



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## PTI ready to counter Imran Khan's arrest: Sh Rashid

Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid says they have decided on a plan even in case of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's possible arrest. PTI will not accept the incumbent government and elections are the only solution. They will not appear before the Speaker for the approval of resignations. He said it has been decided not to appear before the Speaker.



## Imran is accountable for everything: Tarar

Spokesperson for the Govt of Punjab Attaullah Tarar says since Imran Khan was a public office holder, he is accountable for everything. The government had acquired some audio recordings proving Gogi's involvement in corrupt activities, adding that if requested, the recordings would be sent for forensic testing as well. If Imran Khan was an honest man, then his wife's close aide Farah Gogi — who is in Dubai since corruption allegations were levelled against her by the government — should take the next to Pakistan.

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## Health Matters

LAHORE: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing at the inauguration of Indus Hospital here on Sunday.



Photo: PID

## PTI rejects PM's offer of grand dialogue



ISLAMABAD: The PTI on Sunday rejected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer of holding a "grand dialogue" between all stakeholders of the country. PTI's Central Information Secretary Farrukh Habib, in a video statement, said that the idea of a grand dialogue has been offered by the incumbent government to hide its failures as well as the inflation that has hit the country in the first 50 days of it coming into power.

"Those who served as a curse to the poor people have laid the foundation of political and economic chaos in the country," said Habib, adding that the incumbent government was making "hilarious claims" of fixing the economy by increasing oil, electricity, and gas prices by 40-45%. "The main beneficiary of their grand dialogue will not be health, economy and education but Maqsood chaprasi," alleged the PTI leader.

## Action plan

## Pakistan meets all terms of FATF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has finally addressed all targets set by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and would likely get some good news in the next plenary session. According to Foreign Office (FO) sources, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) will oversee the matters related to the next meeting of the Financial Action Task Force. The Foreign Ministry has decided to adopt a cautious strategy in this regard.

Informed sources have claimed that the four-day meeting of the financial watchdog will be held in Berlin from June 13 to 17. The plenary session will consider Pakistan's review on June 15 and 16.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will represent Pakistan in the

meeting, set to take place in Berlin. Sources further said that Pakistan is likely to get some good news as the country has met all the targets to get out of the task force's grey list.

Pakistan has been on the grey list for deficiencies in its counter-terror financing and anti-money laundering regimes since June 2018. It is pertinent to mention here that the financial watchdog, a Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, had retained Pakistan on its grey list till June 2022. In the last plenary session, the FATF announced that Pakistan made significant progress and it has largely addressed 26 out of 27 items on the action plan it first committed to in June 2018.

# Hard work, integrity, sacrifices shape nations: PM

Says we need grand dialogue to resolve country's issues

LAHORE/ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said that nations were not formed on the basis of construction of magnificent buildings, but hard work, integrity and sacrifices coupled with use of latest knowledge and technology always evolved them. He said that we will have to think beyond personal interest for the country's progress and development. He hailed the philanthropists who set up and run trust hospitals for the needy and ailing humanity. He said that sincere sentiments of good natured people who work for any government should not be given political color.

Addressing an inauguration ceremony of Indus hospital, the prime minister also stressed upon the need for initiation of a grand dialogue by all the stakeholders over vital sectors of the economy if they wanted to move ahead on the path of progress and prosperity. He said that a consensus should be developed over the national economy in such a manner that it should not be disturbed with change

of governments. He opined that there were certain sectors of the economy like IT and industrialization through which the country could move ahead. The prime minister underlined that they should think above themselves and their personal likes and dislikes and accord top priority to the progress and prosperity of the nation.

The prime minister maintained that a country could not survive on debts. He regretted that Pakistan should have been in the forefront of the Islamic world in terms of progress and development. Comparing Pakistan's export volume with neighbouring Bangladesh, he said its annual exports now touched \$40 billion mark while Pakistan had an export value of \$27-28 billion annually. The prime minister referring to the global economic meltdown said that they had increased the petroleum prices with a heavy heart. He also termed the previous government's decision of decreasing petroleum prices in the month of March as a ploy as they had

not extended any kind of relief to the masses during their rule.

The prime minister further assured that they would try their best to provide relief to the poor and said that the government was looking to ease out impacts of price hike by extending finan-

**Environment Day: PM calls on global powers for united action**

cial relief to over 7 crore population. He stressed that they had to stand on their feet with sheer qualities of hard work, sacrifices, unity and proper planning. About load-shedding, the prime minister said that he had chaired an emergency meeting and directed for a mechanism to decrease its duration. He said the previous government of PTI could not make arrangements for the purchase of oil and gas as these two components were

mainly used for producing power and now these had been priced very high in the global market.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called on global powers for a united action to address multifaceted challenge of climate change on World Environment Day, ARY NEWS reported.

In his message on World Environment Day from his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that the theme of this year's day is 'Only One Earth' and is a clarion call for a united global action to address multifaceted challenge of climate change. "It is critical that developing countries are provided with climate financing to fight environmental hazards," Shehbaz Sharif said.

Last year, Pakistan hosted World Environment Day in collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on the theme of 'ecosystem restoration' and focus on resetting our relationship with nature. Speaking during the ceremony last year, Prime Minister Imran Khan termed it an honour for

Pakistan to host the World Environment Day saying that it was during their KP government tenure when they decided to plant one billion saplings. The program was also addressed by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. He said that previously only 640 million trees were planted in the country while the PTI-led KP government alone during its five-year tenure planted one billion saplings.

"Unfortunately, forest land in Pakistan has been ruined and occupied," he said and blamed the timber mafia for ruining the jungle area in the country. Imran Khan shared that trees along 50 kilometers of Shahra-e-Karakoram were cut and praised the efforts of the forest guards who intervened and stopped the activity which also saw the death of their 10 fellow members. The prime minister said that nature has once again given them the opportunity to utilize these 10 years to improve their ecosystem as any threat to it will have an irreversible negative impact on the country.

