



Imran never reads the constitution: Bakhtawar
Bakhtawar Bhutto-Zardari says PTI Chairman Imran Khan has never read the Constitution as nothing will save him from committing treason. Why don't you take your obsession with proof to the court, otherwise you will be hearing from our lawyers for defamation and lies; still not over the absolutely no phone call.



ECP has become partial: Asad Umar
PTI Secretary General Asad Umar says the Election Commission of Pakistan has become completely a 'partial' body. The postponement of the Sindh LG polls just before three days on the excuse of recent rains is beyond one's understanding. Not a single Pakistani has faith in ECP that it will hold fair, free, and transparent elections. Whatever decision ECP takes, PTI will defeat political opponents like it did in Punjab by-elections.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Fed cabinet okays corridor for Afghan transit trade

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved a multi-modal air-road corridor to facilitate the Afghan transit trade besides signing an agreement on trade in goods between Pakistan and Türkiye. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the session of the federal cabinet. The cabinet members discussed the economic and political situation of the country. The premier was told that steps are underway to bring down the dollar price and the Pakistani rupee will stabilise in the next month. He was briefed that the exports are likely to be increased in the coming days due to the effective policies of the federal government.

Regional trade

Meeting of the Federal Cabinet was held in Islamabad on Thursday. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chaired the meeting via video link from Lahore.



Photo: PID

Defeat in by-polls not a setback: Govt

Miftah says SBP governor to be nominated next week

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ministers Khawaja Asif and Miftah Ismail said on Thursday that the defeat in by-elections was not a setback and neither their narrative was affected nor was inflation the cause of the defeat. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday, Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif said that they had faced the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and were now on bail. He said that the former PM and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman, Imran Khan used state institutions to oppress his political opponents during his three and a half years of rule. Commenting on political situation in the country, Khawaja Muhammad Asif said PML-N has consolidated its position in the recent by-elections in Punjab as its vote bank and seats have increased. "The PML-N won five seats, including one won by an independent who is also a

Reviving Pakistan's economy main priority: Khawaja Asif

PML-N loyalist," he said, adding that it should be noted that the PTI previously won all 20 constituencies where the by-election was held in the General Election 2018. The Defence Minister said the track record of the PTI chairman's approach toward horse-trading

the recent by-polls in Punjab. He said it showed our commitment to our narrative of giving respect to the sanctity of the vote without giving any consideration to politics. On the occasion, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said the country has sufficient stock of diesel, furnace oil, and motor gasoline for two months. He said in view of the availability of this stock, there is no need to import these commodities, which will reduce pressure on the Pakistani rupee. The minister said dollar prices are now coming under control since the government has announced that it will complete its tenure. He said the nation will see dividends of this thing starting next week. Miftah Ismail also expressed confidence that the demand for dollars would be met by increasing the supply of dollars Miftah

Ismail announced that the government will nominate a new governor of the State Bank of Pakistan — a post that has remained vacant for more than two months — in the next week. Miftah also assured the reporters that Acting SBP Governor Murtaza Syed had no hand in the depreciation of the rupee. He added that the local currency would stabilise against the greenback next month. "Due to import payments of \$7.5 billion, pressure is coming on the rupee," said the finance minister, adding that the rupee had also come under pressure due to the political crisis that resulted following PML-N's thrashing in the July 17 by-polls. "The demand for dollars in banks will decrease. Last month, there were imports of \$7.5 billion and this month's imports are less than last year," said Miftah.

Recovery in 2023 Pakistan GDP to stay modest in FY22: ADB

Staff Reporter
ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank Thursday projected that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in Pakistan was expected to moderate in FY2022 (ended 30 June 2022) on fiscal tightening measures to manage growing demand pressures and contain external and fiscal imbalances. The growth in Fiscal Year 2023 is projected to recover slightly supported by structural reforms, the ADB said in its Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022 Supplement. The reported added that Pakistan's inflation was marginally revised up for FY2022 and substantially so for FY2023. In addition to the effects of elevated global energy and food prices, the government's efforts to revive the stalled International Monetary Fund (IMF) program had meant raising power tariffs and withdrawing subsidies in the oil and power sectors. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) also lowered its economic growth forecast for developing Asia and the Pacific to 4.6% this year due to slower expansion in the People's Republic of China (PRC), more aggressive monetary tightening in advanced economies, and fallout from the continued Russian invasion of Ukraine. The outlook compares with a projection of 5.2% issued by ADB in April. The bank also raised its forecast for inflation in the region, amid higher prices for food and fuel. Developing Asia and the Pacific is continuing its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pak highly values ties with Turkey: COAS



Our Correspondent
RAWALPINDI: The Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci met the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at Pakistan Army's General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Thursday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), matters of regional security situation, mutual and professional interest with special emphasis on defence and security collaboration between Pakistan and Turkey came under discussion during the meeting. The COAS said that we highly value our brotherly relations with Turkey which are deeply rooted in history and entrenched in our cultural and religious affinities. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role for regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Zardari, Shehbaz using looted wealth to buy MPAs: Imran

Throws weight behind Elahi in Punjab CM election

ISLAMABAD/ LAHORE: He in a tweet said that they would come out again today to defend their mandate by protesting along the country. "Let Sri Lanka be an example to send a clear message to the miscreants, their patrons and ECP that the people will definitely not allow you to clean your hands of the public mandate in Punjab. Imran further said, "Let the nefarious ambitions be thwarted. Now, the king of the crime world — Asif Ali Zardari and Shahbaz Sharif, after taking NRO2, are busy making a mockery of the law and violating the constitution by using the looted wealth to buy MPAs. He recalled that the imported government led by the US conspiracy to replace the government, led by the discredited ECP, but with the help of the dishonest and biased Chief Election Commissioner Sikanadar Sultan Raja, tried to rig the by-elections of Punjab through the government machinery. Chairman Imran Khan has thrown his weight behind PML-Q leader



highly detrimental to institutions, is eliminated." He also criticised the 'imported' government for using of force against the PTI workers and supporters, especially woman and children, during the party's long march on May 25. Referring to Punjab CM elections, Imran Khan assured that PTI MPAs would vote for Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in the poll. Speaking about former Punjab chief minister, Imran Khan said that Usman Buzdar was the provincial chief executive during the most difficult time. "The party was divided after Usman Buzdar was appointed the Chief Minister," he added. It is pertinent to mention here that polling will be held tomorrow in the Punjab Assembly for the election of the new Chief Minister. The polling will be conducted after the Lahore High Court ordered recounting of votes. Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Pervaiz Elahi is the candidate for the chief ministership on behalf of PTI and allied parties.

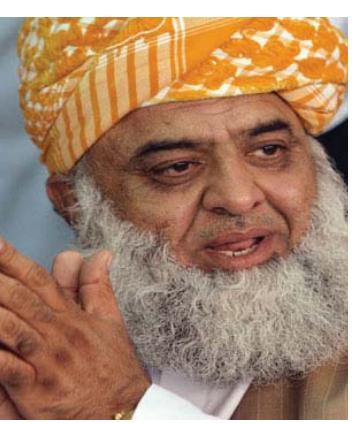
Dollar hits Rs226.81

KARACHI: The downward slide of the Pakistani rupee (PKR) continues as the currency has lost Rs1.89 in the inter-bank market against the US dollar despite the government's assurances of market stability in the coming days. According to the data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee fell to as low as 228 during the intraday trade, but it closed at 226.81, losing Rs1.89 or 0.83%. The fresh depreciation to political uncertainty arising out of the outcome of the Punjab by-elections. In light of the deteriorating economic situation, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had convened an emergency meeting with the country's economic team and other high-ranking government officials. The delayed revival of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) programme has also played a major part in the rupee's free fall as despite striking a staff-level agreement with the lender, the loan will be disbursed only after the institution's Executive Board gives its approval — which is expected in August.

