



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابو ذر رضی اللہ عنہ نے کہا کہ میں نے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے اللہ تعالیٰ کے فرمان «والشس تجری لستقر لها» اور سورج اپنے ٹھکانے کی طرف چلا کر جاتا ہے۔ کے متعلق سوال کیا تو نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اس کا ٹھکانہ عرش کے نیچے ہے۔
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PTI Chairman crossed all red lines: Asif

Defense Minister Khawaja Asif has regretted that PTI Chairman Imran Khan has crossed all the red lines of the identity of a Pakistani. He said the Indian media does not support Narendra Modi as much as it is currently supporting Imran Khan. He said the Indian media is giving full coverage to the language being used by Imran Khan against Pakistan Army and the ISI. He said the PTI chairman has become the spokesperson of our enemy.



Early detection of breast cancer vital for survival rate: Begum Alvi

First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi Saturday urged women to regularly conduct self-examination and self-diagnosis for five minutes every month for the early detection of breast cancer. She added that early detection of breast cancer was essential for enhancing the survival rate in Pakistan, where almost 50% of the breast cancer patients died due to late diagnosis.

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Pakistan urges UNSC to push for ending Israeli occupation

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: With tensions rising high in Gaza, Pakistan, speaking on behalf of OIC countries, has urged the UN Security Council to push for a peace process that would end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and pave the way for an independent State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

"Peace and justice require accountability for the human rights violations and heinous crimes that we have been witnessing for too long in Occupied Palestine," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council on Friday.

"There cannot be peace without justice," the Pakistani envoy said in the 15-member Council's quarterly debate on the situation in the Middle East.

"This august body is, to this end, urged to engage to promote a multilateral-sponsored peace process aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace that will end the Israeli occupation and ensure the realization of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the Palestine refugees, and lead to the long-delayed independence and sovereignty of the State of Palestine on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with international law, relevant UN resolutions, and the Arab Peace Initiative," he added.

In his remarks, Ambassador said the constantly deteriorating and extremely volatile situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, is getting worse. That is due to the escalation of Israeli human rights violations, breaches of international humanitarian law, and recurrent brutal and criminal assaults that claim scores of innocent lives and hundreds of wounded Palestinian civilians, including children and women.

Economy top agenda

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Ishaq Dar chairing a meeting with the heads of Forex Exchange Companies at State Bank of Pakistan in Karachi on Saturday.



Photo: PID

Stabilizing economy govt's top priority: Dar

Heads of leading Exchange companies of Pakistan show unwavering trust in govt's fiscal, monetary policies

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with President/CEOs of the leading Forex Exchange Companies of Pakistan here at the State Bank of Pakistan on Saturday.

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Pasha, Governor SBP Jameel Ahmad and senior officers from the Finance Division and State Bank of Pakistan attended the meeting.

Malik Mohammad Bostan Chairman of Pakistan Currency Exchange, Sheikh Alaudin Ravi Exchange, Zafar Sultan Paracha, Secretary General and CEOs of leading forex Companies in Pakistan attended the meeting.

The Finance Minister while highlighting the economic situation of

Heads of commercial banks meet Dar

KARACHI: Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with President/CEOs of the leading commercial banks here on Saturday. Senator Ishaq Dar highlighting the overall economic outlook of the country shared that with the far-sighted and pragmatic policies of the present government, the economy of the country is on a growth trajectory path. He further assured the government's financial situation is fully solvent and the government is fully committed to fulfilling its local and international commitments. The finance minister urged them to play their due role in the financial and economic stabilization and progress of the country.

the country stated that stabilizing Pakistan's economy was the government's top priority. For this purpose, the government had taken tough decisions in the past few months, which were essential to put Pakistan on the path of economic recovery.

The catastrophic floods had compounded the difficulty but the government was confident that through prudent policies, the chal-

lenges to Pakistan's economy will be effectively tackled. He emphasized that the present government with its pragmatic policy decisions has not only arrested the economic decline but has also set the economy in the right direction.

The Finance Minister further expressed the resolve of the Government to ensure stable economic and fiscal policies and requested the

forex companies to ensure appropriate exchange rates for the betterment of the Country.

The heads of exchange companies discussed broader economic issues and matters impacting the forex market. They proposed measures to bring about stability in the USD-Pak Rupee exchange in Pakistan. They affirmed that the real exchange rate is much lower than the prevailing exchange rate in the market and hoped that the recent measures taken by the State Bank of Pakistan will very soon bring down the exchange rate to its real level.

Heads of leading Exchange companies of Pakistan showed their unwavering trust in Government's fiscal and monetary policies and expressed their strong commitment to work in tandem with the State Bank of Pakistan to achieve this objective.

Republic Day of Turkiye

PM felicitates Turkish President

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has felicitated Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the 99th Republic Day of Turkiye.

In a tweet on Saturday, he said the heroic struggle of Turkish people for independence under the leadership of Ghazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk

holds a prominent place in the annals of history.

Shehbaz Sharif said Turkiye's impressive economic strides under President Erdogan are acknowledged by the world. The Prime Minister said Pakistan seeks to deepen its multifaceted ties with Turkiye by further exploring the vast untapped potential in trade, commerce and industry.

Info Minister rules out talks with Imran

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Saturday categorically ruled out any negotiations with the "foreign funded fitna", Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan "who does not want transparent elections but chaos and bloodshed in the country".

In a statement, she said the "real face of Imran Khan, his politics of lies and fake character have been exposed." She said the reality of "foreign-funded fitna" can no longer be hidden by "spreading the mental filth on the streets".

"The foreign-funded fitna should respond to the damages' notices [Defamation Case] of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif before issuing such notice to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)," she held.

She said Imran Khan was absconding in the case filed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, seeking Rs 10 billion in damages from the former for the past five years. Chief Election Commissioner was being threatened as he did not bow before the "foreign-funded fitna", also refusing to give him [Imran] an NRO, she added.

A notice of damages was



issued because "the CEC has brought an arrogant, obstinate and selfish man under the ambit of law and caught Imran's lies and fraud red-handed," the minister remarked.

She further said that notice of damages was issued because the Chief Election Commissioner had attached the secret accounts and money laundering of "foreign-funded fitna" and "caught him in Daska for kidnapping vote bags and election staff". Notice of damages issued because the "CEC caught the Toshakhana robberies of the foreign-funded fitna," she asserted.

PTI long march aims at creating chaos, unrest: Sana

Says Imran's conspiracy will not be allowed to succeed

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah on Saturday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan wanted to create such a law and order situation that might trigger clashes between the people and law enforcement agencies.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said that PTI's long march was aimed at shedding the blood of innocent people in the federal capital.

The minister also released Gandapur's purported audio leak, claiming PTI bringing arms to the capital.

He accused Imran Khan of planning to spread chaos in the name of the long march, citing purported leaked audio of Ali Amin Gandapur, who could be heard speaking about bringing ammunition for the long march.

The minister said the purported audio leak raised serious questions about the security situation, therefore, it was now the responsibility of the law enforcement agencies to protect the federal capital from armed people.

As per initial investiga-



tions, details of the purported audio leak were secured by the ministry, he said while refusing to reveal the identity of the other person talking to Gandapur.

Moreover, Sanaullah termed Imran Khan's attitude as 'undemocratic'. "PTI's chief wants people to die instead of holding a long march," the minister said and recalled the press conference of Faisal Vawda who admitted that the PTI's long march would turn out to be a 'bloody march'.

He said the government did not make an offer for holding a dialogue with Khan. "Gandapur would have been arrested if he was in Islamabad," the minister

added. He warned the KP government and law enforcement agencies to arrest the people involved in the conspiracy on an urgent basis. He also appealed to the Punjab government to take strict legal action against all such elements as information was pouring in that the long march was aimed at creating chaos in the country.

He also stated that all information had also been shared with the Punjab government, urging it to launch an immediate crackdown on mobs. "If the chief secretary and inspector-general fail to arrest these people, the onus would be on them," he asserted. APP

Pak citizen detained in Guantanamo Bay returns home: FO



ISLAMABAD: Saif Ullah Paracha, a Pakistani national, who had been detained in Guantanamo Bay, arrived home on Saturday after his release, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs completed an extensive inter-agency process to facilitate the repatriation of Paracha. "We are glad that a Pakistani citizen detained abroad is finally reunited with his family," the spokesperson said in a press release.

PTI Long March

IK denies rumours over 'meeting in Lahore'

Imran Khan asks CJP to protect fundamental rights

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan on Saturday denied rumors circulating on social media regarding his "meeting in Lahore."

Taking to Twitter, the former PM penned that "For all those spreading rumours about my meeting in Lahore, the reason we returned back was that Lahore was closer & we had already decided not to move at night." Imran Khan further said, "The only demand I have had for 6 months is a date for early, fair and free elections. That will be the ONLY demand if talks are to be held."

Meanwhile, on day two of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) "Haqqeeqi Azadi March", Imran Khan on Saturday asked the Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial to protect the fundamental rights and also to take action against the "custodial torture" of PTI leader Azam Swati.

"You should know why I am on the streets at the age of 70. The only reason I am marching is because you are like my children and I want you to be educated and know what real freedom is," said the former PM while addressing the long march participants at Shahdara, Lahore.

PM reveals he rejected Imran's offer

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that he rejected former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan's request for talks through common business personality on appointment of new Army Chief and election date. A high-level meeting was held in Lahore under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in which, he was informed about the long march, number of participants of the long march and Ali Amin Gandapur's plan. Declaring the long march as unjustified and against the development of Pakistan, the prime minister said that no one will be allowed to take the law into their hands, adding that the appointment of the army chief will be done according to the constitution and the law. Shehbaz Sharif went on to say that the PTI chairman had sent him an offer through a person to appoint the new army chief with mutual consultation.

The PTI chairman said that when he condemned the torture of Shahbaz Gill, a case was filed against him, adding that he had opposed torture during detention. If action had been taken then, Azam Swati would not have been so cruel that he would have been forced to think of suicide.

"Chief justice sahib, it is your job to protect fundamental rights. The nation is looking towards you. Action is taken against custodial torture across the world - Who will protect our fundamental rights if not you chief justice sahib?" he said.

Imran Khan continued: "Today, chief justice, I am asking you to take action and listen to Azam Swati's appeal. Show that we are a society

of humans and not animals. There is justice in human society ... It is our right that we are given justice."

A day earlier, former prime minister Imran Khan said that the government is surviving due to the support of the establishment. Speaking to a private tv channel, the former PM said that the government of thieves and the rulers are facing corruption cases, while it has also failed in stabilizing the country's economy nor it [government] could solve governance issues.

"We do not want interference from anywhere," he said adding that our goal is only elections. Imran Khan went on to say that the rulers want to engage us in backdoor dialogues and bow down before the US.

Power Show

LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan addresses his supporters during Long March towards Islamabad to demand early elections, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

S. Korea stampede death toll rises to 120

SEOUL: The number of deaths reported from a stampede in a central district of the South Korean capital Seoul has risen to 120, a fire official said.

The incident took place at about 10:20 p.m. (1320 GMT). A large number of people fell down in a narrow alley during the Halloween events, Choi Sung-beom, head of the Yongsan Fire Station, said. The number of casualties could rise as the rescue effort was still under way.

"The area is still chaotic so we are still trying to figure out the exact number of people injured," Moon Hyun-joo, an official at the National Fire Agency said. Foreigners were among those transferred to nearby hospitals.

President Yon Suk-yeol presided over an emergency meeting with senior aides and ordered emergency medical teams to the area, his office said. Authorities said they were investigating the exact cause of the incident. Reuters

Pak-US ties on path of holistic growth: Masood

The envoy thanked the United States for giving additional \$30m for flood victims

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The relations between Pakistan and the United States were once again on the path of holistic growth and expansion, Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S. Masood Khan said.

Masood expressed these views while addressing foreign students studying in US universities at the International Students House in Washington D.C. The International Student House has 190 residents from 28 countries.

The ambassador also thanked the United States for giving additional assistance of \$30 million to help millions of people in Pakistan whose lives were devastated by the recent floods. He appreciated that so far the United States has contributed \$97 million to support Pakistan's initial rescue, relief and early recovery operations following the floods.

The Pakistan envoy said that after a brief period of uncertainty following US troops' withdrawal from Afghanistan in August last year, the two sides have recalibrated, reenergized, and rejuvenated their longstanding partnership. While the emphasis on strategic coordination continued to jointly face challenges of terrorism and regional stabilization,



efforts were being made to advance the two countries economic agenda by accelerating the pace for engagement on trade, investment, energy, agriculture, science and technology.

Masood Khan said that Pakistan was poised to become a regional tech hub because of successful launch of thousands of tech startups in the past two years. He informed his audience that International Venture Capital firms such as Kleiner Perkins, Tiger Global Management, Dragoneer Investment Group and Acrew Capital from the United States, Kingsway Capital from the United Kingdom, Speedinvest from Europe, Gobi Partners from China and Shorooq Partners from the UAE have

started financing Pakistan's tech sector at pre-seed, seed and early stages of incubation.

