

Promotion of tax culture inevitable for prosperous Pakistan: President

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan must enhance its tax collection and the tax-to-GDP ratio in order to overcome its perennial financial woes and end its undue reliance on foreign aid.

He was addressing an awareness seminar about the role of the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), at Governor House Lahore.

The President urged the need to facilitate tax-payers by dispensing speedy and cost-effective justice to aggrieved taxpayers against the maladministration of tax officials. He said adopting of people-friendly attitude and open-door policy by tax officials would encourage more people to voluntarily become part of the tax-net.



The President underlined the need to end the practice of frivolous litigation by the tax administration against the decisions of FTO in cases where the cost of litigation exceeded the amount of tax involved to save government departments' time and resources.

He said that taxes are essential for effectively running the governance system. He said business community should voluntarily comply with the tax regime whereas the tax machinery should facilitate the taxpayers and make filing of taxes easier and reduce the cost of tax compliance to further

widen the tax base.

The President said that latest IT tools, including complaint management system, web-based chatbots, web portals, and mobile applications, could be adopted to enhance the registration and resolution of tax payers' complaints.

He also urged FTO to effectively play its role in the resolution of complaints by creating awareness among people about its role and services.

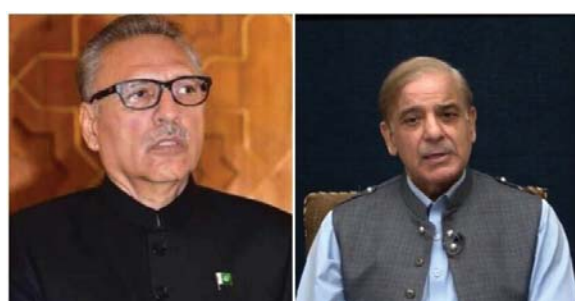
Earlier, the President distributed tax-refund cheques among people whose complaints have been resolved by FTO. INP

President, PM express condolences over loss of lives in Istanbul blast

ISLAMABAD : President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed their condolences to Turkiye over loss of precious lives in Istanbul blast.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister expressed his deep anguish over the explosion at Istiklal Avenue, Istanbul and conveyed condolences to the brotherly people of Turkiye on part of the government of Pakistan and its people.

The prime minister also prayed for the speedy recovery



of those who had been injured in the explosion.

"I have learnt with deep anguish about the explosion at popular Istiklal avenue in the heart of Istanbul. Govt

& people of Pakistan express deepest condolences to the brotherly people of Turkiye at the loss of precious lives & send prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured," he posted

a tweet.

The president strongly condemned the explosion and expressed solidarity with the government and people of Turkiye over the incident. He said that they shared grief with the people of Turkiye.

He said that terrorism was a collective issue of the world.

The president prayed for the departed souls and for the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

He also prayed for the quick recovery of the injured people.

An explosion on Istanbul's popular pedestrian Istiklal Avenue killed at least four people and injured 38 others, TRT report said.

Istanbul Governor Ali Yerlikaya, on his Twitter handle, informed that there were casualties from the blast that occurred around 4:20 pm local time (1320 GMT) on Sunday.

"According to the initial reports, four people lost their lives and 38 people were injured in the explosion that took place on Istiklal Street," he further tweeted. APP

Sanjrani, Fazl, Ashrafi condemn 'incident of terrorism' in Turkiye

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Sunday condemned the loss of life in the Taksim Square's blast, Turkiye in its strongest terms.

He, in a statement, said all out efforts must be made to curb all miscreant elements that were involved in heinous acts against humanity.

The senate chairman expressed the hope that the global leaders could join hands to play and important role to make the world a better and safer place for all.

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman on Sunday strongly condemned the "incident of terror" in Istanbul, Turkiye.

Fazl, who is also the chief of

Pakistan Democratic Movement, expressed his sympathy and solidarity with the Turkish government and people at this testing time.

He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured ones.

Meanwhile, in a separate condolence message, Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi condemned the Taksim Square's blast in its strongest terms.

Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, said Muslim world should unite against the terrorism and devise a combined strategy to get rid of this menace once for all.

He expressed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the recovery of injured at the earliest.

Pakistani-American Tech entrepreneurs urged to boost investment in Pakistan



WASHINGTON, :Pakistan's Ambassador to the U.S., Masood Khan, has called on Pakistani-American Tech entrepreneurs to act as a catalyst to accelerate growth and investment in Pakistan's IT and startup sectors.

Speaking at the Organization of Pakistani Entrepreneurs (OPEN) Annual Forum at Silicon Valley, California, he said that recent uptick in the bilateral relations between Pakistan and the U.S. had provided a window of opportunity for the Pakistani-Americans to invest in Pakistan, noting that both countries had prioritized economic partnership to be the new anchor of bilateral relations.

Pakistan and U.S., he added, were working together to create opportunities for cooperation in trade, technology, health, energy, agriculture and education.

Briefing the participants on investment opportunities in Pakistan, Ambassador Masood Khan said that Pakistan's pivotal geographical location, its extended neighbourhood and its impressive demographic cohorts make it an ideal destination for investment.

Pointing out that around 80 U.S. companies and corporations have been doing business in Pakistan for decades, he said that the Pakistani government had taken a number of steps to improve the investment climate in the country, including liberal visa regime, streamlining of taxes and easy repatriation of profits. As a result, he added, U.S. technology investors and venture capitalists were investing in Pakistan's startup eco-system in e-commerce, fintech, health, retail and supply chains.

He invited the Pakistani-American investors and tech entrepreneurs to take advantage of these positive developments and invest in Pakistan's IT and technology sectors.

Other speakers on the session on promoting investments in Pakistan's tech sector, included Duraid Qureshi, CEO of Hum Network Ltd, Ms. Kanwal Bukhari, Programme Manager, USAID Pakistan and Naveed Sherwani, a leading Pakistani-American entrepreneur. They announced the launching of a fund called "Pakistan Catalytic Fund" of US\$ 50 million for investing in Pakistani startups.

Earlier, Ambassador Masood Khan gave keynote remarks in a session on Disaster Management through technology. Pakistan, he said, had been devastated by a climate-induced catastrophe. More than one third of the country was under water and around 33 million people had been affected. The damages were estimated to be US\$ 40 billion. He thanked the U.S. government for its timely and generous support of US\$ 97 million as well as the Pakistani Americans for their contributing US\$ 27 million to the flood relief efforts. However, he added, more assistance was needed for the critical phases of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

OPEN Silicon Valley Annual Forum is an annual event organized by the Silicon Valley chapter of OPEN. This year's event was focused on Fintech, web 3, Startup eco-systems in Pakistan and climate change, attended by nearly 2000 participants, including entrepreneurs, businessmen, professionals, academics and students. APP

PTI long march

FAISALABAD: A view of closed a gas station due to PTI long march protest rally at Narula Road in the city.



Photo: Online

Punjab CM to provide free medical treatment for stage actor Tariq Teddi

LAHORE : Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday while taking notice of media reports regarding the illness of renowned stage comedian Tariq Teddi, announced to provide free medical treatment.

In this regard, the Punjab CM directed the Health Department to undertake prompt measures to provide free treatment facilities to the renowned comedian.

UN chief upholds importance of a single global economy

UNITED NATIONS :Amid geopolitical divides threatening to spark new conflicts and make older ones harder to resolve, the global economy cannot afford to be split into two opposing camps, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on Saturday.

Mr. Guterres was speaking to journalists a day after addressing regional leaders attending the 12th Summit between the UN and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), according to a UN press release issued in New York.

"As I told yesterday's summit meeting, we must avoid at all costs the division of the global economy into two parts, led by the two biggest economies – the United States and China," he said.

"Such a rift, with two different sets of rules, two dominant

currencies, two internets, and two conflicting strategies on artificial intelligence, would undermine the world's capacity to respond to the dramatic challenges we face."

He said ASEAN countries are well placed to bridge this divide, stressing that "we must have one global economy and global market with access for all."

The UN chief also reported on some of the issues discussed at the summit, including the situation in Myanmar which he described as "an unending nightmare for the people of that country, and a threat to peace and security across the region."

Myanmar's military seized power in February 2021 and since then, the country has been in the grip of a political, human rights and humanitarian crisis.

Guterres said ASEAN has taken a principled approach to

the issue through its Five-Point Consensus.

The plan was adopted in April 2021 and calls for an immediate cessation of violence, constructive dialogue among the parties, appointment of a Special Envoy, provision of humanitarian assistance, and a visit to the country by the Special Envoy.

"I urge all countries, including ASEAN members, to seek a unified strategy towards Myanmar, centred on the needs and aspirations of the country's people," he said.

The war in Ukraine, the global energy and food crisis, and the climate emergency were also on the agenda at the day-long summit.

"In these turbulent times, regional organizations including ASEAN are essential to building global solutions," Guterres told



reporters. The Secretary-General travelled to Cambodia from Egypt, where the COP27 UN climate

change conference is underway. The UN, he said, is also working to alleviate the global food crisis by extending a landmark

initiative to get Ukrainian grain back on markets, and by removing obstacles to the Russian food and fertilizers exports.

MGI, COP27 to open new avenues of development in Pakistan, Middle East: Ashrafi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI) and 27th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27) would open new avenues of development in Pakistan and the Middle East countries.

Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, in an exclusive talk with APP, informed that the MGI signified Saudi Arabia's commitment to international sustainability efforts and enabled the region to help protect the planet by clearly defining an ambitious road map that significantly



contributed to achieving global targets.

He said religious leaders were constantly creating awareness on the climate change challenges besides the intersect and interfaith dialogue at the global level.

He said under the patronage of Saudi Arabia's Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman,

and with the support of the government of Egypt, the World Conference on Environment had determined an effective and positive direction at the global level in general and in the Islamic world in particular.

"Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman has emerged as a great and visionary leader not only for the Muslim Ummah but also for the entire world," he added.

He said Pakistan, besides assuring full cooperation, had already welcomed the Saudi Crown Prince's vision of Saudi and Middle East Green Initiatives.

Regarding the postponement of the Saudi Crown Prince's visit to Pakistan, Ashrafi said the visit was postponed due to the personal engagements of the prince.

As per reports, the Crown Prince had

not only postponed his visit to Pakistan but also delayed his visit to some other countries, he said adding, "As soon as his visit is rescheduled, it would be intimated to the quarters concerned."

He also clarified that Pakistan's internal affairs had nothing to do with the postponement of the Crown Prince's visit.

He also urged the people "not to be misguided by the rumours being propagated by negative elements."

He said the Crown Prince was not only a state guest but was the most-adored personality of the Pakistani nation, who would be given a historic welcome on his arrival to the country.

He said Pak-Saudi relations not only were based on diplomacy but also on faith and belief which could not be shaken by any propaganda or conspiracy.

Traffic Jam

KARACHI: A view of massive traffic jam at University road due to medical entry test at NAD University, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

The sewerage scheme approved from Wara Gujran to Jalo Morr

Bureau Report

LAHORE :On the orders of the Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, the local government and community development department has prepared a development scheme of about 148 million rupees to lay a new sewerage line in the GT Road area of Lahore from Jalo Morr to Wara Gujran to improve the environmental and public health.

The project would be completed in the current fiscal year. A letter has also been sent to the revenue department for a suitable piece of land to construct a disposal station.

This action has been



taken on the application of one Usman Gujjar of Wara Gujran who complained to the ombudsman's office that locals are suffering from diseases and the area has turned into a pond of dirty water due to a lack of drainage system.

In a statement issued on Sunday, the spokesman informed that the action

taken on several public complaints submitted to regional ombudsman offices has resulted in the repair and rehabilitation of public passages in the areas of

tehsil Pind Dadan Khan, Main Bazar tehsil Gujar Khan, Sahiwal, Attock and Okara districts after necessary repairs at a cost of Rs.9,214,029. This has alleviated the difficulties of the locals.

In a related development, the spokesman stated that the registration of a private school in Minchinabad tehsil of Bahawalnagar has been cancelled following the orders issued by the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab on the request of Zulfiqar Ali of Minchinabad who requested to take action against the school teachers responsible for corporal punishment.

A letter has also been sent to the competent authority for action against Shahida Hafeez CEO of district education authority Bahawalnagar under the PEEDA Act, 2006 for non-compliance with notices, concluded the spokesman.

IRSA releases 87,700 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD :Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 87,700 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 63,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1521.28 feet and was 123.28 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 28,200 cusecs while outflow as 38,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1147.85 feet, which was 97.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 12,800 cusecs and 27,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded 45,500, 41,100, 31,800 and 10,300 cusecs respectively.

Malik Arshad Khan addressed to local government secretaries

Syed Tahir Shah

PESHAWAR : Acting Director of Local Government Department Malik Arshad Khan issued strict instructions to all village secretaries and deputy messengers to ensure daily attendance in their offices and to send monthly reports of all performance, provincial government. Departmental action will be taken against the village secretary and deputy messengers of the Municipalities Department who do not implement the orders.

The assistant director of the Municipalities Department warned in the introductory meeting, according to the details, the Assistant Director of the Municipalities and Rural Development Department of Tehsil Shah Alam. On behalf of Malik Arshad Khan, an introductory meeting was held with the supervisor of Tehsil Shah Alam and the secretaries of the village council.



Negotiations took place, on this occasion, Malik Arshad Khan issued strict instructions to all the secretaries and made it clear that the instructions issued by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa should be immediately implemented in every way, Malik Arshad said that All the problems associated with cyanide in a good way

Remedial measures should be implemented and facilities should be provided to them.

The dutiful and gifted stunt director said that people should be treated gently, their self-respect should be taken into account, and their problems should be considered appropriately.

After listening, efforts should be

made to solve them so that they can realize that by reforming the local government system, facilities have been provided for the common people. Malik Arshad Khan, while addressing the participants of the meeting, said that all local government secretary.

Adopt a good attitude with the deputy messengers and ensure attendance in their offices and send the monthly report of their performance to the assistant director's office. They should be strongly encouraged, while immediate legal action should be taken departmentally against those who neglect their duties so as to restore public confidence in the local government department.

He said that we are all for public service. Employees guilty of neglecting their duties should correct their Qiblah Otherwise no concession will be made to anyone, it is our duty to serve the people so that our right can be paid.

Chief Secretary GB directs swift actions for computerization of land records

GILGIT : Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan (CSGB) Muhiudeen Wani presided over a meeting to decide further actions for proceeding with swift Updation, and Computerization of Land Reforms and Land Records Preparation.

In the meeting following were the major decisions: MoU between Govt of GB and Govt of Punjab (Board of Revenue) shall be signed within one week. This MoU is aimed to help GB move on for swift updation and computerization of the land records. Among other help, the Government of Punjab shall extend technical cooperation, and give exposure visits and training to the GB officials.

GB Board of Revenue has drafted Land Reforms Act which shall be presented in seminars all across the GB for discussions and consensus building. Wider public consultations shall be held involving all stakeholders. Commissioners shall hold these seminars forthwith.

A consensus draft of the law shall be presented to the Cabinet and GBLA for promulgation.

Settlement records of unsettled districts shall be prepared and records of the settled districts shall be updated on a war footing.

Land records of all districts including lands developed by the ETI project shall be digitized through a specialized team.

Consultant team for this purpose shall include a multi-pronged experienced HR with wide experience in digitization and land records preparation.

Capacity of BoR shall be built to transform it into an effective, modern organization to settle land disputes and promote socioeconomic development besides keeping the best land revenue records.

Sialkot Airport Closed for International Flights

SIALKOT: The Sialkot Airport will remain closed for international flights for 15 days, ARY News reported, citing notification.

As per the notification, the Sialkot airport will remain closed from December 5 to December 20 owing to repair work on runway.

As a result of the repair work, all domestic and international flights at the airport from starting from December 5 to 20, will be rescheduled. No photo description available.

However, the Lahore and Islamabad airports could be used as alternative airports.

Industrial Association Rejects Gas Halt, Urge PM, CM to Intervene

KARACHI: Industrial Association of Pakistan on Sunday rejected the notice of no gas supply to industries, ARY News reported.

According to details, the Industrial Association of Pakistan rejected the government's notice to not supply gas to industries in the winter season. The association would urge the federal government to find ways to provide gas to industries, President Karachi Chamber said.

Vice President Javed Balwani said that the Prime Minister and Chief Minister should intervene and save Karachi's industries from closure. The government has not considered any recommendation given by the Industrialists committee, Faisal Mueez said.

The committee had recommended shifting load management to a circular basis so industries are not shut completely. It is not clear how export-oriented industries would be provided gas in winter, Javed Balwani said.

The association said that they reject the policy of gas load shedding. Javed Balwani said that the gas supply is 34% while the industries are getting only 18% (721 MMCFT) gas supply.

A statement issued by the gas company read "In adherence to the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) gas load management plan, that places domestic and commercial customers on top of the priority list, it has been decided to suspend gas supply to all general industries from November 15 to February 28, 2023."

Sindh Police Officials' Arrested for Smuggling Arms in Karachi

KARACHI: Railway police foiled bid to smuggle arms to Karachi from Peshawar during a raid and arrested 'two Sindh police officials, ARY News reported on Sunday.

The railway police foiled arms smuggling bid in Karachi by arresting two 'Sindh police officials' for allegedly carrying illegal weapons from Peshawar.

The raiding team recovered weapons hidden in a sack by the accused. The suspects were the officials of the Sindh police, railway police confirmed. A case was lodged against the accused and interrogation is underway, railway police added.

On November 10, the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Sindh police arrested a gang allegedly smuggling weapons on social media.

As per details, the CTD arrested a gang who were smuggling weapons via WhatsApp and Facebook.

The CTD in-charge Raja Umer Khattab said that the gang used to smuggle the latest and sophisticated pistols and other weapons from Darra Adam Khel - Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to Karachi without any hurdle or check and balance.

District administration failed the attempt to smuggle 13 tons of flour to Afghanistan



Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: By taking timely action, the district administration failed the attempt to smuggle 13 tons of flour worth million of rupees to Afghanistan.

On the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh, Assistant Commissioner City Waqas Safdar Sikandari raided the truck

stand on Jhang Road along with the police force received the secret information that the flour was being smuggled by making a belt of tomatoes form.

Tomatoes were placed on top of the trucks and flour was hidden below. The bags of flour were confiscated and truck driver and dealer were arrested and FIR was registered against both.

Islamabad
15° – 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:12 am
Zohr 11:52 am
Asr 3:28 pm
Maghrib 5:06 pm
Isha 6:32 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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

3866 candidates submit nomination papers for Islamabad LG polls

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD :According to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), nomination papers of 537 candidates were submitted for 101 seats of chairman and vice chairman in local body elections in Islamabad. Besides that, 1945 for 606 seats of general members, 546 female members for 202 seats and 344 candidates submitted nomination papers for 101 seats of youth members.

In addition, 348 candidates submitted nomination papers for 101 seats of Labor and farmer members, while nomination papers of 146 candidates were collected for 101 seats reserved for minorities.

ECP further stated that the list of candidates will be released on November 14 and the scrutiny of nomination papers will continue till November 18.

Global community possesses spirit of unity in climate debate

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, : Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday said the world at the global forum of UN Climate COP-27 had a spirit of unity, collaboration and cooperation but there was lack of action hindering the way to a climate resilient future.

In her keynote address at the Parliamentary Meeting at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP-27) under the auspices of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Minister said there was a climate clock running at the 27th conference of the parties (COP-27) meeting where there were intense negotiations underway.