Imran's plan of dividing country exposed: Fazl

Questions over delay in verdict of PTI's foreign funding' case

BANNU: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Thursday that PTI chief Imran Khan's plan of dividing the country was exposed, adding that the PTI chief should not cross his limit. Speaking to newsmen here, he condemned the killing of innocent civilians in North Waziristan and announced staging protests against the killings across the province. Unidentified attackers had gunned down a local JUI-F leader and his colleague near Mirali town on Thursday night. Qari Samiuddin and his colleague, Hafiz Numan Dawar were going home in Eidek village when their car was ambushed on Bichi Road, said locals. Both died on the spot. Fazl demanded the state to bring an end to such killings and take action against those responsible. "The clerics must protest in the Friday sermons against target killings," Fazl urged. The JUI-F chief warned Imran Khan not to add fuel to the already charged political atmosphere, saying it could result in a similar action from his rivals. "Your followers will not be able to stand [the heat]," he said. "We do not want chaos in the country," the PDM chief said and alleged that it was Imran Khan who was spreading chaos and was planning to divide the country into three parts. He raised questions over the delay in



the announcement of the verdict in the PTI's prohibited funding case — which was reserved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on June 21. It should be noted that on June 15, Chief Election Commissioner Sikanadar Sultan Raja directed not to refer to the announcement of the verdict in the PTI's prohibited funding case — which was reserved by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on June 21. It should be noted that on June 15, Chief Election Commissioner Sikanadar Sultan Raja directed not to refer to

however, legislation is the right of the Parliament. "We have to make laws and not the court," he said, adding that PTI Chairman Imran Khan is "trying to hide behind the courts". JUI-F supreme said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is showing unnecessary nobility, it's time to bring Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah into action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership. The JUI-F chief said that there are many big cases against Imran Khan and the government should arrest him, adding that Shehbaz Sharif should bring Rana Sanaullah into action against the PTI top brass. Warning the PTI skipper to not cross the boundaries, the JUI-F bigwig said that he will make things tougher for the PTI and its 'workers'. The job of legislation is of the parliament, not of the court, Fazl added. Expressing his views over the results of the Punjab by-polls, Maulana said, "We saved Pakistan by ending Imran Khan's government. We were surprised by the results of the by-election in Punjab." Regarding the issue of horse trading in the by-elections, Maulana Fazlur Rahman said, "We have nothing to do with it." Talking about ballooning inflation, Maulana said that he is aware of inflation. There is no doubt that inflation is increasing day by day and I am concerned, Fazl added.

Fazl asks PM to bring Rana into action against PTI top brass

Punjab's rule

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan and Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Pervaiz Elahi holding discussion during joint parliamentary meeting of PTI and PMLQ here on Thursday



Photo by PML-Q media

MPAs with conscience won't vote for Elahi: Sanaullah

Claims 50 PTI MPAs can vote for Hamza as CM Punjab

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Thursday that conscientious MPAs would never give their vote to PML-Q's Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi in the Punjab chief minister elections scheduled for today (Friday). "Who was involved in horse-trading in the 2018 general elections?" the interior minister questioned while addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Thursday.

He alleged that the PTI chief bought the "conscience" of the people in Azad Kashmir elections. "Imran Khan is the biggest horse-trader in history but he accuses others," he added. Speaking about the July 17 by-elections on the 20 seats of Punjab that fell vacant after the Election Commission of Pakistan de-notified PTI's dissident lawmakers, Sanaullah said that the by-elections were overall peaceful. He said that PTI Chairperson Imran Khan was neither happy with his defeat nor with his win. Sanaullah alleged that PTI resorted to similar measures during the election for the Senate chairman, saying that all the political parties were standing by the election commission. He said that Imran Khan used to call Elahi "big thief". "Now he is struggling to elect the biggest thief of Punjab as Chief Minister of the province," the interior minister added.

Sanaullah said that it was the democratic right of his party to contact the lawmakers. "We will use every political option in the Punjab assembly," the interior



minister added. Commenting on the appointment of former DG IB Aftab Sultan as Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB), the interior minister

I will tell SC how two PML-N MPAs took money: interior minister

said that Sultan is a worthy candidate for the post.

Interior minister said that 50 PTI members of Punjab Assembly (MPAs) can vote for PML-N's

chief minister candidate Hamza Shahbaz on July 22 (tomorrow) — claiming that they might violate their party's policy. "Not five, but 50 PTI MPAs can either use their right to vote [for Hamza] or they might refrain from casting their votes altogether," the interior minister claimed while addressing a press conference.

Sanaullah said "politically aware" lawmakers, who might understand PTI Chairman Imran Khan's "wrongdoing", will not support their party's nominated candidate — Pervaiz Elahi — for Punjab's top office. The interior minister claimed that "Elahi does not deserve to become the chief minister" and demanded he voluntarily withdraws from the race.

Two lawmakers of the PML-N took money to switch allegiance ahead of the chief minister election in Punjab, claims the interior minister Rana Sanaullah. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah accused the PTI of spreading propaganda and alleged that the two rebel PML-N members of the Punjab assembly (MPAs), Mian Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri and Ghayas ud Din, took Rs. 100 million each to switch party loyalties.

"They [the PTI] is lying that we are involved in horse-trading," said Sanaullah. "If anyone sold their votes then it was only two MPAs of the PML-N, Jaleel Ahmed Sharaquri and Ghayas ud Din." Sanaullah further added that if the Supreme Court calls him to prove his allegation then he will tell the Court how the money was distributed and on whose direction.

Any bid to hurt mandate won't be tolerated: Elahi

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Vice Chairman PTI Shah Mehmood Qureshi called on Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi at his residence here. The meeting was also attended by Moonis Elahi, Hussain Elahi, Muhammad Basharat Raja and Zain Qureshi. In the meeting, a detailed consultation on the strategy regarding the election of the Chief Minister of Punjab and the retaliatory tactics of the government were also reviewed.

Ch Pervaiz Elahi said that the vindictive tactics of the federal and the Punjab government are condemnable, the majority of the members of the Punjab Assembly

are with us, any attempt to undermine the people's mandate will not be tolerated. What Hamza Shahbaz did under the wings of Shehbaz Sharif in a short period of time will be written in black letters in history. He said that the people trusted Imran Khan in the by-election, Insha-Allah the House of Punjab Assembly will also trust Imran Khan in the Chief Minister election.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi said that PTI's nominated candidate Ch Pervaiz Elahi will be the Chief Minister of Punjab, PTI and PML have the majority in the Punjab Assembly. In the by-elections, the public fully accepted Imran Khan's narrative and served as a lesson to the deviant members.

Pak-German FMs discuss bilateral ties

Bilawal for enhanced Pakistan-Germany cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday underscored that Pakistan highly valued its relations with Germany, both bilaterally and in the context of the European Union, which should be further expanded in all areas of mutual interest. The Foreign Minister expressed these views as he received a telephone call from Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock.

Besides discussing bilateral ties, the two Ministers exchanged views on the regional situation, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. The Foreign Minister recalled Foreign Minister Baerbock's visit to Islamabad last month which had added further momentum to growing collaboration in the bilateral relationship.

He added that Pakistan and Germany had robust economic engagement and concerted efforts should be made to further strengthen it. The Foreign Minister expressed Pakistan's interest in deeper bilater-

al engagement in the field of climate change and capacity enhancement of our scientific institutions dealing with climate change. He also appreciated Germany's steadfast support for Pakistan's GSP Plus status, which is a mutually beneficial arrangement.

In the context of situation in Afghanistan, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underlined that Pakistan had been facilitating the evacuations on a humanitarian basis. He also reiterated the need for scaled up support of the international community in protecting the lives and livelihoods of the Afghan people in the wake of dire humanitarian and economic crises and acknowledged Germany's humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister invited Foreign Minister Baerbock to visit Pakistan at a mutually convenient date. Foreign Minister Baerbock thanked for the invitation and extended an invitation to the Foreign Minister to visit Germany. The two Ministers agreed to remain in close contact.

Elahi, Moonis refuse to meet Zardari

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (PML-Q) leader Pervaiz Elahi and his son Moonis Elahi on Thursday refused to meet Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari. The PPP co-chairman visited Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain's residence and expressed the desire before the Shujaat to meet with Pervaiz Elahi and Moonis Elahi but both went out of the house after hearing Zardari's arrival and refused to meet him. Earlier, Asif Ali Zardari had a meeting with Shujaat Hussain, after the meeting, the former president made the victory sign while leaving. While the Federal Minister Chaudhry Salik and Rukhsana Bangash was present in the meeting.

\$23.3b

POL import bill surges 105% in FY22

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The imports of over-all petroleum group witnessed an increase of 105.31 percent during the fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year. During the period under review, the total imports of the petroleum group stood at \$23,318.722 million, as against the imports of \$11,357.853 million last year, according to the latest data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products rose by 133.90 percent, from \$5,160.138 million last year to \$12,069.436 million during the period under review. The imports of petroleum crude also increased by 80.18 percent, from \$3,107.314 million last year to \$5,598.674 million during FY 2021-22 whereas the imports of liquefied natu-

ral gas surged by 90.65 percent from \$2,617.127 million to \$4,989.650 million.

Similarly, the import of liquefied petroleum gas grew by 39.70 percent, from \$472.931 million to \$660,682 million. However, the imports of all other petroleum group commodities decreased by 18.09 percent, from \$0.343 million to \$0.281 million, the data revealed. Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed an increase 146.61 percent during the month of June 2022 as compared to the same month of last year.

