



Proud moment as Pakistan exits FATF grey list: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said it was the proud moment for the whole nation and the coalition government as the country had exited from the FATF grey list. "Congratulations to the nation and the coalition government as Pakistan exits from the FATF grey list. Today, Pakistan gets two good news simultaneously," she said in a series of tweets while referring to Imran Khan's disqualification in the Toshakhana case.



Pakistan needs big jump in exports to cope with challenges: Ahsan

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan needed a big jump in exports to cope with economic challenges and urged the business community to play a role to boost exports.

News on Page 6

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 25, Saturday, October 22, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman

Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 197 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Remarkable achievement

FATF removes Pakistan from its grey list

Exiting FATF grey list a global recognition of Pakistan's anti-terror efforts, sacrifices, says PM Shehbaz Sharif

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has announced the removal of Pakistan from its grey list, appreciating the country's efforts in anti-money-laundering and anti-terror financing. This was announced by FATF President T Raja Kumar in Paris on Friday. According to a statement issued by the FATF, they applauded Pakistan's efforts to curb terrorist financing and meet all the requirements ahead of time. FATF had given Pakistan a 27-point action plan to implement to get out of the grey list in 2018. Pakistan completed all 27 points ahead of time in June 2022. However, in June 2021, FATF issued a second action plan, which was to be completed until January 2023. Pakistan completed all of the combined 34 points ahead of time in June 2022.

FATF appreciated the country's efforts in fulfilling all 34 action plans and has now announced the removal of Pakistan from its grey list.

Return of Pakistan in FATF's whitelist will boost country's economy: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar

FATF President T Raja Kumar said Pakistan had been on the grey list since 2018 and after a lot of work by the Pakistani authorities, they completed a combined 34 action items to address deficiencies in the anti-money laundering and counterterrorism financ-

ing systems. Raja Kumar said FATF welcomes this significant progress as a result Pakistan can now more effectively tackle anti-money laundering and terror financing. He said an FATF team has verified that the reforms are in place and that there is a high-level of commitment and capacity to sustain those reforms. He said these reforms are good for the stability of the country and the region. Meanwhile, in a news conference in Paris on Friday, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has said FATF has unanimously decided to remove Pakistan from the "list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring and now it has been whitelisted by FATF. She said FATF has welcomed Pakistan's significant progress in improving our Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of



PARIS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar holds meeting with FATF President T. Raja Kumar on the sidelines of FATF ICRG/Plenary meetings in Paris and discusses Pakistan's constructive engagement with FATF and international community.

Terrorism regime. She said it has been recognized that Pakistan has strengthened the effectiveness of its AML and CFT regime and addressed technical deficiencies and commitments of its Action Plans comprising of total 34 action items. The Minister of State said this truly

is a result of a whole-of-country efforts and demonstration of our resolve to improve our domestic systems to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism and bring them at par with the international standards. She said this would not have been possible without complete national consensus across political spectrum. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday while expressing gratitude over Pakistan's removal from the FATF grey list, said the decision was the vindication of the country's determined and sustained efforts, and sacrifices against terrorism. The prime minister, in a statement issued after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) announced Pakistan's removal from its grey list, congratulated the nation over the revival of the country's credibility and dignity internationally.

PTI reacts to Imran's disqualification

ISLAMABAD: A view of clash between PTI leaders and police officials outside Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) office after the decision of former Prime Minister Imran Khan Toshakhana Case, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Imran Khan disqualified in Toshakhana case

PTI announces to challenge the verdict

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has disqualified former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan in the Toshakhana reference under Article 63(1)(p). The ECP stated that Imran Khan submitted a false affidavit and was found involved in corrupt practices and ordered to register criminal cases against the PTI chairman. The ECP's verdict further said that some of the gifts retained from Toshakhana were concealed in his assets. Imran Khan has been de-seated as a member National Assembly. A five-member bench of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja reserved the verdict on September 19 in the Toshakhana reference

against former premier Imran Khan. Prior to the announcement of the verdict, the ECP issued notices to the parties including the former prime minister in the reference. Reacting strongly to Imran Khan's disqualification in Toshakhana case, PTI leader and the former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry slammed the ECP. He said the PTI will challenge the decision in the Supreme Court as soon they receive a copy of the verdict. Fawad Chaudhry said the Election Commission's attitude had been the worst. "We never pinned any hopes on it." "This is a shameful decision. They have shamed the 220-million-strong-nation." The security of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has been beefed up in Islamabad's Red Zone.

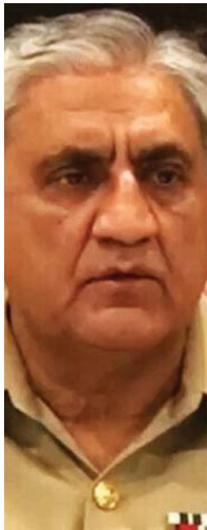
Punjab Rangers, FC and a heavy contingent of police have been deployed to ensure the security of the ECP to deal with any situation. The troops have been provided with shells of tear gas, while the entry of irrelevant people into the Election Commission of Pakistan has been banned. During the last hearing of the case, Barrister Ali Zafar in his arguments before the ECP said the disqualification under Article 62-1-F is the prerogative of the courts not the Election Commission of Pakistan. Has any court proved that Khan is not Sadiq and Ameen?, Barrister Ali Zafar asked. Imran Khan's lawyer said the ECP is not a court but a commission and the disqualification case under Article 62-1-F of the constitution cannot be heard by the ECP. Agencies

Will not take extension, retire in five weeks: COAS

Gen. Bajwa says national cohesion, unified response to guard Pakistan's national interests imperative

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has said national cohesion and unified response to guard and promote Pakistan's national interests is imperative for progress. Addressing participants of a National Security Workshop at National Defence University in Islamabad on Friday, he said Pakistan has faced many challenges but came out stronger every time. He said our fight against terrorism is one such example which only succeeded due to whole of the nation approach. General Qamar Javed Bajwa emphasised that peace and stability can only be achieved if rule of law and state's writ is established. Meanwhile, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that he will not seek an extension and retire after five weeks. According to media reports, General Bajwa was quoted as saying that the army will not play any role



in politics and remain apolitical. It is pertinent to note that the extended term of General Bajwa is ending on November 29 and the government has announced that the appointment of his successor will be made in due course

and according to the Constitution. PTI Chairman Imran Khan called for deferring the appointment, saying the incumbent rulers were "not qualified" to make a decision in this regard. In reaction to Khan's statement, Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir on September 17 said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will take the decision on the appointment of the chief of army staff in London after holding consultations with party supreme Nawaz Sharif. Addressing a press conference in Gujranwala, the energy minister, without mentioning the PTI chairman's name, said that no matter how many times Khan meets with the army chief, the final decision will be taken by the prime minister. On the other hand, Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif said that no process has been started to extend the army chief's tenure nor there has been any suggestion in this regard.

IK committed 'worst-ever crime': Attaullah

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Narcotics Control Attaullah Tarar Friday said PTI chairman Imran Khan had committed the 'worst-ever crime' by concealing and selling the gifts he had been receiving from foreign dignitaries and countries as Prime Minister of Pakistan. "Imran Khan committed the worst ever crime by not declaring the gifts. He has received a lot of gifts but concealed them. But he committed another biggest crime of selling them at extremely cheap rates," he said. The SAPM expressed these views at a news conference along with Law Minister Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar and PML-N senior leader Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha after the ECP disqualified PTI chief Imran Khan for five years under Article 63(1)(p) for misdeclaration in the Toshakhana reference. The Election Commission of Pakistan has disqualified Imran Khan, finding him guilty of not sharing details of Toshakhana gifts and proceeds from their sale during his time as prime minister. APP

Protests break out countrywide after ECP disqualifies IK

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Imran Khan's disqualification from holding public offices by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Friday steeped the country into agitation as angry PTI workers started protests against the decision, seen as a massive political blow to Khan's party. Following the announcement of the verdict, chaotic scenes were witnessed outside the ECP office where enraged PTI workers converged in large numbers, chanting slogans against the government. According to media reports, three major arteries leading to Islamabad have been blocked by the district administrator to avoid any untoward incident. The Islamabad traffic police advised commuters to use Peshawar Road or Lehtrar Road as Chungi No 26 and Athal Chowk in Bhara Kahu area have been closed to all types of traffic due to the protests and security concerns. In Peshawar, protesters blocked a road near Pir Zakordi bridge and another near Stadium Chowk. They also put traffic on hold after burning tyres on the Motorway near the toll plaza. Meanwhile, in Karachi, protesters led by party leaders Ali Zaidi, Firdous Shamin Naqvi, Mehmood Moulvi, and others staged a sit-in outside the Sindh ECP office. Reportedly, PTI workers building but were repelled by the police



amid thunderous slogan-chanting. In Charsadda protesters thronged the Farooq-e-Azam Chowk, where they were confronted by the ANP workers. Both sides shouted slogans against each other in the presence of a heavy contingent of police; however, no clash was reported. Swabi also emerged on the protest map after PTI cohorts barricaded the Mardan and Jehangir roads for traffic. Life in Shabqadar was also reported to have suffered from the PTI protests. However, part of Mardan was seen cheering Imran Khan's disqualification by distributing sweets among each other. A poor labourer from Mardan in a video message said he was so happy that Khan was gone. "I am poor so I could only buy half a kg of sweetmeat," the labourer said. According to reports pouring in from Naushehra, hundreds of fuming Khan fans crowded at Shawera Chowk and recorded their protest, which is currently underway. Morever, Mangora Road in Swat has also been closed by the protesters. PTI's supporters have also kicked off a protest at Shahdra Chowk in Lahore. On the contrary, Hafizabad, a PML-N stronghold, was a scene of celebration with the N-league workers rejoicing over the ECP's decision saying Imran Khan's chapter had finally come to an end. PTI youths blocked the M5 Motorway near Billivala area in Multan's suburbs, according to reports, while protesters sat in the middle of Delhi-Multan road in Vehari, bringing the heavy traffic to a halt. Agencies

Chinese support to Pakistan

Islamabad: A delegation of All Pakistan Chinese Enterprise Association calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.

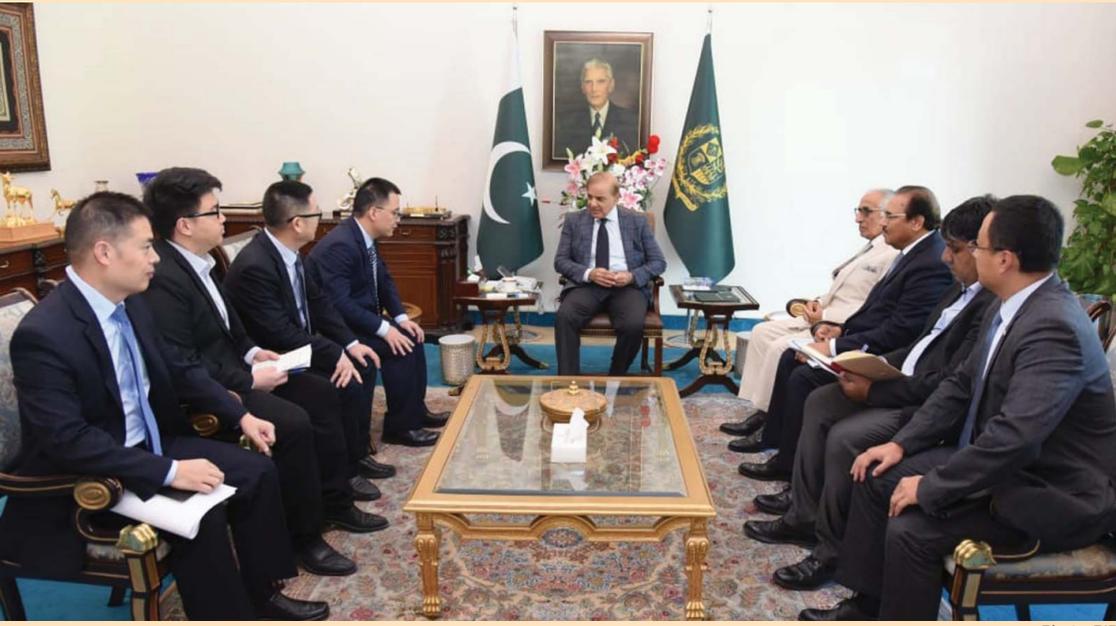


Photo: PID

Hina Khar discusses ties with French minister, business leader



PARIS: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Friday here met Thierry Pflimlin, President France-Pakistan Business Council; François Bitouzet, Managing Director VivaTech; delivered a talk at Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po University; and met a delegation of Association of Grandes Ecoles and Campus France.