Prior to the address of the minister, a two-minute video prepared by the Ministry of Climate Change was played highlighting the Century Breaking Climate Events in Pakistan.

Senator Sherry Rehman said, "Let us pay attention to what we are doing to each other and this planet. And there's no other option for us and no 'planet B' where we can migrate."

She added that the video clip was a tiny projection of the scale and magnitude of the century breaking climate catastrophes.

"As the UN secretary general said a scale and tragedy we have never seen before."

The Minister warned the forum



that the global warming was not going to stick to the 1.5 degrees temperature rise rather hurtling

towards 3 degrees future.

She said, "I am coming from a country where there has been

3 degrees Celsius rise in overall summer heat which is not habitable for human civilization. I do not think that we need to be sanguine or indifferent to the coming crisis for humanity and the planet we live on."

Senator Rehman emphasised that it was not a prophecy of doom and was happening now, adding, "I didn't show the other video that showed what went on the year. The forest fires, heatwaves and it's one after the other. There has been a record over 53°C highest temperature where the people have died from such shocks."

The minister at the forum stated that the people at the most vulnerable risk from such calamity were still hoping that they would all be able to

be secured and given predictability, their livelihoods and futures back. "They have the right to live, breath, till the soil, farm their communities and work in the cities that are not burning them out. These are the fundamental rights."

She said the World Bank had estimated that Pakistan would need some \$348 billion climate finance to keep its head above water till 2050 from whooping climate shocks faced by the country every year.

The minister concluded, "When one ecosystem starts dying and it's the law of nature that it spreads to others. And what is happening in Pakistan will not stay in Pakistan." APP/PID

Lok Virsa to hold colorful Folk Festival from Nov 25

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, Lok Virsa will hold its annual Folk Festival of Pakistan (Lok Mela) here from November 25 to December 4 at Shakarparian to entertain the people of the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad with vibrant colors of Pakistan's cultural heritage.

The festival which is part of the mega cultural activities of the federal capital is being organized for over four decades, while this year, a part of income generation through the festival will be contributed to Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund to help flood affectees.

Annual Lok Mela is a unique opportunity to experience the colors and warmth of diverse cultures from all over Pakistan. Provincial pavilions, food courts, folk musical theaters, and display of arts and crafts, as well as traditional heritage from every corner of Pakistan, will be part of the festival to celebrate the dynamic creativity of Pakistan's traditional craftsmanship and promote rural folk artisans at the national level, said the organizers.

Lok Mela would begin with its traditional Dastarbandi ceremony to honor a Master Artisan. The advisor to Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage, and Culture will be the chief guest

on the occasion.

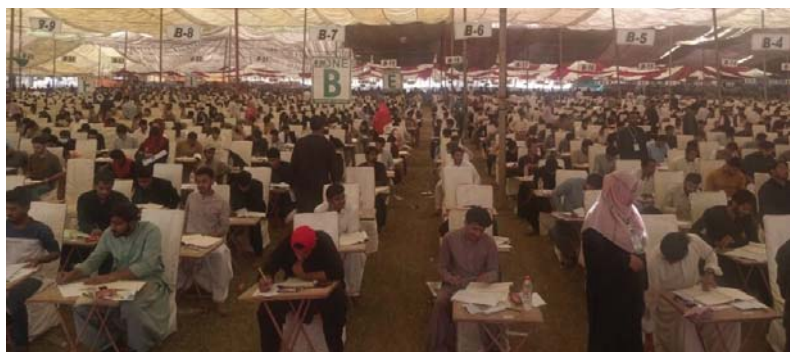
The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage, working under the Federal Government, Heritage Division, strives to promote and develop the traditional culture of Pakistan. To achieve this objective, Lok Virsa has been organizing this event in Islamabad for the last four decades to encourage those who will display and perform their art and crafts at the national level.

The main focus of the 10-day festival would be on Provincial Harmony and National Integration highlighting the contribution of people from diverse communities in building the future of Pakistan. Hundreds of master artisans, folk artists,

rural musicians, and folk dancers from all over Pakistan including remote and far-flung areas would participate in the festival, bringing with them their creativity in arts, crafts, and innovation.

Daily attractions of the festival include provincial pavilions depicting various cultural themes, traditional food stalls, folk dances, folk music, shopping stalls, kid's corner, and concerts in the open-air theatre among several other programs which will take place simultaneously at each provincial pavilion. An exotic craft bazaar featuring a rich variety of unique handicrafts, souvenir items, antiques, and decorative art is also being set up.

PMC successfully conducts MDCAT examination



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) on Sunday has successfully conducted a single-day Medical and Dental College Admission Test (MDCAT) exam at national and international venues.

According to PMC, MDCAT-2022 was a paper-based exam, which was conducted through provincial public universities, supervised by PMC.

The commission and all provincial

universities successfully arranged the exam.

President, PMC Prof. Dr. Noshad Ahmad Shaikh said that students' bright future was their top priority and the commission was working tirelessly to facilitate them.

He said that 204,253 students from Pakistan appeared in the MDCAT exam while the total number of registered candidates who appeared in national venues was 203,791.

He added, PMC also made international

centers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) where the total number of international candidates appearing for test was 462.

He informed that in the Province of Punjab 83,142 candidates appeared; while 43,994 candidates in Sindh; 46,229 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; 9,238 in Balochistan; 645 in Gilgit; 2,718 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir; 17,825 in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT); while 222 candidates in KSA center and 240 in UAE center.

He said that the MDCAT examination was conducted in cities including Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan, Faisalabad, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Sialkot, D.G.Khan, Karachi, Jamshoro, Dera Ismail Khan, Malakand, Nawabshah, Khairpur, Swat, Swabi, Peshawar, Mardan, Kohat, Bannu, Abbottabad, Quetta Gilgit, Muzaffarabad, and Mirpur.

Revamping health sector on modern lines govt's top priority: Qadir Patel

News Desk



ISLAMABAD : Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel on Sunday said that the government was revamping the health sector for provision of advanced healthcare facilities for better medical treatment to the public and ensuring transparency in MDCAT 2022 exams.

Talking to PTV news, he said that government was paying special attention to the health sector to ensure well-equipped advanced health facilities for the masses, adding, all available resources were being used to provide better health facilities and any kind of negligence will not be tolerated in this regard.

Replying a question related to MDCAT exams, he said MDCAT exams were conducted as per scheduled from November 13 (today) in which we will ensure its complete transparency and merit, adding, the PMC management had conducted exams after taking all provinces into confidence.

Government was taking all urgent measures to facilitate medical students, he said, adding, PMC had introduced a computer-based exam system to enhance transparency and allow all students to compete on a level playing field.

Minister said that the government has also started the cleanliness drive and renovation of the government hospitals, adding, the availability of medicines and installation of new magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines in public hospitals was being ensured.

Indonesian Traditional Musical Performance celebrates Pindi Food Festival 2022



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI : The Ladies of the Indonesian Embassy amazed the visitors of the 2nd Pindi Food Fest 2022 at Ayub National Park, Rawalpindi with "Angklung" performance playing "Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da" by the Beatles and traditional folksong, Pakistani popular singer, Natsha Baig, performed also at the Festival together with Chef Gulzar, Shan Khan, Bakhsi Brother, Mash Baloch, Hassan Darbuka and others.

Angklung is an Indonesian musical instrument consisting of two to four bamboo tubes suspended in a bamboo frame, bound with rattan

cords. Since each Angklung only generates one note or chord several players must work together in order to play melodies. Angklung captures the spirit of cooperation and togetherness of diverse Indonesian society.

The Angklung is closely related to traditional customs, arts, and cultural identity in Indonesia played during ceremonies such as rice planting, harvest, and circumcision. Noting the unique sound and philosophical meaning of this cultural tradition, Angklung was recognized by UNESCO in 2010 as a masterpiece of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity.


Initiated last year, the Pindi Food



Festival is an annual cultural and culinary promotion event organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber & Commerce of Industry (RCCI). The three-day food festival features more than 55 food stalls representing delicious and diverse Pakistani cuisines.

Arabella's Kitchen MRC Pakistan is participating in the 2nd Pindi Food Festival of 2022 and intro-

ducing Indonesian cuisines such as Bakso (meatballs), Bakwan (Indonesian Pakora), Siomay, Fried Rice and Noodles, Chicken Satay and Banana Cheese Roll to Pakistani food lovers. Indonesian food stall attracted many visitors who wanted to experience some similarities with Pakistani dishes but were encouraged by the unique flavors of Indo-

PUBLIC NOTICE				
 "Silver Stone Housing Society" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Khinger Tehsil & District Rawalpindi, Public is hereby informed that Mr. Saad Nazir son of Nazir Ahmed Chaudhary (CNIC#35202-2809698-3) Resident of House No.210-C, Mohallah Tak Society Lahore Office Cam Arcade, Mian G.T Road Soan Camp near Bahria Town Phase-7 Entrance Gate Rawalpindi, has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Hosing Scheme located in Mouza Khinger Chakri Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi under Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-				
Mouza	Khasra No.	Total Landed Area		
		Kanal	Marla	Sft
Khinger	1055, 1052, 1062, 1066, 1067, 10687, 1065, 1051, 1053, 1056, 1054, 1059, 1057, 1063	108	12	-
	1049, 1050, 940,	05	11	183
	1058, 1061, 1064	06	06	203
	1074/2	07	06	-
	909, 916, 917, 918, 920, 921, 922, 928, 927, 941, 938, 935, 932, 933, 934, 899, 901, 942, 943, 926, 1048, 919, 898, 931, 936, 937, 925, 930, 924, 906	344	05	-
	881, 894, 647,	01	17	140
	1023/2	-	05	-
	46	06	-	-
	1058, 1061, 1064	-	18	69
	912, 914	14	-	-
	1038	01	10	-
	1025, 1026	04	06	-
	929	04	-	-
	945, 946, 949,	08	03	60
	873, 262, 260, 268, 270, 272, 274, 502, 506, 507, 516	-	14	-
	947	46	10	-
	939	-	18	-
	1040	04	10	-
	915	17	01	-
	206	03	05	112
	1049, 1050, 940	18	09	89
	892	-	01	132
	900	14	08	-
	148, 190, 201, 214, 219, 220, 257, 263, 64, 84	-	17	-
	902, 910, 911, 913	41	03	-
	948, 955,	03	12	212
	1074/2	-	03	-
	878, 977, 979	02	06	08
Total Area		667	01	120

ANY PERSON having objection against sanction of "Silver Stone Housing Society" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Khinger Chakri Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained.