The petroleum imports during June 2022 were recorded at \$3,639.248 million against the imports of \$1,475.680 million during June 2021. On month-on-month basis, the petroleum imports into the country also increased by 37.54 percent during June 2022 when compared to the imports of \$2,645.899

million in May 2022, the data revealed.

It is pertinent to mention here that the exports from the country witnessed an increase of 25.51 percent during the fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

According to PBS data, the exports from the country were recorded at \$31,760 billion during July-June (2021-22) against the exports of \$25,304 billion recorded during July-June (2020-21), showing growth of 25.51 percent. The imports during the year under review also went up by 41.93 percent by growing from \$56.380 billion last year to \$80.019 billion in July-June (2021-22). Based on the data, the trade deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$48.259 billion, showing an increase of 55.29 percent over the deficit of \$31.076 billion recorded during last year, the PBS data revealed.

Bhutto's worker

I don't believe in politics of horse-trading: Zardari

LAHORE: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Thursday that he believes in a worker of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and doesn't believe in politics of horse-trading. The parliamentary party leaders of the PPP met party co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari at Bilawal House in Lahore and discussed matters relating to the Punjab Chief Minister elections. Speaking on the occasion, he said that he believes in reconciliation and not in the politics of horse-trading, and presented himself for reconciliation on the political situation of the country and Punjab.

"I would have invested money, if Hasan Murtaza was the candidate for the Chief Minister of Punjab," he said and asked why he would invest money

on Hamza Shehbaz being a candidate for the Chief Ministership. Asif Ali Zardari reiterated his full support to Hamza Shehbaz and said that he stands with the PML-N, adding that the PPP is an ally of the PML-N and accepts all the responsibilities. "I didn't come Lahore for the first time but had announced three months ago that I would do the politics sitting in Punjab, adding that I still have to visit every tehsil of Punjab and I completely reject politics of horse-trading," he said.

Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has rejected Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) allegations of 'horse-trading' ahead of Punjab Chief Minister (CM) election. According to

details, the meeting reviewed the political situation ahead of Punjab CM poll.

During the meeting, the participants reiterated their support to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Hamza Shehbaz in Punjab CM election. Speaking on the occasion, the former president expressed his support to PML-N, saying that the party accepts all the responsibilities as they are an ally of the coalition government.

While rejecting the allegations of 'horse-trading', Asif Ali Zardari said if Hassan Murtaza was the candidate for Punjab CM slot, he would have invested money. The PPP co-Chairman further said that he has presented himself for reconciliation on the political situation of the country and Punjab.

Race for number game

PTI, PML-Q claim to have support of 186 MPs

Qureshi says turncoats to see their political death this time

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Following the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) victory in Punjab by-elections, the number game for Punjab Chief Minister (CM) slot has once again become the focus. According to informed sources, the PTI was eyeing the Independent members of the provincial assembly (MPAs) ahead of the Punjab CM elections. A PTI leader has claimed that two independent members have voiced their support for the party in the Punjab CM poll.

Meanwhile, sources have claimed that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has advised five PTI MPAs to remain absent on the

day of the election. The PML-N has claimed that three PTI MPAs have been persuaded to remain absent. Amid the numbers game, the voting for Punjab CM is likely to take place as run-off election, sources added.

It is pertinent to mention here that polling will be held tomorrow in the Punjab Assembly for the election of the new Chief Minister. The polling will be conducted after the Lahore High Court ordered recounting of votes. Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Pervaiz Elahi is the candidate for the chief ministership on behalf of PTI and allied parties.

PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on that turncoats will see their

political death this time in the Punjab Chief Minister (CM) elections. While addressing a press conference today, Shah Mahmood said, "After witnessing the consciousness of the nation, a lawmaker will see political death after defecting the political party. "PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz] and PPP [Pakistan People's Party] has the expertise of buying consciences but it will result in nothing other than the political death of the turncoat."

Shah Mahmood Qureshi congratulated 19 lawmakers who took oath as the MPAs of the Punjab Assembly. He said that no one has witnessed such a big turnover in any by-elections as the voters responded to the call of Imran Khan. He said that the provincial chief

secretary and the police chief have the responsibility to clear the hurdles for the lawmakers who are coming to the Punjab Assembly during the CM elections today.

Qureshi said that the nation has rejected the turncoats in the Punjab by-polls. He expressed hopes that the PTI lawmakers in the Punjab Assembly will stay loyal to their political party in the upcoming CM elections. The PTI vice-chairman said that Imran Khan will address the PTI members of the provincial assembly (MPAs). He said that PTI has completed its number game and expressed hopes that the process of CM elections will be completed in a democratic and legal way. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has set its

eyes on the central government after a landslide wins in the Punjab by-polls. A committee has been formed to persuade the central government's allies to leave the government and rejoin the PTI alliance. According to details, a four-member committee has been formed by PTI to talk and persuade the government's allies to leave the government and join them. The Pervaiz Khattak-led committee would include Fawad Chaudhry, Asad Qaisar and Asad Umer.

The committee would initiate talks and negotiations with the ally parties in the central government including the Balochistan Awami Party, Baloch National Party (Mengal) and Jamat-e-Islami.

Govt organizations vow full support for successful conduct of IDEAS

Sindh Chief Minister chairs meeting on IDEAS 2022

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said that Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) and International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) emerged as an international rendezvous of defence manufactures, entrepreneurs, R&D specialists and top-level policy makers.



Nawaz and others also attended the meeting.

This he said while presiding over the meeting with Steering Committee meeting of IDEAS here at CM House. The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho, Sardar Shah, Nasir Shah, Administrator Karachi Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, IG Police Ghulam Nabi Memon, Adl IGs and other concerned officers.

From the DEPO side DG Depo Maj Gen Arif Malik, Brigadier Naveed Azam, Commodore Tahir, Col Ahmed

The CM said that the IDEAS was an event that provided enhanced opportunities for commercial exchange between delegates, trade visitors, defence officials and manufacturers

from within Pakistan and abroad. Syed Murad Ali Shah said that 11th edition of IDEAS 2022 scheduled to be held from 15-18 November, 2022 at Karachi Expo Center was indeed testimony to our pledge for encouraging technological growth.

"This edition of IDEAS will also pave the way for fostering and promoting Pakistan's strategic relations with the international community," he said.

DG DEPO Maj General M. Arif Malik briefing the meeting said that the event as per its traditions would host a number of splendid activities encompassing world's cutting edge defence technology demonstrations, International Seminar and business expansions through well planned B2B / B2G engagements.

He added that IDEAS Karachi Show would exclusively be arranged for the people of Karachi at Sea View (Nishan e Pakistan) on November 17, 2022.

During the meeting, all government organizations and departments pledged their full support for successful conduct of IDEAS 2022. Agencies

Speakers call for joint efforts to eliminate corruption



Staff Reporter

KHARIAN: A seminar was organized at Government Asghar Ali Graduate College for Women Kharian.

The guest of honor of the event was Dr. Tahir Aziz. The seminar formally started with recitation of Holy Quran. Principal of the College, Tahira Rasheed highlighted the aims and objectives of seminar.

Students of the college including Sadia, Iman Fatima, Azki Amjad, Samawiya Ehsan, and Farhat Ashfaq highlighted ways and means to end corruption in the country in their speeches. Dr. Tahir Aziz, in his address, paid tribute to the principal of the institution and teachers for organizing the event. He also appreciated the students for their participation and speeches. He distributed prizes among the students who got positions.

Seminar held to mark World Population Day

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) arranged a seminar to mark the World Population Day.

The Department of Rural Sociology and Population Welfare Department organised the seminar, which was presided over by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqar Ahmad Khan.

Additional Deputy Commissioner General Qaiser Abbas Rind, former Social Sciences Dean Dr Ashfaq Maan, District Population Officer Atif Ali, Deputy Population Officer Tayyaba Azam and Muhammad Aslam Saqib from the Auzqaf Department also spoke.

Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan said that the country was facing serious problems due to increasing population and shrinking resources. He said that the population of Bangladesh was higher than that of Pakistan. But, now Bangladesh has controlled the spread of population with the support of effective strategies and religious circles. He said that in 1951, the population of Pakistan was 33.7 million which has now exceeded to 220 million. He said that last year, Pakistan had to import more than 10 billion Dollars of food items, which is a matter of concern for an agricultural country. Agencies

IGP Sindh for strict security during Abdullah Shah Ghazi Urs

KARACHI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon on Thursday instructed the police to ensure extraordinary security measures on the occasion of a three-day Urs celebrations of Hazrat Abdullah Shah Ghazi.