In her meeting with Thierry Pflimlin, who is also CEO TOTAL Global Services, trade and economic relations between Pakistan and France as well as investment opportunities in Pakistan came under discussion.

During the meeting with Minister of State François Bitouzet, they discussed developing linkages between startup sectors of both the countries, and participation of Pakistan in next year's Vivattech event. The talk to the students of Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po university was on the topic "Pakistan and the Emerging World Order", which was followed by a Q&A session. She also exchanged views with the faculty of the university on education cooperation.

At the meeting with the representatives of Campus France and Conference of Grandes Ecoles, the minister discussed ways to strengthen institutional linkages and exchanges between Pakistan and France in the field of higher education. APP

Alternative energy

Project to promote electric vehicles on cards: PM

Shehbaz Sharif emphasizes that to make the country self-sufficient in energy reserves

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the government was planning to promote the use of electric vehicles in the country and would establish a network of the related charging infrastructure.

In this regard, the prime minister directed the departments concerned to present to him a comprehensive plan at the earliest.

Shehbaz Sharif also asked the Ministry of Trade and Industries, Ministry of Power and Energy and the Board of Investment to extend every possible facility to the investors interested in the sector of electric vehicles.

He was chairing a high-level meeting on inclusion of electric buses in the fleet

APCEA presents to PM \$104,000 donation for Flood Relief Fund

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of All Pakistan Chinese Enterprises Association (APCEA) led by its president Yang Jianduo presented to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif a donation worth \$104,000 for the PM's Flood Relief Fund. The prime minister thanked the Association for extending assistance to the flood victims, a PM Office statement said.

of public transport, promotion of electric vehicle industry and alternative energy resources.

The prime minister emphasized that to make the country self-sufficient in energy reserves, there was a dire need to develop renewable power resources.

He mentioned the recent approval given by the government for launch of 10,000 mega watt solar project.

The solar project, he said, would not only reduce environmental pollution but also ensure generation of cheap electricity

by cutting reliance on costly imported fuel, thus saving valuable foreign exchange.

The meeting was presented with the proposals on electric buses for public transport and was also updated on the increasing use of electric vehicles across the world.

It was informed that development of industry and infrastructure of electric vehicles would significantly bring down the country's import bill besides opening up opportunities of foreign investment and employment.

Pakistan slams India's disinformation drive

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: A top Pakistani diplomat has urged the world community to counter and defeat the "pandemic of disinformation", as he deplored India's systematic campaign to justify its decades-old suppression of the Kashmiri people struggle for freedom by depicting it as terrorism.

"The international community should establish mechanisms through which India's disinformation war against Pakistan, the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir and India's Muslim and other minorities can be exposed and its sponsors held to account," Ambassador Munir Akram told the General Assembly's

Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural matters, on Thursday.

"The digital age is in danger of becoming the disinformation age," the Pakistani envoy said in a debate on human rights. "The exponential proliferation of disinformation, especially through on-line platforms and social media, has spread social discord; fostered hate speech, racism, discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia; and exacerbated competing nationalisms and inter-State tensions and conflicts."

Among the most repugnant manifestations of disinformation is the State-sponsored campaign of disinformation promoted by

the Indian Government to serve its strategic and ideological objectives, the Pakistani envoy said, adding that such disinformation is used systematically to justify the 70-year-old suppression of the Kashmiri people and to cover up the war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed in occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan, he pointed out, has been a principal target of India's disinformation campaigns for over three decades.

"Disinformation is also being utilized by the Hindutva-inspired Indian government to mobilize discrimination against and oppression of India's 200 million Muslim minority," Ambassador Akram said.

Imran Khan accuses ECP of joining 'conspiracy' against him

In a video message, Khan denounces minus-one plan against him

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Hours after the ECP de-seated him and declared him as disqualified in the Toshakhana reference, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan termed the verdict as partisan and a conspiracy against him while announcing plans to challenge it in court.

In a video message issued on Friday evening, he alleged that a mafia was trying to eliminate Pakistan's big political party as he hinted that an alleged 'minus-one' formula was afoot against him.

He accused the Election Commission of Pakistan, which heard and decided on a reference filed against him by six lawmakers in the national assembly, as becoming part of the conspir-



hands of others.

Imran further claimed that he knew in advance that he would be disqualified and that he had already told key party leaders about what to expect in Friday's decision.

"I already told my members that they would disqualify me in the morning," he said.

Accusing deposed prime minister

Nawaz Sharif and former President Asif Ali Zardari of raiding the Toshakhana and retaining gifts without paying for them, Imran said that instead he was being treated as if he was a criminal.

He said that Nawaz Sharif was a thief with his children spirited their stolen wealth abroad and hid it in large mansions. By comparison, Imran said that he bought one flat 34 years ago which he then sold and brought the money back to Pakistan.

"I am thankful to those, who took to the streets and staged a protest against the ECP," he said while referring to the street protests taking place in major cities around the country.

Without giving a date or time, Imran once again implored his supporters to gear up for his party's "true independence march." "I will issue a call for the march soon," he reiterated.

Dar assures full support for flood-hit Sindh

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday assured the Sindh government of full support of the federal government.

The assurance was made during a meeting of Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah with the finance minister, said a press release issued here.

Both the leaders discussed issues of mutual interest including relief and rehabilitation work in flood-affected areas in Sindh's province

CM Sindh apprised the finance minister of the damages caused by the unprecedented floods and shared

about relief and rehabilitation works being carried out in flood-affected areas.

Finance Minister expressed the resolve of the federal government to stand hand in hand with the Sindh government in this difficult time caused by devastating floods.

He extended full support and cooperation of the federal government in the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people and for the development of the province.

Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inaam Memon, Chairman FBR, Secretary Finance and senior officers attended the meeting. APP

Social protection, food security

ADB approves \$1.5b for Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Friday approved \$1.5 billion in financing to help the Government of Pakistan provide social protection, promote food security, and support employment for its people amid devastating floods and global supply chain disruptions.

The loan that is expected to release by next week, is provided under ADB's Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures (BRACE) Program. The loan would help fund the government's \$2.3 billion countercyclical development expenditure program designed to cushion the impacts of external shocks, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a press release issued by the ADB said.

Meanwhile Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar said on his twitter handle "Alhamdulillah! Asian Development Bank's Board has approved today BRACE facility of US Dollars 1.5 Billion for Pakistan. Agreement signing and release of funds in the week beginning Monday 24th Oct 2022".

"Pakistan's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has been impeded by external shocks," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov. "Increasing business costs and rising living expenses are affecting millions of Pakistanis, especially the poor and vulnerable. ADB's program will help

the government manage the impacts of high prices, increasing food insecurity, slowing business activity, and reducing income for vulnerable groups, many of whom are also reeling from the devastating floods."

ADB's financing will provide the fiscal space needed for the government to implement its countercyclical development expenditure package, which is designed to target the poorest families in Pakistan who are often disproportionately affected in times of crisis. The government's support includes specific measures to promote gender empowerment and climate change adaptation, which have become even more important in light of the recent floods.

ADB's assistance will help to expand the number of families receiving cash transfers from 7.9 million to 9 million, increase the number of children enrolled in primary and secondary schools, and enhance geographic coverage of health services and nutritional supplies for pregnant and lactating mothers and children under 2 years old.

"The program is part of a comprehensive and well-coordinated package of support. It will help the government deal with the impact of the immediate shocks to the economy, while, in parallel, continue the structural reforms that are necessary to improve the country's medium- to long-term macroeconomic prospects," said ADB Director for Public Management, Financial Sector, and Trade Tariq Niazi.

Sino-Pak digital corridor to enhance coop in IT sector: Amb Moin

BEIJING: Pakistan and China have agreed to launch three new corridors, including the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor that would help enhance cooperation in different fields of Information Technology (IT), said Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque.

Pakistan has a rich repertoire of talent and human resources in different fields of science and technology and IT-based science and technology have become very important for Pakistan.

"We would be an important source of help for China in terms of software

development. So, we are working together to set up training centres in Pakistan for developing software in different fields of IT", he told China Economic Net (CEN).

He said that the two countries recently agreed to launch three new corridors: the China-Pakistan Green Corridor, which would focus on the agricultural environment, food security, and green development, the China-Pakistan Health Corridor which will help Pakistan get efficiency in the medical field, and then the China-Pakistan Digital Corridor which will boost Pakistan's IT industry. APP

Economic development

President for embracing digital technology

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday called for adopting digital technology, information technology tools and innovations perpetually being made in all sectors, including the accounting and financial sector for ensuring accelerated economic development.

The president expressed these views while addressing the Members' Convocation of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP), here at Aiwan-e-Sadr. President ICAP Ashfaq Yousaf Tola, vice presidents of ICAP, members of the accounting and financial sector, and students attended the ceremony.

President Alvi called upon the decision-makers and institutions to set in place an efficient system to keep track of new and emerging technologies, evaluate the cost, predict usage and create management and



support structure for their speedy adoption to remain abreast with the developed world.

He underlined the need for the government sector to adopt the "double-entry" system of accounting, and automation as the economies throughout the world were rapidly shifting to automation, high-speed financial modules and secure transaction systems with the help of ICT and digital means to infuse efficiency, accuracy, transparency and accountability in bookkeeping

and financial transactions.

The president said that Pakistan was in dire need of trained human resources and professionals, including Chartered Accountants, and it should increase the number of university graduates and professionals by adopting online and hybrid modes of learning in its education system.

He added that as compared to the traditional education system, which was more reliant on brick-and-mortar infrastruc-

ture, hybrid and online education could help increase the number of graduates in a cost-effective manner. He further said that two-year associate degree programmes should also be considered as the industry and market were in dire need of skilled professionals.

The president also appreciated the Prime Minister's digi-skills programme, which had helped impart digital skills to millions of people from diverse academic backgrounds throughout Pakistan.

He urged the members of the financial and accounting sector to provide leadership to help in the documentation of the economy, discourage theft and tax avoidance, curb corruption and help the government to generate just and fair taxes and revenues. It was the moral responsibility of every individual to discourage corruption, criminal activities and harassment for nurturing a healthy society, he added.

AJK PM hails CDWP's approval of mega development projects

Says mega development projects would prove to be a significant milestone in region's development

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the Central Development Working Party (CDWP) has approved mega development projects worth billions of rupees for Azad Kashmir from the Saudi Development Fund (SDF).



Addressing a press conference here on Friday, the PM while delivering the details of the projects said that under the SDF 11 billion 27 crore and 43 lakhs rupees have been earmarked for 48 MW Shunter hydropower project, 6 billion, 61 crore and 46 lakh rupees for 22MW Jagran IV hydropower project, while 12 billion rupees have been sanctioned for the construction of 3.7KM tunnel from Kamsar to Kahori and 0.6 km long Chilpani tunnel on Muzaffarabad-Athmuqam Road.

These mega development projects, he said, would prove to be a significant milestone in the region's development process. The provision of Saudi funds at this difficult time, he said, was no less than a breath of fresh air for the people of Azad Kashmir.

Thanking Saudi Arabia for its generous support to the people of Pakistan

and Azad Kashmir, the AJK premier said, "We are grateful to Saudi Arabia for extending support in difficult economic conditions."