## Anti-Kashmir

### Posters expose Indian designs in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, posters have appeared in Srinagar and other areas to record the protest against the divisive policies being pursued by the Hindutva BJP and RSS, fearing possible genocide of Kashmiri Muslims. The Jammu and Kashmir Political Resistance Movement (JKPRM) and various other pro-freedom organisations have displayed the posters. The posters read, "Indian Hindutva rulers targeting Kashmiri youths, violating international laws by denying handover of martyrs' bodies to their families, as the current Indian anti-Kashmir policy is a big challenge and threat to peace in the region."

## Ji announces 'Awami March' against inflation, corruption

Jamaat-e-Islami stages protests across Karachi

LAHORE/KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Sirajul Haq has announced to stage a massive 'Awami march' against rising inflation, corruption of politicians and the interest rate system in the country. Addressing a press conference here, Sirajul Haq said that the Awami March will start from Lahore on June 11 against the rising inflation, corruption and interest rate system. The Ji Ameer, while addressing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, said that instead of selling clothes, he should end inflation and corruption.

Referring to PM Shehbaz's offer of holding a "grand dialogue" between all stakeholders of the country, Sirajul Haq said that he was urging the same since last month. "If politicians will not sit together for the sake of democracy, then the country cannot progress," he added. Sirajul Haq said that if the incumbent government has a solution to the problems, then solve them as soon as possible. "At present,

there is a dummy opposition in the country," he added.

He further told PM Shehbaz that instead of selling clothes, end corruption and reject programme of International Monetary Fund (IMF), adding that all secret agreements should be presented before the National Assembly (NA). The Ji Ameer also rejected the current system, saying that Panama and Pandora Papers include names of several political leaders. "Change of individual is not the solution to the problems," he pointed out.

Sirajul Haq also demanded for election reforms and said that elections are being rigged with the help of capital. "We have selected candidates in 45% of the constituencies. Our preparations are complete," he added. Speaking of Indian Occupied Kashmir, he said that more than 4.5 million Indian citizens were transferred to the occupied valley and given identity cards. "Our govern-

ment has lost the case of Kashmiris," he regretted.

In response to the call of Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) leadership, protest demonstrations against a massive hike in petroleum products were staged across Karachi. The demonstrations were staged at 11 major points across Karachi. The protesters, carrying placards and banners, chanted slogans against the government for following the footprints of the previous government. People from all walks of life participated in the demonstrations to record their protest against the recent hike of Rs60 per litre in just one week, propelling the petrol prices to an all-time high. The massive hike has directly affected common men in the country, the press statement read.

Addressing the protest demonstrations, Ji district chiefs and other leaders demanded of the government to withdraw the hike immediately.

## After 22-hours

### Pak-Iran railway service restored

CHAGAI: Pakistan Iran railway service restored after 22 hours. Five bogies of a freight train from Iran's Zahedan were derailed while on its way to Quetta a day earlier. The railway officials have said that the goods train was sent to Quetta after railway track damaged in the mishap was repaired and restored. The railway service between Pakistan and Iran owing to dilapidated tracks and lack of maintenance results in railway accidents and mishaps.

Last month the freight train service between Pakistan and Iran also remained suspended for 72 hours after a goods train coming from Zahedan was derailed in the Dalbandin area of Chagai district.

## Power crisis worsens as shortfall reaches 7,300mw

LAHORE: The energy crisis in Pakistan continues to deepen despite Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's strong directions to end load shedding. According to power division sources, the electricity shortfall has widened to 7,300 megawatts on Sunday. The demand in the country for electricity has surged to 27,300 megawatts amid the sweltering weather conditions. The duration of unannounced loadshedding nationwide also remained increased to 14 hours. They added that hardly nationwide power production of 20,000MW, resulting in a shortfall of 7200 MW.

Currently, the country is obtaining 4,635 megawatts of electricity from hydropower,

1,060 megawatts from thermal power plants and 9,677 from the IPPs, the well-placed sources said. It is learnt that three major power companies have shut down 16 power plants in Pakistan due to a non-supply of fuel. The Hub Power Company (HUBCO), Lalpur Power Limited and PakGen Power have shut down 16 power plants — including Tarbela and Jamshoro — due to mismanagement in the supply of furnace oil.

South Asia has been in the grip of an extreme heat wave since last month, with parts of Pakistan reaching a temperature of 50 degrees Celsius as officials warned of acute water shortages and a health threat.

## 7 terrorists killed in Bannu, North Waziristan districts

Raja Furqan Ahmed

RAWALPINDI: Security forces have killed seven terrorists in two separate Intelligence Based Operations (IBOs) in Bannu and North Waziristan districts. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Intelligence Based Operations were conducted in Jani Khel area of Bannu district and Hassan Khel area of North Waziristan district on the reported presence of terrorists. During an intense exchange of fire, seven terror-

ists got killed; five terrorists in Jani Khel and two terrorists got killed in North Waziristan District. Weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces. Locals of the area appreciated the operations and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the area. Meanwhile, according to the sources, the terrorists belonged to the TTP Hafiz Gul Bahadur faction.

## Politics

LAHORE: Punjab Governor Baligh Ur Rehman is in a meeting with Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz here on Sunday.



Photo: Online

## Political tussle

# Imran to be arrested once bail expires: Rana Sanaullah

Rules out possibility of talks with PTI Chairman

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday said that he welcomes Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's return to federal capital. Interior Minister said that government has provided security to Imran Khan as per law. Imran Khan is nominated as a suspect in more than two dozen cases pertaining to arson and vandalism, he said and added that he was also booked in cases related to carrying out armed attacks against the federation. Rana Sanaullah said that as soon as pre-arrest bail obtained by Imran Khan would expire,

the same officials who were provided to him as security will arrest him.