He said in view of the participation of pilgrims and devotees from other parts of the country in the celebrations of Urs, the security should be made extraordinary at the entrance and exit routes of Sindh and all the major and minor highways, according to spokesman for IGP Sindh.

Sindh Police chief said under the district level security plan, measures like intelligence collection and sharing, patrolling, snap checking, picketing, recce, surveillance, blockade and searching should be made extraordinary in order to control the law and order situation. Agencies

Yemen condemns Houthi militias' attacks

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Yemen has condemned attacks by Houthi militias on the village of Khabzah in Al-Qurayshiah District, Al-Bayda Governorate. A "Statement of Condemnation" issued by Yemeni Ministry of Legal Affairs & Human Rights regarding the terrorist attacks by Houthi militias on the village of Khabzah in Al-Qurayshiah District, Al-Bayda Governorate, said that Houthi militias are using various types of medium and heavy weapons, imposing a suffocating and humiliating siege on its people, and preventing the entry of food and medical supplies and the aid to the injured. The Ministry of Legal Affairs urged the international community to act immediately and exercise pressure on the Houthi militias to stop these blatant attacks on civilians, end the siege and abide by the truce.



Breaking Record

LAHORE: Commuters make their way through a flooded street after a heavy rain shower at Badami Bagh area in Provincial Capital. The latest spell of monsoon rain has broken a 20-year record as the provincial capital received 234mm of down-fall in seven hours.



Photo: Online

Monsoon effects to spread countrywide in days ahead: PMD

ISLAMABAD: The prevailing monsoon spell will further lash out various parts of the country as the prevailing weather system will sprawl further within next coming days.

The ongoing monsoon rains are in their active phase especially in the Northern and Central areas of the country including Rawalpindi, Islamabad and Lahore, Deputy Director Flood Forecasting Department, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD), Dr Zaheer Ahmed Babar told APP while sharing updates on the monsoon rains.

Babar said these rains were expected to travel further to other parts of the country within the next two days. "In the North, areas like Peshawar and Kashmir are likely to experience rainfall while in the South cities like Thatta and Badin in Sindh are expected to be hit by downpour," he added.

The Met Office official underlined

the monsoon pattern of this season was abnormal that wreaked havoc in various parts of the country particularly the Southern region. He mentioned that an early peak was expected in the rain pattern and it became a reality with the ongoing excessive rains throughout the country. "The areas like Balochistan and Sindh have been severely hit due to this early spell which was previously not common in the region".

He further explained that there was a list of negative effects that should be looked out for in the coming days. "Many cities may have to face urban flooding including cities like Karachi that are already inundated due to the excessive rains this season. Simultaneously, there are chances of flash flooding and landslides in the mountainous regions of the country," Babar added.

Commenting on the positive impacts of monsoon rains, the Met

Office official underscored that the prevailing rains were recharging the water reservoirs and underground water reserves. "At the same time, the crop growth such as that of Rice and Sugarcane will be positively effected due to excessive availability of water for kharif season".

He highlighted that the Met department has also released an advisory for travelers and tourists to avoid venturing into high risk areas especially in the North and South region due to the inclement and take all precautionary measures to avoid any untoward situation.

"They [tourists] are requested to regularly check weather updates and road blockage situation reports. They should also avoid crossing over flooded areas on foot or in vehicles. The farmers are advised to take precautionary measures in the context of flooding on their fields," he mentioned. Agencies

Langu directs to accelerate action against anti-social elements

QUETTA: Adviser to Chief Minister Balochistan for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Ziaullah Langu on Thursday said that counter-measures against anti-social elements should be accelerated to maintain law and order situation in all the districts of the province.

Mir Ziaullah Langu directed that the security of sensitive installations, religious places of worship, educational institutions should be reviewed and intelligence-based operations against anti-social elements to be continued on a daily basis to prevent subversives from disrupting public order and anti-peace elements could not succeed in their nefarious purposes.

He issued these instructions to the officers while presiding over the meeting regarding the law and order situation in the province. Additional Chief Secretary Home, Additional IG Police and senior officers of law enforcement agencies participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary Home gave a briefing about the operations against anti-social and extremist elements, on which the Adviser Home giving instructions, said that the movement of persons included in the Fourth schedule should be closely monitored and the SOPs issued in this regard should be strictly implemented.

The provincial adviser for Home said that the role and services of the law enforcement agencies in the elimination of terrorism from the province are commendable, officers and workers should continue to perform their duties with the same spirit and sense of duty and to protect the lives and property of the citizens.

He also instructed that in view of the recent incidents, the process of monitoring banned organizations should be made more effective along with security high alert across the province.

6 TCF alumni conferred degrees at GIKI Convocation

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: It was a moment of pride for The Citizens Foundation (TCF) as 6 TCF alumni were awarded degrees at the 26th Convocation of The Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology (GIKI), a renowned university in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan earlier this month.

TCF is a non-profit that has been working for the last 27 years to make education accessible in rural areas and slums for less privileged children in Pakistan. The Economist calls TCF 'perhaps the largest network of independently-run schools in



the world.' To date, 53,000 students have matriculated from TCF, many of whom have gone ahead to study in top universities within and outside of Pakistan.

Asad Raza, a TCF School and College Alumni from Surjani Town, who was recently awarded a BS degree in Electrical Engi-

neering at GIKI said, "My father is a fruit-seller. It would have been very difficult for me to study at a good school and college if it wasn't for TCF. I am grateful for the academic and financial support I have received from TCF throughout my journey that has made this triumph possible."

On this remarkable achievement, Syed Asaad Ayub Ahmad, the CEO of TCF remarked, "We are filled with joy and gratitude on yet another remarkable achievement by our alumni - most of whom are first-generation learners in their families."

He added: "Each one of these graduates carries a unique story of struggle, perseverance and overcoming extraordinary odds to get to this point.

It reminds us that every child holds the potential for greatness if given the right opportunity. We wish our children the best of luck for their next chapter in their lives."

KP CM directs to collect complete data of tube-wells

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed the quarters concerned to collect complete data of the tube-wells constructed by the provincial government for clean drinking water supply as well as details of the all non-functional tube wells across the province.

He issued these directives while chairing a meeting of the Public Health Engineering Department held here on Thursday. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary PHE Muhammad Idrees Khan, Director Performance Management and Reforms Unit, representatives of Local Government Department and other relevant officials attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed matters and issues related to the supply of clean drinking water to the public across the province and necessary directives were issued to the concerned quarters for prompt redressal of the public complaints to this effect.

The chief minister also directed the authorities to take necessary measures to prevent misuse of tube wells constructed in private premises, and to take strict actions against those involved in the misuse of such tube wells.

Taking notice of complaints regarding non-supply of drinking water to the masses from government tube wells constructed in private premises at some places, the chief minister

has directed the quarters concerned to provide details of all such Tube Wells and water tanks adding that such tube wells have been constructed to facilitate the general masses with clean drinking water, and not to benefit any particular individual.

He further directed the concerned quarter to devise an action plan to make all the non-functional tube wells functional as well as to retrieve the occupied government tube wells adding that realistic timelines should also be fixed for the implementation of that action plan.

"The government has spent significant public resources on the establishment of tube wells with the sole aim to ensure supply of clean drinking water to the people," he said and directed the quarters concerned to constitute the committees at district level to resolve such issues at local level.

He further directed the high ups of the PHE Department to come up with a scheme for the tube wells which do not have a distribution network for the supply of water to the people.

He issued directives that no project for the establishment of tube wells without a distribution network would be approved in the future. Moreover, Mahmood Khan directed to accelerate the pace of work on GIS mapping to ensure effective management of all the infrastructure of PHE Department across the province.

Academia-industry linkages prerequisite for progress: President

President IIUI Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi and Rector Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai called on President Dr. Arif Alvi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi stressed that linkage of academia with industry is a prerequisite for the country's progress and applicable research according to the market trends is the need of the hour.

The President expressed these views during meeting with Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Rector, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President IIUI, who called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.

Dr. Alvi said Offices of Research, Innovation and Commercialization and Business Incubation Centers

launched by HEC must be well utilized by all the universities to know the market requirements and contemporary trends.

The President emphasized that skilled youth is imperative for the country's bright future and we must focus on technical education and vocational training. IIUI Chancellor also urged the universities to broaden the scope of their education systems by promoting virtual dissemination of knowledge in order to increase the number of graduates in the country. He also advised IIUI to double the educational shifts in the University. The president of Pakistan said that the university needed to equip its students with soft skills, such as critical thinking,



effective communication and teamwork, besides providing technical/hard skills.