He said that the Jagran IV (22 MW) hydropower project has been approved by the Central Working Party. "Administrative approval for the project has been issued and the land required for the project has already been acquired by the AJK government from its own financial resources. He said that the PC-I of the Shunter 48 MW project has been approved by the Central Working Party and funds have also been earmarked for the construction of overhead transmission lines to connect it to the main grid station at Muzaffarabad.

"After the construction of the projects, it will be possible to supply electricity to Muzaffarabad division at the local level", the PM said, adding that these projects would go a long

way in bridging the gap between demand and supply. The construction of the projects, he said would provide employment opportunities.

He said that 20 crore 62 lakh 50 thousand Saudi Riyals will be provided by SDF for the construction of a tunnel at Kamsar.

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that major world economies suffered due to Corona-virus but despite that the SDF sanctioned a huge chunk of money for the development funds for Azad Kashmir.

The PM also appreciated the government team led by additional chief secretary development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi for pleading the case effectively at the relevant forums

On this occasion, Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi said that work on these projects will start in a month.

"Fly Jinnah" reveals its domestic network, launch plans

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), today announced the launch of its commercial flights starting 1st November 2022. The launch destinations network will include four domestic routes connecting Karachi to Islamabad, Lahore, Quetta, and Peshawar. The carrier will operate its inaugural flight from Karachi to Islamabad on 31st October 2022 that will mark the launch of the airline's commercial operation.

Fly Jinnah will start its operations with a fleet of three Airbus A320-200 aircraft, providing added comfort with one of the most generous seat-pitch of any economy cabin. The aircraft is also equipped with "SkyTime", a free in-flight streaming service that will allow passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices.

Social Protection Programs

Karandaaz signs agreement with PSPA for Technical Assistance

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Karandaaz Pakistan signed an agreement with Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA) to provide technical assistance for PSPA's social protection programs. The ceremony was chaired by CEO, Punjab Social Protection Authority (PSPA), Tauseef Dilshad Khatana and Chief Digital Officer, Karandaaz Pakistan, Rehan Ahmed Akhtar. The ceremony was held in the presence of Chairperson Punjab Ehsaas Program Senator, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Senior Program Officer of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Syed Ali Mahmood and other senior officials from both organizations.

This partnership will not only facilitate PSPA in improving their social protection programs but also ensure seamless digital payments through Raast. The partnership also aims to devise new programs for PSPA to further spread their mandate.

Awareness session held for DHSs, LHWs, LHSs

Spokesman Report



HYDERABAD: A awareness session was organized by the international organization Nutrition International for the District Health Supervisors and Lady Health Worker and Lady Health Supervisor at THQ Qasimabad, District Hyderabad.

The major purpose of this seminar was to orient lady health supervisors on the importance of fortification of Vitamin A & D in edible oil/ghee, iron, folic acid, calcium, and iodine for better health and fulfilling the requirement of micronutrient deficiencies.

Zonal Manager of Nutrition International Mr. Zain shared that the shortage of vitamin A and D in the country is a matter of great concern. To fulfill micronutrient deficiencies, mill owners have been bound by law in the country for the fortification of vitamin A & D. As per that law no mill will produce edible oil and ghee without fortifying required vitamins. Sindh Food Authority will take strict action against the mill owners not following the fortification law.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Irfan, Zonal Manager for Hyderabad shared that lack of Vitamin A & D causes many diseases related to eye and bone weaknesses. For this, during the public awareness sessions, women and men should be aware that open oil should not be used at all and there is a need to encourage the consumption of fortified edible oil which is necessary for the health. Before buying oil see the mark on packing for better health.

PLF held in Hunza



Spokesman Report

HUNZA: Pakistan Learning Festival Hunza was held at Aliabad Boys High School, Hunza, hosted in collaboration with the Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi (ITA), by the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Inaugurated and graced by the presence of Surraiya Zaman, Parliamentary Secretary Education & Dilshad Banu Parliamentary Secretary Forest, the PLF has full backing of the Chief Minister, Minister Education, Chief Secretary and Secretary Education GB.

Held at the Aliabad Boys High School, Hunza, in the cradle of mighty mountains and Rakaposhi peaks, the Festival was packed with over 20 sessions held in uniquely named rooms celebrating the heritage of the Hunza Valley. With more than 2000 children, teachers and resource persons participated in the Aliabad, Hunza Pakistan Learning Festival the first one ever in Hunza GB, it was a thrilling one day event of Learning as all of the participants basked in the golden colors of autumn in the cradle of the Karakorum mountain ranges.

Protest

KARACHI: Activists of PTI shouting slogans during protest against the disqualifying decision of former Prime Minister Imran Khan at Shara-e-Faisal Road in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Mondelez Int'l facilitates over Rs22m for flood rehabilitation

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: With the entire country standing in unison to aid rehabilitation efforts in flood-affected regions of Pakistan, Mondelez Pakistan Limited, being one of the country's leading socially responsible corporate entities has played its part by contributing over 100,000/-USD in cash along with in-kind donations to support families in building their homes and livelihoods once again.

To ensure that our contribution have been given to the right impacted people, Mondelez Pakistan Limited has partnered with Akhuwat and Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), both leading institutions in the country working round the clock to facilitate affected people in Pakistan.

Recent flooding across Pakistan affected more than 33 million families and there is a lot more that still needs to be done to return these people to their normal lives. In playing its part, Mondelez Pakistan Limited has disbursed cash donations as well as supplies including clothes, medical supplies, food and a variety of other necessary items to continue facilitat-



ing people and their journey towards rehabilitation. The donations will be channelled to assist not just in reconstruction of homes but also to provide sustainable avenues for families to rebuild what they've lost and to provide for their loved ones.

Commenting at the occasion, Mr. Sami A. Wahid - Managing Director, Mondelez Pakistan Limited has stated; Mondelez Changemakers is our global community involvement program that closely ties to Snacking Made Right and allows us to make an impact by giving back to community.

These are trying times for a significant chunk of the population of Pakistan and People have lost their homes, livelihood and loved ones. Although flood waters

are receding across the country, there is a lot that still needs to be done. As a nation and more importantly as an empathetic social entity, we at Mondelez Pakistan Limited are pleased to play a role with our partners doing the same for rehabilitation initiatives being carried out across the country."

While expressing his gratitude, Mr. Kanwar Waseem, PRCS Provincial Secretary thanked Mondelez Pakistan for standing with the people of Pakistan in these testing times. He also added, "The unprecedented floods have played havoc across the country. We need joint efforts for alleviating the sufferings of the flood victims and need speedy compensation for those families who had lost their loved ones and whose property had been damaged during the floods."

Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder of Akhuwat also appreciated the contributions of Mondelez International and said "I offer my heartfelt gratitude towards Mondelez Pakistan for their cash and in-kind donation. In this hour of difficulty, the responsibility falls on everyone to share the pain and suffering of the flood victims while also helping them with their difficulties.

Saadhey 14th August concludes 100 performances

Spokesman Report

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

People of all ages and genders are eagerly awaiting the performance to begin in a packed theatre. When it does, you can tell that people are already enthralled and fully enjoying what is being displayed since the hall is resonating with laughter.

Every single performance of "Saadhay 14 August," a script by the legendary Anwar Maqsood, directed by Dawar Mehmood (KopyKats Productions) was able to accomplish this and much more. The play, which attracted audiences from all walks of life and of all ages on a daily basis, is a theatrical production which has performed 100 performances in a single city.

KP Govt taking all measures to promote education

Syed Tahir Shah

PESHAWAR: The provincial government is taking all measures to promote education.

In this regard, the admission campaign of children has also been started, free textbooks are also being given, but in this regard, private educational institutions. It is not possible to deny the important role, private educational institutions are side by side with the government in making the society educated, these private educational institutions have also created some organizations to solve their problems and overcome difficulties, in which both the government and private educational institutions.

Among them is an organization called Hub of Private Education (Hope), whose general secretary of Peshawar district, Muhammad Yusuf

has his own educational institution called Yasin Model School in Khattak Pul, talking to journalists on the last day. While doing this, he said that I have been in this organization for two years, the provincial leadership is playing its full role in this regard, but the district leadership is also not behind anyone, with the board chairmen to solve the problems of private educational institutions.

We continue to have meetings while reporting issues to the Private Schools Regulatory Authority (PSRA). In this regard, we also have focal persons who stay in touch with the heads of other schools and organizations in the province and inform each other about suggestions and their solutions.

The President of Town Three, Arslan Khan, is running a lot, but he gives more than half of his school time to this organization and (PSRA) to solve

the problems. In response to a question, he said that the problems faced by the private education sector.

They are hardly faced by any other sector, the first problem we have is that parents do not cooperate with us, which are big schools, their fees are high, they have more resources, at least they do not face this problem, ours. As the small schools are all focused on fees, parents do not pay the fees or do not pay them on time. Although they also have their own problems, inflation, unemployment, but I am explaining my problem that our source of livelihood is these fees, big schools have more income, they have highly qualified teachers whose salaries are also high.

But we can't do that because our fees are low and we don't get them properly, due to which we have less qualified teachers, so parents are requested to enroll more children in private schools.



Pay the fixed fees on time so that their children can be properly developed and educated. Instead, it has become a police station, (PSRA) had 14 members in which 4 were members of private schools. These members were elected. Two years have passed.

The term of these four members has

expired. The authority is incomplete. Yes, now the work of this authority is only to impose heavy fines on schools, without research, not thousands but lakhs of schools. They are fined for the smallest thing, although our four representatives are not included in this, this is an illegal authority, we have repeatedly asked them to complete the authority by conducting elections, but they are not doing it.

Currently, we are continuing our efforts, in this regard, Provincial President Aqel Razak, whom I do not have words to describe, but all the private schools recognize his services, he left his three educational institutions and solved our problems day and night.

In response to a question, he said that during the corona virus, we faced a lot of difficulties, hundreds of students left school and left. We had to work hard to bring them back to this state,

they said that our institution has started since 1996, in the beginning it was primary level, in 2002 it was made middle, at that time there are 1200 students in our school, there are teachers and school staff.

We have competent teachers, our position at board level is quite good, our focus area of education is on character development of students, teachers in this regard. And we have meetings with the scholars, they said that the trend of copying is the destruction of children, whether it is the school staff or the board is doing it wrong, we are abusing these children in this way. We cannot make doctors, engineers and teachers. In the end, Muhammad Yusuf told the students that they should focus on education, don't rely on copying, because nowadays there are ETA and PST type tests, even if you get 1000 marks. So what's the point of failing these tests?



Islamabad

23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:52 am
Zohr11:53 am
Asr3:50 pm
Maghrib5:30 pm
Isha6:53 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance1122 & 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad9222596
Rawalpindi9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance115
PIA Flight Info114
PIA Cargo9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH561111
MH561116
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA9221334-43
CDA9208301-04
Met Office9250360-6
RDA5555864
TMA5770886
Cantonment Board9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation9209224
Potohar Town9209224
Rawal Town5773343

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 Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

“World Osteoporosis Day” observed at Iqra University

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Attainment of SDG 3 and SDG 17 is essential to achieving good health and well-being. About 8 million bone fractures occur in the world every year due to osteoporosis. Dr. Rubina Tahir

The increasing incidence of osteoporotic fractures and a lack of awareness of the disease in the community continue to increase the burden on the population. According to an estimate, more or less 8 million bone fractures occur worldwide every year due to osteoporosis. Dr. Rubina Tahir in a seminar on the occasion of “World Osteoporosis Day” organized by the Department of Pharmacy at Iqra University North Campus.

She said that the main objectives of this session were the achievement of SDG 3 and SDG 17 for good health and well-being. The event raised awareness about the risks and consequences of osteoporosis. Dr. Rubina Tahir is a reproductive health expert and the pioneer of saline infusion sonography in Pakistan. Dr. Tabinda Ashfaq, Dr. Muhammad Imran, and others were also present on this occasion. Abia Iqbal performed administrative duties.