He continued: "How can a person having mischievous agendas and complete disregard for moral and democratic values head a political party in a democratic system? He even stamps his opponents as traitors and Yazeed. It's a moment of reflection for the whole nation." Late Saturday night, the Islamabad police said that in view of Imran Khan's possible return to Islamabad from Peshawar, security around Bani Gala has been beefed up. "In view of the expected arrival of PTI Chairman Imran Khan

in Bani Gala, security around Bani Gala has been strengthened and placed on high alert,"

**Government has provided security to Imran Khan as per law: Interior Minister**

said the police.

The Islamabad police further said that the security division has deployed dedicated security in Bani Gala, while Section 144 has been imposed

in Islamabad and any congregation is not allowed as per orders of the district magistrate. Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) empowers district administration to issue orders in the public interest that may place a ban on an activity for a specific period of time. A police spokesperson said that Imran Khan will be provided complete security as per the law, adding that reciprocal cooperation is expected from Khan's security teams as well.

Earlier in the day, contrary to the opinion of PML-N senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi about 'political

dialogues' aimed at steering the country out of the ongoing economic crisis, Sanaullah ruled out the possibility of talks with PTI Chairman Imran Khan. A day earlier, Abbasi, in view of the economic turmoil and tense political environment in the country, advised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to start a political dialogue with the Opposition to put the country's economy on the right track. In an interview with a private TV channel, Abbasi said that PM Shehbaz should invite all political parties to build a political consensus at the earliest.

## Baligh discuss political situation with Maryam

Governor Punjab says Govt committed to serve the nation

LAHORE: Newly appointed Punjab governor Baligh Ur Rehman on Sunday called on Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz and discussed the current political situation. During the meeting held in Jati Umra, Maryam congratulated Baligh on assuming the office. On the occasion, Maryam while lashing out at former government said the PTI government remained failed to deliver but the coalition government will take the country out of all crises and move on the path of development.

Punjab Governor Muhammad Engineer Baligh-ur-Rehman says the government is committed to serve the nation and measure has been taken in this regard. He was talking to different delegations belong to various cities at Govern-

nor House here on Sunday. During meeting, the delegations congratulated him for assuming the charge of Governor Punjab.

He said present government is facing many challenges and due to current situation of the country government has taken difficult decisions. He expressed hope that national economy will stabilize soon. The Governor said that business community plays important role for economic development. He said that present government is taking all out measures for provision of relief to masses. The Governor said that national economy was stable and inflation rate is low in previous tenure of PML-N government. Baligh-ur-Rehman urged the people to play their due role for the progress and prosperity of the country.

## Rising Islamophobia

### President condemns hurtful remarks of Indian leaders

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan has condemned in strongest possible words the hurtful comments of India's BJP leaders about the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and said that these derogatory and controversial remarks have hurt the feelings of all Muslims around the world. This, he said, is the reflection of growing trend of Islamophobia in India where Muslims lives in millions.

The President said that merely suspending and expelling party officials isn't enough but BJP must shun and denounce its extremist and fascist Hindutva ideology. He said that India under Modi's hateful Hindutva philosophy is trampling religious freedoms of all its minorities and persecuting them without any impunity.

"Allowing such Islamophobic



remarks to continue without punishment constitutes grave danger to the protection of human rights and may lead to further prejudice and marginalization which will create a cycle of violence and hate", he added.

He called upon the World community, United Nations and international human rights organizations to take a serious notice of rising Islamophobia and systematic religious persecution in India without impunity and take all steps necessary to put an end to it.

## World Environment Day

### Pak committed to address climate change issue

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson on Sunday said that Pakistan was fully committed to take ambitious actions to address climate change and environmental hazards. "Going forward, we reaffirm our resolve in taking action on combating climate change, protecting biological diversity, and reversing ecosystem degradation," the spokesperson said in a press release in connection with the observance of World Environment Day.

Pakistan was already in the midst of one of the world's most ambitious efforts to expand and restore its forests. "In its quest for a Green Future, Pakistan is working towards setting national policies in motion to achieve by 2030, 60% of our energy mix, clean and green, and shift 30%

of road transport to electric vehicles, as envisioned in its recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement," it was added.

The spokesperson further said that Pakistan joined the international community in celebrating the "World Environment Day 2022" on the theme "Only One Earth". "As one of top ten most climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan highly values the global efforts to combat climate change, halt and reverse biodiversity loss, reduce pollution, and restore ecosystems," the spokesperson said. It is imperative for the international community to take ambitious actions and translate political commitments on combating climate change.

## LGs

# MQM-P tables new demands for administrative posts

KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) has put forth its new demands for administrative posts in local bodies. According to details, Foreign Minister and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto met Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah and other ministers in Karachi today. During the meeting, the issue of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan's (MQM-P) participation in local bodies came under discussion. Bilawal Bhutto was apprised of the new demands put forward by MQM-P.

Sources told ARY News that MQM-P has sought administrator posts in three districts including Karachi and Hyderabad. MQM-P has demanded administrator posts in three districts – Central,



West and East, sources added. Meanwhile, the PPP Chairman directed Murad Ali Shah to meet the top leadership of MQM-P and resolve issues. The talks between MQM-P and PPP

will be held on Monday at 11 a.m. in the Chief Minister's House.

The meeting also discussed the new local government system and the holding of local body elections in the prov-

ince. The foreign minister was also apprised of the water shortage and load shedding in Sindh. Bilawal Bhutto has also directed to bring a balanced and good local government system in the province immediately.

Earlier, it was reported that differences emerged between MQM-P, a key member of the ruling alliance, and PPP over the powers of Mayor Karachi. According to details, MQM-P has expressed its disappointment over the Mayor's power to ruling party of Sindh, the Pakistan People's Party. MQM-P convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui asserted that PPP co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari wants to give them a powerless Mayor. "Such mayor does not even have the power to pick garbage," he added.

