. In fact, in a document that is just over 4,200 words long, only one paragraph of about 80 words was devoted to the region.

Furthermore, NATO's two main platforms on which it engages with the Middle East and North Africa region, the Mediterranean Dialogue and the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative, were not mentioned at all.

It is almost as if there is a collective case of geopolitical denial of the importance of the Middle East when it comes to the stability and security of the trans-Atlantic community.

The title of the Middle East section in the US National Security Strategy is "Support De-escalation and Integration in the Middle East." It talks about "building partnerships, coalitions and alliances" in the region, deepening "Israel's growing ties to its neighbors" and "fostering greater economic integration." However, there have been no policies pursued, and there are no forthcoming initiatives, that address any of these issues in any meaningful sense.

One of the best ways to promote peace and prosperity in the region is to find ways

to expand diplomatic relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Not only will this help bring new economic opportunities to the region but it will also help unify the Middle East against the ever looming Iranian threat.

When Biden finally visited the Middle East last summer, after waiting 18 months before doing so, there was no genuine push to promote the accords.

Regarding the strategy's call to "foster greater economic integration" in the Middle East, the Biden administration has done nothing. The president has not promoted any semblance of a free-trade agenda, whether for the Middle East or any other region of the world. In fact, Biden has decided to keep the pointless steel and aluminum tariffs on Gulf countries that were put in place by the Trump administration.

Over the years, countries such as Bahrain, Oman and Qatar have done much to diversify their economies and the steel and aluminum sectors have played a key role. Not only are these tariffs bad for the American consumer, they also needlessly complicate America's bilateral relationships in the region.

To truly "foster greater economic integration" in the Middle East, the US must pursue a pragmatic, region-wide trade agenda that will remove barriers to flows of goods and services.

Over the past few decades, the US has established a network of

trade pacts in the region through bilateral free-trade agreements with Israel, Bahrain, Oman and Jordan. In addition to making strategic efforts to better utilize these existing deals, Washington should consider pursuing additional trade agreements that can not only lower the costs of imported goods for consumers in the region, but also expand exports to the US market.

Considering the National Security Strategy was published so far into the president's term, it is unlikely to serve as a practical road map for US foreign policy. It is simply too late for that.

The Biden administration has shown an unwillingness to pursue a proactive foreign policy. This was evident in the debacle in Afghanistan last year and the dithering over providing Ukraine with all the weapons it needs.

The main focus of the Biden administration is on pushing an increasingly controversial domestic agenda at home. Foreign policy is considered a distraction. The National Security Strategy is yet another example of this.

Luke Coffey is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. Courtesy: Arab News

Kashmir Issue: Struggle for right to self-determination

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

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

On the other hand, it is very historic moment for Kashmiris on both sides of Line of Control. The Founding Day is celebrated in commemoration of freedom from the Dogra regime on the 24th of October in 1947. People of Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir have been struggling for their right to self-determination for the last over 70 years. Kashmiris under Indian occupation have been facing torture, human rights violations and all sorts of abuses at the hands of occupation authorities. It is high time that the international community takes notice of India's atrocities in occupied territory and puts pressure on New Delhi to grant Kashmiris their due rights.

Kashmiris have been fighting for their right to self-determination for the last over seven decades. Despite facing all forms of torture and state sponsored terrorism, India has not been able to break the will of Kashmiris. It is the inherent right of Kashmiris to get their right to self-determination. On this day, Kashmiris around the world are determined that they will not back down from their demand to get liberation from India and accession of the whole territory with Pakistan. It is need of the hour that international community plays its role to put pressure on India to grant Kashmiris their rights.

Socio-Political impact of Arab Spring in Syria-II

One year later, on April 14, despite Russian warnings, the US launched an attack together with France and the UK, at "chemical weapon sites". In 2013, the CIA began a covert programme to arm, fund and train rebel groups opposing Assad, but the programme was later shut down after it was revealed that the CIA had spent \$500m but only trained 60 fighters.

In September 2015, Russia launched a bombing campaign against what is referred to as "terrorist groups" in Syria, which included ISIL as well as anti-Assad rebel groups backed by the USA. Russia has also deployed military advisers to shore up Assad's defences. At the UN Security Council, Russia and China have repeatedly vetoed Western-backed resolutions on Syria. In December 2018, President Trump announced a decision to withdraw the roughly two thousand U.S. troops remaining in Syria. On January 16, 2019, an attack in Manbij claimed by the self-proclaimed Islamic State killed at least nineteen people, including four Americans. Prior to that attack, only two Americans had been killed in action in Syria since the U.S.-

led campaign began. The U.S.-led international coalition continues to carry out military strikes against the Islamic State and provides support to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and internal security forces. The pullout of U.S. troops has increased uncertainty around the role of other external parties to the conflict including Iran, Israel, Russia, and Turkey as well as the future of internal actors.

On the other side, Peace negotiations have been ongoing between the Syrian government and the opposition to achieve a military ceasefire and political transition in Syria, but the main sticking point has been the fate of Assad. The first round of UN-facilitated talks between the Syrian government and opposition delegates took place in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2012. The latest round of talks in December 2017 failed amid a tit-for-tat between the Syrian government and opposition delegates over statements about the future role of Assad in a transitional government.

In May 2017, Russia, Iran

and Turkey called for the setup of four de-escalation zones in Syria, over which Syrian and Russian fighter jets were not expected to fly. In January 2018, Russia sponsored talks over the future of Syria in the Black Sea city of Sochi, but the opposition block boycotted the conference, claiming it was an attempt to undercut the UN effort to broker a deal.

In a few Arab countries, this movement promotes and brings democracy, freedom but on the other side it also takes towards the civil war. Syria is one of the worst-case for the Arab spring as it leads towards the worst humanitarian crisis. The Syrian refugee crisis is the largest refugee and displacement crisis of our time, affecting about 17.6 million people and spilling into surrounding countries.