AIOU organizes seminar on political map of Pakistan

Speakers emphasized need to make new generation aware of areas included in new map

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: An awareness seminar on the “Political Map of Pakistan” was held at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU).

The speakers emphasized the need to make the new generation aware of the areas included in the new map of Pakistan. They said that this map is the interpreter of the aspirations of the Pakistani nation and this map reflects our destination and the dream that their ancestors saw.

Senior academicians and historians from Quaid-e-Azam University, International Islamic University, Allama Iqbal Open University, and representatives of Junagadh state also participated in the event. Rana Tariq Javed, Director of Student Affairs,



Allama Iqbal Open University, hosted the seminar.

Dr. Syed Akmal Hussain Shah, Professor at International Islamic University explained the audience about the importance of the political map of Pakistan. He spoke in detail about the states, localities, and regions of Jammu and Kashmir as per the new political map.

He said that Junagadh was the first princely state to sign

the document of accession to Pakistan on September 15, 1947. He said that on November 9, 1947, India attacked Junagadh and we celebrate it as a black day because on this date Indian forces occupied Junagadh. Asif Awan said that before the partition of India, there were 562 princely states in the Indian subcontinent, in which Junagadh was the second largest state.

Dr. Farooq Dar and Dr. Kishwar Sultana also explained the importance of the political map and the details of the new areas added.

Rana Tariq Javed, in his vote of thanks, said that Vice-Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Al Qayyum and Registrar, Raja Umar Younis had given special instructions for conducting this seminar. He said that awareness seminars are also being organized in the regional campuses.

Pak-UK ties

H.E Mr. Christian Turner, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his office in Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

Eva B earns a spot at Times Square NYC

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Eva B, the first veiled woman rapper in Pakistan, becomes the latest face to feature on a digital billboard at Times Square NYC, as EQUAL Pakistan's Ambassador for the month of October. Her track Mukhtasir Baatein will be featured on Spotify as part of her accreditation on EQUAL's local and global playlists.

Hailing from Balochistan, Eva Baloch, who goes by her pseudonym, Eva B, has been taking the industry by storm dropping hit after hit, with her monthly listeners nearing 400,000 on Spotify and her song ‘Kana Yari’, clocking more than 10 million streams on the audio streaming platform.

Taking inspiration from the legendary rappers Eminem and Queen Latifah, Eva B started her career in 2014. She started writing lyrics and posting on social media where she eventually garnered attention and built her following. She has come a long way since then, collaborating with leading names like Ali Gul Pir, Muhammad and Anas Baloch. Her song ‘Rozi’ was even featured in the closing of the first episode of Ms. Marvel TV series.

“I feel super excited and I'm happy to be a part of Spotify's EQUAL program. I feel very proud. Initiatives like these aren't just important but they are really required



– they are the need of the hour,” said Eva B sharing her excitement on being featured as EQUAL Pakistan's Ambassador this month.

Known as the ‘veiled woman rapper’ and a first one at that, Eva finds pride in her veil being an integral part of her identity as an artist. Coming from a conservative background and being

raised in Lyari, a neighborhood of Karachi that is gaining reputation for the rise of hip hop, producing iron chin boxers, and top footballers lately, Eva has set a great example for the young generation, especially women, that nothing can stop you if you have the resilience, hard work and persistence to achieve what you want.

Secretary IBCC gets three-year extension

Raja Furqan Ahmed

ISLAMABAD: In view of the performance as Secretary Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC), Prof Dr Ghulam Ali Mallah is given a three-year extension and will continue to serve the nation.

According to the details, during his tenure of two years, he worked to improve the internal systems and standards of IBCC and got it ISO 9001:2015 certified, which is an international standard to demonstrate the ability to consistently provide products and services that meet customer and regulatory requirements.

This changed whole working environment of the institution in a very positive manner. He worked on the digitization of the organization and introduced the digitized process of attestation & equivalence thus setting the organization on modern pathways. In addition to this, he introduced the E-Office system at IBCC secretariat to ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability while making the environment paperless and reducing the chances of human errors.



President Dr. Arif Alvi giving away gold medals and merit certificates to top performing graduates of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Experts call for adopting water conservation strategies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) organized a collaborative one-day seminar on “Water Scarcity, a Non-Conventional Security Threat” at PCRWR Islamabad on 21st October 2022. The objective of the seminar was to discuss and chalk out some strategy for sustainable water resource management in Pakistan. About 40 water professionals, experts, academicians and policy makers from various federal and provincial stakeholder organizations participated in the event. In his opening remarks, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Chairman, PCRWR briefed about water resources situation in Pakistan. He emphasized that water security is directly connected with food security as well as with national security. He said that paradigm shift at policy level is need of the time to secure national food security through water security. In his address, Brig. Rashid Wali Jan, Director (Research), IPRI, highlighted the background of the seminar and informed that IPRI has started Grand National Dialogue where water is cross-cutting theme. Moreover, he stressed that water conservation strategies should be adopted to deal with water security challenges. Dr. Fayyaz ul Hasan (Pro Vice Chancellor), PMAS-Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi, Chief Guest of the event, appreciated the efforts of PCRWR and IPRI for taking this initiative of national importance and anticipated that this will bring experts' recommendations for the policy makers. Moreover, he suggested that concerted efforts are required to overcome climate change issues in a more holistic way leading towards sustainable water resources management. The inaugural session was followed by a technical session in which, presentations were delivered by different provincial departments pertaining to water related challenges being faced in their respective provinces. During the technical session, an overview of the water scarcity in Pakistan was presented by PCRWR, whereas, other presentations were focused on water productivity in Punjab, surface water situation in Sindh, groundwater situation in Balochistan and initiatives taken by Khyber Pukhtunkha regarding sustainable groundwater management along with implementation of Water Act in the province.

Owais Noorani, Khazar Farhadov discuss bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held between the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shah Owais Noorani and Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov at the Prime Minister's Office.

The unity of the Muslim Ummah and the challenges faced by them were discussed during the meeting. Shah Owais Noorani, Special Assis-

tant to the Prime Minister said that Muslim Ummah should devise a common strategy to combat challenges faced in modern world.

Shah Owais Noorani also briefed the Ambassador of Azerbaijan about recent floods in Pakistan which left thousands of poor people homeless. The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister and Ambassador of Azerbaijan reiterated stronger ties between the two countries.



Islamabad: Boys Scouts lay floral wreath on grave of National Hero Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan.

PMMS reveals critical gaps in maternal health services for women

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: An in-depth analysis of Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey (PMMS) 2019 produced jointly by the Population Council, National Committee on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health, National Institute of Population Studies with technical and financial support from World Health Organisation (WHO), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reveals critical gaps in maternal health services for women of reproductive age in Pakistan.

The analysis examines the predictors of maternal mortality in Pakistan and unpacks causes of maternal deaths while also identifying the societal and medical factors that contribute to the tragic loss of maternal lives.

Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuhu, Minister for Health and Population Welfare

Sindh attended the launch ceremony of the Report titled “Explaining Maternal Mortality in Pakistan: In-depth Analysis of Pakistan Maternal Mortality Survey, 2019” and reiterated Sindh government's commitment to improving health outcomes as population welfare. She said this study has been released at a very appropriate time and provides strong research-based evidence to strengthen interventions for mother and child healthcare and contraceptive care.

This study will be helpful in policy-making, designing new MNCH initiatives to prevent maternal deaths in Pakistan. She stressed for concerted efforts and investments to meet the public health and human rights imperative of saving maternal lives. She said that strong accountability at the facility level is needed as all maternal deaths

must be avoided.

In her opening remarks, Country Director Population Council, Dr. Zeba Sathar stressed the need for quality data and more periodic and granular information providing district level situation as far as maternal mortality is concerned. Provision of quality family planning services can reduce repeated and multiple pregnancies as the analysis showed that non-practicing of family planning was a big factor contributing to maternal deaths.

The analytical framework for in-depth analysis of PMMS 2019 used both quantitative and qualitative approaches to investigate levels and causes of maternal mortality across Pakistan which yielded important policy and programmatic implications.

In his remarks, Dr. Bakhtior Kadirov, Deputy Country Representative,

UNFPA said “Maternal mortality of Pakistan and its provinces could be compared to some African countries. Although Pakistan made significant improvement in Antenatal care and delivery in facilities, but number of maternal mortalities did not reduce accordingly. Substantial disparities of maternal mortality ratio among provinces, regions and rural areas call for customized interventions and improvement to access of family planning services and information could reduce number of maternal mortalities in Pakistan.”

People must be made aware of the danger sign of pregnancy better with preparedness and finding out before hand and assessing appropriate facilities with comprehensive emergency obstetric care. Proper referral system to be introduced linking community to

the facilities to avoid wastage of time shuffling between facilities

Authors Dr. Ahsan Iqbal and Dr. Azra Ahsan shared key findings of the in-depth analysis. The analysis shows women belonging to younger and higher age groups, with no education and first-time mothers are at a significantly higher risk of maternal mortality in Pakistan. Women in the reproductive age who have never used contraceptive, have a history of caesarean section and low quality of care provided at the facility are at significantly higher odds of maternal deaths.

Presenting key recommendations of the report, Dr. Iqbal Shah, Visiting Scientist, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Boston, USA said childbearing at too early (below age 20) and at later ages (over 30) should

be both discouraged and given priority attention and quality care.

Contraceptive use should be promoted for maternal and child survival through birth spacing and prevention of unintended and high-risk pregnancies. Making antenatal care a centerpiece of maternal and neonatal health programs and provision of tetanus toxoid injection during pregnancy should be universal because of its protective effect.

The report focuses on ensuring quality of care and evidence-based training of healthcare providers. Interventions that make optimal use of the high coverage of mobile phone with home visits by Lady Health Workers and Community Midwives are needed to provide continuum of care for maternal, neonatal and child health.

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: **spokesmanislambad@gmail.com**
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

Truss's departure signals the 'end game' for UK Tories

Andrew Hammond

The English phrase "it never rains but it pours" is a compelling description of UK politics in 2022, after Prime Minister Liz Truss's resignation on Thursday made her the shortest-lived occupant of 10 Downing Street.

It is certainly the feeling of many, if not most, exasperated Conservative MPs in Westminster, who now yet face another leadership contest.

The remarkable developments in London follow one of the most remarkable weeks in UK political history. A growing number of Conservative MPs reached the conclusion that Truss needed to be replaced. Her fate was sealed by last month's disastrous mini-budget, which proposed turning on the fiscal taps through massive tax cuts and public spending that spooked financial markets. Last week, she sacked her finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng, but the turmoil surrounding her leadership only deepened, with many recognizing he was a scapegoat for Truss herself.

Kwarteng was no "rogue" colleague, but one who had a joint agenda with Truss. Indeed, it was she who pushed Kwarteng to be bolder than he wanted to be in last month's reckless emergency budget.

In general, it is clear too that the blame must lie at Truss's door for creating a narrative around the new government's economic policy that was unwise and unsustainable, especially in the midst of a looming downturn. During the leadership election contest over the summer, she artificially inflated expectations that she would end what she called a failed UK consensus that had "peddled a particular type of economic policy

for 20 years that hasn't delivered." It was also naive to launch last month's emergency budget without economic forecasts from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

As if this domestic political humiliation were not enough for Truss, US President Joe Biden weighed in last weekend to call her abandoned budget plan a "mistake," and said it was "predictable" when she was forced last week to walk back her plans.

So, less than two months after assuming office, and after the worst start of any modern British prime minister, Truss is packing her bags. Those who could succeed her in the contest include former prime minister Boris Johnson, former finance minister Rishi Sunak, Leader of the House of Commons Penny Mordaunt, Defense Secretary Ben Wallace, and former Home Secretary Suella Braverman.

With the general public and the financial markets now awaiting the outcome of next week's leadership election, it is timely to reflect on the extraordinary events in the UK. At the heart of this was the most negative market reaction to any UK fiscal event in living memory, with Kwarteng's resignation last week meaning there have now been four UK finance ministers in four months — Sunak, Nadhim Zahawi, Kwarteng and Jeremy Hunt.