## Govt's relief package a political ploy: Elahi

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly Speaker and Pakistan Muslim League – Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Sunday said that incumbent government's relief package announcement was not more than a political ploy because a common man will not get any relief. In his statement, Pervaiz Elahi said that instead of making such dramas for the sake of political fame, corrupt rulers should make life easier for the people by making effective policies. "Never witnessed such inflation and political turmoil in my life, imported government has made people life too hard," Elahi added.

# PTI to react strongly if Imran Khan arrested: Qureshi

PTI core committee reviews long march strategy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief and former PM Imran Khan on Sunday chaired a meeting of PTI core committee at Bani Gala in which current political situation and long march strategy were reviewed. Sources privy to the development said, the core committee meeting was also briefed on the progress of the petitions filed against the PTI members in the courts and legal proposals for dealing with the political situation in Punjab were also discussed.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi has warned the federal government of strong political reaction if it arrests Imran Khan. While addressing a press



conference after the PTI core committee meeting, Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah is willing to arrest Imran Khan. "Strong reaction will be witnessed if Imran Khan is arrested. It will be his misunderstanding that we will stay silent on Imran Khan's arrest." He asked PTI workers to final-

ise planning for giving a peaceful reaction if the government chooses to arrest Imran Khan. "The nation has listened to the threatening and non-political statements of Rana Sanaullah. The interior minister is willing to arrest the most popular leader of the country. Imran Khan's arrest will draw a strong public reaction and we don't need to

give any message to see a political reaction."

Shah Mahmood Qureshi elaborated on the decisions taken by the PTI core committee during today's session chaired by the chairman Imran Khan at Bani Gala. "The PTI core committee reviewed the economic and political situation of the country. The core committee expressed serious concerns over the deteriorated situation of the national economy." Qureshi said that PTI lawmakers had submitted their resignations and they will not appear before the National Assembly (NA) speaker. He announced that the political party will actively participate in by-polls on 20 vacant seats in Punjab.



## ITALIAN NATIONAL DAY HELD

# Pakistan regards Italy as good friend, reliable partner: PM's Advisor

Italy among top 10 exporting countries for Pakistan globally, 3rd largest trade partner in EU, says Italian Ambassador



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Qamar Zaman Karia, Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan said Italy is one of the largest trading partners of Pakistan in the EU and among the top ten globally.

The Advisor expressed these views while addressing the gathering on the occasion of the Italian National Day ceremony as a guest of honor.

The event was attended by Ambassadors, Head of Missions Defense Attaches and large numbers of Pakistanis from different walks of life. Dean of Diplomatic corps & Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Federal Minister For Parliamentary Affairs, Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan, Khalid Khurshid, Chief Minister Gilgit Baltistan, Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood, Dr. Tariq Fazal Chudhary, Member National Assembly and renowned businessman Moeen Ud din, Director at Shahzad International Group of Companies were also present on the occasion.

Karia said our bilateral trade during the fiscal year 2021 increased rapidly. There is still great potential to expand bilateral trade and investment. Pakistan is firmly committed to further developing and deepening our mutually beneficial relationship in the economic and commercial spheres. There are many Pakistanis living in Italy; they see it as a bridge between two friendly nations and positively contribute to the economic development of Italy, he added.



commonalities of views and the broad range of regional and international issues since both countries are keen to promote global peace and development. He further stated that the trajectory of Pakistan and Italy ties is positive, and "we are determined to strengthen it further. Our mutually beneficial cooperation is strengthened by a shared of diplomatic values, democratic values, commitments, continued engagement, and willingness to help each other". Pakistan looks forward to deepening its partnership with Italy to achieve its objective of peace, prosperity, and development.

Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andreas Ferrarese, addressing the audience, said that Italy and Pakistan have a long history of cordial relations and cooperation in political, economic, cultural, and social spheres. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the two nations have unanimity of views on several issues of global importance, and mutual cooperation in all the fields has been on the rise.

He said that the foreign ministers of both countries recently met in New York, where they renewed the determination to strengthen the bilateral partnership.

With its unique geo-strategic location and improved security conditions, the Ambassador further said that Pakistan offers excellent investment opportunities for Italian companies. With a population of around 220 million and a constantly growing demand for high-end products, Pakistan remains an attractive market for Italian manufacturers and businesspeople.

He said that Italy is among the top ten exporting countries for Pakistan globally and the third largest trade partner in the European Union. Although global trade shrank during the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan's exports to



Qamar Zaman Karia said that Pakistan profoundly values its relations with Italy bilaterally in the European Union (EU) and multilaterally in the international forum such as the

United Nations. The advisor to the prime minister said that Pakistan regards Italy as a good friend and reliable partner. He said Pakistan and Italy have

exporting countries for Pakistan globally and the third largest trade partner in the European Union. Although global trade shrank during the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan's exports to

Italy in 2021 grew by 22.1%, with a total value of €763.51 million. In the same period, Italian exports to Pakistan saw an increase of 48.6%, with a total value of €754.06 million. Bilateral trade has grown from € 1.42 billion in 2019 to €1.52 billion in 2021. Trade volume in Jan-Feb 2022 stood at €289.37 million compared to €203.41 million during the same year 2021.

It is worth mentioning that remittances from Pakistani workers in Italy hit an all-time high. With the figures of \$711.7 million in FY22, Italy has become the seventh-largest center of worker remittances to Pakistan globally and the top one in the EU countries.

The ultimate Italy-Pakistan Mixed Economic Commission took place in Islamabad, where the two sides discussed trade opportunities between the two countries, focusing on developing foreign investments through SEZ (Special Economic Zones) in key sectors such as agro-industry, the Ambassador added.