Since the war officially began March 15, 2011, families have suffered under a brutal conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people, torn the nation apart, and set back the standard of living by decades. About 5.6 million Syrians are refugees, and another 6.2 million people are displaced

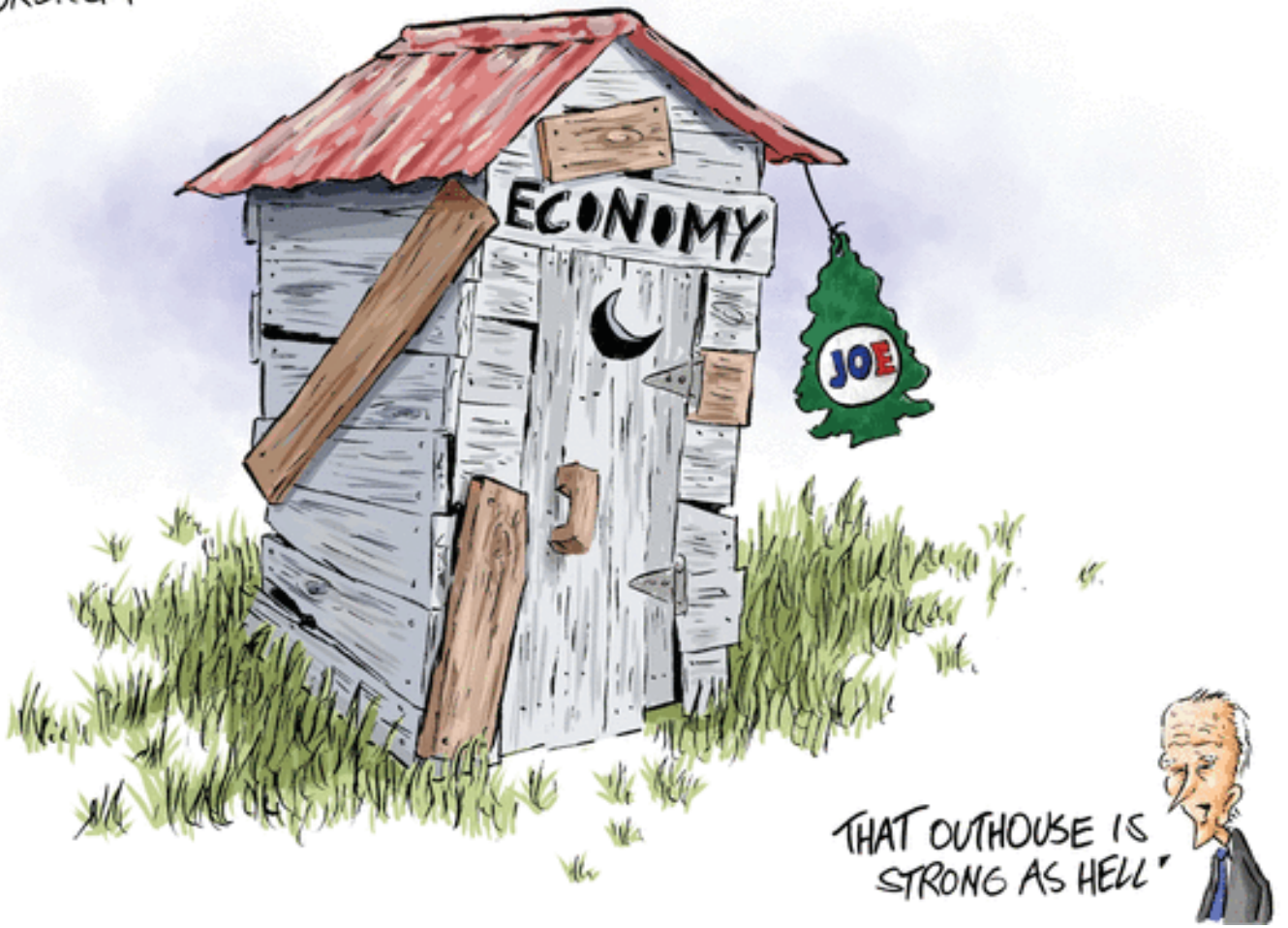
within Syria. Nearly 12 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance. At least half of the people affected by the Syrian refugee crisis are children.

According to the United Nations (UN), more than five million Syrians have had to leave the country. Many have gone to neighbouring countries, like Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey or Iraq. More than six million more people have tried to find safety elsewhere in Syria. Turkey is the largest host country of registered refugees with over 3.6 million Syrian refugees living in the country. In February 2020 About 900,000 people in northwest Syria have fled further north, toward the Turkey border, since conflict increased in December 2019.

Many are living in extreme cold and out-of-doors as school and hospitals are targeted with bombardment. The only possible solution to end the war is through a political solution in which influential states can take its part by doing negotiation rather than taking sides in the war.

Concluded
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It's time for climate action, right now

Patrick Simonnet

The world in 2022 is completely different to the one we knew before. After a devastating pandemic, we are now grappling with a global energy crisis, triggered by Russia bringing war back to Europe and weaponizing its energy supplies, cutting off customers and destructively burning its spare gas. In the background, the climate crisis gets worse by the day. Global warming is fast approaching the 1.5 degrees Celsius level we have pledged to avoid. This is a tipping point that threatens lives and livelihoods across our entire planet.

The disruptive and increasingly lethal effects on every aspect of life are by now beyond doubt. From our degraded ecosystems, disappearing forests, collapsing glaciers and receding shorelines to fires, heat waves, floods, storms and drought. The changes we face are inescapable. No individual can stop climate change. No vaccine will come to the rescue. Try as you might, you cannot negotiate an agreeable settlement with planet Earth. Yet, rather than fueling despair, apathy or resignation, we must create hope and show determination to act for the climate. The solutions and technologies are well within reach, but we must plan, invest decisively and, most importantly, act now. Time is not on our side.

The EU does not claim to have all the answers, and we are eager to hear how others are delivering on their own climate ambitions. In Europe, we have had to put in place exceptional measures to cope with the energy crisis provoked by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. We have also had to postpone some of the decommissioning of coal-fired power plants as a temporary emergency measure for the coming winter. But while the use of coal has temporarily gone up in a number of European countries, national coal phase-out dates remain unchanged. We are implementing much stricter energy efficiency targets and will move much more swiftly to adopt renewable energy, using less gas than initially expected. Our overall climate commitments are therefore not in jeopardy. In fact,

we have increased our ambition for renewables deployment this decade.

Some voices have called on us to be "realistic" and put climate action on the back-burner as there are other crises to deal with. But social unrest can be tackled by climate action. It is Russia's unjustified war of aggression in Ukraine and expensive fossil fuel imports that are increasing our energy bills. In Europe, this has increased our citizens' appetite for getting rid of fossil fuels as fast as possible.

It is clear that the climate crisis disproportionately impacts those who have the least — in Europe and across the world. As climate change progresses, millions are at risk of losing their homes, water supply, livelihoods and even their lives, as witnessed recently during severe flooding in Pakistan. Around the world, we need to accelerate mitigation measures to tackle the problem at the source. In parallel, we need to do more to support adaptation to climate change, and to avert and address loss and damage.