Underscoring the increasing importance of online education, the President said that online contents of the knowledge needed to be enhanced as distance learning is cost-effective and

easily accessible and duly recognized worldwide. H.E. President Alvi also emphasized the need to launch two-year Associate Degree Programs in order to fulfill the market's growing demand for skilled graduates.

The President of Pakistan asked to develop and strength-

en online mode of learning by opting for online learning resources with the help of HEC to provide updated learning facilities to the faculty and students.

On the occasion, The President of Pakistan/Chancellor, IIUI was briefed by IIUI Rector and President on the implementation of new organogram and its implementation at the faculty level in the light of university's strategic plan. The President of Pakistan was also briefed about the administrative reforms initiated at the university such as provision of the peaceful milieu for students, while he was also apprised on enhanced resource optimization and efforts of digitization.

UT ready to establish IT Park in Islamabad: Iranian envoy

Ambassador of Iran Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini meets with Federal Minister for Science & Technology Agha Hassan Baloch

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini called on the Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch here on Thursday.

Senior officials of the ministry including Scientific Advisor Zain ul Abidin also attended the meeting.

Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch welcomed the Iranian delegation and highlighted the deep rooted cordial and fraternal relations between two countries based on faith and cultural affinities. He said Pakistan always highly values its brotherly ties with its neighboring country which have stood the test of time. It is a matter of great satisfaction that bilateral relations are witnessing an upward



trajectory marked by high level exchanges in political, economic, defense and security spheres.

Agha Hassan Baloch said that the two countries could benefit from each other's experience in various areas of common interest. Pakistan and Iran are amongst the founding members of ECO. ECO Science Foundation is an intergovernmental organization working under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Federal minister said that Iran was the first country to

recognize the state of Pakistan. Minister said that the two countries have shared history and literature. We both have a convergence of views in a number of areas ranging from Kashmir to Palestine. We mutually desire to see lasting peace and stability in the region and to take joint stand against rising Islamophobia. He added Agha Hassan highlighted the tremendous opportunities for cooperation that exists between the two countries. He said that Pakistan can learn from the expertise of

Iran in the field of science and technology, and we have strong intentions for enhancing collaboration in various areas of common interest.

Seyyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini said deep historical, cultural, religious, linguistic, art links and commonalities between the two countries are a suitable ground for the expansion of scientific, educational and academic relations between the two countries. He said that the University of Tehran is willing to make a Technology/IT park in Islamabad. He stressed that MoUs should be expedited between Pakistani and Iranian Universities to enhance exchanges. The ambassador said that Iran and Pakistan have a border of 900 km and both countries should take advantage of that to strengthen each other as the both countries have great potential for extensive collaboration in the areas of energy, trade and science.

The Federal Minister for Science and Technology praised the current government's efforts in showing keen interest in the field of Science and technology. He said the opening of new border crossing points and early operationalization of the first border market at Mand-Pashin will strengthen people-to-people linkages and formal trade and commerce for local people.

The Federal minister said that both countries should make efforts to strengthen trade via the long Pakistan-Iran border that demarcates the Iranian province of Sistan and Balochistan from the Pakistan province of Balochistan. Gates should be built on the border, which will boost the economy through trade in the areas of Taftan, Turbat, Buleda and Panjgur.

Health Corner

Influenza surveillance system shows early signs of COVID-19 pandemic

ISLAMABAD: Outliers in the number of cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) that tested negative for influenza were present in global influenza surveillance networks early in the COVID-19 pandemic, an average of 13.3 weeks before the first reported COVID-19 peaks in 16 of the 28 countries included in a new study publishing July 19 in PLOS Medicine by Natalie Cobb of University of Washington, US, and colleagues.

Surveillance systems are important in detecting changes in disease patterns and can act as early warning systems for emerging disease outbreaks. The WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) is a network of centers and laboratories across 123 WHO member states which collect respiratory specimens for influenza testing. Data from these labs are made available through FluNet, a web-based tool for monitoring influenza trends.

In the new study, Cobb and colleagues evaluated outliers in influenza-negative ILI in 2020 compared to trends over the previous five years among 28 countries with established ILI surveillance and a high incidence of COVID-19. The team found that in 16 countries, outliers in this dataset preceded the first reported COVID-19 peaks with an average lag time of 13.3 weeks. The earliest outliers occurred during the week of January 13, 2020 in Peru, the Philippines, Poland, and Spain. In the United States and the United Kingdom, outliers in the dataset were detectable the week of March 9, 2020, 4 to 6 weeks before the first week of the reported COVID-19 peak. Lag times of over 20 weeks were seen in some countries. The researchers say that these outliers may represent undetected spread of COVID-19 in early 2020, although a limitation is that it was not possible to evaluate SAR-CoV-2 positivity during this time.

The findings "highlight the importance of strengthening routine disease surveillance networks to enhance the ability to identify novel diseases and inform public health responses on a global scale," the researchers say. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

PAC organizes Islamic calligraphy exhibition

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The celebrations regarding the Diamond Jubilee of Pakistan at the Punjab Arts Council started with a group Islamic calligraphy exhibition. Director of Punjab Arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the chief guest of the exhibition.



Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that the artists have written the Quranic verses in a very beautiful way. The art of Islamic calligraphy has a prominent and unique place in our civilization and culture. Today's youth is stepping into the field of Islamic calligraphy with good attitude and new thinking. The work of the youth is a means of expressing the realities of life. The way in which the Holy Quran has been written in the artworks from Pakistan and around the world in the exhibition is a source of pride for us.

'A Night at Lok Virsa Museum'

Pakistan, Indonesia blessed with rich cultural heritage, says Ambassador Adam Tugio

21-24 July: Indonesian Embassy, Lok Virsa organize grand photo exhibition

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Indonesian Ambassador to Pakistan Adam Tugio said, "Indonesia and Pakistan are home to one of the oldest civilizations in the world."

He expressed these views while addressing the gathering on the inauguration ceremony of 4-day photo exhibition titled "A Night at Lok Virsa Museum: The Confluence of Civilization between Indonesia and Pakistan" jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesian and Lok Virsa started on 21st July and will continue till 24th July 2022 at Lok Virsa Museum. The inaugural ceremony was attended by the diplomatic corps, business community, government officials, prominent media personalities, and the Indonesian diaspora.

The Ambassador further said that "the exhibition is a humble attempt to connect the dots of ancient civilization, including art form, sculptures, architecture, and the spread of various religions in



"Joint efforts by Lok Virsa and the Indonesian Embassy would go a long way in promoting cultural relation between Indonesia and Pakistan."
—Executive Director of Lok Virsa, Sajjad Ahmad

the archipelago through the Indian sub-continent".

Adam Tugio said that Pakistan and Indonesia are blessed with rich cultural heritage and traditions carrying interesting and attractive similarities which play an important role in keeping the brother ties stronger, he added.

Ambassador hoped that the exhibition will help Pakistanis and even foreigners living in Pakistan to better understand the cultural potential that exists between the two countries besides having first-

hand information about hitherto unexplored facets of the Indonesian cultural heritage. "A Night at Lok Virsa Museum", aims to highlight fresh perspectives into historical connections, religious backgrounds, and to strengthen the cultural ties between the two Muslim brotherly countries.

The Executive Director of Lok Virsa, Sajjad Ahmad said, "We hope this joint effort on the part of Lok Virsa and The Indonesian Embassy would go a long way in promoting and strengthening the

existing cultural relation between Indonesia and Pakistan." Visitors were captivated by the photo exhibition, Indonesia Batik and Ajrak stall, which displayed a diverse range of vibrant and traditional products. The live batik making and Ajrak stamping drew a large crowd, and the talent and creativity of the artists were highly appreciated.

The audience enjoyed the fusion and commixture of Indonesian and Pakistani music in the blend of the local piquancy while the Pakistani artists performed their expertise on Tabla's, flute, and Rabab. The Pakistani artists also performed the song "Hello hello Sayang tu," which means "Hello dear one" in Indonesian, from the well-known Pakistani film "Bandish."

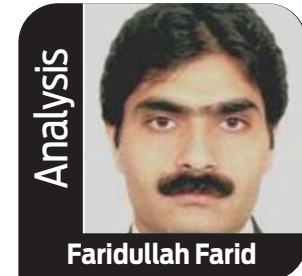
Visitors are also interested in Indonesian ambassador vehicles.

He has taken a fancy to the truck art of Pakistan and got his official vehicle painted like the brightly-colored, eye-popping, decorated trucks rolling on the highways of Pakistan. The popularity of Pakistani truck art continues to grow, especially with foreigners and tourists. In the past, it cast its spell on the British royalty when Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge arrived in an auto-rickshaw with traditional Pakistani truck art to attend reception during their official visit in October 2019. Moreover, the event was followed by an Indonesian dinner hosted by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia. The guests were served with a variety of Indonesian delicacies such as Sattay ayam, nasi goreng, fried noodles, martabak, layer cake and many more dishes.