AZHAR SAEED AWAN

Deputy Director

Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency

Airport Line Road Near Water Tank

Gulzar-e-Quaid Rawalpindi

Group Chairman/Chief Editor: Almas Ayoub Sabir

Vice Chairman: Asim Nazir Ahmad

Managing Editor: Naveed Ahmad Khan

Head Editorial Advisory Board: Amjad Mehmood

Bureau Chief Karachi: Saleem Zaman Khan.
(mszk786@gmail.com)

Bureau Chief Lahore: Syed Afraz Ali Nazish
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)

Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.

Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.

Lahore Office: 7-E.Samanberg, Johar Town.

Email: spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com

Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

Pakistan sesame seed export to China up 50% in Jan-Sept 2022

Pakistan's sesame seed export to China surged to \$ 59.09 million in the first nine months of the current year 2022, showing a growth of 50 percent on a year-on-year basis, according to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

The data received by Pakistan from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), showed that China imported 39533.855 tons of sesame seed, an increase of 22% by volume worth \$ 59.09 million while last year in the same period it was 32487 tons worth \$ 39.44 million.

It is to be noted that January was the best month for sesame seeds exported to China from Pakistan with 26658.61 tons worth \$ 39.89 million followed by September 5563.45 tons worth \$ 8.66 million.

Commercial Counsellor Pakistan Embassy in Beijing Ghulam Qadir told China Economic Net that recently Pakistan's sesame seeds exports increased to China due to China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement and good prices in the Chinese market.

"We will try to take Chinese investors to Pakistan to set up factories having the latest technologies that we will be able to products finishing items of this product which will further enhance Pakistan's exports to China and the world", he added.

He said Pakistan's government is providing many incentives to Chinese investors while transferring technologies and shifting or setup factories in Pakistan is the only way that helps to decrease our trade deficit and increase our exports.

Ali Rizwan an expert on agriculture told CEN that the government of Pakistan introduced new crops, especially in 2016, National oilseed enhancement program was launched in the Punjab province and then at the federal level which helped farmers to export their crops. These crops not only became fruitful crops but also fast cash crops and well-paid crops.

"There are two big advantages of the Chinese market, first the price is good as compared to the domestic market secondly market is very big if you get any order mostly it is very difficult for one exporter to fulfill their order", he stated.

Data showed that China imported overall 891238.599 tons of sesamum seeds worth around \$ 1.35 billion from different parts of the world. Niger with 190023.113 tons worth \$ 285.44 million founded the country with the largest volume of sesamum seeds exported to China in the first nine months of 2022, followed by Sudan with \$ 229.79 million, and Togo with \$ 169.12 million. Pakistan ranked eighth and by worth sharing around 4.43 percent of total exports to China in the first nine months of this year.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan's export of sesamum seeds to China achieved a historical figure of \$ 120.44 million in 2021. Overall, China imported 92516.55 tons in 2021 and Pakistan was one of the main countries for sesamum seeds exports to China. Overall, Pakistan's export to China crossed \$ 2.57 billion in the first nine months of this year, up 2 percent year on year. The total volume of trade between China and Pakistan increased more than 3 percent amounting to \$ 20.19 billion as compared to 2021 which was \$ 19.60 billion.

There is no clear end in sight to Libya's deadlock

Hafed Al-Ghwell

Just two weeks ago, the UN's 10th special envoy in the past 11 years, Abdoulaye Bathily, acknowledged in a briefing to the Security Council an already well-known fact: There is no clear end in sight to Libya's deadlock.

It is an extremely frustrating, albeit inevitable assessment of the futility of a woefully managed international "peace" process that continues to resist recalibration to better communicate its priorities, red lines, strategies for long-term resolutions, and more importantly, a practicable "end state" welcomed by all actors.

For nearly a decade, Libya has remained locked in this perpetual cycle where every two to three years following some political agreement, challenges, divisive narratives and loud criticisms suddenly flood the national discourse over who holds legitimate power, resulting in either a return to arms or new political roadmaps.

Bathily's appointment, barely two months long, has already become a missed opportunity for a troubled UN Support Mission in Libya to leverage its role as an effective impartial arbiter, seeking cohesion among divergent actors or interests (where possible) while upholding human rights and expanding meaningful engagement with a mostly sidelined but still influential Libyan civil society.

This visit also came as no surprise as Haftar, like other prominent figures, is yet again jostling for an alternative pathway to staying relevant after Fathi Bashagha and his Government of National Stability failed to uphold the status quo politically or through military means.

It is unclear whether some form of new

government of national something will eventually emerge. But what is clear, given the recent glad-handing and flurry of brokered meetings amid the international community's quiet consent, is that the rehabilitation of certain characters means Libya is poised for even more upheaval in the coming months.

In fact, Bathily's remarks came after statements by the head of the High Council of State, Khalid Al-Mishri, hinting at forming a third government along with Aguila Saleh, speaker of the eastern-based Libyan Parliament — introducing yet another rival power pole in a very crowded field.

The aim is to create a new government with the country's most influential actors by granting them renewed legitimacy without the consent of the Libyan public via elections. All leading actors lack the name recognition, influence, authority and reach to insist on holding elections. Instead, there is a preference for some kind of power-sharing deal that would then be anointed by sham elections.

It dovetails rather curiously with the fact that no external actors are genuinely pushing for, or actively working toward, organizing Libyan elections. Instead, there is some vague affirmation of the international community's preference for elections, but not exactly what kind or by what metric they will be respected and deemed legitimate.

On the other hand, Haftar has resorted to reshaping reckless, bellicose declarations about "liberating" the country and marching to Tripoli again. This despite a heavy Turkish presence in northwestern Libya with significant military hardware that can deter any future aggression by the LAAF or other armed groups opposed to Ankara's designs for the North African country.

But Haftar, much like with Bashagha's failed attempts, is likely banking on exploiting the internal divisions among the militias that back

the Government of National Unity, since some armed groups are not exactly opposed to facilitating renewed clashes in order to wrest control from the UN-recognized interim authority headed by Abdul Hamid Dbeibah.

These declarations are neither alarming nor novel: Even Libya's fault lines are now somewhat different from the usual east-west parallelism.

Haftar tends to bank on the extreme and outlandish to reverse a perceived decline in his relevance in a political landscape now dominated by the Dbeibah, Bashagha and emergent Mishri-Saleh camps that share some claim of legitimacy.

Two of those three camps have some support from Ankara, and with rumors swirling of Turkey pushing for a unity government that includes Bashagha, Haftar will be isolated and unable to reward Russia, Egypt and, to some extent, France for their steadfast support.

Bashagha, on the other hand, is fully aware that sparking any new conflicts will decimate any recognition he still has that could be leveraged for a senior leadership role in this envisioned unity government, especially considering how Dbeibah's cast of backers both in and outside Libya seem poised to adapt to emergent realities.

However, as fortuitous as these developments are, an emboldened Haftar is yet again mulling a return to arms in anticipation of a weak reaction from an international community preoccupied by the war in Ukraine.

• *Hafed Al-Ghwell is a Senior Fellow and Executive Director of the Ibn Khaldun Strategic Initiative (IKSI) at the Foreign Policy Institute (FPI) of the Johns Hopkins University school of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) in Washington DC and the former Advisor to the dean of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group.*

Protect tomorrow by investing in diabetes education today

Ms.Erum Ghafoor

Diabetes awareness month takes place every year in November, with the 14th recognised as World Diabetes Day. First established by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization in 1991, World Diabetes Day has been recognised as an official UN World Health Day since 2006. Awareness activities on and around the day help focus attention on what is required to address the growing diabetes pandemic and ensure that people living with diabetes receive the care they need to manage their condition successfully to avoid or delay the associated debilitating and life-threatening complications.

To mark the occasion this year, IDF is focussing the World Diabetes Day campaign on diabetes education and is calling on governments to increase investment to provide better support to healthcare professionals and people living with diabetes.

According to the latest IDF estimates, over one in four (26.7%) adults in Pakistan are living with diabetes, the highest

prevalence in the world. More than a quarter (27%) of these 32.9 million people are undiagnosed, placing them at higher risk of complications such as heart attack, stroke, blindness and nerve damage. Diabetes was responsible for over 400,000 deaths in Pakistan last year.

In an effort to help curb the rise of diabetes, the World Health Organization (WHO) have agreed an ambitious set of global diabetes coverage targets, to be achieved by 2030. These targets include identifying and diagnosing four in five of all diabetes cases and ensuring good control of blood sugar and blood pressure. The targets include treating 60% of all people with diabetes over 40 with medication to lower cholesterol and ensuring that all people with type 1 diabetes have access to affordable insulin and blood glucose self-monitoring. This is important because, without access to insulin therapy and all that is required to make it successful, type 1 diabetes is an unnecessary death sentence.

A great deal of work will be required for these targets to be achieved. Diabetes education plays a vital role to ensure early diagnosis and treatment, and support people with diabetes to manage their condition.