The EU continues to be the world's biggest donor of climate finance, providing almost \$28 billion in 2020, and of humanitarian support. European countries will intensify their efforts, but we will not solve this crisis alone. The efforts and buy-in of all countries are needed, especially major emitters, alongside a massive mobilization of private finance to complement public funds.

It is time for action. We must now go beyond pledges and deliver results. Demonstrating success through implementation, influencing our peers and persuading actors at all levels — from the UN to the individual — to do what they can. For centuries, we have drained the planet of its resources and now the planet is reaching her limits. It is time for us to halt the damage and prevent Earth from becoming uninhabitable for humankind. Future generations will judge us on what we do — so let's do it right and let's do it right now.

Patrick Simonnet is the EU Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of Bahrain and Sultanate of Oman. Courtesy: Arab News

Rishi Sunak to become Britain's next PM after months of turbulence

Sunak may be appointed by King Charles on Tuesday

LONDON: Rishi Sunak will become Britain's next prime minister after he won the race to lead the Conservative Party, leaving him with the task of steering a deeply divided country through an economic downturn set to leave millions of people poorer.

Sunak, one of the wealthiest politicians in Westminster and set to be the country's first leader of colour, will be asked to form a government by King Charles, replacing Liz Truss, the outgoing leader who only lasted 44 days in the job before she resigned.

He defeated centrist politician Penny Mordaunt, who failed to get enough backing from lawmakers to enter the ballot, while his rival, the former prime minister Boris Johnson, withdrew from the contest saying he could no longer unite the party.

"This decision is an historic one and shows, once again, the diversity and talent of our party," Mordaunt said in a statement as she withdrew from the race just minutes before the winner was due to be announced. "Rishi has my full support."



The pound and British government bond prices jumped briefly on news of Mordaunt's withdrawal, but soon returned to their previous levels. According to an ITV reporter, the king was returning to London and could accept Truss's resignation either later on Monday or on Tuesday.

Sunak, the 42-year-old former finance minister, becomes Britain's third prime minister in less than two months, tasked with restoring stability to a country reeling from years of political and economic turmoil.

The multi-millionaire former hedge fund boss will be expected to launch deep spending cuts to try to rebuild Britain's fiscal reputation, just as the country slides into a recession, dragged down by the surging cost of energy and food.

He will also inherit a political party that has fractured along ideological lines, a challenge that damaged the fortunes of several former Conservative leaders.

Britain has been locked in a state of perma-crisis ever since it voted in 2016 to leave the European Union, unleashing a battle at Westminster over the future of the country that remains unresolved to this day.

Johnson, the face of the Brexit vote, led his party to a landslide victory in 2019, only to be driven out of office less than three years later after a series of scandals. His successor Truss lasted just over six weeks before she quit over an economic policy that trashed the country's economic credibility.

Economists have questioned whether Sunak can tackle the country's finances while holding the party's multiple warring factions together.

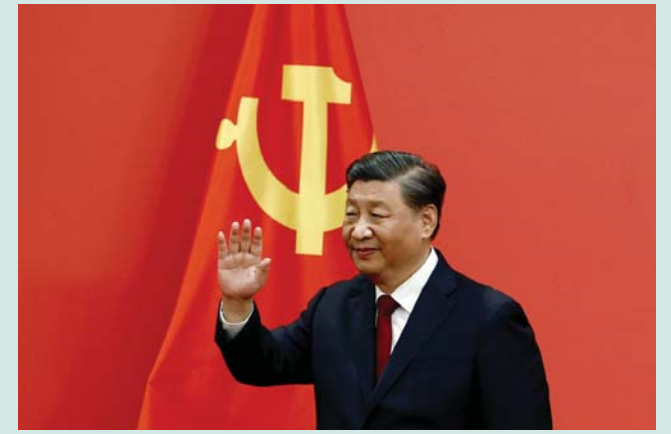
Finance minister Jeremy Hunt—the fourth person in that role in four months—is due to present a budget on Oct. 31 to plug a black hole in the public finances that is expected to have ballooned to up to 40 billion pounds.

Sunak came to national attention when, aged 39, he became finance minister under Johnson just as the Covid-19 pandemic hit Britain, developing the successful furlough scheme.

The former Goldman Sachs analyst will be the United Kingdom's first prime minister of Indian origin. His family migrated to Britain in the 1960s, a period when many people from Britain's former colonies moved to the country to help it rebuild after the Second World War.

After graduating from Oxford University, he went to Stanford University where he met his wife Akshata Murthy, whose father is Indian billionaire N. R. Narayana Murthy, founder of outsourcing giant Infosys Ltd. Reuters

Xi for implementing guiding principles of key Party congress



BEIJING: Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Monday instructed the armed forces to study, publicize and implement the guiding principles of the 20th CPC National Congress, and strive to achieve the goal set for the centenary of the People's Liberation Army.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks when attending a meeting of leading military cadres. Xinhua

Sudan's military sacks commander after tribal clashes

CAIRO: Sudan's ruling military sacked a commander in the southern Blue Nile province after two days of fierce tribal clashes there last week killed at least 220 people, the army announced Monday. The unrest added to the woes of a country mired in civil conflict and political chaos.

Fighting in Blue Nile, which borders Ethiopia and South Sudan, reignited earlier this month over a land dispute, pitting the Hausa tribe, with origins across West Africa, against the Berta people. The tensions escalated Wednesday and Thursday in the town of Wad el-Mahi on the border with Ethiopia.

The violence comes ahead of the first anniversary of Sudan's military coup that upended the nation's short-lived transition to democracy. It has also drawn criticism of the powerful military, with a Sudanese pro-democracy group accusing the ruling generals of not protecting ethnic groups in the province.

Sudan's military spokesman, Col. Nabil Abdalla, said that Maj. Gen. Rabei Abdalla Adam was named as the commander for the Blue Nile, replacing Maj. Gen. Ramzi Babaker who was removed from his post over the weekend.

The appointment was a part of the military's efforts to "address the regrettable security events," the spokesman said. The military also established a fact-finding mission to investigate the clashes, Abdalla said. AP

WHO stresses vaccines as flu season ramps up, COVID lurks

COPENHAGEN: Vaccination continues to be one of the most effective tools in combating both influenza and COVID-19, and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe urges all those eligible to get their influenza and COVID-19 booster shots as soon as possible.