Ambassador Khan invited international students and their respective countries to invest in Pakistan's tech industry where they would be able to interact and transact with tech savvy young Pakistani professionals who were driving the digital revolution in Pakistan.

The ambassador appealed to the students to transcend national boundaries and work as global citizens for international peace and security, interfaith harmony and elimination of poverty. "You ought to be architects of a better future for humanity", he said.

IHC to hear Khan's plea against disqualification

Islamabad High Court fixes plea for Monday

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) is set to hear PTI Chairman Imran Khan's plea challenging his disqualification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in the Toshakhana reference.

IHC's Justice Aamir Farooq will hear Khan's plea seeking annulment of the ECP's verdict on October 31 (Monday).

On October 21, the ECP's five-member bench disqualified Khan as he submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices under Article 63(1)(p).

In the detailed verdict, the ECP said: "The Commission is competent to entertain the reference from the Speaker under Article 63(2) of the Constitution and adjudicate upon the same under Article 63(3) and the Question of disqualification as and when raised is not dependent upon

time." However, Khan on October 22 challenged the order of the commission in the Islamabad High Court, praying to the court to set aside the judgment as ECP had no jurisdiction over the matter.

Khan pleaded with the court to declare the ECP's verdict against the settled principles of law on Article 63. The registrar, however, had raised objections to the petition.

On October 26, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah removed administrative objections from the petition filed by Imran Khan against his disqualification.

Meanwhile, Khan had also filed another plea with the IHC requesting the court to suspend the ECP's order instantly in the Toshakhana reference. However, the court rejected the request. Agencies

COP27

Sherry tops list of global leaders shaping climate agenda

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman has been placed at top of the list among nine global leaders, who formed the climate agenda at the COP27 summit.

In a release by Climate Home News, an international journalistic organisation working on climate journalism, these nine global figures would form the agenda of the 27th conference of parties (COP27) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Egypt and would be the center of attention in the Climate Summit.

Federal Minister Sherry Rehman is the first to inform the world about the scale, damages and challenges of floods, said the Climate Home News.

The climate journalism forum underlined that the federal minis-

ter would play a key role in advancing the new series of Climate Fund.

According to the organization, Pakistan will be at the forefront in presenting its demands in the 27th COP moot, wherein some 197 countries around the world will participate in the climate summit in Egypt.

From Pakistan's climate minister Sherry Rehman to Egypt's Mahmoud Mohieldin, here are the people to watch at the Cop27 climate summit: Climate victim defender: Sherry Rehman, Activist diplomat: Jennifer Morgan, Voice for justice: Vanessa Nakate, Financial system wonk: Mahmoud Mohieldin, Gas enthusiast: Macky Sall, Clean power hustler: William Ruto, Debt swap champion: Gustavo Petro, Methane controller: John Kerry and Quiet deal-maker: Xie Zhenhua. APP

Two Pak Army soldiers martyred

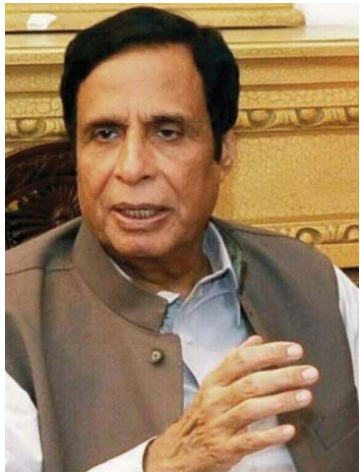
RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting terrorists in general area Darazinda of Dera Ismail Khan district. According to ISPR, Naik Sajid Hussain aged 33 years, resident of Khushab and Sepoy Muhammad Israr aged 26 years, resident of Attock embraced Shahadat during an intense exchange of firing with terrorists. The Pak Army troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and are carrying out sanitization of the area to eliminate any terrorists there. Staff Reporter

Talks on election date afoot, claims Elahi

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi said on Saturday that former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan will not hold talks with any committee of the government and talks on election date are also underway with where the matter would resolve.

In an interview with Dunya News, the Punjab Chief Minister said that politics has nothing to do with the heat or cold and if the weather is hot, we will try to cool it down.

He also thanked Imran Khan for trusting him and making the chief minister of the province. No one else other than me knows Sharif, he said and added Nawaz Sharif started a feud with the then army chief when he became the Prime Minister with a two-thirds majority. "He [Nawaz



Sharif] also had feud with Ali Qulji, Perved Musharraf and Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa," Elahi added.

Pervaiz Elahi went on to say that Imran Khan's biggest issue is election date and want the date to be announced, adding that a ray of hope is seen during the long march, while the incumbent govt want election to be held after completion of tenure.

When Pervaiz Elahi was asked that if the negotiations were going on, then why DG ISI needed a press conference, he replied that he would not talk about it and we hope that the talks will lead to a solution. Everyone including PDM, PM, Imran Khan I want extension for Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa and the former had said that it would be better if the Army Chief is given extension.

"Imran Khan is my leader and will do whatever he would ask," Elahi said, adding that the PTI chairman will never tolerate these thieves. Agencies

China to work with other BRICS members

To jointly advance expansion process

BEIJING: China, along with other combined economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) members, will jointly advance the expansion process so that more partners will join the BRICS family, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said here Saturday.

"As the BRICS Chair this year, China actively supports the process of BRICS expansion," he said during his regular briefing in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's statement that Russia supports the accession of Saudi Arabia to BRICS.

The spokesperson said that at the 14th BRICS Summit on June 23, the BRICS leaders reached an important consensus on BRICS expansion and



expressed support for the discussion on the standards and procedures of the expansion.

After the meeting, many countries expressed the desire to join BRICS cooperation, he added.

Responding to a similar question on October 20, China voiced support for the expansion of BRICS membership after reports about Saudi Arabia showing its intention to join the group that presently comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

According to a media report, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has also said that Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman expressed the desire to join BRICS. APP

Tech transfer key to help Pakistan in tackling floods

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Secretary-General of China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF), Dr Zhou Jinfeng has said that it is important to financially support Pakistan in tackling the floods, and technology transfer and other supports are equally important to help them out in the long haul.

Pakistan is already facing a severe energy crisis ahead of the monsoon rain in June. The heavy rains have triggered unprecedented floods that have left a third of the country inundated and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Although Pakistan accounts for less than 1% of global carbon emissions, it is among the 10 countries most affected by climate change. "We need to get involved. We need to be accountable," Zhou told CEN, adding that everyone on this planet was responsible for

Pakistan's climate crisis, especially the developed countries.

The floods in Pakistan have brought home the urgency of tackling climate change. Earlier this month, the UN launched the revised flash appeal for aid for Pakistan from the initial \$160 million to \$816 million, to respond to the growing lifesaving needs of the people affected. As the damage caused by floods pointed to the urgent need for long-term help lasting into next year. Experts also said people in flood-hit areas would face a harsh winter this year.

"To help developing countries cope with climate change, in addition to short-term financial and material assistance, promoting the application of green technologies is of long-term significance," Dr. Zhou Jinfeng stressed.

To tackle this, CBCGDF has joined hands with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to launch programmes to



boost the development of green technologies in Pakistan's energy sector and agricultural production system in arid

and semi-arid regions of the country.

"Technologies are critical to our response to the climate issues in Paki-

stan," Dr. Zhou Jinfeng pinpointed, adding that together with the Aerospace Information Research Institute,

Chinese Academy of Sciences and other institutes, they worked out Report of Monitoring and Assessment of Desert Locust in Africa and Asia to focus on the dynamics of desert locust monitoring and loss assessment in Yemen, Ethiopia, and Pakistan.

Moreover, CBCGDF teamed up to work with the Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Ministry of Water Resources to help the people of Pakistan cope with climate change and rebuild their homes after disasters.

"What I believe is that 'we are born equal of carbon: carbon rights and carbon responsibilities'. Everyone has to change, or such crises will follow," he further said. Pakistan said on October 19 that the World Bank estimates this summer's record-breaking floods had caused \$40 billion in damage to this impoverished South Asian nation. The figure is \$10 billion more than an earlier estimate by the Pakistani government.

Early detection of breast cancer vital for survival rate: Begum Alvi

First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi urges women to conduct regular self-exam to detect breast cancer

Bureau Report

KARACHI: First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi Saturday urged women to regularly conduct self-examination and self-diagnosis for five minutes every month for the early detection of breast cancer. She added that early detection of breast cancer was essential for enhancing the survival rate in Pakistan, where almost 50% of the breast cancer patients died due to late diagnosis.

Begum Samina Alvi expressed these views while addressing a breast cancer awareness session organized by Karachi Bar Association here. Dr Kausar from a local hospital gave a detailed presentation on breast cancer, its symptoms, importance of early diagnosis, method of self-examination, and living a healthy life.



Addressing the occasion, Begum Samina Alvi highlighted that breast cancer was the most common form of cancer found in women, adding that 90-100 thousand cases of breast cancer were being reported in Pakistan every year. She said that almost 50% of breast cancer patients in Pakistan died due to late diagnosis, adding that mortality rate could be reduced by creating awareness among women about

its early symptoms, and conducting self-examination for every five minutes every month.

Begum Samina Alvi said that as per medical experts, the 5-year survival rates at 3rd and 4th stages were 86% and 28% respectively, which meant that chances of surviving the breast cancer were quite high provided it was detected at the earliest stages. She further said that women should

inculcate the habit of self-examination and if they notice any lump or unusual change in their breasts or surrounding areas, they should immediately seek medical help.

Begum Alvi highlighted that she had been working for this cause for the past four years, and due to the grace of Allah Almighty, the awareness campaign had started yielding results. She said that breast cancer sessions were being regularly organized across the country, even in as remote areas as Wana, and people were openly discussing this topic, which was previously considered a taboo. She informed that the number of breast cancer cases at the earliest stages had almost doubled in different hospitals of the country due to awareness and an increase in reporting.

CM Elahi approves Rs12b funds for flood victims

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has accorded approval of the funds amounting to Rs 12 billion on the whole for the rehabilitation and settlement of the flood-affected.

He was presiding over a meeting at CMO in which the Head of Punjab Ehsas Program Dr. Sania Nishtar, Provincial Minister Mohsin Leghari and others were also present. The CM said that the Punjab government will provide Rs 9 billion for the rehabilitation and settlement of the flood-affected people adding that other Rs 3.2 billion which were collected during the telethon would be contributed. He said that Rs10 billion have been allocated to redress the losses of houses and the livestock while Rs 2 billion have been allocated to provide financial assistance to the farmers whose fields were affected due to the floods. The chief minister apprised that the farmers having less than 12.5 acres of land will be disbursed Rs 5000/acre while Rs 2 lac/financial aid will be given on the falling down of adobe houses while Rs 4 lac/financial aid will be given to the owners of the bricked houses. He said that the owners of the livestock will also be given financial aid in the flood-affected areas. The CM added that the Punjab government is doing the rehabilitation work of the flood-affected. Principal Secretary to CM Muhammad Khan Bhatti, Senior Member board of Revenue, concerned Secretaries and other officials also attended the meeting.

By-election in NA-45 Kurram today

PESHAWAR: All arrangements have been finalized for by-elections in NA-45 Kurram to be held on Sunday (today). Polling will be started at 8am which will continue till 5pm without any break.

The spokesman of Election Commission Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Saturday said that there were 198,618 registered voters among which 111,349 were men and 87,269 were women.

He said that a total of 143 polling stations had been set up, out of which 119 had been declared very sensitive while 24 polling stations were put in the category of sensitive. District Police Officer (DPO) Kurram, Arbab Shafiqullah said that preparations had been completed for by-elections in NA-45 and transportation of election material had been started. He said that 2,100 policemen had been deputed on polling duty. The DPO urged the political leaders and workers to abide by rules and cooperate with police to maintain peace during by-election. Provincial Election Commissioner Shamsad Khan has directed the Commissioner Kohat division to make foolproof security arrangements for NA-45 Kurram by-poll, so that the voters could cast their votes without fear and risk. Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) chief among 16 candidates including Jamil Khan of Jamiat Ulema e Islam-Fazal (JUI-F) and Sher Muhammad Khan of Jamaat Islami (JI) that would contest election from NA-45 Kurram while independent candidates were also included in the contestants. APP

Peshawar Corps Commander visits Mir Ali, Bara

Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Corps Commander Peshawar Lieutenant General Hassan Azhar Hayat on Saturday visited Mir Ali, North Waziristan District and Bara, Khyber District. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, during his visit to Mir Ali, the Corps Commander inaugurated the Army Public School and also visited Boys Hostel and Pakistan Sweet Home. Pakistan Sweet Home was established in 2017 and 96 orphans from Mir Ali and Miran Shah were currently availing the facility free of charge. The establishment of Army Public School was in popular demand of the locals in which students from Grade 1 to 8 would study. The school has the capacity to enroll 525 students at one time. Boys hostel is providing free accommodation to 123 students from adjoining areas. Corps Commander was also the chief guest at the Passing out parade of basic military training course held at the Scouts Training Academy (South), Mir Ali. A total of 1,164 recruits from the 31st edition passed out after the successful completion of training. During his visit to Bara, Corps Commander attended the Grand Jirga of tribal elders hailing from Tirah, Bagh Maidan, Rajgal, Landikotal, Bara, Mula Gori and Jamrud. Corps Commander lauded the sacrifices rendered by tribesmen in achieving peace in the area and assured that Pakistan Army would provide all possible assistance to the locals. Meanwhile, the Malaks and Mashrans (tribal chief) thanked the Pakistan Army for restoring peace in the area and for ongoing efforts for socio-economic development in NMDs. They also assured Corps Commander for their unflinching support to security forces.