Photos by Ghulam Farid

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Pakistan's sacrifices for Afghan refugees & World Refugees' Day



Analysis

Faridullah Farid

Pakistan being the host to more than 3 million Afghan refugees since 1979 despite socio-economic and security challenges must be appreciated by the international community especially on the eve of World Refugees Day which is celebrated globally every year on 20th June. For the past four decades, Pakistan is hosting the world's second largest refugee population in the form of Afghan refugees. In 1979, as a result of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, an influx of people seeking safety began.

In May 2022, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) updated its Country of Origin Information (COI) report on Pakistan. According to the research, there were around 3 million Afghans living in Pakistan in January 2022. The UNHCR

claims that more than 300,000 Afghans have fled to Pakistan since the Taliban assumed control of their country in August 2021, after the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan.

Pakistanis have been welcoming Afghan refugees under the auspices of the United Nations High Commission for Afghan Refugees for the past 40 years (UNHCR). Refugees generally have little say in their host country and are confined to refugee camps, but Pakistan has openly permitted Afghan refugees to reside on its mainland, and these refugees are contributing constructively to their host country.

Pakistan has essentially adopted a fairly permissive approach to Afghan refugees, which is more in line with the 1969 Organization of African Union (OAU) Convention definition of refugees. The Pakistani government believes that, despite the fact that it is not a signatory to any international refugee treaties and lacks refugee-specific national legislation, it has provided adequate protection to Afghan refugees during their four decades in Pakistan through generous administrative measures.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are two Muslim neighbouring coun-

tries, and according to Islamic beliefs, a Muslim's woes are the troubles of other Muslims, and it is vital for them to aid one another. Ahadith makes it clear that assisting Muslims with food, clothing, and other necessities is both an obligation and a rewarding gesture. In Allah's eyes, the noblest deed is to gratify and support a believer who is in need, to relieve him of his load, to pay off his debts, or to satisfy his hunger.

Pakistan has always assisted its Afghan compatriots, whether in the face of natural calamities or warfare, in addition to sheltering more than 3 million Afghan refugees. Pakistan is dedicated to preserving a peaceful and constructive relationship with Afghanistan based on mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Despite the fact that Pakistan is currently experiencing an economic downturn, it has extended its hand of brotherhood to its Afghan countrymen by offering timely help. Pakistan has despatched two planes stocked with food and shelter materials for flood-affected Afghans during recent flash floods. In addition, Pakistan has urged the OIC to step up its efforts to aid the affected Afghan people

through the Afghan Humanitarian Trust Forum (AHTF), warning that flooding could exacerbate Afghanistan's present humanitarian catastrophe.

Pakistan has also contributed to Afghanistan's overall capacity building. From providing infrastructure such as hospitals, roads, schools, hostels, and bridges to professional capacity building in areas such as education, health, and agriculture, Pakistan has generously aided the Afghan people. Pakistan's development contribution to Afghanistan exceeded \$1 billion in June of last year, according to facts and numbers published on the official website of Pakistan's Foreign Office.

The Urban Refugees Support Program was recently developed to support and facilitate refugees residing in KPK's urban districts in terms of health, education, job, and protection. Special programmes are offered through the Refugees Affected and Hosting Areas Program (RAHA) to improve the skills of refugees in various trades so that they can make a better living for themselves and their families.

Given the worsening humanitarian situation in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US/NATO forces, the UN

has repeatedly warned that humanitarian conditions have worsened since the Taliban took power, and financial sanctions on Kabul have pushed the country's war-torn national economy to the brink of collapse, and Pakistan, as the country's immediate neighbour, is providing all-out assistance and support to the Afghan people. Pakistan, on the other hand, requires international assistance in finding a durable solution for Afghan refugees because it is unable to do so, on its own.

While praising Pakistan's positive role in supporting Afghan refugees, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Pakistan has provided the world with a global public good in supporting Afghan refugees, and it is time for the international community to assume its responsibilities and to support Pakistan very meaningfully." Therefore, now it is high time for the international community to recognise this truth and take action to protect these refugees by assisting Pakistan's government in meeting the needs of Afghan refugees who have been staying on its soil for nearly four decades.

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Global digital lifeline

In today's global context of several overlapping crises, this needs to become the norm. Secure and resilient internet infrastructure is a fundamental necessity. In periods of crisis, digital technologies provide a lifeline that keeps people, communities, and businesses functioning. From the Covid-19 pandemic to violent conflicts and natural disasters, being connected has allowed us to continue working, learning, and communicating.

How policymakers have responded to these emergencies has played a large part. In particular, as new paper by the World Bank Group's Development Committee shows, more agile regulation has accelerated digitalisation and unleashed innovation. During the pandemic, as more and more of our lives went online, internet usage spiked worldwide. In 2020, 800mn people went online for the first time, and 58 low- and middle-income countries used digital payments to deliver Covid-19 relief.

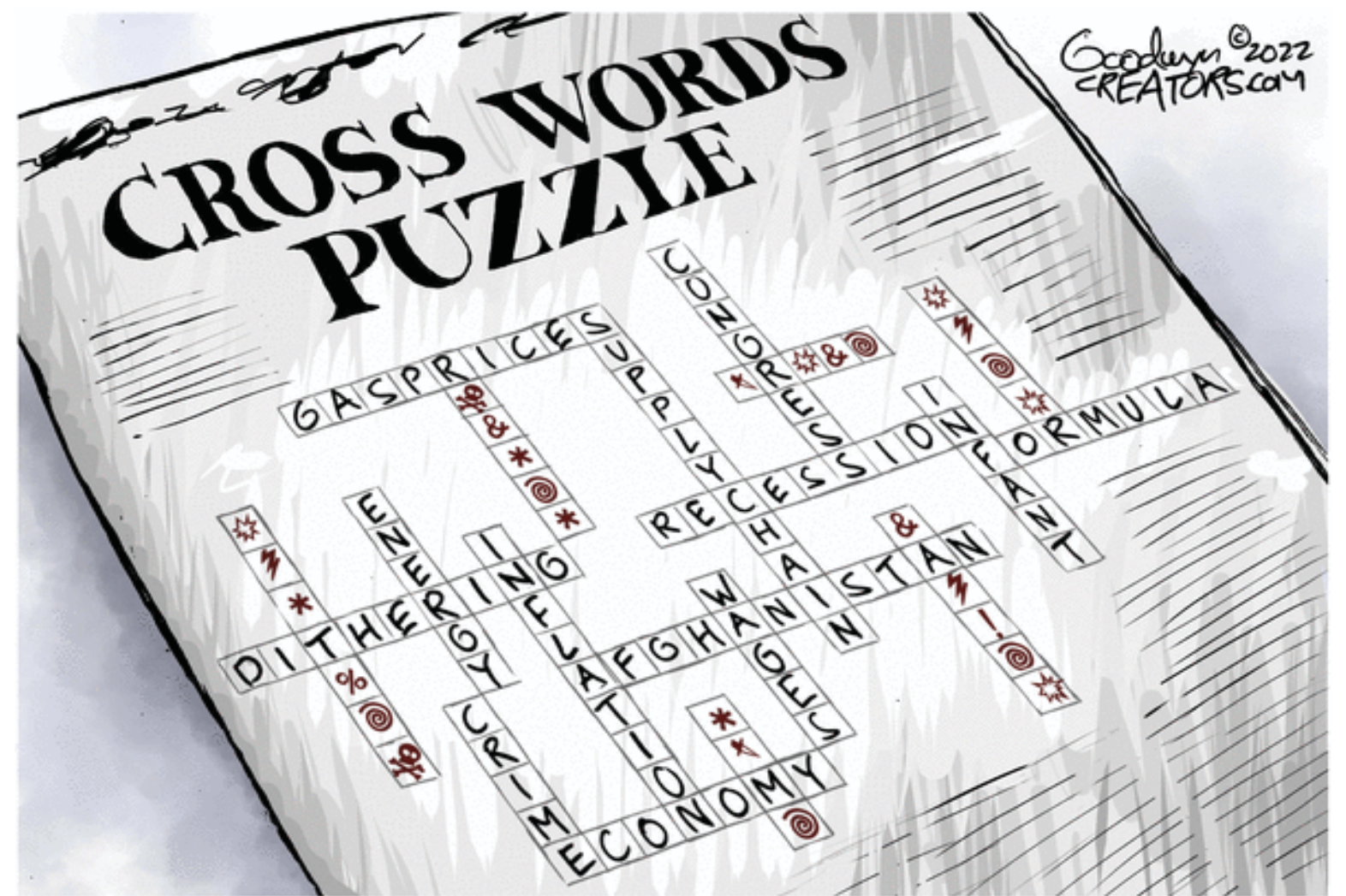
To manage that surge, governments and regulators in more than 80 countries moved quickly to change rules, including those governing the allocation of radio spectrum – the electromagnetic waves used for wireless communications. In Ghana, regulators assigned temporary radio spectrum to networks in high demand, and all mobile-service providers were granted permission to expand coverage. This resulted in better-quality service for more than 30 million mobile subscribers, letting them go to work, learn online, and access essential services.