The Ambassador further stated that Italy is home to more than 150,000 Pakistanis, the largest Pakistani diaspora in Europe (after Brexit). Engaged in various production sectors in Italy, they continue to make a great contribu-

tion to both countries' economies. The Italian government and people appreciated Pakistan's solidarity with Italy when Italy was severely affected during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said the Italians' love for Pakistani mountains is no secret, which reflects through their conservation and uplift activities of Pakistan's mountainous areas.

The Embassy of Italy in Islamabad is committed to boosting commercial ties between the two countries. The Ambassador informed that both countries should explore all the possible avenues focusing on agriculture, machinery, textiles, and tourism. He said that our collaboration in textiles, agriculture, livestock, construction, marble, pharmaceuticals and tourism would help enhance Pakistan's industrial scope and increase exports of value-added goods. "We are excited about the launch of "Olive Culture Project" in Pakistan that would bear tangible fruits for the country in the future".

Visitors enjoyed Italian cuisines and arrangements of the hosts made on the occasion.

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# The political gimmick and future of Pakistan

*Minus the nation, 'power' is the ultimate goal of all stakeholders*



**Amjad Mehmood**

**P**akistani politics is steadily transmitting into a chaotic state. The language and conduct of political leadership are so bizarre that leave an impression of their immaturity and carelessness towards the country and nation. At a very crucial stage, when the worst economic crises have gripped the country's growth, Pakistani political leadership is screeching over their sole right of ruling the nation. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was removed from his office at midnight 9th April 2022 as a result of a vote of no confidence against him by the united opposition. As many as 174 members out of

a total 342 have voted against Imran Khan to oust him from the country's top slot. Earlier on 27th March 2022, Mr. Khan in a public address in Islamabad waved a letter naming it a diplomatic wire as proof of an international conspiracy against his government. He said the international agenda was triggered with the help of Pakistani opposition leadership and it was direct interference in the country's affairs for which he named a US diplomat later on in his speeches. He demanded the formation of a Judicial Commission to probe into the matter and unveil the conspiracy against his government.

National Security Committee (NSC) on two different occasions declared that there was no evidence of direct involvement of international conspiracy against Mr. Khan's government rather it was a use of undiplomatic language from a US official with the Pakistani ambassador which was transmitted through a 'Cipher' to Pakistan as per standard norms. The newly emerged united opposition's government under the prime ministership

of Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif offered an inquiry into the matter but PTI leadership remained adamant about the formation of a Judicial

The party leadership appreciates all such efforts be it below the bar of decency and morality. Mr. Khan has introduced a new style of politics in Pakistan where values and morality have no place and consideration.

Commission. Apparently, PTI demand is a simple matter and it should be fulfilled without hesitation from the government however, two aspects are vital to consider before taking any initiative. First, the history of Judicial inquiries in Pakistan is neither clean nor fruitful, and

secondly, whether the formation of the Judicial Commission and the outcome would be acceptable to all stakeholders or not. The potential answer is 'big no' considering the attitude of political parties in Pakistan.

Imran Khan has addressed the public in several cities since he has been ousted from the Prime Minister's office and organized a long march to Islamabad on 25th May 2022 against the incumbent government by demanding the announcement of general elections. He has criticized the American influence in Pakistan, the role of the military establishment for their pick and choose policy and for becoming 'neutral' all of sudden in the political sphere. He also blamed all political parties who are part of the current government for playing a puppet role to topple his government and becoming a source of destabilization to a prospering country under his leadership. In his most recent speech, he added the role of India and Israel as well in the conspiracy against his government.

Mr. Khan is quite famous for the 'U-Turn' policy on his deci-

sions and statements. Also, he earned fame for giving unique 'descriptions' to various political terminologies as he told the nation that 'neutral' is synonymous of 'animal'. He is continuously giving shocking statements in his speeches including the most controversial about existence of Pakistan as one unit. Imran Khan is blessed with blind followers who believe in his words without many noetic efforts. He has social media brigade to curse the opponents and anti-viewpoints. The PTI fear-less social media warriors have no mercy for the social, political, religious, and constitutional norms as they troll every single voice against them considering it a sole right. The party leadership appreciates all such efforts be it below the bar of decency and morality. Mr. Khan has introduced a new style of politics in Pakistan where values and morality have no place and consideration.

*To be Concluded  
 The writer is the Head of Editorial Advisory Board of the Daily The Spokesman.*

## Only One Earth

**T**his year's World Environment Day is significant because it marks fifty years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, that was the first international meeting on the environment and led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). This planet is our only home. It is vital we safeguard the health of its atmosphere, the richness and diversity of life on Earth, its ecosystems and its finite resources. But we are failing to do so. The theme of this year's World Environment Day, "Only One Earth", is a simple statement of fact. We are asking too much of our planet to maintain ways life that are unsustainable. Earth's natural systems cannot keep up with our demands.