Imran will not be allowed to malign state institutions: Ikhtiar Wali

PESHAWAR: Member Provincial Assembly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and spokesman of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) in the province Ikhtiar Wali on Saturday said that Imran Khan would not be allowed to attack the security institutions of the country. In a statement, issued here, about the present situation, he said the PTI chief had become a "security risk" after "his anti-state narratives". He said only a few thousand of people were there out of a population of millions, and that too "he [Imran] rented for fulfilling his nefarious desires of hitting the institutions", referring to the PTI's long march heading towards Islamabad from Lahore. "Imran is marching on the road with his failures and fake statements by lodging unethical and illogical narratives that has badly damaged the sanctity of institutions," he held. He said the PTI chairman was making his last effort to hide the incompetence he displayed during his four years tenure as the prime minister. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf had entered the closed street and Imran would return empty-handed, he added. APP

Awareness Walk

KARACHI: Paramedical staff of Kharadar General Hospital hold a banner during Breast Cancer Awareness walk in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Govt would not succumb to PTI's pressure: Zubair

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Muhammad Zubair on Saturday said that the federal government would not succumb to any pressure, especially related to holding early elections, of the long march staged by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan.

Talking to a private news channel, the senator said that the coalition government would decide itself the best time for holding general elections.

He also held the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would complete its constitutional tenure.

"Nobody would be allowed to create instability in the country, he said, adding, the long march was neither good for the country nor in Pakistan's interest. APP

FCCI sends blankets, warm clothes for flood victims

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Due to the sudden cold wave in the areas affected by floods and rains, the need for blankets and warm clothes has increased for the people. In this regard, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has sent a shipment of 400 Blankets and 300 overcoats to Upper Dir region.

Addressing the ceremony of sending the goods today, Senior Vice President Dr. Sajjad Arshad said that the business community has played a full role from the platform of Faisalabad Chamber and started sending relief goods to the victims with this natural disaster.

He said that with the passage of time, the needs of the victims kept changing and so our focus also shifted towards meeting the immediate needs of the



victims. He also mentioned mosquito nets and mospil in this regard and said that they were needed in some districts of Sindh, where these items were sent, while in view of the cold weather, blankets and overcoats are being sent for Upper Dir and Allah Almighty.

All possible help should be provided for the construction of the victims' houses with the help of good will. He thanked those who participated in this good work and said that Allah Ta'ala will give them the best reward for it. Vice President Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Arif Ehsan Malik of All Pakistan Bed Sheets and Upholstery Manufacturers Association, Haji Muhammad Abid, Haji Gulzar Ahmed, Mian Abdul Waheed, Mian Muhammad Taib, Sheikh Muhammad Asghar Qadri, Muhammad Asim were also present on this occasion.

Vehicle theft and snatching incidents reduced in Faisalabad

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Due to the effective surveillance and patrolling of the police, a 62% reduction in vehicle theft and snatching incidents and a 30% reduction in robbery incidents have been recorded. Regional Police Officer Moin Masood told this to the delegation headed by Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq.

He said that the police has taken effective action against the habitual criminal elements and gangs of the region, which has significantly reduced the crime rate. He said that complete eradication of crime is possible with the cooperation of the community. He also highlighted the integrated system of surveillance and patrolling in the city and said that damaged vehicles have been repaired with their own resources and made usable. The Regional Police Officer also mentioned the system of cameras for surveillance and said that with the support of the business community, cameras will be installed at all entrances and exits of the city, besides important squares and business centers.

PRCS distributes hygiene kits to children in Chagmalai area

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Assistant Commissioner of Servekai Umar Khittab Gurveki and Additional Assistant Commissioner Suhail visited Chagmalai area of South Waziristan, along with Secretary of Pakistan Red Crescent Society District South Waziristan.

On this occasion, he went to the Basic Health Unit of Chagmalai where he reviewed the facilities of the health department and the problems faced by the patients.

On this occasion, BHU assured to provide better facilities to the patients, while Assistant Commissioner Servekai along with his team also went to Government High School Chagmalai where they met the students of the school after meeting the staff of



Government High School Chagmalai and asked them questions and answers, after that they distributed hygiene kits there.

Meanwhile, District Police Officer

South Waziristan Attiqullah Wazir (PSP) inspected the government offices including police station DPO office prison under construction in Wana and took a briefing regarding the construc-

tion work.

According to the details, the DPO, while issuing instructions, said that the speed of work should be accelerated and all the essentials in connection with the construction should be fulfilled and no lapses would be tolerated.

The construction material will be checked on daily basis and no compromise will be made on the material. The DPO while speaking said that the construction of all the offices should be ensured as soon as possible and will be made functional as soon as possible.

He said that the police are shifting all their offices here therefore, the offices will be completed as soon as possible so soon people will benefit from their fruits Our endeavor is to provide all the facilities under one roof to the people.

PTI terminates Faisal Vawda's membership

Imran Khan terminates basic membership of Vawda from party

ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Saturday announced that the membership of party leader Faisal Vawda stands terminated for failing to respond to the show-cause notice issued to him on October 26.

PTI confirmed the termination of Vawda's basic membership from the party on Twitter.

"This is reference to the show-cause notice issued to you dated October 26, 2022 for defying party policy. You have not responded within the stipulated timeline. Therefore, your membership from the party stands terminated," read the post.

On Wednesday, Vawda made claims that the party's long march would "witness bloodshed, death, and funerals." After this, the PTI suspended Vawda and said that he would not be allowed to hold any party office or represent the party in the media as he had "grossly violated discipline by giving statements against party policies and guidelines".

Vawda, in the press conference, said: "These funerals will definitely be held, but I will try until my dying breath to save my Pakistanis from sacrificing their lives for a conspiracy hatched by some people. I will try to end this politics of death and bloodshed in this country."

The PTI leader said that "important and common" people's deaths will take place in the long march, adding that there were "ulterior motives" behind the march to Islamabad.

He said that several deaths will take place before and during the long march as the motive is to "divert the attention" so that the nation "would start seeing things in black as white". Agencies



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:00 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:40 pm
Maghrib	5:19 pm
Isha	6:43 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

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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
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

Kashmir Black Day event held at Pakistan Embassy, Beijing

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Kashmir Black Day was observed at the Embassy of Pakistan, Beijing to mark India's illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir that started on October 27, 1947, and continues to this day, and to show solidarity with the people of Kashmir in their just struggle for their right to self-determination as enshrined in various United Nations Security Council resolutions. The components of the program included: Messages by the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan reiterating Pakistan's commitment to the Kashmir cause; a photo-exhibition depicting Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK); and a song specially released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan for this occasion.

Addressing the audience, Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque spoke at length about the brutal oppression faced by the people of IOJK for the last 75 years and paid rich tribute to their valiant struggle.

Pak, Italy jointly to deal with climate change

World communities must help Pakistan suffering from climate change issues, says Shazia Marri

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the Italian Agency for Development Corporation (AICS) have agreed upon to work together on climate change and other issues of the social sector as well as to mitigate the needs of flood affected people in Pakistan through extending help in rebuilding.

This was decided on Saturday in a meeting between Ms. Shazia Marri, Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) and Ms. Emanuela Benini, the Director of AICS office Islamabad, here, at BISP headquarters.

Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAMP), Mr. Yusuf Khan, Secretary BISP, Mr. Hamid Khan DG (OM) BISP and other officials of BISP attended the meeting.

Ms. Shazia Marri informed AICS Director about the initiatives of Benazir Income Support Program and stated that BISP aims to provide a comprehensive system



of social security to the disadvantaged and marginalized segments of society, particularly women.

She discussed the suffering of the flood-affected people and repercussions of climate change and the great loss of human lives and properties that people have gone through in recent catastrophes.

"The recent floods in Pakistan have affected 33 million people, many lost

their homes, jobs, and businesses, a large number of cattle and crops are devastated, tens of thousands people are still homeless," she said.

Ms. Marri informed the delegate that according to an initial survey around 33 million people have been affected by recent floods and the BISP has credit to disburse over Rs. 66 billion among 2.6 million calamity-hit families of the declared areas of the country.

Turkish National Day

ISLAMABAD: An illuminated view of Pakistan Monument with the colourful lighting on National Day of Türkiye.

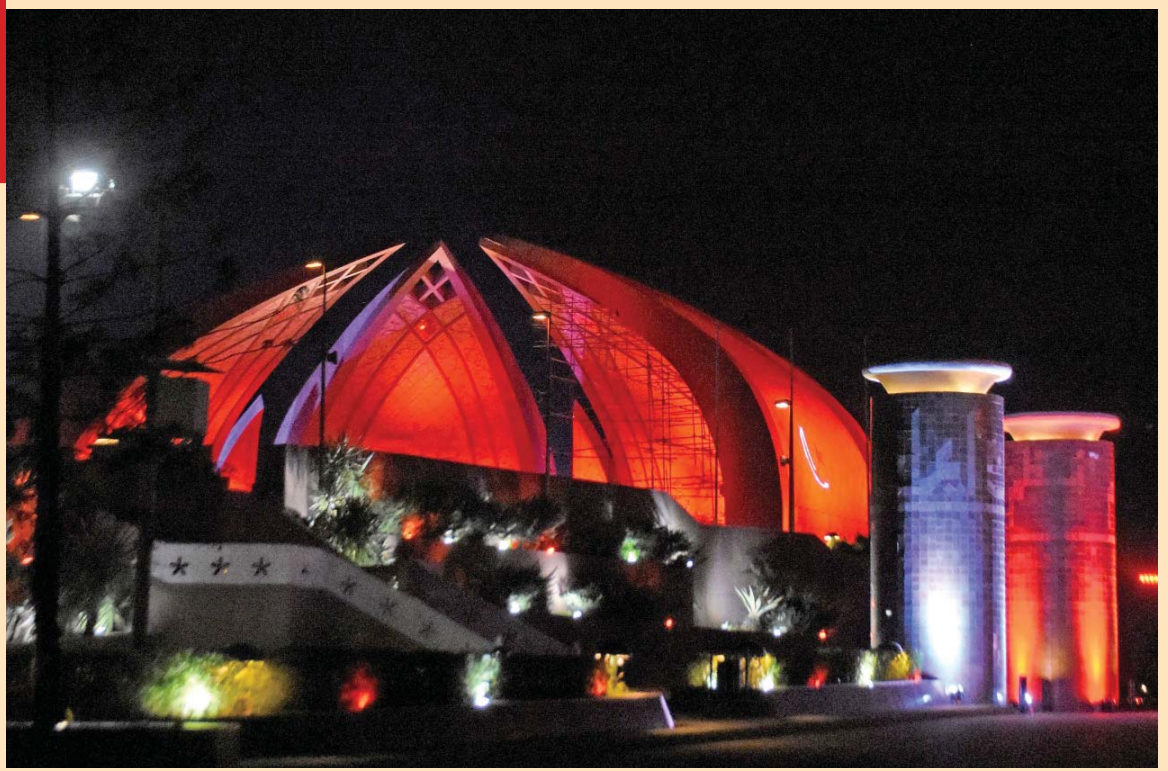


Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

EU organizes 'Unity Diversity' festival

To showcase European culture, heritage

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: European Union and its member states here on Saturday organized a festival "Unity Diversity" for the residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to experience European culture and heritage, music and food.

EU organizes 'Unity Diversity' festival to showcase European culture, heritage Large numbers of people, especially families flocked to "EuroVillage" at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) to enjoy the festival.

Through games and quizzes, interactive information displays, and various activities, visitors learned what the EU's motto "Unity in Diversity" means in practice and how it applies also to Pakistan.

EuroVillage, which already



attracted over 8,000 visitors in the past editions, took place for the first time after a gap of three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan, Dr Riina Kionka in her welcome remarks said, "We cherish the diverse cultures,

languages, religions, histories and identities that coexist in Europe. They are part of our wealth, they shape our shared values, connect us and give us a joint sense of purpose. It is this common understanding of shared values and diversity that lies at the heart of our relations with the world - including with

Pakistan."

She further added, "This edition of the EuroVillage is special because this year the European Union and Pakistan celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations. This partnership in development, trade and political engagement, manifests that we are stronger together. Our partnership has evolved over the decades, as have Pakistan, the European Union and the world."

As a symbol of this partnership, an EU-Pakistan friendship truck was displayed for the first time at the event. The truck will be travelling all around the country to reach Pakistani youth in various universities across the country and offer a window into the strong connection between the EU and Pakistan.