As the fate of Truss exemplifies, the political longevity of prime ministers since 2019 has decreased too, with three since then (Theresa May, Boris Johnson and Truss) and a fourth now to come. Compare this with before, when David Cameron served six years, Gordon Brown three, Tony Blair 10, John Major six, and Margaret Thatcher 11.

However, remarkable as the past few weeks have been, they fit a wider pattern of underlying UK political

flux since at least the Brexit referendum in 2016. This is no better documented than in the British Election Study, which indicates how much voters are increasingly influenced by key "shocks", such as the coronavirus pandemic, that have seen traditional partisan voting patterns eroding faster than ever, adding to volatility — including the 2017 and 2019 elections, in which more people changed their vote than ever before in the post-war era.

The chief beneficiary of Truss's travails will be the Labour Party, which is calling for a general election. Some recent polls have given the party leads of over 30 percentage points, the highest since Tony Blair's landslide election victory in 1997.

The calls for a general election have particular potency as there will now have been two changes of prime minister since the last election. The last time the UK was in this territory was nearly a century ago, when Stanley Baldwin won the 1935 election and handed power to Neville Chamberlain, who ceded power to Winston Churchill in 1940 during the Second World War. But the circumstances of 2022 are different from those of wartime Britain in 1940.

Labour takes nothing for granted, given the volatile political mood and the forthcoming election of a new prime minister. However, there is a growing sense in the country that the Conservatives may now be reaching the "end game" of their current period of office, and will fail to emerge as the largest party at the next election for the first time since 2005.

Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics. Courtesy: Science Daily

Toshakhana case: victory of justice and law?

Election Commission of Pakistan has disqualified PTI Chairman Imran Khan in Toshakhana Reference case. A five-member Bench of the Commission headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikander Sultan Raja took the unanimous verdict announced in Islamabad on Friday. The verdict stated that Imran Khan has been disqualified under Article 63 (1) (P) of the Constitution of Pakistan and sections 137 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017. The verdict said Imran Khan deliberately violated sections 137, 167 and 173 of the Elections Act, 2017 by making false statement and incorrect declaration before the Election Commission. It added that by doing so, the PTI Chairman also committed corrupt practices under sections 167 and 173 of Elections Act, 2017. Accordingly, he ceases to be member of the National Assembly and legal proceedings will be initiated against him under section 190 (2) of Elections Act 2017.

On the other hand, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the Election Commission of Pakistan has done justice in the Toshakhana reference case. The PM said the nation witnessed that Prime Minister's office was used for personal income through corrupt practices. Shehbaz Sharif said so-called honest and righteous has badly exposed. He said Imran Khan should surrender before the law instead of fighting with law, firing bullets, and going for hooliganism through armed gangs. He said nobody is above the law.

ECP has the full power to disqualify any person who violates its articles. The disqualified person is not eligible to contest any election. PTI Chairman has been disqualified on the basis of corrupt practices. Article 137 of the ECP clearly states that every parliamentarian has to submit his assets and liabilities to ECP transparently. If a person conceals information regarding these assets, the ECP has the authority to panelize him/her. Mr. Imran Khan did not disclose the details of gifts he took from Toshakhana during his premiership and thus committed an offence. The verdict has de-seated Imran as per Article-63 (A) and ordered the initiation of criminal proceedings against him for submitting a false statement.

MARGULIES
©2022 www.jumfanmargulies.com



"The situation demands I rule with an iron fist..."

Fighting polio to the finish

Gargee Ghosh

When I took my children to receive their polio vaccines a few years ago, I thought about how lucky we are to live in a place where we can access lifesaving interventions with such ease. We didn't need to take a long bus ride or walk great distances to get to the clinic, and there was no reason to think that there would be no doses in stock.

Although I was fully aware of the protection my children were receiving, I never considered that poliovirus could pose a real threat in Washington, DC. After all, the virus hadn't been found in the United States for years. But recent developments are a wake-up call, underscoring just how critical something as simple and routine as vaccination can be.

In July, health authorities confirmed that polio had paralysed an unvaccinated person in New York. It was the first US case in nearly a decade. Then, the virus was found in wastewater in other parts of New York State, which followed the news that London had also detected poliovirus in its sewage. The World Health Organisation has now declared both the US and the United Kingdom outbreak countries for variant poliovirus.

Globally, such stories are not unique. Earlier this year, wild polio cases were confirmed in Africa for the first time in over five years, serving as a chilling reminder of how fragile the world's progress against polio is. While cases have plummeted by more than 99% since the 1988 launch of a global effort to eradicate the disease, the final stretch to absolute zero has been difficult, even though it is essential.

Fortunately, there is a global strategy in place to finish the job; but to succeed, it will need to be funded properly. Launched last year, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI) five-year Strategy is already being implemented to stop and prevent additional outbreaks. At the strategy's core are two priorities: working with at-risk countries to protect every child with vaccines, and improving surveillance to track the spread of the disease. The same strategy is also helping to deliver other lifesaving vaccines to communities in remote areas, as well as working to strengthen health systems.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined the GPEI, alongside the WHO, Unicef, Rotary International, and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2007, because we recognised the opportunity the world had to ensure that polio never paralysed a child again. That opportunity is even more apparent today. Wild polio remains endemic in only two countries — Pakistan and Afghanistan — and though case numbers have risen slightly this year, they are still at extremely low levels.

Donors must heed this call and ensure that the GPEI receives the \$4.8bn it needs. A fully funded strategy will be able to vaccinate 370mn children every year for five years, while also better preparing countries against future health threats. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, GPEI infrastructure was the first line of defence for many countries. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the polio programme has lent support for contact tracing, disease surveillance, and community engagement, as well as facilitating the rollout of vaccines. This is not a one-off example: GPEI has responded to threats such as Ebola, measles, and yellow fever, consistently demonstrating

a high return on investment.

To be sure, the final stretch in the race against polio has proven the most difficult, and recent events have made matters more challenging. The pandemic reversed progress on routine immunisation globally. Violent conflict, vaccine mistrust, and misinformation continue to present barriers in the last areas where polio hides. Owing to this year's devastating floods in Pakistan, efforts to stop polio from spreading there must be redoubled.

Still, while the destruction in Pakistan is staggering, it has been heartening to see the impressive response mounted by the government and the international community. Additional support is still needed to prevent further hardship, because the high waters are impeding access to healthcare and accelerating the spread of waterborne diseases like polio, cholera, and typhoid. There is no doubt that such conditions make it more difficult to stop polio.

But these challenges are not insurmountable. GPEI partners and governments around the world have the collective experience and a clear plan to overcome them. And this month at the World Health Summit in Berlin, donors have an opportunity to help achieve a polio-free world by pledging resources to the GPEI.

When we invest in polio eradication, we invest in a healthier world today and for generations to come. That is why our foundation remains steadfastly committed to the GPEI's mission. We urge others to join us so that we can finally complete it.

Gargee Ghosh is President of Global Policy and Advocacy at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Courtesy: GulfTimes

Sustainability needs sensible approach to benefit planet, not just few

Khaled Abou Zahr

To shock and disrupt are the most effective methods militant climate groups have to bring attention to their beliefs and push their agenda.

In a world where nothing shocks anymore, this is leading to more and more dramatic acts. There has been an increase in such news. The main stated objective is to stop the production of fossil fuel. We are now seeing on a daily basis roadblocks used to disrupt traffic. And last week two protesters threw a can of tomato soup on a Van Gogh painting to push for a future without fossil fuel, while another spray-painted Scotland Yard's sign.

A new wave of protest is now starting which targets farming, specifically cattle farming. The aim is to push for a plant-based food supply chain. Protesters believe that traditional farming has the biggest negative impact on climate and needs to cease.

There has been a series of incidents in the UK and Europe by groups spilling milk in supermarkets to bring attention to their demands. They want a shift toward plant-based products and a move away from the traditional.

These acts by nongovernmental organizations and various non-profit groups are just one part of the picture.

There is, on the social media side, a great focus on pushing their agenda. The social media campaigns bid to apply pressure on politicians to make drastic changes.

When it comes to energy and fossil fuel, politicians for the past decade have yielded and taken drastic measures without making sure the substitute was ready.

They have cut off nuclear energy because it was deemed bad for the climate. They have made it more difficult to invest in oil refineries. They have chosen to ignore geopolitical realities for the greater good of the climate.

And so today, and mainly because of decisions disconnected from reality, the energy supply chain in Europe and globally is broken. Politicians have been focused on saying they have achieved total renewable energy without thinking of the capacity needs and their durability.

That is why we hear politicians asking their constituents to save energy with crazy ideas such as showering in a group. The current situation is also leading to the reactivation of coal-fired power stations. Hence, in yielding to pressure, politicians have brought the energy cycle to a breaking point.

I am worried that we are following the same direction when it comes to food supply. We are already seeing the banning and blocking of farming techniques without considering what takes their place. No one is asking how these bans will impact the levels of crops and their quantities.

Cities in Germany have even started to ban the advertising of meat, just like they did for alcohol and cigarettes a few decades ago.

These hasty and drastic decisions aimed at pleasing the social media mob will have catastrophic effects and will lead to regions of the world facing starvation.

And this is the important point: Whether energy or food, the ones to suffer the most will not be in Europe or the West, they will be in Africa and in Asia where resources are missing. This is something most groups that finance these NGOs tend to ignore. Europe and the West have a greater capacity than the rest of the world to absorb shocks. Even with the current energy situation, Europe will be able to get through. The energy situation cannot be blamed on post-pandemic demands: It is a succession of bad decisions that have led us to it.

We cannot have the same situation happening in the agricultural sector because if we face the same disruptions with food, it will mean starvation for entire populations. If Western politicians continue taking these hasty decisions, millions will starve in the coming years. Who will they blame then?

No one has a monopoly of caring for the environment and our planet; no one should impose an agenda of what needs to be done, especially when it comes to agriculture. We need more common sense and innovation and less bullying and banning.

Khaled Abou Zahr is CEO of Eurabia, a media and tech company. He is also the editor of Al-Watan Al-Arabi. Courtesy: Arab News

Xi chairs 3rd meeting of 20th CPC National Congress presidium

Formal elections for Party's new central committee and CCDI will be held today

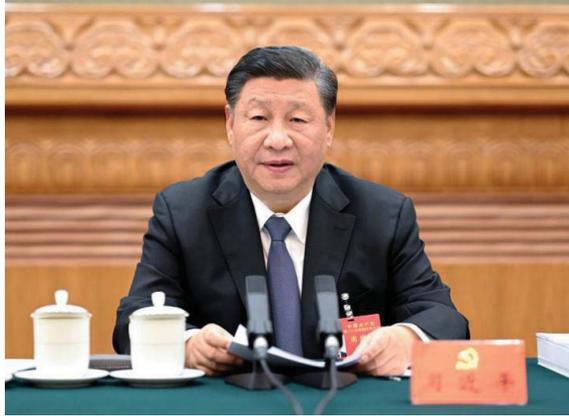
BEIJING: The presidium of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held its third meeting on Friday morning. Xi Jinping presided over the meeting.

Participants at the meeting approved the draft lists of candidates for members and alternate members of the 20th CPC Central Committee, as well as for members of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

The presidium meeting decided to submit the lists to delegations for deliberation. The lists were generated through competitive preliminary elections conducted by delegations to the congress.

The preliminary elections were conducted under the supervision of ballot scrutineers in accordance with the election methods of the congress. Over 8 percent of the nominees were voted off in the preliminary elections.

The results of the preliminary elections are valid, according to the presi-



um. The formal elections for the Party's new central committee and CCDI will be held on Saturday morning.

On the other hand, positive progress has been made in promoting the green

development of the Belt and Road Initiative, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment Zhai Qing said Friday.