Education to support self-care

The number of people living with diabetes is rising quickly in Pakistan, with the country seeing a 70% increase between 2019 and 2021. The total number is expected to reach 43 million by 2030. This rise is putting additional pressure on healthcare systems, with healthcare professionals having less time available to spend in consultation with people with diabetes in their care.

For over 95% of the time, people living with diabetes are looking after themselves. It is therefore critical that they have access to up-to-date and reliable information to support their self-care and prevent diabetes-related complications.

Diabetes changes over the life-cycle requiring adjustments. Awareness of what to look out for and what to do are hugely important. Making sure that the multiple decisions that people living with diabetes need to make are well informed requires education based on scientific evidence.

Knowing what to do and when to act can help prevent diabetes complications, providing not only a better quality of life for people living with diabetes, but also benefiting Pakistan's healthcare system by reducing

the high costs associated with treating and managing secondary complications.

Access to education for healthcare professionals

Ongoing diabetes education is also important for Pakistan's healthcare professionals. It is particularly important for primary care physicians, pharmacists and community health workers to have a good knowledge of diabetes to help them identify people at high risk and diagnose the condition early. At diagnosis, they must be equipped to provide the right advice and tools to support ongoing self-care.

Ensuring educational resources and training are available and accessible to healthcare professionals helps them keep their diabetes knowledge up-to-date and make the most of the limited time they have available with their patients.

An ongoing global commitment

IDF is committed to helping achieve the WHO global diabetes coverage targets and ensuring the provision of better diabetes care on a global scale. To help facilitate learning opportunities for both healthcare professionals and people living with diabetes, the IDF School of Diabetes offers free online courses to

better understand the condition and support ongoing professional development.

There is still much work to be done, however, which is why IDF is calling on the Pakistan diabetes community and members of the public to lobby their governments and health ministers to request further resource be allocated to diabetes education.

According to Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, diabetes is now the only major non-communicable disease for which the risk of dying early is continuing to rise. It is a pandemic of increasing magnitude and without additional commitment and investment from international governments it will continue to grow.

Government action needs to be taken now, to increase awareness among populations and improve the training of healthcare professionals to provide the best possible care for people living with diabetes. We need to provide diabetes education today to protect tomorrow.

Submit a letter to your national health minister through IDF's online tool: worldiddiabetesday.org/educationtoprotect

Writer is Nurse and Diabetes Educator



UN completes hearings of Shireen Abu Akleh's killing

Spokesman Research Wing

United Nations investigators Friday wrapped up the hearings on the killing of veteran US-Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and other Israeli actions in occupied Palestine territory, after her family members testified that she had been deliberately targeted as part of the Jewish State's "wide-scale war" on Palestinian media workers.

The week-long hearings were hosted by the Commission of Inquiry (COI) created by the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council last year to probe the root causes of the decades-long Middle East conflict.

Speaking to the investigators, the slain journalist's niece Lina Abu Akleh said it was "painful beyond words" to think about how her aunt died, insisting there was no doubt Israeli soldiers "were deliberately targeting my aunt."

The longtime Al Jazeera reporter was wearing a bulletproof vest marked "Press" and a helmet when she was shot in the head during an army operation in Jenin refugee camp in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on May 11.

The objective of the UN inquiry was twofold, explained Commissioner Chris Sidoti: First, to understand the designation of seven Palestinian non-Government organizations, human rights organizations, as unlawful organizations and six of them as terrorist organizations.

Recording first-hand information on the killing of Shireen Abu Akleh formed the second part of the week's activities.

"These are not the sole focus of our investi-

gation at all, but rather we see them as particularly significant in giving us a better understanding of the overall situation of civic space, civil society and throughout that region, throughout the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel", Sidoti added.

In total, 13 witnesses and victims of civil society organizations and legal representatives provided testimony to Commissioners Navi Pillay, Sidoti and Miloon Kothari at the public forum.

Akleh, an experienced television journalist, who was very familiar with reporting in the occupied Palestinian territory, was killed as she attempted to report on an arrest operation by Israeli Security Forces and clashes in Jenin refugee camp in the northern occupied West Bank.

Following her killing, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said that Israeli forces were behind the fatal shooting, and not indiscriminate Palestinian firing.

In September, the Israeli authorities announced that there was a "high possibility" that Ms. Abu Akleh had been hit accidentally by the Israeli military.

It is really important for these public hearings to be held because it allows us the space to share our testimonies, the experience and the suffering we had to endure over the past six months, but also it allows our voices to get across and our messages and our demands. It's because it's unfortunate that the Commission of Inquiry cannot access the territories", Lina Abu Akleh said.

"The lack of accountability, the lack of justice is what pushed me to advocate for my Aunt Shireen", she added. "It's the importance of getting justice and getting her message across, is what continues to push me towards our pursuit."

6 dead, 53 wounded in explosion on Istanbul’s Istiklal Avenue

 Spokesman Report

ISTANBUL :At least six people were killed and 53 others injured when an explosion hit Istanbul’s popular pedestrian Istiklal Avenue on Sunday. The casualties were confirmed by official sources.

“The relevant units of our state are working to find the perpetrators behind this heinous attack,” President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a press conference before his departure for Indonesia to attend the G-20 summit. “Initial observations show a woman played a role in the explosion,” he said and stated that “based on initial information from the governor, the explosion could be suspected act of terrorism.”

The Turkish president also vowed that those who waged terrorism against the Turkish nation would fail.



Images shared on social media at the time of the explosion indicated it could be heard from far away and that there were also flames.

Footage showed ambulances, fire trucks and police at the scene, and the area has been evacuated. The cause of the explosion is still

unknown.

In an earlier confirmation, on social media, Istanbul Gov. Ali Yerli Kaya said: “According to initial reports, in the explosion that took place on Istiklal Avenue, 4 people lost their lives and 38 people were injured. Our wounded are being treated. We wish God’s mercy on those who lost their lives and a speedy recovery to the injured. Developments will be shared with the public.”

In another post right after the attack, he wrote: “Today, at around 16.20, an explosion occurred in Taksim Istiklal Street in our Beyoğlu district.

Our police, health, fire and (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority) AFAD teams were sent to the scene. There are casualties and injuries. Developments will be shared with the public.”

Pak-Indonesia FTA cannot be ruled out: Indonesian Minister

ISLAMABAD: Indonesian Deputy Minister for trade and export development, Bapak Didi Sumedi has said that the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Indonesia cannot be ruled out, which will increase the volume of bilateral trade on both sides.

After signing the Proposed FTA between the two countries, there is a possibility that the current bilateral trade volume will go from the current \$4 billion to \$10 billion per year, Indonesian Deputy Minister for trade and export development, Bapak Didi Sumedi told APP in Jakarta (Indonesia).

The Minister said that the two countries already have a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) which will further strengthen bilateral trade after the finalization of the proposed FTA.

After the finalization of the FTA between Pakistan and Indonesia, it will help both the coun-



tries to strengthen bilateral economic and trade relations with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

Replying to a question on Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) 2022, he said that the Indonesia Convention Exhibition (ICE) is extremely important for increasing economic and commercial activities and promoting investment in Indonesia and the outer world.

He said the 37th Indonesia Convention Exhibi-

tion provides opportunities for businessmen and investors from foreign countries including local Indonesian businessmen to trade and invest in the Indonesian market.

The Minister said this exhibition is successfully held every year in Jakarta, Indonesia, and this year also around thousand of local exporters and traders and around 100 traders and industrialists from different countries of the world set up stalls in the exhibition.

Bapak Didi Sumedi said

that as an annual promotional agenda, Trade Expo Indonesia 2022 will feature exhibitions, business forum, business counseling, and business matching with a focus on selected industries such as manufacturing, fashion and accessories, healthcare and beauty, medical equipment, furniture and home decorations, digital, and services, as well as food and beverage.

He said that there is a lot of potential for the improvement of economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Indonesia.

He said that bilateral trade between Pakistan and Indonesia is not in line with the potential which needs to be further increased.

Meanwhile, Indonesia’s Deputy Minister for Creative Economy and Investment Odo R. M. Manuhutu said that the Indonesian government is currently focusing on the growth and development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Malaysian, Iranian education centers sign MoU

TEHRAN: Iran’s Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education (IRPHE) and the University Sains Malaysia or University of Science, Malaysia, have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the aim of upgrading cooperation at international level.

The MoU paves the way for holding joint research and academic programs as well as educational workshops, and exchanging students and publications.

Ali-Bagher Taherinia, chairman of the Institute for Research and Planning in Higher Education, said on Sunday that the MoU, which was prepared in cooperation with the Higher Education Institute of Malaysia in 2019 and is being extended today, should be inked on the basis of a new approach to expand collaborations.

He mentioned that the three-year-long activities have focused on scientific meetings and workshops, but we are keen on reaching the level of sharing policies and experiences because we are enthusiastic to know what is Malaysia’s approach to dealing with international developments concerning higher education. IRNA

Asean Summit: Russia West Seeking To Militarise Southeast Asia

BALI: Russia’s Foreign Minister accuses that the west is “Militarising” Southeast Asia in a bid to contain Russian and Chinese interests, setting the stage for a confrontation between Russia and Western Leaders at the G20 Summit In Bali.

Lavrov will head Russia’s delegation to the summit—the first such meeting since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February—after the kremlin said President Vladimir Putin was too busy to attend.

Speaking during a news conference at the conclusion of the association of Southeast Asian Nations Summit In Phnom Penh, Lavrov scolded the united states over its actions in the region, which both Russia and the west see as a potential strategic geopolitical battleground in the coming decades.

Democrats clinch control of US Senate with win in Nevada

PHOENIX: Democrats will stay in control of the US Senate next year after Democratic U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto won re-election in Nevada, Edison Research projected on Saturday, handing a major victory to President Joe Biden.