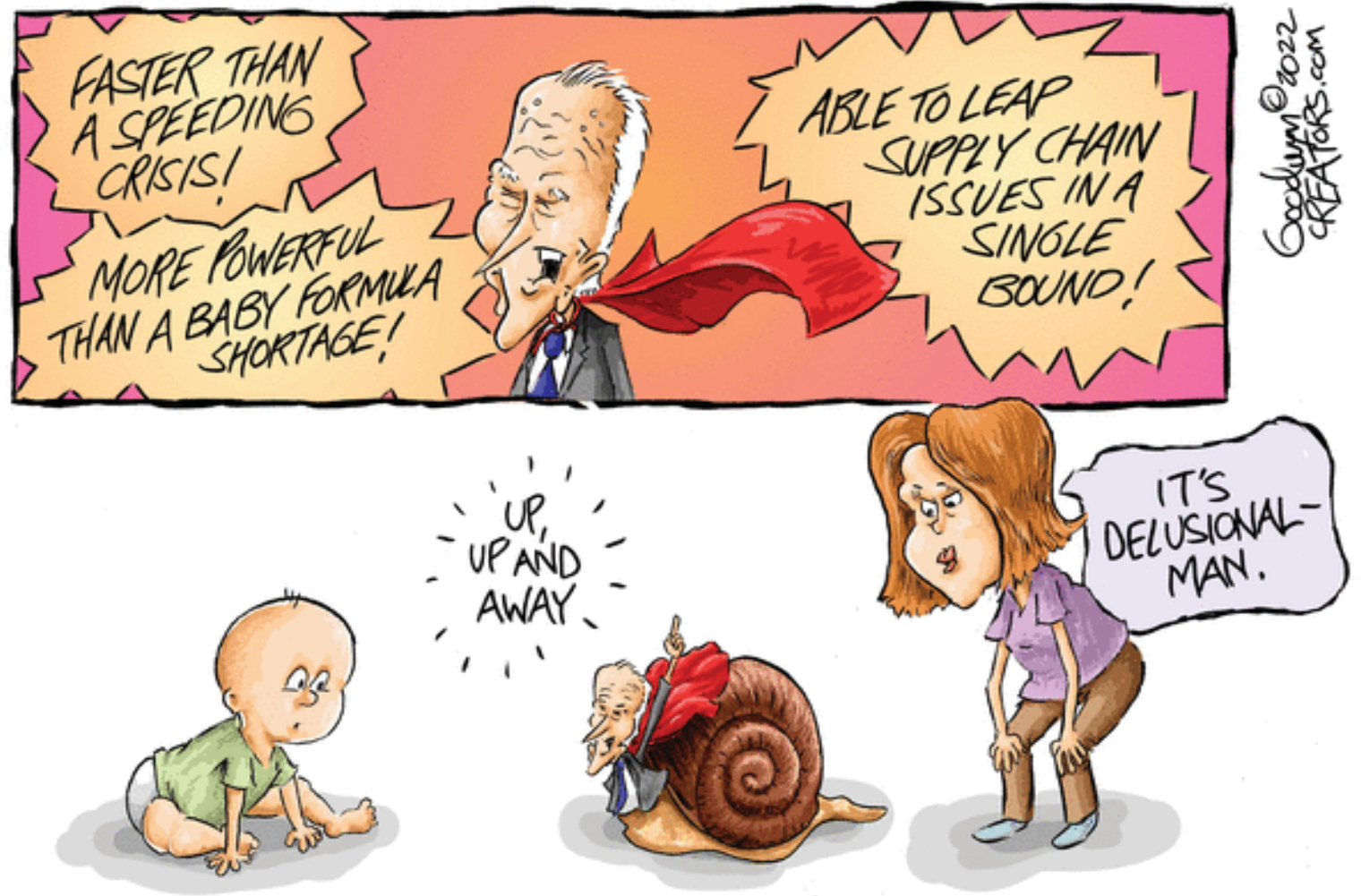
Over three billion people are affected by degraded ecosystems. Pollution is responsible for some 9 million premature deaths each year. More than 1 million plant and animal species risk extinction, many within decades. Close to half of humanity is already in the climate danger zone - 15 times more likely to die from climate impacts such as extreme heat, floods and drought. There is a 50:50 chance that annual average global temperatures will breach the Paris Agreement limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next five years. More than 200 million people each year could be displaced by climate disruption by 2050.

Fifty years ago, the world's leaders came together at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and committed to protecting the planet. But we are far from succeeding. We can no longer ignore the alarm bells that ring louder every day. The recent Stockholm+50 environment meeting reiterated that all 17 Sustainable Development Goals rely on a healthy planet. We must all take responsibility to avert the catastrophe being wrought by the triple crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

On this issue Pakistan is fully committed to take ambitious actions to address climate change and environmental hazards. Going forward, we reaffirm our resolve in taking action on combating climate change, protecting biological diversity, and reversing ecosystem degradation. Pakistan is already in the midst of one of the world's most ambitious efforts to expand and restore its forests. In its quest for a Green Future, Pakistan is working towards setting national policies in motion to achieve by 2030, 60% of our energy mix, clean and green, and shift 30% of road transport to electric vehicles, as envisioned in its recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Pakistan joined the international community in celebrating the "World Environment Day 2022" on the theme "Only One Earth". As one of top ten most climate-vulnerable countries, Pakistan highly values the global efforts to combat climate change, halt and reverse biodiversity loss, reduce pollution, and restore ecosystems. It is imperative for the international community to take ambitious actions and translate political commitments on combating climate change and environmental degradation into tangible steps on ground.

For developing countries like Pakistan, raising ambition would not be possible without provision of sufficient means of implementation including climate finance, technology and capacity-building support by developed countries. Only One Earth was the slogan for the 1972 UN Conference. Fifty years on, this truth still holds - planet Earth is our only home. For the last five decades, the world had been observing this Day as the largest global platform for raising public awareness about the pressing environmental challenges.



## Indus Water Treaty

**T**he Indus water is a water-distribution treaty between Pakistan and India which was held on 19th September 1960. This treaty considers being one of the most successful water-sharing attempts in the world. After the independence, the Indus along with the other rivers which include Chenab and Jhelum flows from Jammu and Kashmir comes into Pakistan. On the other side Beas, Sutlej and Ravi have their veins from India. As Pakistan is the Agricultural state. This sector plays a central role in the economy. According to the reports, the Agriculture sector provides around 21 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). So the agriculture sector in Pakistan depends on the flow of that river water. As compared to Pakistan, India has several rivers and water sources to support its agriculture. The water of the Indus River mainly started from the Tibet region of China and flows through the Jammu and Kashmir region and comes into Pakistan before empty in the Arabian Sea. It is joined by the numerous tributaries. The Indus river system has been used for irrigation since the past. During the period of British rule in India, new reforms were done. The large canal system was constructed, whereas old canals were revived.