"With COVID-19 and seasonal influenza co-circulating, the health of vulnerable people — including the elderly, the immunocompromised, pregnant women and newborns — is at greater risk," said WHO Regional Director Dr. Hans Kluge said at a press conference here on Monday.

Since early September, regional cases of COVID-19 have tripled, according to WHO Europe, and in the second week of October, the European Region accounted for nearly 60 percent of new global cases and 42 percent of new global deaths.

"This is not a time to relax," Kluge said. "In the past month, we have also seen an early spike in seasonal influenza cases, leading now to increased positivity in patients hospitalized with severe acute respiratory infections."

However, according to Kluge, the surge has not led to either the previously seen levels of severe disease, as deaths and intensive care unit (ICU) admissions have only seen minor increases, or to the crippling effects previously seen on economic or social life.

"We must continue to do our utmost to prevent infections, protect the vulnerable and prepare our health systems to manage multiple threats," he said. Xinhua

UN says ending communal violence critical for peace in South Sudan

JUBA: South Sudan should focus on ending intermittent communal violence at local levels in order to achieve steady peace progress during the recently extended transition period, a United Nations official said on Monday.

Sara Beysolow Nyanti, the Deputy Special Representative in the UN Mission (UNMISS) and Resident Coordinator in South Sudan, called on all parties to the 2018 revitalized peace deal to accomplish the pending critical tasks before the end of the transition period in February 2025.

"We must be frank to admit that much more critical work remains to be done at the local levels, the extension of the peace agreement needs to be translated into a reduction of incidents of sub-national violence and inter-communal conflicts," she said during celebrations to mark the United Nations Day in Juba, the capital of South Sudan.

Nyanti who welcomed the recent graduation of some of the first batch of unified forces underscored the need for an all-inclusive constitution-making process to pave way for free, fair and credible elections, to mark the end of the transition and the beginning of South Sudan's journey as a truly democratic nation.

"We know that without peace, there can be no sustainable development. This is why we are working with the government and communities as an impartial partner to help deliver sustained peace, humanitarian assistance, security and development," said Nyanti. Xinhua

Chinese Engineering

The aerial view shows the caisson for the construction of phase II of Kribi Deep Seaport in Kribi, Cameroon. China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd. (CHEC) has started construction work on the second phase of the Kribi Deep Seaport in southwestern Cameroon with the installation of the first caisson that form the wharves.



Photo: Xinhua

Meloni takes over as Italian premier



ROME: Far-right leader Giorgia Meloni took office yesterday as Italy's first woman prime minister, calling on the fractious members of her coalition government to unite as they face looming crises on several fronts.

Four weeks after her post-fascist Brothers of Italy party won general elections, Meloni formally assumed office in a handover ceremony with outgoing premier Mario Draghi, before gathering her cabinet.

"We must be united, there are emergencies the country is facing. We have to work together," the 45-year-old told her ministers during their first meeting, lasting half an hour.

The new government is the most far-right in Italy since World War II, and takes power at a time of soaring inflation and an energy crisis linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It has already been rocked by tensions within Meloni's coalition, which includes Matteo Salvini's far-right League party and former premier Silvio Berlusconi's right-wing Forza Italia.

Meloni was forced this week to repeat her unwavering support for Ukraine and Western sanctions against Russia after Berlusconi was recorded defending President Vladimir Putin.

The prospect of a Eurosceptic, populist government taking the helm of the eurozone's third largest economy has already sparked concern among Italy's allies, particularly in the EU.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Saturday that she had a "good first call" with Meloni, saying she looked forward to "constructive co-operation".

Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany said he wanted to keep "working closely together with Italy in EU, Nato and G7" — a sentiment Meloni reflected in responses to congratulatory messages on Twitter.

Korean Air jet overshoots runway in central Philippines

MANILA: A Korean Air Lines jet with 173 people on board overshoot the runway at Cebu International Airport in the Philippines late on Sunday, the airline said, adding that there were no injuries and all passengers had evacuated safely.

The Airbus SE A330 widebody flying from Seoul to Cebu had tried twice to land in poor weather before it overran the runway on the third attempt at 23:07 (1507 GMT), Korean Air said in a statement on Monday.

"Passengers have been escorted to three local hotels and an alternative flight is being arranged," the airline said of flight KE361. "We are currently identifying the cause of the incident."

Video from the scene verified by Reuters showed widespread damage to the



Response crews gather around a Korean Air Airbus plane that overshoot the Cebu International Airport runway in the central Philippines amid poor weather. Reuters

plane. The nose landing gear appeared to have collapsed.

Korean Air President Keehong Woo issued an apology on the airline's website, saying a thorough investigation would be carried out by Philippine and South Korean authorities to determine the cause.

"We remain committed to standing behind our promise of safe operations and will do our very best to institute measures to prevent its recurrence," Woo said.

The A330-300 jet involved in the accident was

delivered new to Korean Air in 1998, according to flight tracking website FlightRadar24, which said that other flights to Cebu had diverted to other airports or returned to their origin.

The Cebu airport said on its Facebook page that it had temporarily closed the runway to allow for the removal of the plane, meaning all domestic and international flights were canceled until further notice.

Korean Air has not had a fatal passenger crash since 1997, according to Aviation Safety Network, a website that compiles aviation accidents.

The airline had a poor safety record at that time but sought outside help from Boeing Co. and Delta Air Lines Inc. to improve its standards. Reuters

Council of Arab Ambassadors in Japan visit FM Hayashi

Officials agreed to cooperate closely both bilaterally and in international forums

TOKYO: The Council of Arab Ambassadors in Japan paid a courtesy call on Japan's Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa on Monday and thanked the minister for Japan's assistance to the Arab world.

According to the Foreign Ministry, Hayashi and the ambassadors discussed topics that included the situation in Ukraine and East Asia, as well as the issue of Middle East Peace. They agreed to cooperate closely both bilaterally and in international forums.

Hayashi stated that Japan attaches great importance to its long-standing friendly rela-

tions with Arab countries and expressed his hope to continue to strengthen cooperation with the Arab world, including through bilateral exchanges.

In response, Ambassador Waleed Ali Siam, Representative of the Permanent General Mission of Palestine and Dean of the Council of Arab Ambassadors in Japan, appreciated Japan's role and assistance in the Arab world, and stated that the Council would like to continue developing Japan-Arab relations.

Siam gave a speech at the meeting expressing their condolences on the assassination of former PM Abe Shinzo. He said:

Abe was a "distinguished statesman, a great contributor to the enhancement of peace and stability in the world."