Health Corner

Lack of access to healthy food may raise risk of death from heart failure

A study reviewing data from nearly 3,000 counties in the United States has found that living in a community with easy access to grocery stores and affordable, healthy food is associated with lower heart failure death rates, according to new research published today in *Circulation: Heart Failure*, an American Heart Association journal.

Food insecurity occurs when healthy food is not readily available on a daily basis, due to poverty or socioeconomic challenges, causing people to go hungry or eat food that is of reduced quality, variety or desirability. While previous research has confirmed that food insecurity is associated with adverse cardiovascular outcomes, little research is available about the local food environment and its potential relationship to death from heart failure. A 2019 paper published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association* found that, on a county level in the U.S., poverty was the strongest socioeconomic factor associated with heart failure and coronary heart disease, and the association was stronger for heart failure than coronary heart disease.

"Heart failure mortality is on the rise in populations that live in socioeconomic deprivation, and, importantly, we believe that nutrition plays a role in heart failure mortality, and food insecurity may be particularly detrimental in this population," said lead study author Keerthi T. Gondi, M.D., an internal medicine resident at the University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "We know that important relationships exist among food access and food affordability and heart health. This will have to be addressed in order to make changes to the burden of cardiovascular disease in populations that live in socioeconomic deprivation moving forward."

This study is one of the first analyses to investigate the association between local food environments and heart failure mortality. Heart failure is a chronic, progressive condition in which the heart muscle becomes so weak it no longer pumps blood as it should. According to Gondi, he and his colleagues examined the death rate from heart failure because it is a consistent metric reported across all US counties, providing an ability to comprehensively evaluate heart failure outcomes at the population level. In 2019, heart failure death accounted for nearly more than 86,000 deaths in the U.S., according to the Association's Heart Disease and Stroke Statistics Update for 2022.

The researchers sought to determine whether food environment by county level was associated with heart failure death rates. They reviewed 2018 data from the National Vital Statistics System -- a database of all births and deaths in the U.S. -- and examined the potential for associations among the heart failure death rates in each county with the county's 2018 Food Insecurity Percentage score and Food Environment Index score.

The researchers collected each county's Food Insecurity Percentage score -- the percentage of the population who lack adequate, consistent access to healthy food -- and Food Environment Index score -- an index ranked from 0 (worst) to 10 (best) based on a composite of metrics including affordability of nutritious food, food insecurity, grocery store proximity, transportation and socioeconomic factors -- from the USDA's Food Environment Atlas and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation County Health Rankings. The Food Environment Atlas assembles statistics on food environment indicators and provides a spatial overview of a community's ability to access healthy food.

Evaluated together, the Food Insecurity Percentage and Food Environment Index provide a clear picture of a population's food environment.

Of the 2,956 counties in the study, the analysis found: The average Food Insecurity Percentage was 13% for all counties, and the average Food Environment Index score was 7.8.

Counties with a Food Insecurity Percentage above the national median of 13.7% had a higher rate of deaths from heart failure compared to counties with a Food Insecurity Percentage below the median (30.7 deaths versus 26.7 deaths per 100,000 people, respectively).

Efforts afoot to approve national sports policy: Ehsan Mazari

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari on Friday said that the government has prepared a national sport policy which would be approved by the cabinet, soon, to give a boost to sporting activities in the country. Talking to PTV, he said the government has been taking measures in a bid to ensure that the ban imposed on football federation by FIFA is removed, adding through government's efforts the ban on Chess federation of the country was also lifted. Mazari said the incumbent government would resolve every issue of sports sector with the support of all stakeholders to revive the sports' culture in the country. The government had restored departmental sports which was one of the pressing demands by the young players as they were left jobless, he said. The minister said that government had established a hockey stadium in Gilgit Baltistan to provide best facilities to sports figures, also adding that the government had been taking steps to engage youth in healthy activities. APP

CE Attock Group of Companies presents Rs100m cheque to PM

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Group Chief Executive Attock Group of Companies Shoaib Anwar Malik called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Saturday and presented him a cheque of Rs 100 million.

He also gave one-day salary cheque of Rs 7.39 million from employees of Attock Group.

The amount was given from all companies of the Attock Group for the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund on the appeal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the flood affectees.

PIDE-BASICS survey revealed Pakistan Identity is multi-layered phenomenon

With the majority not perceiving it in singularity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: How do Pakistanis feel towards each other, towards people who are like them, and towards people who are unlike them? Do Pakistanis trust their various institutions? What are their values, beliefs and attitudes? Are they able to achieve their ambitions? Do they feel safe on the streets? What are their views about the governance and political system in the country? What are community life and informal sociability like in Pakistan? What is the state of volunteerism and civic involvement? And most importantly, what do Pakistanis consider as their identity? The PIDE-BASICS survey covers these

twelve areas to understand the basics of Pakistanis.

According to the Press Release issued from Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in the supervision of PIDE's Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr. Durre Nayab, PIDE-BASICS nationwide survey was carried out. The research results shows, In spite of the fact, seemingly straightforward questions elicit very complex responses. Usually, we perceive the identity in singularity i.e. we are Pakistanis. We are Muslims. However, the study uncovers that in context of Pakistan Identity is a multi-layered phenomenon with the majority not perceiving it in singularity. Identities are linked to:

i.e. religion; ii. Nationality; iii. ethnic background; iv. caste, for instance, Rajput, Kakar, Achakzai or Gujjar; v. being a human; vi. biological, that is the sex of the person; vii. relationship, with reference to someone like being a mother, father, son or daughter; and viii. One's profession.

Additionally, at national level 61.5% revealed multi-layer identity. And, its prominent among the inhabitants of ICT (Islamabad Capital Territory) followed by GB (Gilgit Baltistan). On the other hand, single identity (religion) was dominant among the people of Punjab. Up to par, both at national and regional level religious identity is most prevailing. Subsequently, being a Pakistani as single identity is

not strong one at any level (national, regional and provincial). Thus, the finding compels me to celebrate, why some regions are deemed as patriotic and some are blamed for the lack of loyalty? It's a wonder, among the four provinces, the largest proportion is in Balochistan which considers being a Pakistani as part of their identity, followed by Sindh and KP.

Furthermore, the population of Punjab has the smallest proportion including nationality as a layer of their identity. Anyway, being a human is an identity kept by some, but many more give importance to caste as their single identity. It is a rather thought-provoking finding that more than ethnicity it is caste, a narrower ascribed char-

acteristic, which is contemplated as indispensable by Pakistanis.

The study revealed that a lot of confusion exists about the language of the people of Pakistan as most surveys ask this question in a very imprecise way, and then use it as a proxy for ethnicity in the country. This is totally misleading. To have a better understanding of the issue, PIDE-BASICS Survey asks three questions in this regard: the mother tongue of the father, the mother tongue of the mother and the language commonly used for informal day-to-day communication. We examine in the study that Urdu is used much more often by people in ICT, AJK and Punjab than what the mother tongues would

suggest. Among the four major provincial languages, Punjabi is most frequently switched to Urdu.

To sum up, in the context of Pakistan Identity is a multi-layered phenomenon with the majority not perceiving it in singularity. The finding rejects our assumptions of Pakistani identity either Pakistani (National) or being Muslim (religious). And, rejects the perceptions we have developed regarding different regions of the state (for instance Balochistan is blamed for being non-patriotic). Moreover, the dynamics vary with regions and many other demographic characteristics. All in all, majority of the population are neither calling themselves Pakistanis, nor Muslims.

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Nation's modernization both challenging and significant

Zheng Gongcheng

In the report delivered to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that China's modernization is "a task of unparalleled difficulty and complexity", as it entails the modernization of a population that is larger than the combined population of all developed countries. Its difficulty and complexity can be seen from at least two perspectives.

First, from a historical perspective, modernization is a developed social form characterized by industrialization, urbanization and profound changes in the economy, society, politics and culture.

So far, the current trend of modernization of human society has been going on for over 200 years. In the second half of the 18th century, when the United Kingdom started its industrialization, it had an estimated population of 8 million people. In the 20th century, when the United States led global modernization, its population grew from 100 million in 1910 to more than 300 million in 2007.

China must complete its modernization process with a

population of over 1.4 billion, which would be the most remarkable modernization in the history of human development.

Second, from a realistic perspective, China is the world's most populous country and the largest developing country.

According to population data this year, China's population accounts for about 18 percent of the total global population. The nation's population is 4.26 times that of the U.S., 3.16 times that of the European Union, 9.75 times that of Russia, and 11.21 times that of Japan. China's population is over 1.5 times the total population of the countries and regions that have completed modernization.

The modernization of a country with such a huge population will completely rewrite the landscape of global modernization. By that time, the center of global modernization will no longer be Europe and North America, but China or modern Asia and modern East Asia with China as the mainstay. It is an inevitable outcome of major changes underway in the global landscape.

The modernization of its huge population is significant for both China and the world.

In terms of the implications for China, its modernization seeks common prosperity and

thus is a process that will benefit all of the people. It took only decades for the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CPC and through their own unremitting efforts, to complete the nation's industrialization process — a process that took developed countries over 200 years.

The nation has managed to lift nearly 100 million rural residents out of extreme poverty over the past decade with a campaign that brought an end to regional and overall poverty. With the overall living standards of urban and rural residents being lifted to a higher level, China has succeeded in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, laying a solid foundation for the realization of its modernization.

Being able to move toward modernization in a developing country with such a huge population fully demonstrates the strength of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics. This strength has been transformed into the efficiency of national governance, which in turn has been transformed into a huge development achievement in the process of national modernization.

Therefore, the modernization of a huge population and common prosperity will offer not only the best example of the strength in China's system,

but also the best example for a new form of human civilization created by the Chinese path to modernization.

In terms of its significance for the world, the modernization of a country or region with a small population will not be as significant as the modernization of a country with a large population. The modernization of the U.K., Germany and the U.S. has exerted important influences and played high exemplary roles in the world.

As a developing country with a huge population, China started as a poor country. Through arduous exploration and hard work, the nation has followed a path of modernization that is different from that of the developed countries in the West.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the nation's successful practice in continuously improving public wellbeing, and its modernization drive toward common prosperity, have demonstrated that the modernization of Western capitalist countries is not the only modernization path. In doing so, China has blazed a new path for developing countries to move toward modernization, and provided new options for nations wishing to accelerate their development and maintain their independence and auto-

my. Therefore, the contribution of Chinese modernization to human modernization is brand new at the institutional level.

It should be pointed out that, with its huge population, China's modernization will be an arduous and complex process. As General Secretary Xi pointed out, "Our modernization is both the most difficult and the greatest."

Therefore, it is important to maintain a sober mind going forward and adopt a problem-oriented approach focusing on the goals already established. The successful convening of the 20th CPC National Congress marks the beginning of the next stage of China's journey as it strives to become a modern socialist country in all respects.

As long as we uphold the leadership of the CPC and the socialist system with Chinese characteristics and make steady progress toward the established goals in accordance with strategic plans, the blueprint for the Chinese path to modernization and common prosperity for over 1.4 billion people will surely become a reality.

The author is a professor at Renmin University of China and head of the China Association of Social Security. Courtesy: China.org.cn

India must stop HR abuses in IIOJK

Kashmiris on both sides of the Line of Control and world over observed Black Day on October 27 to convey a strong message to the world that they reject illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India. On October 27, 1947, the sufferings of Kashmiri people started with the landing of Indian occupation troops in Jammu and Kashmir, which had been further increased after Modi's fascist government abolished the special status of IIOJK after revoking Articles 370 and 35-A of Indian constitution on August 5, 2019.

October 27 is observed as Kashmir Black Day each year to mark protest and resentment by Kashmiris around the world including Pakistan to condemn forced occupation of the Held Valley.

The unlawful and illegal forced occupation of IIOJK by India was a clear violation of Pak-Indo partition plan, UN Charter and United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSC) besides International laws. Despite 75 years forced occupation, he said India had completely failed to suppress the legitimate freedom movement of Kashmiris in the Held Valley. "The indigenous freedom movement in IIOJK has entered into decisive stage after unilateral and illegal actions taken by the fascist Modi government on August 5, 2019." These illegal acts had exposed real face of the so-called secular state and proved that there was no room for minorities in India where Muslims and Kashmiris were being subjected to serious human rights abuses, extra judicial killings and state-terrorism.

Kashmiris have been suffering under the Indian occupation for the last over 75 years. It is an illegal occupation and Kashmiris want to show to the world, including the EU, that it cannot continue as the UN has passed resolutions to grant Kashmiris their inalienable right to self-determination. EU also recognizes this right and Kashmiris will continue resisting the illegal Indian occupation. India declares Kashmir its integral part which is not a fact. There is a contradiction on the stance of EU regarding Ukraine, Russia conflict vis a vis the IIOJK. Indian occupation authorities are doing the same thing as Russia is doing in Ukraine. It is a sad fact that trade plays a bigger role than raising voice against injustices in a country. However, mood is changing in European public as well as decision makers and they are strongly criticizing the Indian human rights violations in occupied territory.