Agile regulations have also helped digital technologies offer critical support to people in fragile and conflict situations. In Ukraine, the presence of a strong Internet connection through satellite links, even while terrestrial infrastructure is under attack, has enabled the government to communicate with its citizens in real time. At the beginning of the war, shelling and cyberattacks were predicted to take down the Internet, but innovations such as the satellite hookups have kept the country online. Here, too, the Ukrainian government moved quickly to speed up permissions and adapt rules.

But a digital lifeline is effective only if it is safeguarded from cyberattack, something that Ukraine knows well. For many years, the country has been a testing ground for strikes on infrastructure. Hackers carried out waves of attacks that hit Ukraine's distribution centres, call centres, and power grid. And it's not just Ukraine. All countries are vulnerable to these incursions. The United States fell victim to cyberattacks last year that took down its largest fuel pipeline, leaving many Americans in long lines to fill their gas tanks. And in Africa, Kenyan Internet users endured more than 14 million malware incidents in 2020.

Like cyberattacks, nature can cause damage to communications infrastructure that demands an agile reaction. A volcanic eruption in January this year sent the island nation of Tonga into digital darkness. The eruption cut Tonga's single undersea telecom cable and threw the country into 38 days of isolation from the Internet and much of the outside world. This crisis has prompted discussions about how to strengthen the network and emergency-response systems, so Tongans are not at risk of digital darkness again.

To mitigate such vulnerabilities, unleashing digitalisation needs to be a high priority even in periods of relative calm. Potentially transformative yet fast-evolving technologies require policymakers to promote financing, regulations, and institutions that make it easier to test out new ideas in real life. Some countries are starting to make progress.



Gilgit Serena Hotel; Where Hospitality is Culture & Tradition



Analysis

Munaza Kazmi

Gilgit-Baltistan is, perhaps, the most spectacular region of Pakistan in terms of its geography and scenic beauty. Moreover, it is strategically close to the heart of Central Asia and is the home of the world's greatest mountain ranges. The Karakoram, The Himalaya, The Hindukush, and The Pamir radiate out from this center like spokes on a wheel. This array of mountains has carefully guarded Pakistan's frontiers with China, India, Afghanistan and across the narrow Wakhan corridor. Rich in history, culture, and natural beauty the area has been visited for centuries by travelers, both modern day tourists and ancient travelers from the Silk Road. It also remained for many years a focal point of political and military rivalries amongst the Russian, British and Chinese empires.

Gilgit the capital of Gilgit-Baltistan known as Asia's wonderland stands as the paradise when it comes to describing the beauty. Also, the region holds much significance on ground of linking Pakistan with China and Central Asia. Moreover, in past it was a major hub for Buddhism. Gilgit is a dazzling mountainous valleys situated at an elevation of 1,500 meters, which make the

topography and climate quiet extreme. However, due to the smooth working of Karakoram Highway, and Gilgit Airport one can easily reach Gilgit. For every kind of traveler, the city has a package, there's nature, history, adventure, discovery, and luxury. Common language is Balti, instead I would say "Hospitality".

Besides the supreme astonishing fact is, the region has one of the highest literacy rates as compared to other similar districts in Pakistan due to the influence of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, whom most of the populace follow as their spiritual leader. I had seen an equal number of girls wearing school uniforms on top, and women working side by side with men. I had found them in almost every fragment of market let's say selling jewels, on tea stalls, in self-operated restaurants, in fields, and even in hotel "Gilgit Serena" where I was staying. This I found very remarkable!

Gilgit Serena Hotel located on Sherulah Baig Road is in proximity from the bus stand and the airport is a gorgeous resort property in the cradle of the glittering Karakoram Mountain range and was my home for the next few days. Today after a year the memories of the Elegantly chic building with floral lawns stretching on a massive area, natural water fountains, my early morning walks in the bloomy gardens, picking juicy apples, tasting red strawberries, running after baby squirrels and that afternoon joys of swing makes me think of planning for another.

Nestled into the glittering shadow of the stunning Karakoram Mountain range, Gilgit Serena Hotel recaptures the warmth and charm of a long-ago mountain retreat, allowing visitors to experience the legendary region in

a most authentic way while enjoying modern day amenities.

The hotel offers new experiences and discoveries amid an ancient setting. Where nature lovers can explore the snow-capped beauty of the Karakoram mountain range while enjoying superlative local cuisine in heritage-style. Furthermore, perfect attention to detail and an eye for local design and décor has been given that creates



Photo by: Munaza Kazmi

a warm, inviting shelter after a day of adventure. Every interior and furnishing of the room display the aura of pure Gilgit-Culture. Give your skin a new life by having a refreshing bath in the adjacent shower room, equipped with contemporary amenities. Later in the evening, grab a cup of coffee and step out onto the private balcony. I bet you would be enslaved by the captivating views of Shiny Mount Rakaposhi, Kalei-

doscopic Danyore Village, and Dancing Gilgit and Hunza Rivers.

In total The Hotel has 44 Deluxe Rooms, including 02 Executive Suites which merge modern comfort with traditional refinement recently upgraded. Beside bed and bath, all accommodations feature minibars, mini refrigerators, work desks, 24-hour room service, private balconies and most significant to remember all rooms are smoke free.

Spacious 707-square-foot Executive Suites, designed for travelers seeking more space, feature a king bed, separate lounge, and a private balcony with outdoor seating. Handsomely designed, these 41 rooms offer one king or two twin beds, a work desk, internet, a safe deposit box and attached bath. Hence you can tailor the visit according to your requirement.

For Dining Gilgit Serena Hotel

is the perfect choice, on my first visit I thanked my friend for the recommendation. It's a treat for all 5 senses, the fabulous Traditional environment, the aroma of freshly baked bread, the hospitable staff, delightful food and the dazzling view of Mount Rakaposhi. Moreover, the hotel offers authentic Pakistani delights including local regional dishes, complemented by innovative Chinese and Continental specialties with inviting surroundings. Gilgit Serena Hotel features a splendid restaurant to enchant every palate, with ambience as unique and inspiring as the cuisine. Whether you are looking to indulge in a lavish buffet or Afternoon High Tea on Sunday, unforgettable dining experiences await. Furthermore, all meals at the hotel feature fresh ingredients some from Hotel's very own fruit orchards and organic vegetable garden, providing you with the unique opportunity to savor some of the best cuisine in the region.

Renowned throughout Gilgit for its Pakistani, Continental, and Chinese cuisine. I enjoyed the lavish food with views of the hotel's lawns, mountains and the live playing of Rubab and Tabla on the unforgettable tune of Shahr-ruk'h's "Baazighar". Restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, though on Sunday, a High Tea is accompanied by buffet and a la carte service. However, Breakfast is complimentary for all the hotel guests. From May through September, Garden BBQ features everything from seafood to local chicken and beef specialties, under the shade of native trees. The sounds of traditional live music and the water channel's gentle cascade offer an enchanting backdrop for a classical dining experience.

Well sometimes, enjoying food in the

privacy of our cozy room or a Monarch like feel of dining in the private balcony is what I would love. In the Hotel, around the clock service is available. Framed by traditional wood architecture, awe-inspiring views of the snow-capped Karakoram Mountain Range and lush organic orchards and gardens, Gilgit Serena Hotel is the most unique and beautiful hotel in the Gilgit Valley.

Merging the finest of local culture and heritage with personalised service, hotel offers exclusive and immersive experiences designed to make your holiday an unforgettable experience. Whether you wish to visit one of Gilgit's three hanging bridges, picnic by the Jutial Stream or ski the slopes of Naltar, the staff will help you experience all the wonders Gilgit-Baltistan has to offer.

During my visit I learned about "Karighar" a CSR project of Serena Hotels, a vocational center that was established back in the year 2016, has been making a significant contribution to provide entrepreneurship training to various segments of communities mainly women in Gilgit-Baltistan region of Pakistan, for a sustainable growth and quality of life. On my visit I found Karighar an economic lift-up, empowering the community in this remote region to supplement the household income by providing them with education and training related to the bee-farming, besides stitching and embroidery. This is not just a hotel but a value chain, however after visiting Gilgit Serena Hotel, where hospitality is culture and tradition, I understood why it has been said.