He also thanked Hayashi for heading Japan's delegation for TICAD8 in Tunisia and congratulated him on the election of Japan as non-permanent member of the UNSC for its 12th time.

"I want to emphasize here our sincere keenness to develop and deepen the bonds of friendship between the great people of Japan and our Arab World to forge a closer relationship with multilayered cooperation, which serves the common interests of

Japanese and Arab Peoples through dialogue," Siam said in his speech. "And to continue to regularly hold the Japan - Arab Economic Forum and the Japan - Arab Political Dialogue as previously agreed upon between the Arab League and Japan."

The Palestinian Ambassador said they highly appreciated Japan's contribution in "fostering economic development in all Arab countries, especially in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and Palestine in the light of the UN resolution and international legitimacy."

Siam explained that Algeria was going to host the Arab Summit this month to discuss



the "regional issues including the reconciliation agreement signed by the Palestinian factions in Algeria and International matters for achieving peace and stability for the interest of the world."

He also said that Japan's role

has a "commitment to maintain the peace and security, peace keeping and protection of human rights," adding that they appreciated Japan's efforts in coordinating with the international community to "condemn all act of aggression against any Arab

land by neighboring countries, and to reach the extension of the armistice and support the United Nations plan to bring peace to Yemen based on the references represented in GCC initiative, National Dialogue Conference Outcomes, and Security Council Resolution 2216, conducive to bringing a lasting peace."

Sixteen ambassadors of the Council participated in the meeting that lasted for approximately 30 minutes. They included Palestine, Morocco, Lebanon, Bahrain, Qatar, Tunisia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, UAE, Mauritania, Iraq, Egypt, Algeria, Kuwait and Yemen. Arab News

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,347.23	42,213.48
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,672.34	42,213.48
Index Value	Change
4,386,974,228	+133.75
Percentage	Time
+0.32%	24 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,021.95	+52.22
Percentage	Time
+0.75%	24 Oct, 4:29 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
31,366.64	+284.08
Percentage	Time
+0.91%	24 Oct, 11:35 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,974.90	+84.32
Percentage	Time
+0.31%	24 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	140.05	141.3
Bahrain Dinar	587.51	592.01
Canadian Dollar	162.22	163.57
China Yuan	30.62	30.87
Danish Krone	29.18	29.53
Euro	219.4	221.6
Hong Kong Dollar	28.15	28.5
Indian Rupee	2.67	2.75
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.17
Kuwaiti Dinar	709.39	714.39
Malaysian Ringgit	46.72	47.17
New Zealand \$	127.9	129.1
Norwegians Krone	20.87	21.17
Omani Riyal	575.12	579.62
Qatari Riyal	60.7	61.2
Saudi Riyal	59.1	59.7
Singapore Dollar	156.09	157.9
Swedish Korona	19.72	20.02
Swiss Franc	221.48	223.23
Thai Bhat	5.8	5.9
U.A.E Dirham	63.5	64.1
UK Pound Sterling	253.25	258.8
US Dollar	222.8	225

Pakistan proposes to include climate change sector in CPEC

The proposal was made in 3rd meeting of JWG between the govt of Pakistan and People's Republic of China

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday proposed the inclusion of "Water Resources Management & Climate Change" as new area of cooperation under the framework of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for efficient water resources management, development of climate resilient infrastructure.

The proposal was made in the third meeting of Joint Working Group (JWG) between the government of Pakistan and People's Republic of China was held here to review the long-term plan of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The meeting was co-chaired by Secretary Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives Syed Zafar Ali Shah and Pan Jiang through video conference with interval of three years. Director General of the National Development & Reforms Commission of China, representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Aviation, Finance, Economic Affairs, Gwadar Port Authority, Gwadar Development Authority as well as representatives of their counterparts in China have also attended the meeting.



The meeting reviewed and summarized the implementation status of the CPEC projects and deliberated upon the future course of action with regard to implementation of the CPEC long-term plan.

Both the sides expressed satisfaction on steady progress made on various projects and agreed to start deepening the work done and then execution of the second phase of CPEC, which is focused on Agriculture Cooperation, Industrial Cooperation, Science & Technology, Information

Technology and Socio-Economic Development. It was noted that since the last meeting of JWG on Planning and CPEC Long Term Plan held on November, 2019 a number of developments have taken place.

Globally this period remained marred by COVID-19 pandemic preventing free movement of people between countries and regions.

Despite these restrictions and difficulties posed by the pandemic, substantial progress has been achieved.

Both the sides noted that out of 26 CPEC-Early Harvest Projects, 14 projects including Karachi-Lahore Motorway, Multan-Sukkur Section, KKH (Phase-II) upgradation & reconstruction from Raikot to Islamabad via Mansehra, East-bay Expressway, 1320 MW Port Qasim Power Plant, 1320MW Sahiwal Power Plant and 720 MW Karot HPP, etc. have been completed, while currently 5 projects including New Gwadar International Airport and 873 MW Suki Kinari HPP etc are under execution.

The meeting was also informed that the Government of Pakistan was actively implementing various projects, in close collaboration with the Provincial Governments to ensure efficient and time completion with a view to view to make the CPEC a roaring success and directly monitoring the progress of these projects on a monthly basis.

The two sides resolved to redouble the efforts to tap the full potential of cooperation as well as to make sure that the population of Pakistan fully benefit from these projects by utilizing the massive opportunities being created in various sectors.

Securing Gwadar is essential for Pakistan's future

Gwadar should be connected to the national grid, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said it is important to secure Gwadar for the bright future of Pakistan. Along with security measures, it is very important to address the reservations of the locals, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the security expenses can be reduced significantly if the people are satisfied there.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that Gwadar should be connected to the national grid and given a local government system on the model of Dubai to solve the



problems of the people. He said that a modern business center has been built in Gwadar, free trade zone exists, the airport will become operational by the next year, the port is almost complete, and an expressway has also been built. The hospital is being extended and a number of other developmental projects and being completed. This area is rich in natural beauty and it can become a tourist paradise that needs attention.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Gwadar is developing rapidly and will connect Central Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East with Pakistan through the sea and will play the role of a valuable trade hub for Pakistan.

But the locals are not getting the attention of the authorities which leads to unrest, which the anti-national elements take advantage of.

Taking advantage of the weaknesses they create a law and order problem and attack the Chinese which in turn affects the project, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Gwadar is supplied with electricity from Iran which keeps getting interrupted, the local population does not get clean drinking water and there are other problems including unemployment.