An international coalition for the Belt and Road green development has

been established, which currently has more than 150 partners from over 40 countries, Zhai told a press conference held on the sidelines of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

The coalition has worked to strengthen policy dialogues and joint research, and support the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, he said. Efforts have been made to improve the innovation and exchanges of green technologies and cultivate talent in environmental management.

"We have trained about 3,000 environmental management personnel, experts and scholars from more than 120 countries, building consensus and synergy for green development," Zhai said. Proposed by China in 2013, the Belt and Road Initiative envisions trade and infrastructure networks connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient Silk Road routes. Xinhua

Need for an organization for Pakistani community in UK: Sarfraz Malik



Spokesman Report

LONDON: Dr. Zulfiqar Malik hosted a dinner in honor of MD SLS College Sarfraz Malik in London in which prominent personalities residing in UK from Jhelum were also invited.

Sarfraz Malik, the chief guest of the dinner, made a detailed visit to more than twenty cities of the UK and carefully examined the problems of Pakistanis living in each area and observed the culture, history and education system of each area of the UK.

In conclusion, there is a need for Pakistanis living in the UK to unite and form a non-political welfare organization or platform that can practically solve the problems of Pakistanis on a priority basis and be the spokesperson of a very powerful Pakistani community in the UK.

He proposed to buy the residence of Pakistan's national poet Dr. Allama Iqbal in Cambridge and other such historical places to the Pakistani government or the Pakistani community.

Finally, he thanked Friends of Jhelum for the sumptuous dinner hosted by Dr. Zulfiqar Malik, founder of Jhelum Homeopathic Medical College. Zahid Shah, Irfan-ul-Haq, Farrukh Shamsi, Ejaz Khan, Jahangir Awan, Dr. Yusuf, Fiaz Butt, Hafiz Gulnaz, Ramzan and Chaudhry Saeedullah Mudbar took special part in the dinner.

UN demands end to violence in Haiti

UNITED NATIONS: The U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution Friday demanding an immediate end to violence and criminal activity in Haiti and imposing sanctions on a powerful gang leader.

The United States and Mexico, which drafted the 10-page resolution, delayed the vote from Wednesday so they could revise the text in hopes of gaining more support from council members — and they succeeded in getting approval from all 15 nations.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said immediately after the vote that the resolution was a first step to help the Haitian people and a second resolution was being prepared to help restore security to the crisis-ravaged Caribbean nation.

The final text eliminated a reference to an Oct. 7 appeal by Haiti's Council of Ministers for the urgent dispatch of an international military force to tackle the country's violence and alleviate its humanitarian crisis.

Also dropped was mention of an Oct. 8 letter from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres outlining options to help Haiti's National Police combat high levels of gang violence.

A second resolution, which was still being worked on late Thursday, would address the issue of combating Haiti's violence. It would authorize an international force to help improve security in the country if approved.

Thomas-Greenfield said Monday



that the "non-U.N." mission would be limited in time and scope and would be led by unspecified "partner country" with a mandate to use military force if necessary.

The sanctions resolution named only a single Haitian — Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier, whose gang has blocked a key fuel terminal leading to severe shortages. Cherizier, a former police officer who leads an alliance of gangs known as the G9 Family and Allies, would be

hit with a travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo if the resolution passes.

The resolution, however, would also establish a Security Council committee to impose sanctions on other Haitian individuals and groups whose actions threaten the peace, security or stability of the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation. Targeted actions would include criminal activity, violence and arms trafficking, human rights abuses and obstruction of aid deliveries. APP

New Zealand must stop poking its nose

Ri Myong Song

On September 29, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand expressed "deep concern", saying the DPRK's steps to build up its defence capabilities are a violation of the UN Security Council's "sanctions resolutions" against the DPRK and pose a threat to the security and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

Although New Zealand keeps mum about the joint military exercises the US stages in and around the Korean peninsula, it picked a quarrel against the DPRK's measures to bolster up self-reliant defence capabilities, not targeting it. Its argument has no validity, only revealing its true colours as a pro-American stooge pursuing submission to the US.

It is a matter belonging to our right of self-defence to stage routine drills for building up self-reliant defence capabilities at a time when we directly confront with the US, the biggest nuclear power in the world which has staged large-scale aggressive war games in and around the Korean peninsula by mobilizing huge strategic assets every year while constantly stationing different kinds of military hardware and troops in south Korea.

Moazzam Khan presents his credentials to King Charles III



Arif Chodry

LONDON: At a formal ceremony held at Buckingham Palace, High Commissioner for Pakistan to the UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan presented his credentials to His Majesty King Charles III.

The High Commissioner and his spouse Ambassador Leena Salim Moazzam were escorted in a state carriage by the Vice Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps from the Pakistan High Commission, London.

During the audience, the High Commissioner presented his Letters of Credence to The King, which accredited him as the High Commissioner for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The High Commissioner conveyed the greetings and best wishes of the President and the Prime Minister to the King. He said that the people of Pakistan held His Majesty in high esteem and cherished the fond memories of Royal visits to Pakistan. The High Commissioner expressed his resolve to continue working for further strengthening of the relations between the two countries.

His Majesty the King welcomed the High Commissioner and his spouse to Buckingham Palace. Extending good wishes to the leadership of Pakistan, His Majesty commiserated over loss of life following the recent floods and expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan at this difficult time. Moazzam Ahmad Khan has the honour of becoming the first High Commissioner to have presented his credentials to the King.

Australia urged to drop cheap tricks

Choe Mun Song

Recently, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, via the American Voice of America, gave a commentary to "criticize" the DPRK, denouncing the routine missile test fire conducted as part of its measures to build up the self-defensive defence capability as a "violation of the UN Security Council resolution" and an "act detrimental to the international nuclear non-proliferation system".

No country has the right to find fault or pick a quarrel with the DPRK's steps to increase its defence capability, as they are an open and aboveboard exercise of the right to self-defence of a sovereign state to cope with the anti-DPRK policy of hostility pursued by

the US and its vassal forces for decades even in the new century.

An illegal product the US fabricated by abusing the name of the UN for the purpose of isolating and stifling the DPRK, the "UNSC resolution" Australia has come up with this time is not worth any more consideration. But it cannot be overlooked that it talked about the "international nuclear non-proliferation system".

Australia takes issue with the DPRK whenever opportunity comes according to a designed calculation to cover up its crimes of destroying the "international nuclear non-proliferation system".

As it has openly committed an act of nuclear proliferation unprecedented in history through AUKUS in league

with the US and the UK, it has already become the butt of international criticism and denunciation.

Voices of apprehension, protest and denunciation that the one-year-old AUKUS would set a dangerous precedent which would shake the international nuclear non-proliferation system as a whole continue to go up in the neighbouring countries of Australia as well as China and Russia.

Australia can never cover up its true colours as a real wrecker of the international nuclear non-proliferation system with such a cheap trick of branding the DPRK as a "destroyer of the non-proliferation system".

Still buried here and there in the DPRK territory are the remains of Australian mercenaries who had died

a miserable death after joining the Korean war started by the US in 1950, allured with a small sum of money.

If it continues to poke its nose in every matter of the DPRK to cover up its true colours as a criminal of nuclear proliferator while blindly following the US as it does now, Australia would be given a bitter taste of the inexhaustible military muscle of the DPRK which has become incomparably stronger than in the 1950s.

It is advised to be well aware that its cheap trick would cut no ice with the DPRK and give up the dirty habit of finding fault with the latter at any old time.

Choe Mun Song, commentator on international affairs

Continued house detention of Mirwaiz condemned

SRINAGAR: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Srinagar, has strongly denounced the continued house detention of its chief, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been under illegal and arbitrary house arrest for the last over three years. He was confined to his residence in Srinagar by the Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government when it repealed the special status of IIOJK and placed it under military siege on August 05, 2019. The Anjuman in a statement issued Srinagar said that by keeping the Mirwaiz under house detention, the occupation authorities have barred him from fulfilling his religious, social and political responsibilities. It pointed out that the Mirwaiz has been barred from offering Juma prayers for more than 160 consecutive Fridays at the historic Jamia Masjid. The Anjuman said that the blessed month of Rabbi-ul-Awwal in which the birth of the holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW) took place is coming to an end while the Mirwaiz continues to be under detention due to which he is unable to discharge the centuries-old official duties the Institution of Mirwaiz enjoins upon him. This is extremely unfortunate and condemnable, it added. Agencies

Successes achieved in Central Asia in strengthening regional consensus: Uzbek FM

DUSHANBE: The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan Vladimir Norov took part in the High-level International Conference on "International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists" which was held on October 18, 2022 in Dushanbe.

In his speech at the Conference, the Uzbek Foreign Minister noted the successes achieved in Central Asia in recent years in strengthening regional consensus on common principles and approaches in the field of combating terrorism, creating effective mechanisms for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in this area, expanding the exchange of experience and information.

Central Asia has shown the first successful example of the regionalization of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by adopting a Joint Action Plan for its implementation. The

National counter-terrorism systems have been formed and Country Action Strategies have been developed that fully comply with UN recommendations.

"A solid foundation for joint actions to combat common challenges and threats in the region is the close relations between the Central Asian countries based on the principles of friendship, good neighborliness, mutual respect and trust. The Consultative Meetings of the Heads of Central Asian states contribute to the realization of the enormous potential of our countries in ensuring regional security and sustainable development," said Uzbek Foreign Minister.

At the Consultative Meeting held on July 21, 2022, a historic Treaty of Friendship, Good Neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the 21st century was signed.

The international recognition of the

deepening partnership between the Central Asian countries was the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolutions on "Strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure peace, stability and sustainable development in the Central Asian region", "Strengthening connectivity between Central and South Asia", "Central Asia — a zone of peace, trust and cooperation" initiated by Uzbekistan and other countries of the region.

Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov also focused on the situation in Afghanistan, which is closely linked to the prospects for the development of Central Asia. He acquainted the conference participants with the initiatives of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the Afghan issue.

In particular, he focused on the proposal of the President of Uzbekistan on the formation of a high-level international negotiating group



to prepare and coordinate with the Afghan authorities an algorithm for the step-by-step implementation of the obligations of the parties, which was announced at the recent CICA summit in Astana. It was noted that this mechanism could become an effective and effi-

cient platform for defining clear mechanisms, deadlines and conditions for the fulfillment of obligations by the Interim Government of Afghanistan and the international community.

The International Conference on Afghanistan held in Tashkent in July

with the participation of the delegation of the Interim Government showed the interest of the world community in developing coordinated approaches towards this country.

The Uzbek Foreign Minister stressed the importance of preventing the isolation of Afghanistan and called the international community to take effective measures to restore its economy, integrate the country into interregional economic processes, implement infrastructural and socially oriented projects, with the support of the UN, international financial institutions and donors.

For its part, Uzbekistan makes a feasible contribution to international efforts to assist the neighboring Afghanistan. An international multi-functional transport and logistics hub has been created in Termez, which is actively used by UN structures to provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. Agencies

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,137.04	42,226.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,422.22	42,097.31
Index Value	Change
3,909,105,647	-89.01
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	20 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
6,943.91	+18.92
Percentage	Time
0.27%	20 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
30,285.01	-138.80
Percentage	Time
0.46%	20 Oct, 2:26 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,006.96	-250.42
Percentage	Time
0.92%	20 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

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

MPCL announces outstanding financial results for Q1

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mari Petroleum Company Limited (MPCL) has announced financial results for the first quarter of 2022-23 that ended on September 30, 2022.

Supported by higher applicable prices, the quarterly Net Sales reached the highest ever level of Rs. 31.8 billion, showing a healthy growth of 54% compared with the same quarter of the last year. Net Profit increased by 40% and reached the highest ever level of Rs. 12.7 billion for the quarter. Growth in the Net Profit is reflected in the EPS, which increased to Rs. 95.31 per share from Rs. 68.21 per share of Q1 FY 2021-22.