India could neither change the disputed status of IIOJK as enshrined in UNSC resolutions, nor could it force Pakistan and Kashmiris to accept illegal outcomes, adding time is nearer when Kashmiris would get freedom from Indian yoke. Global community should give up its criminal silence on the Indian brutalities in IIOJK and take practical steps to force New Delhi to give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination as per the UN Security Council resolutions. The road to peace in sub-continent was passing through Kashmir and lasting peace and stability in the region could not be established unless resolution of this core issue as per wishes of Kashmiris.

Is Liz Truss a mere symptom of the UK's decline?

Yossi Mekelberg

People around the world usually associate the British with traits such as decency, common sense, level-headedness, prudence and fair play. However, for those who observe closely, and even less closely, current British politics feels as if all of these commendable characteristics have been sadly thrown off the top of the Big Ben tower.

This is epitomized by years of instability that kicked off in 2016 with the ill-conceived referendum on the UK's membership of the EU, which since then has claimed the scalps of four Conservative prime ministers, leaving the country facing one of its worst-ever social and economic crises, and in the process becoming the world's laughing stock.

The saga of members of the Conservative Party electing Liz Truss as their leader, and for the rest of us as prime minister, lasted an embarrassing 44 days, and considering the damage her government caused in such a short time, even her rushed resignation felt long overdue, given the consequences of her finance minister's announcement of an economic plan that could not have been more detached from reality. Yet, with the chaotic and emotional scenes of the last few days it is difficult to avoid becoming immersed in the here-and-now intricacies of British politics, while ignoring the fact that this is only the latest episode in the decline of what has become the dis-United Kingdom.

How on earth could the great people of the British Isles, who are supposed to believe in common sense, decency and fair play, elect a government of Robin Hoods in reverse, who in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis have

seen fit to cut taxes for the rich, who have too many xenophobic ministers claiming that immigrants and asylum-seekers are an existential threat to the character of the country, and who are harming the national interest by constantly picking quarrels with their neighboring countries?

How could it be right for the same people who inflicted on us the totally disastrous, appallingly ill-judged, though thankfully short, premiership of Truss, to be entitled to promptly go about choosing another prime minister while we, the rest of the British public, are mere bystanders? It is simply preposterous that the political system as it currently stands should allow them to do this twice in a row, after they have already inflicted chaos and confusion on the economy and society, leaving the financial markets despairing of the pound, inflation at a 40-year high and interest rates rising inexorably, and spreading anxiety among millions of people who cannot afford to buy sufficient food or pay their energy and mortgage bills and thus face the dire consequence of losing their home. The failure of Truss is just one more result of the repeated failure of the Conservative party in the course of its 12 long years in power, to produce decent and competent leaders and policies for all.

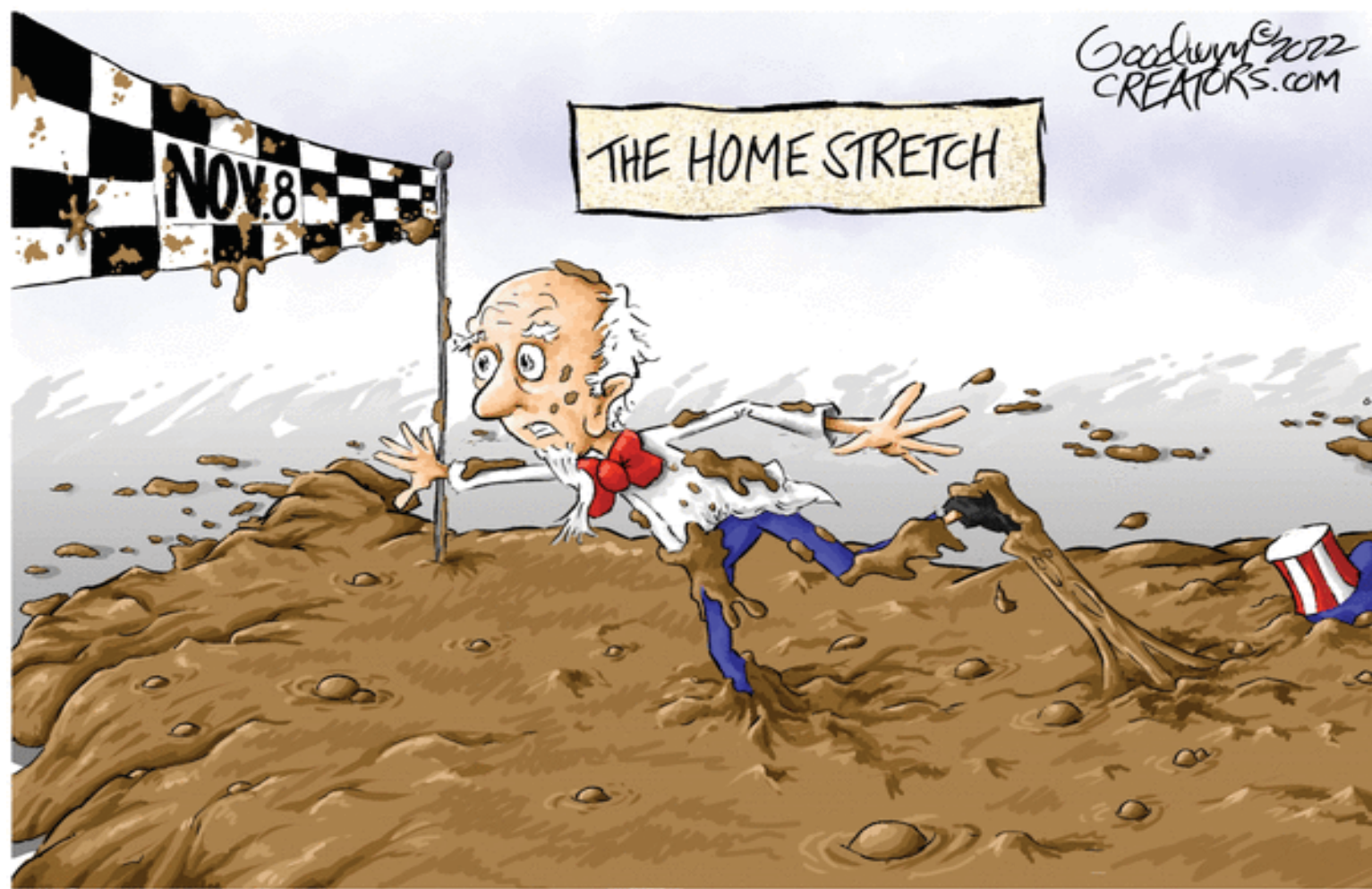
But the country has been in a state of flux for many years, and has been deeply divided over the basic values and ideology of running a modern liberal-democratic welfare society, especially in a globalized world environment. These deep disagreements were focused for a long time on the issue of being part of Europe, after the UK joined the European Common Market in 1973. Subsequently being part of the EU meant accepting progressive labor rights, allowing the free movement of people, and taking crucial decisions in collaboration

with other member states.

For many, this went against their exceptionalist, island mentality, and such people were not necessarily Conservative Party supporters. The enduring wish to preserve British uniqueness by differentiation and limited engagement with the "Continent" and the rest of the world, while still holding on to the past through being the driving force behind the Commonwealth of Nations, which is comprised of former possessions of Britain's Empire, illustrates the UK's inability to redefine its character and mission for the 21st century. Its history and traditions have become a burden instead of an asset. Both Truss and Johnson, in their different ways, represented this confused and destructive approach which both creates social tensions at home, through clearly favoring the better off in society and perpetuating their status, and instigates tensions abroad as part of a nationalist-populist agenda.

But 12 years of Tory chaotic and partisan time in power has finally led the public to completely lose faith in them, and should elections be held today, opinion polls suggest that the Conservatives would be destined for near-extinction. At this very low point in British history lies also a great opportunity for a new government and direction, which listens to the majority of the British people, and is not afraid to play a constructive role on the world stage. For this to happen, the next UK government must be chosen by all the British people, not just the members of the Conservative Party.

Yossi Mekelberg is professor of international relations and an associate fellow of the MENA Program at Chatham House. He is a regular contributor to the international written and electronic media. Courtesy: Arab News



The 20th National Congress of CPC providing new opportunities for world development

Zhang Weiyu and Shi Jianzheng

The 20th CPC National Congress was held from Oct 16 to 22 in Beijing. Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, delivered a report to the 20th CPC National Congress on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Oct 16.

Titled "Hold High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Strive in Unity to Build a Modern Socialist Country in All Respects," the document stated: "China is committed to its fundamental national policy of opening to the outside world and pursues a mutually beneficial strategy of opening up. It strives to create new opportunities for the world with its own development and to contribute its share to building an open global economy that delivers greater benefits to all people".

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) provides a new opportunity for China's high-level opening-up to the outside world and new momentum for world economic growth. In the report of the 20th CPC National Congress, the word "opening-up" was mentioned as many as 29 times, and the report emphasizes promoting high-standard opening up and promoting the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The 20th CPC National Congress provides new opportunities for the common prosperity of all countries and injects new impetus into world peace. As the 20th Congress report points out: "Today, our world, our times and histories are changing in ways like never before... All of this is posing unprecedented challenges for human society". Some countries are engaged in unilateralism and hegemony, trying to "break the chain" by "decoupling" and "building

a wall" against globalization, which has seriously damaged the goods environment of international cooperation and harmed the common interests of all people over the world.

The report of the 20th CPC National Congress emphasized that "China has always been committed to its foreign policy goals of upholding world peace and promoting common development, and it is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future". China has steadfastly practiced multilateralism, strengthened cooperation with other countries and actively contributed Chinese power to drive the common development of other countries, providing new opportunities for the common prosperity of all countries and a boost for world peace.

As an open-minded political party, the CPC is striving to promote the construction of a new type of international relations through establishing a new type of political party relations, and to improve the global partnership network by consolidating the global political party partnership network. The 20th CPC National Congress has demonstrated to the world with an open mind and a cooperative attitude that China has always been committed to its foreign policy goals of upholding world peace and promoting common development, and it is dedicated to promoting a human community with a shared future. China has always adhered to the basic state policy of opening-up to the outside world, firmly pursued an open strategy of mutual benefit and win-win situation, and continuously provided new opportunities for the world with China's new development.

Zhang Weiyu is an associate professor with the Institute of Globalization and China Modernization, University of International Business and Economics.

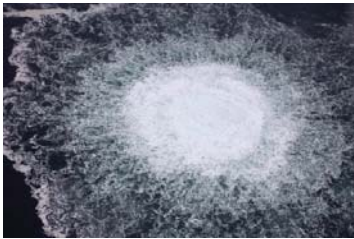
Shi Jianzheng is a graduate student with the Institute of Globalization and China Modernization, University of International Business and Economics. Courtesy: China Daily

IS London denies involvement

Russia says UK navy blew up Nord Stream

London says claim designed to distract from Russian military failures in Ukraine

MOSCOW/LONDON: Russia's defence ministry said on Saturday that British navy personnel blew up the Nord Stream gas pipelines last month, a claim that London said was false and designed to distract from Russian military failures in Ukraine.



Russia did not give evidence for its claim that a leading NATO member had sabotaged critical Russian infrastructure amid the worst crisis in relations between the West and Russia since the depths of the Cold War.

The Russian ministry said that "British specialists" from the same unit directed Ukrainian drone attacks on ships of Russian Black Sea fleet in Crimea earlier on Saturday that it said were largely repelled by Russian forces, with minor damage to a Russian minesweeper.

"According to available information, representatives of this unit of the British Navy took part in the planning, provision and implementation of a terrorist attack in the Baltic Sea on September 26 this year—blowing up the Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines," the ministry said. Britain denied the claim.

"To detract from their disastrous

handling of the illegal invasion of Ukraine, the Russian Ministry of Defence is resorting to peddling false claims of an epic scale," the British defence ministry said. "This invented story, says more about arguments going on inside the Russian government than it does about the West."

Maria Zakharova, a spokeswoman for Russian foreign ministry, said Moscow will seek reaction from the UN Security Council saying on social media Moscow wanted to draw attention to "a series of terrorist attacks committed against the Russian Federation in the Black and Baltic Seas, including the involvement of Britain in them."

Russia, deeply isolated by Western nations since its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, has previously blamed the West for the explosions that ruptured

the Russian-built Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines on the bed of the Baltic Sea. But it had not previously given specific details of who it thinks was responsible for the damage to the pipelines, previously the largest routes for Russian gas supplies to Europe.

A sharp drop in pressure on both pipelines was registered on Sept. 26 and seismologists detected explosions, triggering a wave of speculation about sabotage to one of Russia's most important energy corridors. Reuters has not been able to immediately verify any of the conflicting claims about who was to blame for the damage.

Sweden and Denmark have both concluded that four leaks on Nord Stream 1 and 2 were caused by explosions, but have not said who might be responsible. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has called the damage an act of sabotage.

Sweden has ordered additional investigations to be carried out into the damage done to the pipelines, the prosecutor in charge of the case said in a statement on Friday.

The Kremlin has repeatedly said allegations of Russian responsibility for the damage were "stupid" and Russian

officials have said Washington had a motive as it wants to sell more liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe. The United States has denied involvement. The Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines have a joint annual capacity of 110 billion cubic metres—more than half of Russia's normal gas exports volumes.