In 1947 British India was partitioned, resulting in the creation of an independent India and Pakistan. The water system was thus divided between them, the headworks in India and the canals running through Pakistan. Later on, there was a short-term Standstill Agreement of 1947, but in 1948 India began withholding water from canals that flowed into Pakistan. The Inter-Dominion Accord of May 4, 1948, required India to provide water to the Pakistani parts of the basin in return for annual payments from the government of Pakistan. In 1948 India cut off the supply in most canals that went to Pakistan but restore it later. The accord was meant to meet immediate requirements and

was followed by negotiations for a more permanent solution. However, neither side was willing to compromise their respective positions. Pakistan wanted to take that matter in International Court of Justice (ICJ) but India refused this and arguing that the conflict should solve through bilateralism. The Indian government several times made promises not to intervene and would not go against the due right of Pakistan but in reality, they always moved against promises and many times threatened to cut the flow of the rivers.

In September 1950, the Indian government agreed to solve this issue through Arbitration. India also demands that there should be a court in which both members should be from each side and one neutral chairman. The proposal was accepted by Pakistan too. Later on, in 1951, David Lilienthal the former head of Tennessee valley authority (US agency to control floods, improve living standards of a farmer, navigation) and the US atomic energy commission visited the region to write a research article for Collier's magazine. He has a keen interest in subcontinents region. He wrote that: "No armies with bombs and shellfire could divest a land so thoroughly as Pakistan could be devastated by the simple expedient of India's permanently shutting up the source of water that keeps the field and the people of Pakistan green"

After both states agreed, the chairman of World Bank Eugene Black took this responsibility. He made a committee of both sides to overcome this problem. In his suggestion, engineers from both countries formed a working group with the World Bank offering advice. In 1954 World Bank proposes the solution.

Within six years of talks between the two

arch-rivals on September 19th, 1960 an agreement was signed between Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistani president Ayub Khan in Karachi that is commonly known as Indus Water Treaty. In the agreement, the World Bank divided the whole reservoirs into two parts. Beas, Ravi and Sutlej (Eastern River) rivers were assigned to India while the rivers Chenab, Jhelum and Indus (western Rivers) were granted to Pakistan. The treaty also helps in financial assistance of building new dams, link canals, and barrages. Some notable work is Tarbela Dam in Indus River and Mangla dam in Jhelum River. Furthermore in the Agreement, it was also decided for the storage of water Pakistan would be helped to build dams, barrages and around seven link canals in which Indian would financially help in the scheme, while the remaining amount would be given by the World Bank, US, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and other friendly states of Pakistan.

Moreover under the treaty, all the waters of the three eastern rivers, averaging around 33 million acre-feet (MAF), were allocated to India. The waters of the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) averaging to around 135 MAF, were allocated to Pakistan except for 'specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India. India has also been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through the run of the river projects on the western rivers which is subject to specific criteria for design and operation is unrestricted. Mostly from Indian sides threats coming due to their positive position. As the water flows from India toward Pakistan. In the 1970's India starts building hydropower projects in the Kashmir. On the other hand, Pakistan raises concern on this project. Later on, in 1984 Pakistan

objects over India building Tulbul barrage on the Jhelum and India stops it.

In 2007 Pakistan raises concern over Kishan Ganga hydroelectric plant. Now it is completed. After the attack in Uri the town near in Jammu and Kashmir in 2016, India threatened to revoke the treaty. As Uri attack was one of the deadliest attacks on security forces in the Kashmir. According to the details, 19 India soldiers were killed. This issue increases the tension between both states. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives the statement that "blood and water cannot flow together." As this sort of statement comes from India but didn't materialize. Later on, India decided to restart the Tulbul Project on the Jhelum River in the Kashmir Valley, which was previously suspended in response to Pakistan's objections. After Pulwama attack 2019, the Minister of Road and Water Resources Nitin Gadkari stated that "all water presently flowing into Pakistan in the three eastern rivers will be diverted to Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan for various uses".

India can reduce the flow of water but cannot stop. Pakistan disagrees on Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants being built by India. Pakistan has a lot of concerns and still, now Pakistan officials meet with World Bank in the US regarding the concern. The two countries disagree over the technical design features of the two hydroelectric plants breaks the Treaty. The plants are on respectively a tributary of the Jhelum and the Chenab Rivers. The Treaty designates these two rivers as well as the Indus as the "Western Rivers" to which Pakistan has unrestricted use. Under the Treaty, India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on these rivers subject to the terms.

*To be Concluded  
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## Depression & Suicide

**Bushra Awan**

**A**mong various contributing factors, most notably mental disorders which tend to be closely related to suicide, depression is seen as a major risk factor. A great number of patients suffering from depression commit suicide never having had access to psychiatric care or proper treatment. Although depressed mood, psychomotor retardation, anxiety, panic attacks and autonomic symptoms may occur in depression, patients suffering from depression often visit a primary care physician rather than a clinical psychologist, complaining of various somatic symptoms.

Therefore, the role of primary care physicians not only that of clinical psychologists, is critical in preventing such patients from committing suicide. Since early diagnosis and implementation of intensive treatment for depression provide a good chance of preventing suicide, access to trained and well-informed mental health professionals remain at the heart of efforts aimed at preventing suicides among individuals. Statistics based on psychological autopsy method unveil the fact that 70-90 percent of those who committed suicide had credible evidence of some mental disorder when alive, and 60-70 percent was depressed.

It is much more likely for suicide to be undertaken by an individual with a mental disorder than for someone mentally competent to commit suicide. Among mental disorders, depression is particularly important in terms of its association with suicide. It should be noted that not all patients suffering from depression exhibit a typical clinical picture, and it merits emphasis that early diagnosis of depression and implementation of proper treatment provide a good chance of suicide prevention.