If the local population has a stake in the development of

Gwadar, their attitude towards the project will turn positive, while the establishment of a local government is also necessary so that the problems of the people can be solved in the presence of the Mayor, because the members of the National and Provincial Assembly are not paying due attention.

He said that due to the 18th amendment, many subjects and resources have devolved to provinces but the districts and tehsils are not getting resources from the provinces, due to which the people are being ignored and anger is arising among them.

In 1950, the population of Dubai was 20,000, now it is 3.5 million and it has become a major commercial center of the world, where bureaucracy acts as a facilitator in the system, while the biggest obstacle to the speedy development in Gwadar is our bureaucracy, he said.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia H.E. Adam Mulawarman Tugio, Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Chairman Khurshid Barlas, Executive Member Muhammad Amin ur Rehman, Fahad Barlas Convener Diplomatic Affairs after the meeting Chairman Khurshid Barlas giving invitation of Pakistan Property to H.E Adam Mulawarman Tugio.

Growth in edible oil, veg ghee production 6.4%

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The domestic production of edible oil and vegetable ghee during first two months of current financial year grew by 6.4 percent and 6.6 percent respectively as compared to the output of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-August 2022, over 81,897 metric tons of cooking oil domestically manufactured as against the manufacturing of 76,982 metric tons in same period last year, according to the quantum index of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) release by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

The local output of edible oil recorded about 2.9 percent growth as about 39,845 metric tons of the above mentioned commodity manufactured in August, 2022 as against the output of 38, 713 metric tons of same period last year.

Meanwhile, local output of vegetable ghee recorded at 229,133 metric tons in two month of current fiscal year as compared the production of 214,950 metric tons of same period last year.

In August, 2022, the local production of



vegetable ghee was recorded at 110,061 metric tons as against the output of 109,334 metric tons same month last year.

During last two months of current financial year tea blending witnessed 7.2 percent increase as 28,184 metric tons of tea blended locally as compared the blending of 26,227 metric tons of same period last year.

However, domestic manufacturing of beverages went down by 0.

5 percent in first two months as it was recorded at 130.6 thousand liters as against the production of 136.8 thousand liters.

It is pertinent to mention here that the production of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed a growth of 0.6 per cent on year-on-year basis during the month of August 2022 as compared to

the same month of last year as LSMI index went up from 114.1 points in August 2021 to 114.8 points in August 2022.

Month-on-month basis, the industry grew by 3.9 per cent during the month under review as compared to 110.05 points during July 2022.

However, overall the Large-Scale Manufacturing Sector has shown a decline of 0.4 per cent during July-August (2022-23) when compared with the same period of last year.

The LSMI during the first two months of the current fiscal year was recorded at 112.6 points as compared to 113.1 points during July-August (2021-22).

The main contributors towards the overall negative growth of 0.4 per cent were, garments (5.3), petroleum products (-1.2), cement (-2.0), fertilizers (-0.2) and iron and steel products (0.5).

The major sectors that showed positive growth during July-August (2022-23) included wearing apparel (5.3%), leather products (0.1%), paper and board (0.1%), chemicals (0.2%), iron and steel products (0.5%), furniture (2.3%) and other manufacturing (0.1%).

PTCL Group engages IBM for Business Transformation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: PTCL & Ufone kicked off their corporate business transformation leveraging RISE with SAP at the core of their organization with the goal to drive efficiency, effectiveness, and innovation. The announcement was made at a signing ceremony held at GITEX Global 2022 in Dubai, UAE, where senior executives from collaborating organizations participated including PTCL & Ufone, SAP, IBM, and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

RISE with SAP embeds SAP S/4HANA, a leading enterprise resource planning (ERP) application providing optimization of resource allocation, real-time data insights, streamlining business processes, and bridging organizational information

silos. The SAP offering will be implemented by IBM with AWS being the Cloud platform of choice. PTCL & Ufone will be the first telecommunications provider in Pakistan to benefit from a combination of leading offerings for SAP implementation services with IBM, Hyperscaler Cloud services with AWS, and an ERP solution with SAP.

"Pakistan is one of the fastest growing markets for SAP's enterprise and corporate solutions and the Telecommunication sector is swift to take the lead in embracing new ERP systems and adopting digital innovations through the Cloud," said Saqib Ahmad, Country Managing Director, SAP Pakistan.

The business transformation project aims to enable PTCL & Ufone to offer Cloud services, modernize



business processes, and gain better business insights. With S/4HANA and its underlying HANA database, PTCL & Ufone can access data on demand and share it with

relevant departments in near real-time to significantly improve business operations, collaborate more effectively with partners, and serve their customers better. Companies

adopting RISE with SAP can accelerate their digital transformation and innovation objectives and access new business models and markets faster. The reduction of duplication of efforts through improved business insight, while ensuring increased transparency, help organizations gain necessary competitiveness and in the information age. This will be the largest business transformation project on RISE with S/4HANA in the corporate sector in Pakistan, to-date.

"We are honored to migrate PTCL and Ufone towards a new operational journey as the first mover in the region, which will ultimately become the footprint for advancement in the operations of Pakistan's Telecom sector," said Hatem Bamatraf, President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone.

SECP allows Money Market CISs to invest in short term Sukuk

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In order to broaden the scope of investment avenues for Open-End Money Market Collective Investment Schemes (CISs), the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has allowed the Money Market CISs to take exposure in short term corporate Sukuk along with commercial papers.

However, the cumulative exposure of Money Market CISs in commercial papers and/or short term Sukuk is capped at 20% of net assets of the CIS to mitigate the risk of Money Market CISs.

Furthermore, the existing money market CISs have been allowed a period of three months, starting from the date of publication of the said Circular, to ensure compliance with the aforesaid requirement.

FPCCI, UN to collaborate for sustainable development

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Irfan Iqbal Sheikh welcomed the steps taken by the UN in Pakistan to promote sustainable, inclusive and socially responsible business growth and practices. On the occasion of FPCCI and UN's consultative session on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the potential of sustained collaboration, the President FPCCI also expressed his desire to collaborate with the UN from the platform of the chamber on behalf of the entire trade and industry community of Pakistan, said a statement issued here on Monday.

He said FPCCI was in a unique position to create awareness in all sectors of the economy on SDGs, climate change, gender equality and social justice.

SVP FPCCI Suleman Chawla informed that FPCCI had functional and representative standing committees in place on various socioeconomic sectors of the economy.