Sections of the 1,224-km (760-mile) long pipelines, which run from Russia to Germany, lie at a depth of around 80-110 metres.

Russia said meanwhile that Ukrainian forces attacked ships from the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol, the biggest city in Russian-annexed Crimea, in the early hours of Saturday. "Nine unmanned aerial vehicles and seven autonomous marine drones were involved in the attack," the defence ministry said. "The preparation of this terrorist act and the training of servicemen of the Ukrainian 73rd Special Center for Naval Operations were carried out under the guidance of British specialists located in the town of Ochakiv." All the air drones were destroyed though minor damage was done to the minesweeper Ivan Golubets, the ministry said. Sevastopol is the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. Reuters

UK PM could freeze foreign aid for 2 more years



LONDON: New British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is considering freezing the country's foreign aid budget for an additional two years, the Telegraph reported on Friday, citing sources.

Britain's spending on foreign aid is set at 0.5% of national income. The government had cut its foreign aid spending two years ago as the country faced a huge hit to public finances due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"All spending decisions will be considered in the round by the Prime Minister and Chancellor at the Autumn Statement," a UK Treasury spokesperson said in a statement.

Sunak, who was finance minister at the time, had said last year that foreign spending should return to 0.7% of economic output by 2024-2025.

However, according to the Telegraph report, officials are considering extending the foreign aid spending cut by another two years to 2026-2027.

The report added there was scope for deeper cuts along with an option to peg foreign aid spending to inflation for three years in the future.

The report comes as the government draws up spending cuts and cancels tax cuts as the rising cost of mortgages, food, fuel and heating squeezes many household budgets. Reuters

Australia repatriates citizens from Syrian refugee camp

SYDNEY: The Australian government has repatriated four Australian women and their 13 children from a Syrian refugee camp, Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil said on Saturday in a resumption of a controversial program.

The repatriation to New South Wales state, criticized by the Liberal-National opposition, is part of bringing back from Syria dozens of Australian women and children who are relatives of dead or jailed fighters from the so-called Daesh group.

Australia rescued eight children and grandchildren of two dead Daesh fighters from a Syrian refugee camp in 2019 but has held off repatriating any others until now.

"The decision to repatriate these women and their children was informed by individual assessments following detailed work by national security agencies," O'Neil said in a statement.

The women and children left the Al-Roj refugee camp in northern Syria on Thursday afternoon and crossed into Iraq to board a flight home, the Sydney Morning Herald and state broadcaster ABC reported on Friday.

The Labor-led government's focus has been on the safety and security of "all Australians" and those involved in the repatriation, O'Neil said, adding the government had "carefully considered the range of security, community and welfare factors in making the decision to repatriate."

The repatriation followed similar moves by the United States, Italy, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Britain and Canada, O'Neil said.

She said allegations of illegal activity would continue to be investigated by state and federal law enforcement authorities. Local media previously reported some women may be charged with terrorism offenses or for entering Syria illegally.

"Any identified offenses may lead to law enforcement action being taken," O'Neil said, adding that New South Wales was providing "extensive support services" to help the group reintegrate into Australia.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton has labelled the move as not in the country's best interest, saying the women have mixed with "people who hate our country, hate our way of life."

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told reporters he would not discuss details of the group's case but said he was following national security advice.

"The Australian government will always work to ensure that people are kept safe here in Australia, that is our priority," he said, according to an official transcript of his remarks in Griffith, in regional New South Wales. Reuters

Russia declares end of Ukraine mobilisation drive

MOSCOW: Russia said on Friday it had finished calling up reservists to fight in Ukraine, having drafted hundreds of thousands in a month and sending more than a quarter of them already to the battlefield after a divisive mobilisation campaign that was its first since World War Two.

The United States, meanwhile, announced it would send another \$275 million in military assistance to Ukraine, including arms, munitions and equipment from Pentagon inventories, bringing U.S. military assistance to the country under the Biden administration to more than \$18.5 billion.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington was working to provide Ukraine with air defence capabilities it needs, with two initial sophisticated anti-aircraft NASAMS ready for delivery to the country next month. He said the United States was also working with allies and partners to enable delivery of their own air defence systems to Ukraine. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he doubted Moscow was finished calling up soldiers.

In his nightly televised address, he said Russian forces "are so poorly prepared and equipped, so brutally used by their command, that it allows us to presume that very soon Russia may need a new wave of people to send to the war." The divisive mobilisation drive has seen tens of thousands of men flee the country and gave rise to the first sustained public protests against the war.

"The task set by you of (mobilising) 300,000 people has been completed. No further measures are planned," Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu told President Vladimir Putin at a televised meeting in the Kremlin. He said 82,000 had already been sent to the combat zone and the rest were training. Putin thanked reservists "for their dedication to duty, for their patriotism, for their firm determination to defend our country, to defend Russia, which means their home, their family, our citizens, our people." Reuters

67 dead as storm lashes southern Philippines

COTABATO: Landslides and flooding killed at least 67 people as heavy rain from an approaching storm lashed the southern Philippines, a disaster official said.



The storm unleashed flash floods carrying uprooted trees, rocks and mud overnight in nine mostly rural towns around Cotabato, a city of 300,000 people on Mindanao island.

Many residents were caught by surprise as floodwaters rose rapidly before dawn, Naguib Sinarimbo, the spokesman and civil defence chief for the regional government, said.

Teams in rubber boats had rescued residents from rooftops in some towns, Sinarimbo said, adding that 16 people were missing in the region.

In recent years, flash floods with mud and debris from largely deforested mountainsides have been among the deadliest hazards posed by typhoons on Philippine communities.

Mindanao is rarely hit by the 20 or so typhoons that strike the Philippines each year and kill hundreds of people.

But those that do tend to be deadlier than those that hit Luzon, the main island.

A long mountain range walls off most of Luzon from the Pacific, where most storms are spawned, helping to absorb the blow, the state weather service said.

Local filmmaker Remar Pablo said he was shooting a beauty pageant in Upi when the floodwaters suddenly came in after midnight and forced audience members to flee.

Rescuers carried a baby in a plastic tub as they navigated chest-deep water, a photo posted by the provincial police showed.

Floodwaters have receded in several areas, but Cotabato remained almost entirely waterlogged. Sinarimbo said there could be more flooding over the next few hours because of heavy rain over mountains surrounding the Cotabato river basin. AFP

EU vows to tighten air, water pollution policy

LONDON: Citizens of European Union countries could be able to sue polluters of air and water as part of class action law suits under new regulations being drawn up by the 27-nation bloc.

Once they have been formally suggested, the new rules on air quality will have to be negotiated and approved by EU member states.

The new proposals will see air and water pollution brought down to zero by 2050, and in the case of micro-pollutants in water, the rule of "polluter pays" will apply, with the EU estimating that 92 percent of them come from pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

Under the proposals, existing EU legislation including the Ambient Air Quality Directive and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive will be updated, with those who have suffered as a result of the

flouting of regulations able to seek compensation.

EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevicius said this would be backed up by "easier procedures for local and regional authorities to go against and impose penalties against the polluters," and that on the subject of air pollution, the aim was to get standards closer to those of the World Health Organization.

"People tell us that they want clean air to breathe. People living in cities, asthma sufferers and those living near industrial plants, they are all worried and they are

asking us to act," he added. "The Commission will lead the way with an ambitious proposal to strengthen EU air quality standards."

Air quality has long been a significant health issue in Europe. According to figures from the European Environment Agency, in the early 1990s, fine particulate pollution caused nearly one million premature deaths, a figure that had been more than halved by 2005.

More recent data shows that number is now down to closer to 300,000, and if WHO guidelines were followed, that figure could be halved again. China Daily

IS 2017 violence incident

Kenya charges police with crimes against humanity

Extra-judicial killings are rife in Kenya, and justice is rare with few examples of police being held to account

NAIROBI: In a landmark decision, Kenyan prosecutors said on Friday they would charge police officers with crimes against humanity over a deadly crackdown on post-election protests in 2017.

The charges cover rape, murder and torture and include the case of a six-month-old baby girl whose death became a symbol of police brutality during the bloody election aftermath.

"This is the first case of crimes against humanity charged under Kenyan domestic law using the International Crimes Act and also the first criminal prosecution of electoral-related sexual violence," the director of public prosecutions (DPP) Noordin Haji said.

An official at the prosecutor's office said 12 mainly senior police officers were facing charges. The police crackdown following the disputed presidential election in August 2017 saw dozens of people killed over a four-month period.

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights documented 94 deaths during the crisis as well as 201 cases of sexual violence and over 300 injuries — the majority of which were attributed to security forces.

The attacks were planned, coordinated and not random," the DPP statement said, saying various offences such as torture, rape and sexual violence "were committed by or under the authority of senior national police officers".

The baby, Samantha Pendo, died after being beaten by police during a raid on her house as protests flared in the western city of Kisumu. Officers fired tear gas into their house and battered down the door before raining blows on the couple with batons while the mother held Samantha in her arms.

An autopsy had shown that Samantha had suffered acute head injuries, her scalp cracking as a result of brutal force by the police. A Kenyan inquest in 2019 had found five police commanders liable for her death and although they were later convicted they have never served

time behind bars. Extra-judicial killings are rife in Kenya, and justice is rare with few examples of police being held to account.

The new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, welcomed the Kenyan prosecutor's "groundbreaking" decision, saying it was "an important advance towards accountability for gross human rights violations in Kenya." It "is a positive step towards justice and accountability for survivors and families of victims, including in the context of electoral violence, and can strengthen prevention of future violations," Turk said in a statement.

Haji said on Friday that several people had been subjected to

Sri Lanka's healthcare in distress

As doctors leave for Middle East, other countries

COLOMBO: After they lost access to most medicine and medical supplies when their country spiraled into a financial crisis earlier this year, Sri Lankans are now also losing doctors as many migrate to the Middle East and Western countries with more opportunities.

People have been struggling with daily power cuts and shortages of basic commodities amid the worst economic crisis since Sri Lanka gain independence from the British in 1948. The island nation of 22 million officially defaulted in April, and without foreign currency reserves was left unable to pay for imports. Medical professionals in the country that relies on imported drugs for about 85 percent of its pharmaceutical needs have been sounding the alarm for months, saying they are struggling to provide timely and adequate treatment to patients.

The working conditions and little hope for improvement have lately forced hundreds of them to leave, and according to Sri Lanka's Foreign Employment Bureau the exodus is an increasing trend.

"There is a rising trend in professionals moving out of the island in search of greener pastures because of the current situation in the country," the bureau's general manager Priyantha Senanayake told Arab News earlier this week. "A good number of doctors too have left."

Data from the Government Medical Officers' Association shows that at least 500 doctors from state medical institutions have migrated abroad in the first eight months of 2022.

But the real number may be much higher. Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa, former president of the Sri Lanka Medical Association, said at least 100 more doctors working in the private sectors have left too, while those who traveled for training and have not returned have yet to be counted. Arab News



untold incidents of pain and suffering during the protest suppression. "The operation had a well-organised command structure with sector commanders and was executed according

to a consistent pattern," he said. Kenyan police are often accused by rights groups of using excessive force and carrying out unlawful killings, especially in poor neighbourhoods. They have

also been accused in the past of running hit squads targeting those — including activists and lawyers — investigating alleged rights abuses by police.

Earlier this month, new President William Ruto disbanded a feared 20-year-old police unit accused of extrajudicial killings and vowed an overhaul of the security sector. The 2017 protests erupted after victory was declared for then president Uhuru Kenyatta, angering supporters of his rival, the veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga. The result was annulled by the Supreme Court after a challenge by Odinga, but he boycotted the rerun which was won by Kenyatta.

Private sector essential driver of development

BEIJING: The report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China reiterated that the country should optimize the business environment for private enterprises, protect the rights and interests of entrepreneurs according to the law, and promote the development of the private sector.

Reviewing the course of China's reform and opening-up over the past more than 40 years, the importance of the private economy cannot be exaggerated. It now contributes more than 50 percent of tax revenue, 60 percent of gross domestic product, 70 percent of technological innovation and 80 percent of urban employment on the Chinese mainland. The large number of private entrepreneurs and privately-owned businesses are the main source of China's economic vitality.

Protecting the property rights of private enterprises and the rights and interests of entrepreneurs according to the law is not only an important part of the socialist market economy, but also an inevitable requirement for a society under the rule of law. The better private enterprises are protected, the more regulated the market environment will be and the more vibrant the market economy will be.

Over the past decade, the central government has repeatedly stressed the protection of the rights and interests of private enterprises and entrepreneurs in accordance with the law, emphasizing that "private entrepreneurs are our own people", and explicitly underscoring that the personal and property safety of entrepreneurs must be protected. Since then, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate have also expressed judicial guarantees for the rights and interests of private enterprises and entrepreneurs.

Faced with the dual impacts of the pandemic and the worsening international economic environment, many private enterprises are facing a difficult situation, and some of them have had to shut down or reduce production. At present, it is crucial and necessary for the central authorities to stabilize the confidence of private enterprises and give entrepreneurs a full sense of security.