Still, Republicans remained close to winning control of the US House of Representatives as officials continued counting ballots cast in Tuesday’s US midterm elections.

Cortez Masto narrowly defeated Republican challenger Adam Laxalt, a former state attorney general who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

With Masto’s victory on the heels of Democratic Senator Mark Kelly winning re-election in Arizona late on Friday, Democrats will control at least 50 Senate seats, with Vice President Kamala Harris able to break ties in the 100-member chamber.

The Senate is split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans. The newly elected Senate will be sworn in on Jan. 3.

If Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock were to win the Dec. 6 Georgia runoff election against Republican challenger Herschel Walker, that would expand Democrats’ majority to 51-49. That, in turn, would give Democrats an additional edge in passing a limited number of controversial bills that are allowed to advance with a simple majority of votes, instead of the 60 needed for most legislation.

Democratic Senators Joe Manchin in West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona are “swing” votes who have blocked or delayed some of Biden’s major initiatives, including expansions of some social programs.

But with 51 Democratic seats in the upcoming Congress, Manchin’s and Sinema’s influence would be slightly diluted.

Israel strike hits major air base in central Syria



CAIRO/AMMAN: Syrian air defences shot down Israeli missiles over Homs province on Sunday, state news agency SANA said, in what military sources said was a strike on a major Syrian air base.

Syrian state television posted a short video of the “aggression” but gave no further details.

A Syrian army source, who was not authorised to speak publicly, said that the strikes targeted Shayrat air base, a military complex southeast of Homs city.

Its runway and underground facilities have undergone a major expansion by the Russia military in the last three years, he added.

Russia, which maintains a major military presence in Syria, has forces stationed near to Shayrat air base, which has also been used recently by the Iranian air force, another security source told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

Regional and intelligence sources say Israel has in recent months intensified strikes on Syrian airports and air bases to disrupt Iran’s increasing use of aerial supply lines to deliver arms to allies in Syria and Lebanon including Lebanon’s Iran-backed Hezbollah.

The Israeli military was not immediately available for comment on the reports. Israel has been mounting attacks in Syria for years against what it has described as Iranian and Iran-backed forces that have deployed there during the 11-year war. *Web Desk*

Donetsk battles are ‘hell’, Ukraine’s Zelenskiy says as Kherson mops up



KYSELIVKA, UKRAINE: Russian forces destroyed key infrastructure in Ukraine’s southern city of Kherson before fleeing, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said, as his counterparts in Russia and Iran vowed to deepen economic, political and trade ties.

Zelenskiy described as hellish battles in the eastern region of Donetsk, where pro-Moscow forces were putting up a much stiffer fight after Russia abandoned on Friday the only regional capital it had captured since the war began in February.

Jubilant residents of Kherson welcomed arriving troops while Zelenskiy said authorities, in their efforts to stabilise the region, had dealt with nearly 2,000 mines, trip-wires and unexploded shells left by the departing Russians. Russians “everywhere have the same goal: to humiliate people as much as possible. But we will restore everything, believe me,” Zelenskiy said in a video address on Saturday.

“Before fleeing from Kherson, the occupiers destroyed all the critical infrastructure: communications, water, heat, electricity.”

Ukraine’s success in Kherson, where its troops now control more than 60 regional settlements, as well as in other places, benefited partly from resistance in the Donetsk region, despite repeated Russian attacks, Zelenskiy added.

“There it is just hell — there are extremely fierce battles there every day,” he said. “But our units are defending bravely — they are withstanding the terrible pressure of the invaders, preserving our defence lines.”

In a telephone call, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi emphasised “further enhancing cooperation in the political, trade and economic fields, including the transport and logistics sector,” the Kremlin said on Saturday.

Russia has stepped up efforts to build ties with Iran and other non-Western countries during the war, with a senior Russian security official having met Iranian leaders in Tehran on Wednesday.

The visit following accusations by Ukraine and the West that Russia has used Iranian drones to target Ukraine’s energy infrastructure. Iran says it sent Russia a small number of drones before the war began. Last month, two senior Iranian officials and two Iranian diplomats told Reuters that Iran had promised to provide Russia with surface-to-surface missiles. But Ukraine will decide on the timing and contents of any negotiation framework with Russia, according to the readout of a Saturday meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in Phnom Penh.

The Washington Post reported a week ago that the Biden administration was privately encouraging Ukraine’s leaders to signal an openness to negotiate with Russia and drop their public refusal to engage in peace talks unless Putin was removed from power.

Moscow calls its action in Ukraine a “special military operation” aimed at demilitarizing and “denazifying” its smaller neighbour. Kyiv and its allies say Russia’s invasion, which has killed tens of thousands and uprooted millions, was unprovoked and illegal.

Pakistani youth ready to contribute building global digital infrastructure: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: “Pakistan is focusing on innovation, technology, and digitalization. We have one of the youngest populations in the world, which is talented and tech savvy and is ready to contribute to the global effort.” This was stated by Moin ul Haque, Pakistani Ambassador to China at the “Belt and Road”

Internet International Cooperation Forum, one of the sub forums of the World Internet Conference (WIC) 2022 held in Wuzhen, China, according to China Economic Net (CEN). With the theme “Towards a Shared Digital Future in a Connected World—Building a Community with a Shared Future in Cyberspace,” this year’s WIC Wuzhen



summit brought together more than 2,000 representatives from over 120 countries and regions.

They showcased more than 200 projects which aimed at building a community in cyberspace and using digital technologies to promote social

fairness. Pointing out that building a digitally inclusive community is a collective global responsibility, the ambassador emphasized that Pakistan would not be far behind, and would be a willing partner in a shared concept to build a resilient, sustainable, and inclusive

digital future for all.

“While constructing a global digital infrastructure, we should enable the developing countries to be an equal partner to increased investments and technical support”, the envoy said. ‘Cooperation and development’ is one of the key focuses of WIC 2022. Amid climate change, COVID-19 epidemic and economic tremors, ‘global efforts’ is a lesson that should be drawn from the responses to past global crises.

The ambassador called on renouncing the old mindset of zero-sum games, or the winner takes it all mentality, stating that “We could not put cyberspace beyond the concept of mutual support, mutual trust, mutual benefit.” Ran Cheng-

qi, Director General, China Satellite Navigation Office and Spokesperson of BeiDou Navigation Satellite System said that “We seek to actively cooperate with other countries in navigation satellite systems to achieve compatibility and win-win results, jointly improve the performance of systems and share that with the whole world, especially the developing and the Belt and Road countries.”

Participants from the corporate sector believe that the trend of Chinese enterprises and brands going global is unchanged. Judging from the Prime Minister’s concluded visit to China, IT cooperation between the 2 nations would be sustained and deep.

SSGC halts gas supply to industries

KARACHI: With the advent of the winter season, the gas crisis seems to have worsened as the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) halted gas supply to industries across Karachi, ARY News reported.

"In adherence to the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) gas load management plan, that places domestic and commercial customers on top of the priority list, it has been decided to suspend gas supply to all general industries from November 15 to February 28, 2023," a statement issued by the gas company read.

It said the decision is aimed to meet the rising demand of domestic customers in Sindh and Balochistan.

Ghee Prices Slashed at Utility Stores

ISLAMABAD: The Utility Stores have reduced ghee prices by Rs 8 per kilogram across Pakistan, ARY News reported.

As per details, the utility stores corporation (USC) has announced to decrease in ghee prices by Rs8, taking the per kilogram price of category one branded ghee pack from Rs 520 to Rs 512.

Similarly, the 5kg pack of ghee has been decreased by Rs 45. It will now sell at Rs2580. Earlier it was available for Rs2625 in the utility stores

MF asks Pakistan to meet targets before talks

ISLAMABAD : The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Saturday asked Pakistan to meet the targets before the talks and also demanded to increase tax collection.

Sources privy to the matter said that the talks date between Pakistan and the international lender watchdog has been changed, and the talks with the IMF will not be able to begin from the November 15.

The IMF wants Pakistan to fully implement the targets before the negotiations, but due to the recent floods in the country, the surplus from the provinces and the primary balance target could not be met, said sources.

In this regard, the state minister for finance Aisha Ghous Pasha stated that it was discussed with the IMF about increasing expenditures due to the recent floods that wreaked havoc in the country because funds were used in flood relief activities, and the IMF has demanded a list of targets that were not met.

Govt withdraws plea against Shariat Court's decision on interest-free banking

ISLAMABAD: The federal government withdrew its petition against Federal Shariat Court's decision seeking the government to transform the banking system into Shariah-compliant banking, The News reported Sunday.

Lawyer Salman Akram Raja, on behalf of the State Bank of Pakistan, filed a civil miscellaneous application (CMA) in the Supreme Court to withdraw the instant appeal filed against the judgement of the Federal Shariat Court, The News reported.

On June 25, the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) had challenged in the Supreme Court the decision of Federal Shariat Court of April 28.

Web Desk

Planning Commission launches Pakistan Outlook 2035

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD :The Planning Commission has initiated a comprehensive study on the future development scenario building for Pakistan titled "Pakistan Outlook 2035".

The initiative, which will assess long-term challenges in the light of prevailing economic crisis and changing global dynamics in key sectors of the economy and identify policy choices for the policy makers for rapid socioeconomic development of the country, said a press release.

While chairing a meeting of the Planning Commission Members, Minister Planning and Development, Professor Ahsan Iqbal said that the study would be launched at the start of 2023, and that it would act as a prelude to developing Pakistan's Vision 2035 and Vision 2047.

He emphasized that Pakistan's economy required fundamental structural changes and development of new export led growth paradigm.

This could only be achieved by following a consistent policy framework for at least a decade.

"The country in 2017-18 was well on its way



to realise the target of joining top 25 economies of the world by 2025 as set in Pakistan's Vision 2025 launched in 2014 under PMLN government but the change of government in 2018 caused a major diversion.