IS Nawaz's no ball issue

Ex-greats feel on-field umpires should have consulted third umpire

The issue raised over no ball in the Sunday's high-voltage T20 World Cup match between Pakistan and India

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan cricket greats feel that the on-field umpires should have consulted the third umpire before calling Mohammad Nawaz's delivery as a no ball in the Sunday's high-voltage T20 World Cup match between Pakistan and India.

On the fourth ball of the final over of the match, delivered by Nawaz, Virat Kohli smashed a full toss over the square leg boundary and immediately put his arm out to signal no ball. After the six was confirmed, the field umpires indicated that the delivery was above the waist, and hence a no ball.

"The ball seemed to dip but it's kind of touch and go. To the naked eye, it did not seem like a no-ball but in slow-motion, it does seem like it dipped.

"Any batsman will turn and ask for no ball. That's not his [Kohli's] fault. You've technology, use it. Why flare up things unnecessarily?" Erstwhile fast bowler great Wasim Akram said in a TV programme.

He said had he and Waqar Younis been the part of World Cup commentary panel they would definitely have raised the issue.



"If we were there, we would have spoken our mind there and then."

Waqar, who also appeared in the same TV programme, was of the view that the umpire was too late in making the decision and took the call only after Kohli asked for that.

"When the ball is about waist-high,

the square-leg umpire's first reaction is that he takes his hand out, extends his right hand. He is an experienced umpire. That's his natural reaction. But if you look at the replays, [square-leg umpire] turns around to see the ball. Then after Virat Kohli asked for it.

"I'm not saying and I don't want to say

it's a no-ball or not. I don't want to get into that controversy. But the umpire should have called it there and then. It was Kohli's right to ask for the no-ball and he should do it. The square-leg umpire should have consulted the main umpire and they should have gone upstairs. That's why the third umpire is sitting there. It should have been left to him. He could call it no ball, six or whatever," he added.

Cricketer Shoab Malik also expressed similar views saying, "When you've an option, you should take the help from the third umpire, especially in such a big match at a crunch situation.

"Anyone can make a mistake but they should have consulted the third umpire. If the decision was taken after the replays which we saw it would have been better."

Former captain Moin Khan also said that the decision should have been taken by the third umpire. "Replays show it was certainly a no ball but the [on field] umpires should have checked with the third umpire. The mistake here is that they didn't take help from third umpire," he maintained. APP

IS World Championships

Norway wins 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team gold

CAIRO: Norway won the gold medal of the 50m rifle 3-position mixed team after overcoming Denmark at the 2022 International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Championships here on Monday.

The Norwegian pair, Jenny Stene and Simon Claussen, led all through the 13 rounds of the gold medal match, defeating Danish Stephanie Grundsoe and Steffen Olsen 17-9.

Stene, 24, said that she felt "relieved and happy" to achieve such a precious medal for her country in the championships that also offer spots for individual events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

"We had one gold before this match. So, we have two gold medals so far and we aspire for more, hopefully in later competitions," the Norwegian told Xinhua.

Norway has won so far two gold, two silver and two bronze medals at the championships, placing seventh on the medal tally led by China.

The bronze medal was won by German Anna Janssen and David



Jenny Stene (R)/Simon Claussen of Norway celebrate after winning the 50m rifle 3 positions mixed team gold medal match against Stephanie Laura Scurrah Grundsoe/Steffen Olsen of Denmark at the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol in Cairo, Egypt. Xinhua

Koenders after a massive 16-0 triumph over Swiss Franziska Stark and Jan Lochbihler.

The 2022 ISSF World Champion-

ships for Rifle and Pistol is taking place at the newly built Egypt International Olympic City complex in the Egyptian capital of Cairo. Xinhua

Dortmund put faith in teenage trio

German club relying on Bellingham, Reyna, Moukoko for goals as they host their former star Haaland's Man City

DORTMUND: With Erling Haaland set to return to Borussia Dortmund for the first time on Tuesday with new side Manchester City, the hole the striker left behind is plain to see.

While Dortmund moved to plug their leaky defence in the off-season by bringing in likely Germany World Cup centre-back pairing Nico Schlotterbeck and Niklas Sule, the team has struggled up front since the giant Norwegian's departure.

Haaland scored 86 goals in 89 games in all competitions with Dortmund and has hit the ground running



in England.

In the Premier League alone this season, Haaland

has scored 17 goals in just 11 appearances with City.

That figure is just one less than Dortmund's entire

season tally of 18 in the Bundesliga-five of which were scored in Saturday's domination of managerless Stuttgart.

The Stuttgart game however may show a way forward

for Dortmund, by encouraging them to rely more heavily on their troupe of talented teenagers.

Dortmund's three best players in their dominant 5-0 home win over Stuttgart-Englishman Jude Bellingham, American Gio Reyna and German Youssoufa Moukoko-have a combined age of 55 and scored four of the side's five goals.

Bellingham has been Dortmund's most important player this season, having played every minute of every game other than a stint on the bench in Wednesday's Cup game against Hannover. AFP

Union Berlin lament 'frustrating' loss at Bochum



BERLIN: Union Berlin missed a chance at reinstating their four-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga, going down 2-1 at bottom side Bochum on Sunday.

Union came into the weekend with a four-point lead, but the gap was cut to just one after Bayern Munich defeated Hoffenheim 2-0 on Saturday.

Union coach Urs Fischer admitted that "Bochum were simply better".

"We didn't have the right answers," he told AFP subsidiary SID.

Bochum coach Thomas Letsch said: "I recognised how much desire the team had to get something out of the game (from the start).

"We played a great game and deserved to win."

Bochum took the lead in the final minute of the first half when Philipp Hofmann headed in a corner.

Looking to ignite a tired-looking side exhausted by frequent midweek matches as a result of their Europa League campaign, Fischer made three changes in the 63rd minute.

However it was the home side which continued to look fresher, scoring a second on the counter in the 71st minute when Christopher Antwi-Adjei crossed for Gerrit Holtmann to score.

Union had a chance to mount a comeback when awarded a penalty in the 77th minute, but Bochum goalkeeper Manuel Riemann saved Milos Pantovic's tentative spot-kick.

Pantovic got on the board in the last minute of injury time, but it was not enough as Union failed to secure three points for just the fourth time this season.

Union midfielder Rani Khedira said his side only had themselves to blame for an "unnecessary and frustrating" defeat.

"The first Bochum goal we practically scored ourselves, the second we invited them for a counter.

"If we don't do the basics, it's going to get difficult. We need to push ourselves to the limit in every game."