That the State Council, China's Cabinet, released a regulation on promoting the development of privately-owned businesses on Tuesday showed the government will continue to play its part in supporting the healthy development of the non-public sector. China Daily

Direct air flights to promote bilateral tourism with Pakistan: Indonesian Minister

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Deputy Minister for Tourism and Economic Creativity, Ni Made Ayu Marthinis Saturday said that direct air flights are very important to promote bilateral tourism in Indonesia and Pakistan.

In an interview, she said in terms of the population of Indonesia and Pakistan, the market consisting of 500 million people can open new ways of cooperation in all economic sectors including tourism and trade in both countries.

The minister said that there is a need to understand the mutual markets and different economic sectors in both countries, which could open new avenues for mutual economic cooperation.

Marthinis said that the government is following a regular plan to promote tourism in Indonesia, in which major changes are brought in the tourism sector by implementing short, medium and long term projects.

She said that Bali is an important place in Indonesia for tourism, but there are many beautiful places like this in Indonesia where our government is committed to providing modern facilities in the tourism sector.

She said that the Indonesian government is working on a two-prong strategy to promote tourism, in which domestic tourists who belong to Indonesia.

She further said that apart from this, our government is working to provide modern facilities to foreign tourists. APP

For commercial consumers

ICCI demands withdrawal of notices for gas suspension

The suspension of natural gas to these businesses for 3 months in winter will cause them big losses

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the SNGPL has issued notices to commercial consumers in Islamabad for suspension of their natural gas connection from 1st November 2022 creating great concerns in the business community and urged that the decision should withdraw its decision to save businesses from further losses. He said that the business activities of hotel and restaurants had suffered badly during Covid-19 pandemic and now they were on the recovery path. However, the suspension of natural gas to these businesses for 3 months in winter will cause them big losses.

He said this while talking to Khurram Ayub Khan, General Manager Distribution, Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited North during his visit to ICCI along with Malik Nawaz Deputy Chief Business Development and Rana Mudassar Admin Officer.

Ahsan Bakhtawari said that already the business community is badly suffering due to high electricity tariff and shifting commercial consumers forcefully to LNG would further increase the cost of doing business. He urged that the government should reconsider its



decision and delay the suspension of natural gas to commercial consumers for one month and try to find an amicable solution of this issue in consultation with stakeholders.

He said that soon a delegation of ICCI led by Hanif Abbasi will meet with State Minister for Petroleum Musadak Malik to inform him about the concerns of commercial consumers. He said that despite the payment of an urgent fee, the gas connections are not being provided to commercial and domestic consumers and urged that the government should lift the ban

on new gas connections to facilitate people.

Addressing the business community, Khurram Ayub Khan, GM, SNGPL North said that the government has issued instructions to suspend the supply of natural gas to commercial consumers for 3 months in winter due to its shortage and said that the commercial users should sign a new agreement with SNGPL for switching over to the LNG, which is a better option for them though it would incur them 3 times more cost. He said that the indigenous gas reserves are declining due to which

the government has to import around 1200 million cubic feet of LNG per day to meet the shortage. He said that natural gas of around 400 million cubic feet has been discovered in North Waziristan, but its supply to consumers will take time. He said that the government is providing subsidies on LNG to domestic consumers, but no subsidy is being provided to commercial consumers. He assured that he would convey the concerns of ICCI members to the relevant authorities for consideration.

Habibullah Zahid, President, Islamabad Restaurants Association said that their sector was providing employment to over 10 million people across the country and suspension of natural gas to them in Punjab and Federal Area would cause closures of many hotels & restaurants rendering millions of people jobless. He said that shifting to LNG would increase cost of doing business that would badly affect the business activities and stressed that the government should give some breathing space to this sector for arranging substitutes.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaikat Masud, Khurram Khan, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

CCP's study recommends measures to address market distortion

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has completed a draft study aimed at addressing market distortions and promoting efficiency and competition in the value chain of ten essential food commodities including onion, edible oil and ghee, potato, poultry, wheat, sugar, milk, rice, tomato, and pulses. These commodities constitute 63% of an average household's monthly expenditure on food items.

The double-digit inflation in Pakistan since November 2021 prompted the Economic Coordination Committee to capture the food inflation and the CCP was tasked by the National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) to look into the reasons of the price increase in essential commodities. The CCP shortlisted ten major food items from the list of 51 essential commodities in SPI for the study.

The CCP has shared the draft study and held consultative sessions with the stake-

holders including representatives from the agriculture and food ministries, research institutes, and other related departments from Punjab, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The CCP Chairperson Ms Rahat Kaumain Hassan and her team including Member Mujtaba Ahmed Lodhi, and other senior officers held threadbare discussions with the stakeholders on the study's recommendations. The session with the stakeholders from Balochistan will be held in the upcoming month. After taking stakeholders' input, the study will be finalized with consolidated recommendations to the Government of Pakistan to address market distortions and ensure efficiency in the value chain of these commodities.

The abovementioned ten commodities combined showed a 35% increase in price in July 2022 as compared to July 2021. The highest increase in prices of Masoor (92%), Onion (89%), Edible oil (77%), and gram (52%) was observed during the same period. The study outlines the underlying causes of the price hikes and supply chain

issues including the inappropriate policies and regulations distorting the markets, inhibiting competition, and discouraging private investment, besides the least efforts to promote research, innovation, and technology utilization to enhance crop yield and productivity.

In its recommendations, the study urges a shift of the government policy focus from the current major crops of sugar and wheat to equally significant other crops having export potentials such as pulses, other cereals, oil seeds, and vegetables. To address the issue of inefficiency owing to low yield, it recommends taking R&D initiatives in the high yield varieties of intervention by Federal Seed Certification and Registration, Department, provincial Agriculture Extension Departments, and Seed Development Departments to develop mechanism for dissemination of high yield seed varieties, R&D on high yield crops, creating awareness about high yield seeds and genetically improved crops and their cultivation.

Young Pakistani expects more coop with China in future

BEIJING: Muhammad Zain Tariq, a young Pakistani businessman, was impressed with the splendid landscape and the hospitality of Chinese people on his first visit as a teenager.

At the time, Tariq traveled from his native Pakistan through the Silk Road, the ancient trade route linking China with the rest of the world.

The experience inspired him to start a business in Shenzhen, a coastal city in south China's Guangdong Province. In his nine years there, Tariq witnessed significant changes in such areas as the economy, technology and medical services, according to CGTN.

In 2015, thanks to the launch of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Tariq returned home and took up a job with an IT company with a Chinese team.

CPEC is a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that seeks to provide improved infrastructure in Pakistan alongside better trading links with China and further economic integration within Asia.

China has always endeavoured to promote common development. Data from the World Bank showed that from 2013 to 2021, China contributed an average of 38.6 percent to world economic growth, making it the biggest contributor.

The country is dedicated to promoting a global community with a shared future. It



remains firm in its commitment to multilateralism and a new type of international relations linked to its Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative.

China also remains an active participant in the reform of the global governance system as part of its contribution to world peace and development.

Launched in 2013, the BRI has attracted the participation of 149 countries and 32 international organizations.

By the end of August this year, China's trade with countries along the BRI routes was nearly \$12 trillion. Many cooperation projects under the framework of BRI, such as CPEC and the Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway, have boosted economic activity and residents' livelihoods.

According to the World Bank, BRI transport projects are projected to lift 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million out of moderate poverty by 2030. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says China has become an indispensable and trustworthy force for world peace and development.

Young people from different countries have been sharing their expectations of China as it blazes a trail in fostering common prosperity globally.

Tariq expects China will expand its international cooperation in the next five years, particularly in helping developing countries create better infrastructure and industries and improve health and education. APP

Agri sector requires \$3.97b to recover from flood damages



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's agriculture, food, livestock and fisheries sector required at least \$3.976 billion to recover from the damage caused by the recent floods and torrential rains, a recent report issued by the Planning Ministry said on Saturday.

According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), the floods incurred loss of over \$3.725 billion or Rs 800 billion to the agriculture sector while total loss to the sector has been estimated at over \$9 billion.

The PDNA was conducted by Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives in collaboration with other international development partners including World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union and the United Nations agencies with technical facilitation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Meanwhile, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan Najib Benhassine Saturday tweeted that rehabilitation and resilient reconstruction in Pakistan needed over \$16 billion, not including

much needed new investments beyond affected assets, to support broader adaptation to climate change. The report added that total damage is estimated at Rs 3.2 trillion (US\$14.9 billion), total loss at Rs 3.3 trillion (US\$15.2 billion), and total needs at Rs 3.5 trillion (US\$16.3 billion). The sectors that suffered the most damage are housing at Rs 1.2 trillion (US\$5.6 billion); agriculture, food, livestock, and fisheries at Rs 800 billion (US\$3.7 billion); and transport and communications at Rs 701 billion (US\$3.3 billion).

The transport and communications sector has the highest reconstruction and recovery needs at Rs 1.1 trillion (US\$5.0 billion); followed by agriculture, food, livestock, and fisheries at Rs 854 billion (US\$4.0 billion), and housing at Rs 592 billion (US\$2.8 billion).

The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan account for approximately 50 percent and 15 percent of recovery and reconstruction needs, respectively, the report added. APP

Huawei launches the Rural Link solution to enable green sites

Huawei's David Wang at the Global MBB Forum 2022: Stride to 5.5G, the foundation of the future

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: During the Global MBB Forum 2022, David Wang, Huawei's Executive Director of the Board and Chairman of ICT Infrastructure Managing Board delivered a keynote speech titled Stride to 5.5G: The foundation of the future. He noted how, through concerted efforts, the industry has made significant progress and is ready to make the leap to 5.5G. To hit this milestone, Wang called upon all industry players to prepare on all fronts, so that we can move faster towards the 5.5G era and eventually build a better, intelligent world together.

With the intelligent world fast approaching, the rapid changes we are set to experience will all be accompanied by increasing requirements for digital infrastructure. The next milestone we must hit on the path to the intelligent world is 5.5G which will deliver 10 Gbit/s experiences, support hundreds of billions of connections, and help us achieve native intelligence.

Wang emphasized, after two years of concerted efforts across the industry, 5.5G has seen huge progress and three things have become clear. First, the standardization of 5.5G has been initiated and is right on track, making it more than just

a vision. Second, the industry has made breakthroughs in key technologies for 5.5G, and ultra-large bandwidth and ELAA can now deliver a 10 Gbit/s experience. Third, the industry has a clear vision for the IoT landscape. Three types of 5.5G-enabled IoT technologies supported by 5.5G, namely NB-IoT, RedCap, and passive IoT, are developing rapidly and will support numerous IoT connections.

"The communications industry is constantly evolving. 5.5G has been kicked into high gear. Looking ahead, our task is to tackle these five new areas - standards, spectrum, products,



ecosystems, and applications. Together, let's stride to 5.5G and build a better, intelligent world," stressed Wang.

At the event day1, the 5G Business Success Summit was successfully held. Peng Song, President of Huawei ICT Strategy and Marketing, delivered an opening speech on "5G Business Success is Accelerating", and summarized that under the guidance of G.U.I.D.E. business

blueprint, building a green and sustainable 5G network featuring ultimate Gigaverse experience, ultra-automation and easy maintenance, collaborative connection and computing services, differentiated multi-dimensional business monetization, and sustainable development. The three-year exploration has enabled carriers to accumulate business success cases and accelerate 5G network monetization, enabling a booming trend of 5G business acceleration.

The mobile Internet becomes more accessible to people and devices, signaling the arrival of a fully connected, intelligent

world. In this context, equal access to mobile connectivity for all has become the cornerstone of economic growth. Nonetheless, there are still 450 million people who are not connected to mobile networks, most of who live in rural areas where stable mains power and good transportation are not available.

At the Forum, Huawei launched the RuralLink solution. Through site-level innovations, this solution enables green sites, site simplification, and easy evolution. This makes it possible for operators to build mobile networks that allow for positive business cycles in rural areas while connecting these who

are still unconnected. Huawei's RuralLink solution uses unique innovative technologies to solve the difficulties associated with communications.

Aaron Jiang, President of Huawei Wireless SingleRAN Product Line, noted the significance of RuralLink: "Rural areas have a huge demand for mobile communications. Huawei is committed to providing leading coverage solutions for rural areas. Featuring green sites, site simplification, and easy evolution, RuralLink helps operators bring mobile connectivity to rural areas and expand the benefits of digital connectivity to all."

T20 World Cup

Pakistan hopeful of comeback

As chances of staying in remain shaky; 'Hurt' Haris Rauf says it is still not over for Pakistan

PERTH: The Babar Azam-led national squad has resumed practice sessions with confidence to bounce back from past defeats and make a comeback in the ICC T20 World Cup happening in Dubai.

After the loss in a nerve-wracking clash with arch-rivals India in the opening match at the mega event, Pakistan faced a humiliating defeat against Zimbabwe — who made history by winning against the Men in Green for the first time in any ICC tournament.