The share price was up 1% and closed at Rs. 1,565 on September 30, 2022, despite that KSE 100 Index was down by almost 9%. The financial results would have been even better had the Company's oil and gas production not impacted by emergency shutdowns, turnarounds of fertilizer plants and production stoppage from Zarghun and Bolan fields as a result of recent floods. In total, the Company produced 8.91 MMBOE energy, which was 4% lower than 9.27 MMBOE produced in the comparative quarter.

The production is expected to get a boost on resumption of gas offtake by the fertilizer plants after completion of the turnarounds. During the quarter, the Company completed its first-ever horizontal well Mari-122-H in the HRL Reservoir of Mari Field. This is a landmark development well in a mature reservoir that has been in production for over 50 years, and has opened-up new opportunities of production enhancement from HRL reservoir which are under evaluation.

The Company also demonstrated an enviable safety performance with all HSE indicators well within the targets. Further, the Company made significant financial contribution towards flood relief activities and coordinated with Army Relief Centers, mobilized field teams and internal resources, provided food, tents, mosquito nets, and medicines along with establishing medical camps for the affected population. MPCL is also assisting the local administrations in rehabilitation of roads infrastructure.

'FBR working to simplify tax system for facilitation of taxpayers'

Ayesha Khalid says there is a need to develop relationship of confidence to further enhance tax revenue

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue is working to simplify the tax system and minimize direct interaction with tax collectors in order to facilitate the taxpayers. Tax collectors and taxpayers are working for the common goal of improving Pakistan's economy, therefore, there is a need to develop a relationship of confidence and understanding to further enhance tax revenue of the country.

This was said by Ayesha Khalid, Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, Regional Tax Office, Islamabad while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Adnan Inamullah Khan Commissioner-IR (WHT), Ms. Adeela Yousaf Khan Commissioner-IR (Ops) South Zone and Ms. Aisha Asad Deputy Commissioner RTO Islamabad also accompanied her at the occasion.

Ayesha Khalid said that RTO has set up a Grievances Cell to address the tax complaints of taxpayers and said that ICCI should nominate a focal person for coordination with it to address the tax grievances of the business community. She said that RTO Islamabad would consider the request for a Help Desk at ICCI to facilitate its members in filing of tax returns. She said that such Desks can also be set up in major markets to facilitate the traders. She assured that RTO



Islamabad in collaboration with ICCI would try to address the tax issues of the business community in order to achieve the set tax targets.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said RTO Islamabad should provide a list of top 100 taxpayers to host a ceremony at ICCI to recognize their tax contribution and the Federal Finance Minister would be invited as chief guest to the event. He said that all Chambers of Commerce are playing a positive role in broadening the tax base as no business person can get their membership without registration in the tax system

and stressed that FBR should develop close liaison with major chambers of commerce to identify the new taxpayers instead of milking the existing taxpayers.

He said that RTO Islamabad should take ICCI on board before sending its inspectors to markets to address tax matters with joint efforts. He said that ICCI would work in close liaison with RTO to facilitate the taxpayers. The representatives of various markets and sectors including furniture, jewellery, real estate, overseas employment and others highlighted their tax issues and stressed that RTO Islamabad should play a role to address them.

people towards the tax system. He said that a Committee comprising representatives of ICCI and RTO Islamabad should be considered to address the tax issues of the business community.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI thanked Chief Commissioner RTO for visiting ICCI and said that ICCI would work in close liaison with RTO to facilitate the taxpayers.

The representatives of various markets and sectors including furniture, jewellery, real estate, overseas employment and others highlighted their tax issues and stressed that RTO Islamabad should play a role to address them.

Pakistan needs big jump in exports to cope with challenges: Ahsan

Planning Minister urges the business community to play a role to boost exports

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal said that Pakistan needed a big jump in exports to cope with economic challenges and urged the business community to play a role to boost exports.

He addressed the business community and office bearers of FPCCI at capitol office of FPCCI. Earlier, President FPCCI appreciated Ahsan Iqbal for always supporting the business community and assured the full support to the government.

President FPCCI said that Islamabad was experiencing rapid urbanisation and population growth, but the talent of youth was being wasted due to unemployment. In that scenario, "industrialisation is the best option to engage the youth in



ISLAMABAD: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, president FPCCI, is presenting the official crest to Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal. Group leader RCCI Sohail Altaf and Khurshid Barlas, Chairman, Pakistan Association of Exhibitions Industry and others were also present on the occasion. Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

economic activities".

"Many investors are keen to set up industrial units in the Islamabad region but due to the absence of a new industrial zone, they are unable to make new investments," he urged the government to announce the new Industrial estate.

The Minister said that the private sector has the potential to increase growth and the government will finish all the red-tape to support the private sector. "There is a dire need of hour to adopt the export-led growth policy," said the Minister, while stressing the

business community to adopt a market-driven approach in order to get space in the global market.

We need an extraordinary increase in exports to meet the economic challenges which have been increased after the recent floods, he added.

Federation, provinces wheat tussle regrettable

Mian Zahid Hussain says depriving millions of farmers of free seeds is cruel

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said Pakistan is facing a shortage of 2.5 million tons of wheat this year.

Despite the wheat shortage, the center and the provinces are engaged in political posturing on this sensitive issue which amounts to playing with food security, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that political infighting should not lead to such decisions which will increase anarchy and instability in the country.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that wheat is the most politicized food item in the world but in Pakistan, politicians go beyond all limits for their petty gains. He said that recently, the federal government decided to provide subsidies on seeds to help the flood-affected farmers and improve the food security situation in the country.

Under this scheme, 50% of the seeds were to be provided by the government to the farmers with the aim of significantly reducing the financial burden on the farmers. Mian Zahid Hussain noted that Sindh and Balochistan immediately supported the scheme, but Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa opposed the scheme and said they did not need the help.



These two provinces are depriving tens of millions of farmers of free seeds for politics and have started making baseless allegations against the federal government. On the one hand, these provinces are trying in every possible way to secure loans and grants to cope with disasters, while on the other hand, they are refusing to receive free seeds, which is surprising, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that Punjab is making efforts to import wheat, but Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif says that he will not allow profiteering in this regard.

He says that foreign exchange reserves cannot be sacrificed for the profit of wheat importers and if necessary, the federal government will import wheat at cheap rates.

IRD partners with JS Global and Biologica

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Interactive Research and Development (IRD) has partnered with JS Global Capital Limited and Biologica to provide free COVID-19 testing services to JS Global's staff. Funded by the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the testing services will be provided through WellCheck, IRD's global corporate health and wellness program.

The signing ceremony was held at JS Group's Head Office in Karachi and was attended by Mr. Kamran Nasir, CEO and Mr. Imtiaz Gadar, Deputy CEO, JS Global; Mr. Faisal Ismail, CEO, Biologica and Capt. (R) Muhammad Habib Khan, COO,



IRD Pakistan along with other senior officials from the organizations.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kamran Nasir emphasized JS Global's commitment to upholding employee safety and prioritizing employee health.

Capt. (R) Muhammad Habib Khan,

COO IRD Pakistan, highlighted that, "IRD has expanded on its learnings from different programs like mental health and COVID-19 response efforts to identify a niche for provision of holistic health care services for its partnering organizations, under its WellCheck program.

ACE Money Transfer, Bank Al Habib launch awareness campaign

For the use of legal and free remittance channels

Spokesman Report

MANCHESTER: ACE Money Transfer, a leading UK-based international remittance service provider, and Bank Al Habib, one of the largest banking networks in Pakistan, have joined hands to promote legal channels of remittances to Pakistan.

According to recent data from the World Bank, workers' remittances make up 8.69% of Pakistan's overall GDP, proving them a lifeline for the country. Remittance inflows to Pakistan accelerated after COVID and saw an upward trend keeping them above USD 2 billion for the last 28 consecutive months. However, the country registered a 6% decline in remittances from July to September 2022. Experts are of the opinion that a large gap in the interbank and open market rates has negatively impacted the flow from the official channel.

Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI), a joint initiative launched by the State Bank of Pakistan, the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and

the Ministry of Finance to foster more economical, fast, efficient, secure, and convenient remittance inflows to the country, has been taking significant measures to enhance remittance flows to Pakistan. Reflecting the PRI's vision, the mega ongoing awareness campaign by ACE Money Transfer and Bank Al Habib accentuates spreading awareness among overseas Pakistanis about using legal channels of remittances.

The awareness campaign offers entirely Free money transfers to Pakistan with the best exchange rates, an exceptional transfer speed of merely 7-seconds, and enhanced security. More than 950 buses across multiple cities in the UK, 100 roadside posters, and 25 underground tube stations across London have been utilised in educating the expat community to opt for a legal and reliable remittance channel to stimulate Pakistan's economy by discouraging illegal and undocumented money transfers. Formal remittance channels like ACE & BAHL offer enhanced service benefits such as no transfer fee, very competitive exchange rates, the high-

est security standards, live tracking facility, and exceptional speed of transfer, etc.

Rashid Ashraf, CEO of ACE Money Transfer, said, "Expats sending remittance consider many factors, but the transfer cost, exchange rates, speed, and security are a few primary concerns. With the help of Bank Al Habib's vast network and state-of-the-art technology and systems, we can address them all and offer an experience our customers love. Financial institutions are responsible for educating the expat community about how using non-regulated channels like hawala and hundi could impact Pakistan's economy and put their hard-earned money at risk".

Aun Ali, Group Head - Business of Bank Al Habib on this auspicious occasion commented, "I would like to congratulate both Bank Al Habib and ACE Team on this affiliation, which will help both organizations in serving Pakistani expatriates for instant, simple and secure transaction processing. Bank AL Habib continues to play a vital role in routing remittances through

official channels and feels immense pleasure to provide our services in collaboration with ACE Money Transfer."

Expats can now make Free Money Transfers with the best exchange rates for Pakistan from the UK, Europe, Canada, Switzerland, and Australia to any Bank Al Habib account as a bank deposit or for cash pickup from any branch of Bank Al Habib across Pakistan within seconds.

Recognised and regulated as an Authorized Payment Institution (API) by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) in the UK, AUSTRAC in Australia and FINTRAC in Canada, ACE Money Transfer's online remittance services are available for users across 28 countries. On the other hand, the recipients in Pakistan benefit from Bank Al Habib's vast network of 1000+ branches and 1255+ ATMs across the country. Customers enjoy the luxury of withdrawing their funds from this extensive network even on weekends and public holidays as well.

Pakistan enter ICC Men's T20 World Cup with confidence

Pakistan taking on India in their opener in Melbourne on Sunday

MELBOURNE: The ICC Men's T20 World Cup is well underway, with the Super-12 stage of the event starting on Saturday and Pakistan taking on India in their opener in Melbourne on Sunday.

Last year's beaten semi-finalists have an outstanding record in the Men's T20 World Cup and find themselves right among the favourites again this time around in Australia.

And ahead of their Super-12 opener against rivals India on Sunday – we look at the Pakistan team in focus. Pakistan have been drawn in Group 2 of the Super-12, alongside India, South Africa, Bangladesh. They have also been joined by Zimbabwe and the Netherlands from the group stage.

In order to back up last year's efforts, where they suffered defeat to eventual winners Australia in the semi-final, they will need to finish in the top two of their group.

They come into the tournament in form though, winning four of their five matches in the tri-series with New Zealand and Bangladesh. Prior to the series in Christchurch, they ultimately

suffered a 4-3 defeat in the seven-match T20 series with England.

There is no doubt that Pakistan will be among the front-runners and will be expecting to advance past the Super-12 and into the semi-finals once again – although clashes with South Africa and India will be tough. Pakistan's Men's T20 World Cup history is nothing short of outstanding, reaching the semi-finals in five of the seven editions.

They reached the final of the inaugural competition in South Africa in 2007, losing by just five runs to India after Gautam Gambhir's 75 inspired the Indian side to victory.

Two years later, they were the side lifting the trophy, with Shahid Afridi's unbeaten 54 and Abdul Razzaq's three for 20 seeing Pakistan to an eight-wicket victory over Sri Lanka at Lord's.