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# Iranian Islamic revolution continues in full power, says Acting Iranian Ambassador

Seminar on the anniversary of Imam Khomeini (RA) held



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: The Acting Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Surkhabi said that the Iranian Islamic revolution continues in full power despite the evils of the United States and the Zionist regime, and this revolution has always been the voice of the oppressed people of the world.

He addressed a seminar on the anniversary of Imam Khomeini (RA), the founder of the Iranian Revolution, held at Khanah Farhang, Islamic Republic of Iran, Rawalpindi as a guest of honour.

Surkhabi said that Imam Khomeini was brave and fearless and tried with skill and experience to thwart American conspiracies.

Addressing the seminar, Iranian Cultural Consul, Ehsan Khazaei said, before the Islamic revolution, when Imam Khomeini was asked, how he wanted to overthrow the monarchy and fight the United States, Imam said, by the children of today those will be the youth of tomorrow.

Director General Khana Farhang, Rawalpindi Faramarz Rehmanzad while delivering the welcome address said that Imam Khomeini (RA) was a great Arif (Sufi) who was able to live with a unique and simple lifestyle as a great leader. Ahl al-Bayt (AS) Allama Arif Wahidi, Secretary General of the Shia Ulema Council of Pakistan, while addressing the seminar, said that Imam Khomeini during his simple life only defended Islam and it did not matter to him that his opponent was the United States. Imam Khomeini also called for unity and emphasized Islamic unity between Shiites and Sunnis.

Addressing the seminar, Maulana Haider Alvi, a religious scholar, said that Imam Khomeini (RA) had convinced the world through the Islamic Revolution that this revolution did not belong to the East or the West but was an Islamic revolution. He said Iran is the only Islamic country in the world



where Islamic law is in force.

Razia Naveed, Head of the Women's Department of Minhaj-ul-Quran International, said that Imam Khomeini (RA) did not raise the slogan of neither Eastern nor Western, which caused a stir in the world powers and attempts were made to remove them from the path. Imam Khomeini defeated world powers with his tireless efforts. In the eight-year imposed war by the regime of Saddam, Imam Khomeini (RA) fought the world powers with the help of the people of Iran. Razia Naveed said that Imam Khomeini (RA) made it clear to the world that religion and politics are intertwined. The whisper of revolution is also being heard in Pakistan.

Law expert Abdul Qayyum Raja said that the West, which claims to be a democracy, is against the implementation of democracy in Islamic countries. The West opposes the Islamic



democratic system in Iran. Despite forty years of tough economic sanctions against Iran, the people there have been still resisting with a revolutionary spirit because the revolution of Imam Khomeini (RA) has touched their hearts.

Dr. Aftab Naqvi, Dr. Muzaffar Ali Kashmiri, Elder Shah Al-Azhari, Anjum Khaliq, Tatheer Alam Rizvi and other speakers also addressed the function.

Spokesman Photos by Ghulam Farid



# Serena Hotel Islamabad gets a new General Manager

Otto Kurzendorfer brings along 3 decades international experience of hotel industry



**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: A colourful evening was organized by Serena Hotel Islamabad in the honour of the newly appointed General Manager of Islamabad Serena Hotel, Otto Kurzendorfer. Aziz Boolani, CEO of Serena Hotels, and his wife Ms. Wiqar Boolani welcomed warmly to the guests.

The event was attended by Ambassadors, Head of Missions Defense Attaches, and eminent Pakistanis from different walks of life. Dean of Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov was also present on the occasion. Mr. Boolani, Chief Executive Officer of Serena Hotels South & Central Asia, is generally very popular for his hospital-

ity and treating his guests by giving them a special feel.

On this occasion, Mr. Boolani announced the appointment of Mr. Otto Kurzendorfer as the General Manager of the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Mr. Kurzendorfer, a German national brings over 30 years of international hotel experience to Serena Islamabad.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Boolani said Serena Hotel is not only famous for its services but we are practically doing a lot of work under the corporate social responsibilities (CSR) initiative. He specifically mentioned the "Karighar Honey" as saying that under this program, people in the Northern areas have been provided training in beekeeping – a journey from the magnificent mountain ranges of



Gilgit Baltistan, directly to you. Fresh, organic and locally sourced and 80% of the honey is procured by Serena Hotel itself. He said 'Karighar' supporting countless homes in the North of Pakistan. He added that we had organized Nowruz Festival, Woman Day, Qawali night and many more under the Cultural Diplomacy



initiative. He vowed to continue more initiatives under their CSR drive to serve the society. The newly appointed General Manager, Mr. Otto Kurzendorfer thanked Mr. Boolani for showing his trust in him and for selection as GM in the Pakistan best Hostel. He said that Mr. Boolani is a prominent personality in the



hotel industry and it would be a pleasure to work with him. Mr. Otto Kurzendorfer prior to joining the Islamabad Serena Hotel, already worked for luxury hotel brands including Regency, Kempinski, Inter-Continental, Le Meridien, Sheraton and several LHW affiliate hotels in Kuwait, UAE, Saudi

Arabia, Qatar, UK, Germany, and Taiwan. He earned great respect and a name in the international hotel brands and served up to his professional esteem. He expressed his thoughts to escalate the quality and standard of services at Serena Hotel Islamabad. He said my emphasis would be on team development, motivation, and engagement to ensure the hotel guests and visitors are always looked after in a friendly, professional, and personalized manner. He added that he and his family are delighted to move to Pakistan, with this exciting opportunity to contribute positively to the hotel and community develop-

ment while immersing in a new culture and country and he would be looking forward to contributing to the continuous growth of Serena Hotels. The guests appreciated Mr. Boolani and his team for the arrangement of a delightful ceremony.

Spokesman Photos by Ghulam Farid