Continuity of policies was discarded and path of confrontation and reversals was adopted

by previous government which destroyed the investor confidence and progress.

Nearly four years later, we inherited a country close to economic bankruptcy," said the minister.

While underscoring the significance of Pakistan Outlook 2025, he added, "Since day one our topmost priority has been to bring about

an economic turnaround and stabilisation in the country and resume the journey to national progress. Pakistan

Outlook 2035 will help us understand where we are at present and where are we headed if we do business as usual a decade and a half later."

The Members of the Commission were assigned to complete the study through engagement with the relevant stakeholders.

The minister directed to establish a Steering Committee for supervising the initiative, comprising of country's top economists, private sector and research institutions in the country

The Chief Economist will coordinate the effort. The future needs assessment and target setting in Pakistan Outlook 2035 will be done on the basis of seven pillars of the previous vision, which include: developing human and social capital; achieving sustained, indigenous and inclusive growth, democratic governance, institutional reform and modernization of the public sector; energy, water and food security; private sector and entrepreneurship-led growth; developing a competitive knowledge economy through value addition; and modernizing transportation infrastructure and greater regional connectivity.

Increasing demand

FAISALABAD: A worker busy in ginning cotton for preparing quilts at his workplace as demand during winter season in the city.



Photo: Online

UK warns of budget pain to come this week

LONDON: Britain's government on Sunday warned of impending tax hikes, especially for the wealthy, as it bids to repair economic havoc wrought by the short-lived tenure of former prime minister Liz Truss.

Truss's successor Rishi Sunak, who was heading to a G20 economic summit in Indonesia, has vowed to get soaring inflation under control even if it means more pain for hard-pressed consumers and businesses.

His finance minister, Jeremy Hunt, told Sky News that the pain would fall disproportionately on the better off as he prepares to unveil an emergency budget statement on Thursday.

Hunt conceded that the UK economy was already likely in recession, "but we are a resilient country and we've faced much bigger challenges, frankly, in our history".

"We're all going to be paying a bit more tax, I'm afraid," he said, while refusing to be drawn into detail on the figures, after a tax-cutting budget by Truss caused panic on financial markets.

"We will be asking everyone for sacrific-



es," the chancellor of the exchequer stressed.

"But I think in a fair society, as we are in the UK, we need to recognise that there's only so much you can ask from people on the very lowest incomes, so that will be reflected in the decisions that I take."

Hunt is reportedly looking at changing income tax brackets, to raise more revenue from high earners, and impose strict curbs

on government spending for years to come as inflation hits double digits.

He said the surge in energy prices linked to the war in Ukraine amounted to an economic hit of 140 billion pounds (\$166 billion).

"It's like the economy supporting an entire second NHS (National Health Service)," the minister said.

At Least \$1bn of Client Funds Missing At FTX

NEW YORK: At least \$1 billion of customer funds have vanished from collapsed crypto exchange FTX, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The exchange's founder Sam Bankman-Fried secretly transferred \$10 billion of customer funds from FTX to Bankman-Fried's trading company Alameda Research, the people told Reuters.

A large portion of that total has since disappeared, they said. One source put the missing amount at about \$1.7 billion. The other said the gap was between \$1 billion and \$2 billion.

While it is known that FTX moved customer funds to Alameda, the missing funds are reported here for the first time.

The financial hole was revealed in records that Bankman-Fried shared with other senior executives last Sunday, according to the two sources. The records provided an up-to-date account of the situation at the time, they said. Both sources held senior FTX positions until this week

and said they were briefed on the company's finances by top staff.

Bahamas-based FTX filed for bankruptcy on Friday after a rush of customer withdrawals earlier this week. A rescue deal with rival exchange Binance fell through, precipitating crypto's highest-profile collapse in recent years.

In text messages to Reuters, Bankman-Fried said he "disagreed with the characterization" of the \$10 billion transfer.

"We didn't secretly transfer," he said. "We had confusing internal labelling and misread it," he added, without elaborating.

Asked about the missing funds, Bankman-Fried responded: "???"

FTX and Alameda did not respond to requests for comment.

In a tweet on Friday, Bankman-Fried said he was "piecing together" what had happened at FTX. "I was shocked to see things unravel the way they did earlier this week," he wrote. "I will, soon, write up a more complete post on the play-by-play."



Islamabad: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari , President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with a delegation in a group photo.

Potential of Islamic tourism worth \$230 billion by 2028: Speakers

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at the tourism (Ziyarah) conference held in Uzbekistan said that the potential of Islamic tourism is US \$230 billion by 2028 which can play a significant role in the economic integration of Islamic countries.

They said that currently the population of the Muslim world is 2.3 billion, which is 27 percent of the world's population, which has a great potential for economic activities and tourism.

The Tourism (Ziyarah) conference and "International Ziyarah Tourism Week" was held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) organized by the Uzbekistan's Ministry of tourism and Cultural heritage.

The Speakers said that every year 160 million Muslim tourists do religious duty or other international tourist tours, whose number will increase to 230 by 2028.

They said that Uzbekistan being the center of Islamic culture and heritage can play a major role for promotion of Islamic tourism, today's Ziyarah conference is a sign that Uzbekistan is making serious efforts in this regard.

Meanwhile, while addressing the tourism (Ziyarah) conference held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Cultural Heritage Aziz Abdurahimov said that this



year our government decided to organize "International Ziyarah Tourism Week" for the promotion of Islamic tourism.

In this year 2022, 150 delegates from different countries are participating in this tourism (Ziyarah) Conference years 2022, and they will give their opinions for the promotion of Islamic tourism during this time, he said.

Uzbek Deputy PM said that the leadership of Uzbekistan is paying full attention to the promotion of tourism here and tourism has a very important role in the economy of any country.

He said that according to the vision of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev tourism has a very important place in the econ-

omy of Uzbekistan and special attention is being paid to it.

He said that the government of Uzbekistan is promoting direct flights with various countries of the world, which will improve economic, trade and tourism links with these countries.

He said that apart from this, "we are also relaxing the visa policy and providing ease in the visa process for tourists,"

He said that in the last ten months till October 30, 3.6 million tourists visited Uzbekistan and in the next two months this number is likely to reach 5 million.

The minister said that this number is 40 percent more than the number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan in 2021.

He said that the United Nation body, UNESCO has declared Samarkand as the best destination for international tourism.

The Deputy PM said that Samarkand is the tourism hub of Uzbekistan where there are great opportunities for tourism. In this way, "we are providing modern tourism facilities and all kinds of infrastructure in this place, which will boost the local tourism."

He said that Samarkand is also the world center of Islamic cultural heritage and science, where great scientists and sociologists and scholars of world fame were born.

On the occasion while addressing the tour-

ism (Ziyarah) conference, Director General of Islamic Tourism Centre(Ministry of Tourism ,Malaysia), Dr Muhammad Razip Hasan said that Uzbekistan has its origin and has a huge potential in Islamic tourism which can improve the economies of Muslim countries.

He said that currently 70 percent of the world's young population is in Muslim countries, which can play an important role in such activities.

Razip Hasan said that tourism is the backbone of modern economy, on which Muslim countries need to work.

He said that tourism has a very important role in the Malaysian economy and its government is paying a lot of attention to its facilities.

On this occasion, Fazal Bahardeen, an expert on Islamic tourism and halal market and researcher, said that Islamic tourism has a huge value in the global economy, which will reach \$230 billion in the next 6 years.

He said that Islamic tourism has a lot of potential in Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran, Pakistan and Iraq. Similarly, in the present era, there is a potential of \$2.5 trillion in the world market of Halal food products, from which Islamic countries can get economic benefits.

He said that if this sector is accepted at the official level, economic integration can also happen in Muslim countries. APP

Buttler lauds Stokes as ‘one of the greats’ as England win T20 World Cup

MELBOURNE: England skipper Jos Buttler hailed Ben Stokes as “a true match-winner” Sunday after the allrounder s unbeaten 52 helped steer them past Pakistan to win the Twenty20 World Cup.

In the process they became the sport s first dual white-ball champions, holding both the 50- and 20-over titles.

Buttler s side restricted Pakistan to 137-8 in front of a partisan 80,462 fans at a heaving Melbourne Cricket Ground, with player-of-the-match and tournament Sam Curran bagging 3-12 and Adil Rashid chipping in with 2-22.

In reply, England stuttered to 49-3 in the sixth over as they struggled to get any momentum against a fiery pace attack, with boundaries hard to come by.

But Stokes and Moeen Ali (19) used their experience and cool heads to guide England to 138-5 with six balls to spare, climaxing a riveting tournament that spanned 45 games over nearly a month.

“He always stands up in the biggest moments, he s a man who can take a lot of pressure on his shoulders and perform,” Buttler said of Stokes.

“When he s there you know you have a good chance. He s a true match-winner. He s one of the great players of English cricket.”

Curran added that “we all look up to him. People question him, but he s incredible”.

Stokes insisted the bowlers deserved the credit

“In finals, especially when chasing, you probably forget all the hard work before that. To restrict them to 130, the bowlers



have to take a lot of credit. Adil Rashid and Sam Curran won us the game,” he said.

The victory added to the 50-over title England won in 2019, building on the legacy of former captain Eoin Morgan, who retired this year after transforming the team into a white-ball juggernaut.

It was England s second T20 crown after tasting success in 2010, joining the West Indies as the only two-time winners since the tournament s inception in 2007.

The game was billed as a showdown between Pakistan s attack and England

s top order, and Shaheen Afridi bowled danger man Alex Hales in the first over of the run chase.

But that only fired up Buttler who smashed two boundaries off Naseem Shah.