With no matches won in the T20 World Cup 2022, Pakistan's chances of remaining in the tournament are shaky as the side has zero points in the points table this season so the Green Shirts must win all upcoming four matches to qualify for the semi-final.

However, leaving all the regret and disappointment from the recent failures behind, Pakistan are determined to do well in the coming matches. The players showed positive intent and body language during the fielding and bowling practice at WACA Cricket Ground.

The Pakistani bowlers practiced on a



new ball under the supervision of bowling coach Shaun Tait, while skipper Babar Azam and batter Asif Ali practiced to play a bouncer with a marble slab on the pitch.

Wicket keeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan, who ranks as the top T20 batter in the latest ICC player rankings, advised Babar on foot work while batting.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's fast bowler Haris Rauf said that it is still not over

and the team will bounce back in the T20 tournament despite losing two back-to-back games. Pakistan were beaten by India which was followed by Zimbabwe's upset win against former champions at Perth. Babar's men will now play the Netherlands next on Sunday at Perth Stadium.

Speaking ahead of the game, Haris said that team is confident of bouncing back but warned against any complacen-

cy. "In international cricket, you can not term any team as a weaker side, you've to be respectful to all the sides when you are playing them in an international event. They all are here to win the tournament and you've to give your 100% against all the teams you play," he said.

"Zimbabwe played well the other day and won against us," the Pakistani pacer added. Haris agreed that Pakistan didn't get the start it wanted in the tournament but highlighted that team played well in both games.

"We lost both the matches after coming so close, on the last balls, we made our all efforts in both games," Haris said. "We are as hurt as any cricket fan would be. The tournament is not finished for us and we can still make a comeback, we have three games left and we are confident of doing well in these tournaments," the fast bowler added.

Haris said that team has gelled well and players are backing each other, adding that the team sat together after two defeats to analyse the performance and to overcome the mistakes it made. Agencies

Referee fitness test held at Football House Lahore



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The referee fitness test for FIFA Referee list 2023 was held at Football House Lahore, here on Saturday.

The referees' contestants include Muhammad Ali, Yasrib Nawaz, Tahir Hussain, Talha Saleem, Arshad-ul-Haq, Zubair Shahzad, Ajab Khan, Azam Ali, Muhammad Arslan, Umer Faraz, Siraj Ahmed, Majid Ali and Zeeshan Ghulam took part in the test under the supervision of a physical trainer.

After conducting the test, the trainer and physical instructor including the participants met with the Chairman Football Normalisation Committee Haroon Malik, and member Shahid Niaz Khokhar. Sharing his views, the Chairman NC said, "I thank all of you who came here and participated in the test. You guys are doing well and your passion for football is matchless. After a hiatus, football is back on track. You are the future of Pakistan and we expect you to continue doing the same thing in the future as well. We will try our best to facilitate you in every possible way."

On the occasion, Shahid Niaz Khokhar said, "Football is nothing without a referee and you are the backbone of the game. You have been doing good for a couple of years and I am glad that the NC in its tenure, serves the renowned football game tremendously." He advised all the participants to stay loyal to their profession and no doubt, this will bring fruits for you in the future.

Pakistan Hockey Team leaves for Malaysia

To participate in 29th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup



Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan Hockey Team has left from Karachi to Malaysia for the participation in 29th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup to be played in Malaysia.

Secretary General Pakistan Hockey Federation Haider Hussain, PHF Officials, Sindh Hockey Association Secretary Akbar Qaimkhan, Congress Member PHF Gulfranz Khan, Chief Coordinator PHF Major Shah Nawaz, Dr. S.A. Majid Sr. Vice President KHA and Mohsin Ali Khan Deputy President KHA were present at the departure of the team. After a special prayer at Abdul Sattar Edhi Hockey Stadium Karachi on the instructions of Chief Secretary Sindh Government Dr. Sohail Rajput, the team left for the airport with the best security arrangements. The Pakistan Hockey Team was given special protocol by the airport and immigration authorities, players of the National hockey team were provided facilities on a priority basis.

The National hockey team was given a sumptuous dinner by the President of Karachi Hockey Association Dr. Junaid Ali Shah at State of the Art Majestic Launch established at Jinnah International Airport Karachi. On this occasion, Pakistan Hockey Team Manager Muhammad Saeed Khan said that the players of the National hockey team are enthusiastic and talented, nine players of the youth team are participating in an international hockey event for the first time, which will give them the experience of international hockey matches. He further said that the National hockey team under the experienced leadership of captain Umar Bhatta will participate in the event. He added that the national hockey team has been given such a wonderful and dignified protocol which has encouraged the players a lot. The past of Pakistan Hockey is adorned with wonderful traditions which have been reminisced.

The Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup Ipoh, Malaysia event will be played from 1st to 10th November 2022. Six teams are participating in the event, including the host team Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, Korea, South Africa and Egypt. The event will be played in round robin league format.

The National hockey team leaving from Karachi includes manager Saeed Khan, coaches Siegfried Ekman, Ayaz Mehmood, video analyst Abuzar Umrao, national hockey players Akmal Hussain, Abdullah Ishtiaq, Muhammad Abdullah, Aqeel Ahmed, Arbaaz Ahmed, Osama Bashir, Ehtesham Aslam, Murtaza Yakub, Muhammad Sufyan Khan, Muhammad Imran, Arshad Liaquat, Hanan Shahid, Muhammad Umar Bhatta, Arbaaz Roman Khan, Rana Abdul Waheed, Junaid Manzoor and Muhammad Shahzeb Khan are included.

Fatima Sana confident of good show in series against Ireland

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan women's ODI and T20I squads are currently undergoing a five-day pre-series camp at the National High Performance Centre in Lahore ahead of the Ireland assignment. In the camp, the players also featured in an intra-squad match at the LCCA Ground on Thursday, which was won by Nida Dar's Pakistan Blues.

Ireland women's team, embarking on their maiden tour to Pakistan, is due to arrive in Lahore in the wee hours on Sunday. During the tour, both sides will feature in six limited-overs matches — three ODIs, part of the ICC Women's Championship, and three T20Is from 4 to 16 November at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

While Pakistan will be without their fast bowler Diana Baig — ruled out of the series due to shoulder injury — their pace bowling will be boosted with the return of Fatima Sana. The 20-year-old pacer has regained her fitness after missing out



in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup due to an ankle injury sustained during the Women's Caribbean Premier League while representing Barbados Royals.

While talking to PCB Digital at the sidelines of the camp, Fatima said, "It was great to see the team's momentum in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup. The way we defeated India helped me gain confidence when I joined the squad for the pre-series camp against Ireland."

"It is great to see Ireland coming here for the first time, we will try to keep our winning momentum going in the forthcoming series as well."

Fatima, who made her debut in the 2019 series against South Africa in South Africa, has till date featured in 25 ODIs, taking 36 wickets, with five for 39 her best match figures, which came against West Indies in Antigua in 2019. In 15 T20Is, she has 12 dismissals to her name, with three for 27 her career-best.

Commenting on her bowling partnership with Diana, Fatima responded, "I have a good combination with Diana (Diana Baig). The side will surely miss Diana, but we have other fast bowlers in the side which are good enough to challenge the Irish side."

Fatima, who has the

distinction of winning PCB Women's Emerging Cricketer of the Year award in 2020 and ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year award in 2021, has urged fans to come to the stadium and show their support for the Pakistan team. She said: "We have seen a good crowd in Karachi against Sri Lanka, we hope to see a similar crowd flocking the stadium and supporting us in the series against Ireland."

Sharing her thoughts on the significance of playing at home, Fatima stated, "When I was a net bowler, I always used to wonder when I will get an opportunity to play and represent my country. My message to young U19 and emerging players will be to come out and support your team and witness themselves as how overseas players approach the game."

Series Itinerary
4 November — First ODI
6 November — Second ODI
9 November — Third ODI
12 November — First T20I
14 November — Second T20I
16 November — Third T20I

KP forced to follow-on after Yasir Shah's 34th first-class five-wicket haul

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's woes amplified on the third day of their four-day first-class match against Balochistan at the Multan Cricket Stadium as Yasir Shah's 34th five-wicket haul forced them to follow-on in the ongoing sixth round of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were bundled for 215 in reply of Balochistan's imposing 487 for seven as the Test leg-spinner returned five for 57 in 18.1 overs. Only three Khyber Pakhtunkhwa batters scored above 20 with Sajid Khan and Sahibzada Farhan scor-



ing half-centuries — 68 off 116 and 62 off 117, respectively — and opener Waqar Ahmed making 24 off 33.

Yasir added two more wickets to his tally before the end of day's play as Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa lost three wickets for 137. Yasir sent Waqar Ahmed (36) and Maaz Sadaqat (0) back to the pavilion. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa need another 135 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Kamran Ghulam (38 off 53) and Rehan Afridi (23 off 31) will resume the innings on the final day tomorrow.

Despite a fighting century by wicketkeeper Rohail Nazir, Northern face the possibility of being asked to follow-on by Southern Punjab as they were still 33 runs away with only one wicket in hand.

Northern were lifted to 334 for nine after they resumed their day at a precarious 94 for four and lost their fifth wicket without any addition to the total when Mohammad Abbas, who recorded a five-wicket haul, sent Mohammad Huraira back to the pavilion.

'Ronaldo still capable of being prolific for Man Utd'

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag believes Cristiano Ronaldo is still capable of scoring over 20 goals a season despite limiting the 37-year-old's game time so far this season.

Ronaldo was dropped from the United squad for last weekend's 1-1 draw at Chelsea after refusing to come on as a substitute four days previously in a 2-0 win over Tottenham.

The performance against Spurs was hailed as the best of Ten Hag's reign so far and further evidence that United are a better team without the presence of the five-time Ballon d'Or winner.



But Ronaldo made a goalscoring return to the starting line-up for Thursday's 3-0 Europa League win over Sheriff Tiraspol.

The Portuguese now has three goals in 13 appearances in all competitions this season.

But Ten Hag did not rule out the prospect of him matching his 24 goals last season.

"It's up to him," said Ten Hag. "But I think when you collect all the chances he creates, the team creates for him in the last weeks, you see he's still capable of getting in the right positions and I know he's still capable of finishing them so it's possible."

Ronaldo has made just two Premier League starts under Ten Hag with the vast majority of his minutes coming in the Europa League.

But the former Ajax boss rejected the suggestion he is using Europe's second-tier competition as a way of giving Ronaldo the time on the pitch he craves.

"I don't have a Europe

team and I don't have a Premier League team," Ten Hag added.

"I look to the opponent, what we need against such opponent. Now I have to focus on West Ham United for Sunday."

"Then we will pick the team to start but also to have plan B or plan C in the pocket to win that game."

"That's what we need finally, to win games, and therefore we not only need 11 players, we need the whole squad."

After a disastrous start to his time in charge, there have been positive signs of United's improvement under Ten Hag in recent weeks. AFP

CA Championship

Balochistan beat KPK by three wickets

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Half-century by Mohammad Junaid and useful contributions by middle-order helped Balochistan to a three-wicket win over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on day three of the sixth round of the Cricket Associations Championship 2022-23.

Junaid scored 51 off 47 and the next best score came from Abdul Hanan (35) as Balochistan chased 219 in 50.4 overs despite Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Zeeshan Ahmed taking five wickets for 49 at the Bugti Stadium, Quetta. Central Punjab, in their second innings, were 138 for six in 42 overs against Sindh at the NBP Sports Complex.

Muhammad Irfan Khan top-scored with 46 and Danish Aziz, Mohammad Asghar and Junaid Ilyas equally shared six wickets between them.

Klopp seeks to realise 'incredible' Nunez potential

Liverpool manager believes strikers output so far has been 'incredible' despite his early suspensions

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool have only seen a glimpse of what Darwin Nunez is capable of, manager Jurgen Klopp said on Friday, as he seeks to maximise the potential of the 23-year-old striker.

Nunez, who cost the Reds an initial 75 million euros (\$75 million) from Benfica in June, has had an erratic start to his career at Anfield.

The Uruguayan was sent off on his home debut for a headbutt on Crystal Palace defender Joachim Andersen.

There have also been a series of high-profile missed chances, but he is finding his range with four goals in his last five appearances.

"He's had a really good month," said Klopp at his pre-match press confer-



ence ahead of Liverpool's clash with Leeds.

"The potential is incredible. It's not just the speed, the attitude is really good. He's a real worker and again, I tell you, I know there are people out there who think 'technically, not sure about his first touch—it is incredible. That he doesn't bring it always into

the pitch right now is nothing to do with technique. It's a bit of awareness, orientation, but that is all possible to develop and learn. It's really exciting."

Nunez was on target as Liverpool cruised into the last 16 of the Champions League with a game to spare with a 3-0 win at Ajax in midweek.

However, Klopp's men have won just four of their first 11 Premier League games to fall 12 points off the pace at the top of the table.

Victories over Manchester City and West Ham had appeared to get Liverpool back on track after a slow start to the campaign, but that momentum was lost in a 1-0 defeat to bottom-of-the-table Nottingham Forest last weekend. AFP