Despite their excellent record, that is the last time Pakistan reached the final, suffering back-to-back semi-final defeats in 2010 and 2012 against Australia and Sri Lanka, respectively.

The 2014 World Cup saw Pakistan miss out on the semi-finals for the first

time, and in 2016 they again missed out, meaning a long five-year wait until last year's tournament in the UAE and Oman – in which they reached their first semi-final in nine years, but despite Mohammad Rizwan's 67 and Shadab Khan's four for 26, they endured yet another semi-final defeat at the hands of Australia.

There are no prizes for guessing Pakistan's best batter, as he is also the world's best batter, with Rizwan sitting on top of the ICC Men's T20I Player Rankings.

Averaging a phenomenal 52.34, Rizwan has one hundred and 22 fifties from just 62 innings, with a recent 69 in the win over Bangladesh last week showcasing his form heading into the T20 World Cup. That bodes well for the Super-12, with Pakistan facing Bangladesh, while against their other key opponents in the Super-12, India and South Africa, Rizwan averages an outrageous 96.5 and 62.16 respectively.

Rizwan has formed what is surely the best opening batting pairing in world cricket with Babar Azam, who himself sits third in the current ICC T20I Play-

er Rankings.

Pakistan's captain averages 43.66, slightly less than Rizwan, but he has racked up two hundreds and 29 fifties and like Rizwan, comes into the World Cup in excellent form, scoring 55 in that victory over Bangladesh, while also scoring his second T20 international hundred against England, scoring 110 as Rizwan hit 88 not out in a ten-wicket victory. Pakistan may have two of the best batters on the planet, but they are not short of outstanding bowling as New Zealand and Bangladesh recently found out. Haris Rauf and Shadab Khan are two to really keep an eye on, but there is plenty of bowling in the Pakistan line-up, with Mohammad Wasim and Mohammad Nawaz in particular on top form in recent weeks and Shaheen Shah Afridi coming back from injury for this tournament.

Haris is a man who will strike fear into top order batters around the globe though, averaging just 23.03 and taking 64 wickets in his 50 matches, but he is joined by Pakistan's extraordinary young all-rounder Shadab. Agencies

Stirling to the stands!

Paul Stirling smashed a glittering half-century as Ireland eliminated twice champions West Indies from the T20 World Cup and advanced to the Super 12 phase with a nine-wicket thrashing in Hobart on Friday



Photo: Twitter

Ireland break 13-year drought with victory to earn Super 12 spot

HOBART: Ireland have moved through to the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup and sent two-time champions West Indies crashing out with a dominant nine-wicket triumph over the Caribbean side in Hobart on Friday.

It was an impressive team performance from the European side, with veteran opener Paul Stirling (66* off 48 balls) guiding Ireland past the West Indies score of 146/5 with more than two overs remaining.

While the West Indies' total may have been slightly under par on a good batting pitch at Bellerive Oval, Stirling took the game away from the Caribbean side with a brilliant piece of batting.

The experienced right-hander may have had just eight runs heading into Friday's cut-throat encounter, but that mattered little as he smashed the West Indies' attack to all parts of the picturesque Hobart ground.

Stirling set the scene with a massive six off Alzarri Joseph (0/39) in the third over and skipper Andrew Balbirnie (37 off 23) got in on the act as Ireland raced to 64/0 within the Powerplay.

The loss of Balbirnie did little to dampen the mood, as Lorcan Tucker (45*) came to the crease and a more composed Stirling changed his approach to expertly guide Ireland home.

The victory sees Ireland make it past the First Round of a T20 World Cup for the first time since 2009 and their healthy group of supporters in Hobart started celebrating well before the final ball.

It was fitting that Stirling was at the crease at the end to ensure the 13-year wait was over for the Irish, given the 32-year-old was also in their squad in 2009 at the second T20 World Cup in England.

Much has changed over the years for Ireland, but Stirling's contribution at the top has been one constant that has remained and will continue over the coming weeks Down Under. While the expectations for the West Indies in Australia were somewhat lower than normal given the absence of a host of former stars, the Caribbean side will still be bitterly disappointed they couldn't qualify for the Super 12 stage.

There were some positives for Nicholas Pooran's men, but the captain himself struggled for runs throughout the tournament and more consistency is needed if they are to once again reach the lofty heights they are capable of.

Veteran all-rounder Jason Holder (0/23) bowled well against Ireland and battled away powerfully all tournament, while fellow pacer Alzarri Joseph also showed some good signs.

But it was left to too few, with the only two-time champions at this year's edition of the tournament bowing out at the first stage for the first time since the inaugural tournament in 2007. Agencies

Preparations for 73rd Punjab Games reviewed

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta along with Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi presided over an important meeting at National Hockey Stadium on Friday to review the preparations and arrangements of 73rd Punjab Games scheduled to be held under the auspices of Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex from October 24 to 27, 2022.

The meeting was attended by Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, top officials of Punjab Food Authority (PFA), Civil Defence, Lahore Waste Management Company (LWMC), Rescue-1122, Wasa, Police, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner Office and other key officials.

During the meeting, Director General Sports



Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi and Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan gave thorough briefing about the preparations and arrangements of 73rd Punjab Games.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said that the Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab is going to organize a historic mega event of Punjab Games. "We are making excellent arrangements for the smooth holding of 73rd edition of Punjab Games in which most number of athletes from all districts and tehsils of the province are taking part".

Secretary Sports and

Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta directed all the relevant departments to show exemplary coordination and play an important role for the befitting organisation of Punjab Games. He also instructed the departments concerned to provide clean drinking water and make brilliant cleanliness arrangements at all the venues of upcoming Punjab Games.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said that Punjab Games have decades old history. "The games were organized even before the partition. Punjab Sports Department has the honour to maintain this tradition till date". He said that the food of the players will be inspected

by the Punjab Food Authority.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, on this occasion said that the 73rd edition of Punjab Games will prove to be biggest sports event of the history of Punjab province. "Thousands of male and female athletes from far flung areas of the province will be showing their potential in their respective sports disciplines," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that a new batch of players will be prepared from the Punjab Games. "The 73rd Punjab Games trophy will be unveiled tomorrow," he added.

Leicester off the bottom with win over Leeds

LEICESTER: Leicester City moved off the bottom of the Premier League with a comfortable 2-0 victory over Leeds United on Thursday, the visitors' seventh game without a win.

Leicester's second success of the season was secured inside 35 minutes as Robin Koch's own goal and Harvey Barnes's sweeping finish put the hosts in command at the King Power Stadium.

Leeds ran out of steam in the second half, with home goalkeeper Danny Ward keeping out their only shot on target in the match when he blocked Liam Cooper's close-range effort.

Leicester saw out the match with ease to move above East Midlands rivals Nottingham Forest into 19th on eight points, one point behind Leeds in 16th,

as Jesse Marsch's Yorkshire side moved closer to the relegation zone.

"When you are down there, every point is important," Leicester midfielder Youri Tielemans told Amazon. "We kept the ball really well, attacked them well, and that is what we really needed."

"Every good performance is confidence for us, and we can build on this now." Pressure has been mounting on both managers in recent weeks after their teams suffered disappointing starts to the season. Leicester were handed a boost for Leeds' visit as they welcomed striker Jamie Vardy back into the side, with the veteran still looking for his first goal of the season.

Vardy did play a part in the build-up to the opener, however, with Koch unable

to avoid diverting Dennis Praet's low cross into his own net. Leeds responded well and created several openings to get back on level terms, Luis Sinisterra going closest with a curling effort that hit the crossbar.

They could not make one count, though, and that proved costly as Barnes added a second, finishing off a sweeping Leicester counter attack. The fact that Leeds never looked like getting back into the contest in the second half will be most frustrating for Marsch, as the visitors slipped to a third straight loss with a whimper.

They have now failed to win any of their opening five away league games of a season for the first time since 1998-99, with the tally of one point being Leeds'



lowest from their first five matches on the road in a league campaign since 1983-84.

"In both boxes we are not helping ourselves, but right now we have to find ways to stop the bleeding," American Marsch said. "We have to fight and be

ready for what is to come. I am here and I am doing everything I can to help this team." Agencies

PJL provided excellent platform for youngsters: Ramiz Raja

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Ramiz Raja said that a huge response we received to organize such a fabulous Pakistan Junior League.

He was addressing in the ceremony of PJJL Final match before start Ramiz said that we have provided excellent platform for youngsters.

He said that there are 5 players we have seen who has a good talent but as soon as PJJL will go ahead more talent will be produced and in the next year we will organize PJJL in other city. He further said that the youngsters in this league showed an excellent skill and I hope that day by day the better result will be produced on their skill due to more cricket opportunity in up coming PJJL.

At last he thanked to the children and their parents who allowed to them for playing the PJJL and I Congratulate to all the participants management, Ground staff, Broadcasters, and Commentators who made the successful PJJL, 2022.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bowled out for 175

Spokesman Report

ABBOTTABAD: All-rounder Aamir Jamal recorded his first-class career's second five-wicket haul on the first day of the fifth round of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 returning five for 38 for Northern against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium.

The right-arter accounted for Kamran Ghulam, Adil Amin, Mohammad Sarwar Afridi, Imran Khan Snr and Irfanullah Shah as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were bowled out for 175 in just 38.5 overs.

Northern captain's decision to not to contest the toss and opt for bowling paid dividends as the top-score in the innings was only 35 from opener Waqar Ahmed. Northern's Athar Mehmood took three wickets for 95.

Northern, who already dominate the six-team points table, bagged six points (three for bowling out the opposition inside 100 overs and other three for restricting them under 200).

At the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Balochistan were 256 for five in 83.3 overs against Sindh as Imran Butt (60), Haseebullah (57 not out), Hussain Talat (54 not out) and Haris Sohail (50) scored half-centuries. The pair of Haseebullah and Hussain had put together 108-run stand for the sixth wicket by stumps.

Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed was amongst the wicket-takers once again. He took three wickets for 93 and Ghulam Mudassar had taken two wickets for 69.

The first day of the Punjab Derby at the Multan Cricket Stadium saw Faheem Ashraf and Azhar Ali score half-centuries after Southern Punjab opted to bowl. Faheem Ashraf was unbeaten on 67, while Azhar made 61 before he was dismissed by Mohammad Sadaqat. Sadaqat and Mohammad Ilyas took two wickets each as Central Punjab were 244 for six after 79 overs.

Zimbabwe beat Scotland by five wickets



HOBART: Zimbabwe registered a comprehensive five-wicket win over Scotland in their ICC Men's T20 World Cup encounter in Hobart on Friday to book their berth in the Super 12 stage of the mega event.

Richie Berrington's decision to bat first after winning the toss didn't turn out well for Scotland as they lost the wickets of Michael Jones and Matthew Cross quite early in the innings.

The likes of George Munsey, Berrington and Calum MacLeod tried their best to lead Scotland's recovery but they never got the necessary momentum and acceleration they needed. Munsey batted well to build stands of 40 and 34 runs with Berrington and MacLeod respectively, but the partnerships didn't come at a swift scoring rate. Munsey, who scored 54, also consumed 51 deliveries without providing any useful impetus to the innings.

Craig Ervine and his men needed a steady start to lay the foundation for this chase. But they suffered two early jolts as they lost the wickets of Regis Chakabva and Wesley Madheveru with just seven runs on the board.

Scotland got the early breakthroughs they needed to defend their total and they had to thank Brad Wheal and Mark Watt for helping them get those wickets.

Craig Ervine stood tall when his side needed him the most as he played a superb knock of 58 from 54 deliveries to get Zimbabwe home. He was involved in two crucial stands of 35 and 64 with Sean Williams and Sikandar Raza respectively, which helped in steadying Zimbabwe's ship.

Sikandar Raza has made it a habit of delivering consistently with both bat and ball. The veteran all-rounder bowled a super spell of 4-0-20-1 earlier in the match and then followed it up with an unbeaten knock of 40 from just 23 balls to take Zimbabwe into the Super 12s. He made a huge impact on the result of this match with his all-round contribution. Agencies