Phil Salt, playing in place of the injured Dawid Malan, made 10 before pulling Haris Rauf to Iftikhar Ahmed

The ball was swinging and seaming and the menacing Rauf claimed the key wicket of Buttler, edging to wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan after the skipper had scored 26 off 17 balls.

20 runs short

The runs dried up as England reached 77-3 at halfway, compared to Pakistan s 68-2 after 10 overs.

Harry Brook came undone on 20 against the spin of Shadab Khan, holing out to Afridi who injured himself taking the catch and it came down to needing 41 runs off five overs.

Stokes relieved the pressure with a four and a six off Ahmed before hitting the winning run.

“Congratulations to England, they deserve to be champions and fought well,” said Pakistan captain Babar Azam. AFP

Fans react after the Pakistan lost

ISLAMABAD: Cricket fans react after the Pakistan loss their ICC men's Twenty20 World Cup 2022 final cricket match between Pakistan and England, as watching on a big screen in a shopping mall in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Irfan registers 60th Guinness World Record

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's renowned martial artist Irfan Mehsood has achieved another milestone after his 60th Guinness World Record was approved for the highest standing jump carrying a 60lb pack.

“The previous record for the highest standing jump was held by Silvio Sabba of Italy. The highest standing jump carrying a 60 lb pack was 92.6 cm (3 ft 0.45 in), and was achieved by Silvio Sabba in Rodano, Milan in February 2018,” he told APP.

Irfan said the highest standing jump he did carrying a 60 lb pack was 96 cm (3 ft 1.79 in). “I attempted the feat in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan, in July 2022.”

Irfan has previously also broken many other records including the most push-ups (fingertips, carrying a 60 lb pack) in one minute, most step-ups in one minute (carrying a 100 lb pack), and the longest time in a reverse abdominal plank position carrying a 100 lb pack.

Mehsood who was overjoyed over his remarkable feat said he was also the only athlete to break world records using 80 to 100 Pounds of weight. APP

ICC name host countries for ICC U19 events until 2027

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has approved Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Bangladesh, and Nepal as the host countries of the ICC U19 events from 2024-2027.

The ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2024 would be hosted by Sri Lanka whilst the 2026 edition will be staged in Zimbabwe and Namibia, said a press release.

The ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025 would be held in Malaysia and Thailand, and the 2027 U19 Women's event will be jointly hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal.

The hosts were selected via a competitive bidding process overseen by a Board sub-committee chaired by Martin Snedden.

The ICC Board accepted the recommendations of the committee who conducted a thorough review of each bid along with ICC management.

The qualification pathway for the 10-team ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 was approved.

Eight teams would qualify for the event automatically comprising the top three teams from each group from the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023, the host Bangladesh (if not in the top three of Group 1), and the next highest ranked teams on the MRF Tyres ICC T20I Rankings on February 27, 2023. The remaining two teams would be identified through the 10-team ICC Women's T20 World Cup Global Qualifier.

The qualification pathway for the 14-team ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

2027 was also decided with ten teams gaining automatic qualification.

The ten would comprise South Africa and Zimbabwe as Full Member hosts and the next eight highest-ranked teams on the ICC MRF Tyres ODI Rankings on a date to be confirmed. The remaining four teams would qualify via the ICC CWC Global Qualifier.

The Board received an update from the Afghanistan Working Group detailing a recent meeting with a representative of the Afghanistan government and the Afghanistan Cricket Board in Doha.

The government official reiterated their commitment to fully respect and comply with the ICC constitution, in particular the need for diversity and inclusivity and for the ACB to operate independently from government inter-

ference.

Afghanistan Working Group Chair Imran Khwaja said, “The meeting was positive and respectful and the government representative was clear in his support for the ICC constitution including in principle for women's cricket in Afghanistan. There are obvious challenges for it to resume but we will continue to work with the ACB to take this forward.

“The Working Group will closely monitor the commitment undertaken by the Afghanistan government and will continue to report back to the ICC Board.”

BCCI Honorary Secretary Jay Shah would become Chair of the Finance and Commercial Affairs Committee replacing Cricket Ireland's Ross McCollum who has stepped down from the role. APP

‘We were 20 runs short,’ Babar on World Cup final defeat against England

MELBOURNE: Pakistan captain Babar Azam revealed the reason behind the national team's defeat at the hands of England in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 final at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) on Sunday.

Babar, while speaking to the post-match ceremony, raised the batting line-up's falter and asserted that Pakistan were 20 runs short in the first innings.

The skipper also coined Shaheen Shah Afridi's injury as another key factor behind the team's shortcoming in the mega final.

“First of all I would like to congratulate the England team, it almost felt time like home as everyone came here to support us,” said Babar.

“The way the team has gone in the last four matches [was] incredible. I



told the boys to play their natural game, with freedom.

“We were 20 runs short [in the final] but the fight to the last over was unbelievable. Our bowling is one of the best but unfortunately, Shaheen's injury cost

us a different result, but that's part of the game.”

Meanwhile, the winning skipper Jos Buttler was ecstatic and lauded their veteran all-rounder Ben Stokes' heroics that guided England to their second

T20 World Cup title.

“This is the icing on the cake, to win the T20 World Cup, just immensely proud. A long journey and a few changes, but we're reaping the rewards. Fantastic tournament,” said Buttler.

“He [Stokes] is the ultimate competitor. In anything he does, a hell of a lot of experience to bank on, he timed it perfectly, the impetus he and Moeen had taken it away from Pakistan,” he added.

It is pertinent to mention that England edged Pakistan by five wickets in the final of the T20 World Cup 2022 at the back of Stokes' gritty half-century.

Pakistan bowlers fought hard and took the match close but Stokes held his nerves calm to redeem his 2016 World Cup heartbreak into exciting glory.

Hockey team arrived



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Hockey team arrived in Pakistan after getting a bronze medals in Azlan Shah hockey cup ahekd at Aipu (Malaysia).Pakistan Hi key team players were quite happy after getting the medals Pakistan last time got the medals 11 years ago when they beat Australia. PHF Secretary Haider Hussain, Captain Pakistan Ho key team Muhammad Umar Bhutta, Manager Oakistan hockey team Saeed Khan and Coach Ayaaz Mehmood especially thanked to Engro Corporation who sponsored the Pakistan hockey team in critical situation and provided the opportunity to play Azlan Shah cup, they said corporate sector and Media give such kind of support then we can bright the name of Pakistan.The prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Political and Socialist dignarties and hockey lovers also gave the congratulation to Pakistan hockey team to achieve the bronze medal in Azlan Shah hockey cup through Electronics and print media.

Iqbal Sikander and Amin-ul-Islam – both assigned by ICC

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE : Former Test cricketer and current high performance coach Rao Iftikhar Anjum will be amongst 19 participants which will undergo a three-day ICC Tutors' Course at the National High Performance Centre (NHPC) from Monday, 14 November.

Amongst 19 participants, eight are Level 2 qualified, nine possess Level 3 coaching course certificates, while two are Level 4 qualified coaches.

Former Pakistan international cricketer Iqbal Sikander and former Bangladesh Test captain Amin-ul-Islam – both assigned by ICC, will be tutors for the course. They will teach participants on how to conduct Level 1 coaching course.

After undergoing the three-day course, the participants will be in a position to work with PCB coaches to conduct Level 1 coaching course in their respective cricket association.

Participants along with their coaching levels (in alphabetical order): Amanullah (Level 2), Ansar Javed (Level 2), Ateeq-ur-Rehman (Level 2), Fahad Akram (Level 3), Hafiz Sajjad Akbar (Level 4), Hajra Sarwar (Level 3), Hanif Malik (Level 2), Hussain Khosa (Level 3), Imran Abbas (Level 3), Kamran Hussain (Level 2), Rahat Abbas Asadi (Level 3), Rao Iftikhar (Level 2), Rehan Rafique (Level 2), Sajid Shah (Level 3), Saqib Faqir (Level 3), Tahir Mehmood (Level 3), Taimur Azam (Level 4), Waseem Yousafi (Level 3) and Zafar Iqbal (Level 2).

Charge d' Affairs visited Tahir Group Sialkot



SIALKOT : Charge d' Affairs Head of Philippines mission in Pakistan visited in Sialkot along with Honorary Consul General Fahdel Sheikh, where they met to the Ceo of Malik Sports Zahid Malik and Sheikh Muhammad Tahir Inaam Ceo Tahir group of Company welcomed to the delegates, Sheikh Tahir arranged this visit on behalf of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Malik Sports which is biggest manufacturing brand in sports and specialist in hockey sticks and cricket gears, National and International players are using the hockey sticks and cricket bats MB in hockey and cricket matches. On this occasion Maria Angeles really appraised the products of Malik Sports, Malik Sports Ceo Zahid Malik, and Sheikh M.Tahir Inaam thanked to Maria Angeles and Fahdel Sheikh to memorable visit in Sialkot.

Football enthusiasts brighten up streets of Malir for FIFA World Cup

KARACHI: As countdown to the FIFA World Cup begins, football fanatics in Malir's Siddique Goth are ready to enjoy the world's mega, month-long sporting event.

Residents of the area are preparing to witness the global tournament with immense excitement and fervour. People living in Siddique Goth have deemed football as their favourite sport and Brazil its favoured team.

Not just a single house, but the entire neighbourhood is awaiting to welcome the World Cup with bated breath. Some have adorned their homes by painting Brazil's flag, others have pasted its star footballer Neymar's picture.

Youngsters in the area gathered to paint flags of participating teams and faces of star footballers on the walls of their streets. Colours could be seen scattered throughout Siddique Goth — all thanks to the local Gul Baloch Football Club whose players are spending day and night to decorate the walls with sketches.



Lahore: Pakistan football team depart for Nepal and will play friendly match against Nepal team on 16 November and the match will start with Pakistan standard time at 4.15 pm. Pakistan team is touring internationally after 3 years.