The win saw Bochum leapfrog Schalke, who finished the weekend stranded in last place after going down 2-1 at Hertha Berlin in Sunday's late game. AFP

St. Stephen's Tigers lift Zalmi Harmony League Season-II title



ISLAMABAD: St. Stephen's Tigers won the second edition of Zalmi Harmony Cricket League, outsmarting Allama Iqbal Shaheens by seven wickets in the final at Shalimar Ground, Islamabad on late Sunday.

Batting first, Allama Iqbal Shaheens scored 66 runs while batting first. In reply, St. Stephen's Tigers chased the target for loss of three wickets.

Osama was declared man-of-the-match. He was also declared the best batsman as well as player of the tournament for his stunning performance in the event. Namiya was declared the best bowler of the event.

The league was organized by Zalmi Foundation for the promotion of religious harmony.

Muhammad Akram, Director Cricket Peshawar Zalmi, Israr Madani, International Research Council on Religious Affairs, Dr. Zia, DG Islamic Research Institute, Dr. Arshad, Secretary Ministry of Religious, Sister Catherine from Christian Study Center and Albert David, Member National Commission on Minorities distributed the prizes among the players.

Speaking on the occasion Muhammad Akram said that Peshawar Zalmi and Zalmi Foundation would continue playing role for social services and stage more events like Zalmi Harmony and Zalmi Madrasah League to promote religious harmony.

We will also continue playing our role to opportunities to promising players, he added.

Israr Madani said this unconventional method of holding the event was an effective way forward to create religious tolerance and freedom in the society.

He said the initiative would help promote love, peace and reconciliation among the people of different religions and sects.

Nine teams, comprising building players from Muslim, Christian, Hindu and Sikh communities featured in the event. APP

Arsenal held as Armstrong rescues draw for Saints

Gunners drop points for only second time this season after 1-1 stalemate against Southampton



SOUTHAMPTON: Arsenal dropped points for only the second time this season as Stuart Armstrong's equaliser forced the Premier League leaders to settle for a 1-1 draw against Southampton on Sunday.

Mikel Arteta's side went in front through Granit Xhaka's first-half strike at St Mary's.

But Armstrong levelled after the interval as Arsenal paid the price for failing to convert several chances to increase their advantage.

It was a rare slip from the Gunners, who had won nine of their 10 previous league games this season, with their only defeat coming at Manchester United.

The end of Arsenal's eight-game winning run in all competitions leaves them two points clear of second-placed Manchester City with both having played 11 games.

While Arteta will be frustrated that Arsenal squandered the lead given to them by Swiss midfielder Xhaka, it is a tribute to his team's unexpected rise this season that failing to take maximum points ranks as a disappointment.

Arsenal have already proved they are a force to be reckoned with as they chase a first title since 2004 and they started in vibrant mood on the south coast.

Bukayo Saka's cross was inches away from Gabriel Magalhães before Gabriel Martinelli caused havoc in the Southampton defence with a direct run that ended with Xhaka's powerful drive repelled by Gavin Bazunu.

Xhaka turned provider moments later when he teed up Martin Odegaard for a low strike that whistled wide from the edge of the area.

Arsenal were in complete control and Xhaka delivered the goal their pressure merited in the 11th minute.

It was a smooth move as Saka's backheel sent Ben White away down the right flank and his cross reached Xhaka, who crashed a blistering strike into the roof of the net from 12 yards.

Arsenal had never lost when Xhaka scored, a sequence stretching to 17 games.

Gabriel Jesus was inches away from doubling Arsenal's lead when he shot into the side-netting from Odegaard's pass. AFP

Chelsea still struggling for goals

Premier League giants lacking firepower despite bright start under new manager Potter

LONDON: Chelsea are yet to lose in eight games under Graham Potter, but the Blues are still suffering from the lack of firepower that led to Thomas Tuchel's demise at Stamford Bridge.

Jorginho's penalty in a 1-1 draw with Manchester United on Saturday is the only goal Chelsea have managed in their last two games.

Even at the height of Tuchel's time at Chelsea when they won the Champions League in 2021, goals were at a premium, with their success built on a solid defensive foundation.

The German was sacked seven games into this season, just days after the end of a transfer window where he had a major influence

on Chelsea's recruitment.

Tuchel pushed to be reunited with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after their time together at Borussia Dortmund and also championed the signing of Raheem Sterling from Manchester City.

But neither have fired consistently for Potter.

Sterling is still Chelsea's top scorer this season with four goals despite his last coming in Potter's first game in charge against Salzburg.

Aubameyang has shown flashes of his predatory best, including in the high point of Potter's reign so far in consecutive wins over AC Milan to put Chelsea back on track in the Champions League.

But the former Arsenal captain

has just three goals in nine appearances overall.

"We were sort of nearly there but lacked the last bit," said Potter after the draw with United left Chelsea seven points adrift of Premier League leaders Arsenal. "That is an area as a team where we can do better, in terms of our attacking play. It's something we can improve," Potter said.

Chelsea's maximum return from two games against Milan has at least put them in a much better position to qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League.

Victory in Salzburg on Tuesday will secure qualification and most likely guarantee top spot in the group.

Potter had never even attend-

ed a Champions League game before his bow in the competition last month.

But he has quickly answered questions over his readiness for one of the top jobs in club football after an unusual coaching career path that began in the Swedish lower leagues with Ostersunds.

With United having the better of the opening half-hour on Saturday, Potter responded with a substitution after just 36 minutes with Mateo Kovacic replacing Marc Cucurella to even up the numbers in midfield.

Chelsea were much improved after the change, but without the killer touch that has led to renewed rumours about a move for the man who was not at Stamford Bridge at the weekend.



Cristiano Ronaldo's future at United has been plunged into further doubt by his refusal to come on as a substitute during a 2-0 win over Tottenham last

week. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner was subsequently left out of the squad against Chelsea by Erik ten Hag.

A potential summer bid for Ronaldo was reportedly a source of tension between Chelsea's new chairman and co-owner Todd Boehly and Tuchel.

The American is known to be keen to exploit the commercial opportunities that the Portuguese star would bring and Chelsea are one of the few clubs that could match his wage demands.

But Tuchel's resistance to the idea that the 37-year-old still has the dynamism to lead the line for a major club has been backed up by Ten Hag's decision to leave him sidelined for most of the season.

In their search for goals, Chelsea can ill afford Boehly to be blinded by what Ronaldo was rather than the player he is now. Reuters