The writer is a travel writer and scientific contributor to national & international publications and can be on Twitter @munaza_kazmi.

57-Country Islamic Chamber represents a \$7 trillion economy: President FPCCI

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh says Pakistan should focus on enhancing its exports to OIC countries

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that 57-Country alliance of Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) represent an enormous collective GDP of \$7 trillion and that makes it the most significant alliance for Pakistan to enhance its exports, attract FDI and remittances. He was representing Pakistan at the 38th General Assembly of the alliance to discuss issues of trade, investments, economy and B2B relations.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that the trade between OIC countries stands at only 17.5 percent; while for other alliances like EU it is 55 percent and NAFTA 58 percent. He added that all ICCIA countries should work towards enhancement of trade to capitalize on mutual strengths. He also attended the 33rd Board of Directors meeting of ICCIA.

FPCCI Chief has pointed out that Pakistan should focus on enhancing its exports to OIC countries in value-added textiles, leather products, footwear, handicrafts, sports goods, pharmaceuticals, surgical goods, gems & jewelry, rice, fruits & vegetables and construction materials.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh emphasized that Pakistan should capitalize on people-to-people, business-to-business and chamber-to-chamber contacts; and, translate them into



Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, representing Pakistan in the 38th General Assembly of the 57-Country Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA). Sheikh Abdullah Saleh Kamel, President ICCIA; H.E. Reda Al Saleh, President Oman Chamber of Commerce and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

government-to-government contacts aimed at increasing trade, investment and economic cooperation tangibly.

FPCCI President pointed out that one of the most pivotal opportunities with ICCIA countries for Pakistan is to export skilled and semi-skilled human resources to these countries and there is a potential to export as many as 1-2 million additional HR to these countries.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh also expressed his profound concerns over the increasing energy and power prices in Pakistan & its fast increasing demand of the same; and, have sought assistance from the oil-rich and economically sound brotherly Islamic countries to come forward and help Pakistan in this hour of need as they have done on many critical occasions in the past.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stated that Pakistan is directly affected by any social or economic issues faced by Afghanistan; and, Muslim Ummah should collectively help Afghanistan to come out of food shortages, meet healthcare needs, tackle unemployment, build basic infrastructure and create enabling environment for economic growth.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has proposed that OIC should organize trade fairs & exhibitions at various levels, i.e. across ICCIA, single-country exhibitions and sectorial fairs as well. He noted with a sigh of relief that this is possible now as most of the COVID-related restrictions have been lifted.

Tadawul launches first Shariah-compliant index



RIYADH: The Saudi Exchange (Tadawul) has launched its first Shariah-compliant index, the TASI Islamic Index, to track the performance of the listed Shariah-compliant companies.

This step comes in line with growing demand and interest from local and international investors for Shariah-compliant investment tools, according to a press release on Sunday.

The index will guide investors and market participants when considering Shariah-compliant investments and allow asset managers to benchmark the performance of their Shariah-compliant portfolios.

The CEO of Tadawul, Mohammed Al Rumaih, said: "The Index will facilitate the launch of new financial products in the market to satisfy the increasing demand for Shariah-compliant investment tools."

Meanwhile, Al Rumaih added: "It will also strengthen the Saudi Exchange's position as the investors' exchange of choice and an attractive investment destination in line with Vision 2030's Financial Sector Development Program." Zawya

Gulf Islamic Investments acquires majority stake in UK's OFFA



DUBAI: Gulf Islamic Investments, a leading Shariah compliant global investment company based in the UAE, with assets under management in real estate, private equity and venture capital sectors, has announced a majority investment in OFFA, the UK's first Shariah-compliant bridge financing provider for the real estate market.

The investment will further expand OFFA's real estate financing proposition through the development of short-term and longer-term real estate financing products, a statement said.

Pankaj Gupta, Co-CEO of Gulf Islamic Investments, said: "OFFA is a highly attractive bridge-financing house that benefits from strong net profit margins and operates in a rapidly growing market that is currently worth £5.1

billion. "The company is based in the Birmingham area of England, which has the largest Muslim population in the UK, and is the only Shariah-compliant bridge financier in the UK. The value of bridge financing in the UK grew 8.5% in the first three months of 2022, and we believe the combination of property prices, demographics and OFFA's unique market position makes this a compelling investment opportunity."

Mohamed Al Hassan, Co-CEO of Gulf Islamic Investments, said: "This key investment in a high potential market reflects our commitment to identifying attractive opportunities across the globe. Further to our recent acquisition of the digital bank, we are in the process of continuing to seek out attractive opportunities in the same

space and in the direct credit sector to grow sustainable investor and stakeholder value."

Bilal Ahmed, CEO of OFFA, said: "This significant investment by Gulf Islamic Investments will provide us with the capital to expand our asset book and product range. We carefully evaluated potential investors and selected GII for its commitment to genuine partnership, true understanding of Shariah investment, proven international track record and strength of their fundamental experience."

The transaction is the latest in a series of GII investments in alternative assets such as direct credit, which offer distinct risk-reward characteristics and attractive diversification from traditional fixed income and equity asset classes. Zawya

Meezan Bank signs MoU with Huawei on Cloud Transformation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Meezan Bank and Huawei Pakistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cement their strategic partnership, through projects focused on Cloud Transformation and technological innovation, enabling Meezan Bank to augment its existing processes and systems. Group Head Information Technology, Faiz Ur Rehman, Group Head Digital Transformation and Innovation, Iqbal Ali Khan were present at the signing along with representatives from Huawei's side as well. According to the signing, Huawei and its partners will seek to aid the bank in hybrid cloud transformation and enhance the technology adoption.

Banks have the ability to capture and store enormous tranches of customer data on a daily basis. The problem is, that with legacy methods such as data storage siloes, banks are severely limited in how they use and connect this data, if at all. Cloud technology can centralize the data capture, storage, and interpretation processes. It can also reduce the costs associated with these critical processes and generate far richer, more precise, faster data-led insights, which banks can use to drive performance. The advancement to Cloud Transformation in banking is something that's happening all around the world and in Pakistan as well. Pakistan's Central Bank, State Bank of Pakistan is also actively reviewing the present regulatory framework to allow banks to adopt innovative



Cloud technologies.

Iqbal stated his thoughts at the signing, "Meezan Bank is focused on digital transformation to ensure it is able to consistently deliver on its commitment to excellence in customer service and improving customer experience. To achieve this objective we are confident that Huawei Cloud's long term investment in Pakistan will enable Meezan Bank to deliver on its transformation agenda. Huawei's leading edge technology with a Cloud-oriented focus to deliver quick-to-market customer solutions is critical."

According to Gartner's Market Share- IT Services, Huawei Cloud rose to No. Two in the global market in China and No. Five in the world. In addition, Huawei Cloud serves

80% of China's top 50 Internet companies, six state-owned banks, all of the 12 joint-stock commercial banks, and top 5 insurance institutions.

By switching to cloud technology, the need for on-site infrastructure maintenance, security patch updates, and storage is removed. This means that banks either don't require a team of employees to provide this specialist maintenance or they can redeploy such staff to concentrate on other urgent areas of business. The risks of delaying a mass infrastructural shift to the cloud are numerous. It allows competitors to improve their own operations and use the benefits that the cloud can bring, such as the ability to drive better customer engagement.

BankIslami becomes first Islamic bank to Finance EWHR financing

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: BankIslami, Pakistan's leading Islamic financial institution, has become the first Islamic Bank to have successfully structured and disbursed Pakistan's first Shariah-compliant Electronic Warehouse Receipt (EWHR) financing issued under the repository system managed by Naymat Collateral Management Company Limited.

To facilitate farmers & aggregators to avoid distress sales during the harvesting period, SECP issued Collateral Management Company (CMC) Regulations in the Year 2019 to create an enabling environment and accredit warehouses for the storage of different commodities. Naymat Collateral Management Company Limited (NCMCL), the first CMC of Pakistan registered under the said regulations, is authorized to accredit

warehouses to accept & store commodities, and issue Electronic Warehouse Receipts (EWHR) through a digital repository system duly connecting all relevant stakeholders, including Warehouse Operator, Depositor, Bank and CMC. Banks can access the system to accept EWHR for financing to their customers, as per their credit policy, against stored commodities.

A ceremony was held at BankIslami-Head

Office, Karachi to commemorate this first of its kind Shariah compliant EWR financing transaction. The ceremony was attended by President & CEO BankIslami, Syed Amir Ali and Shakaib Arif, CEO NCMCL along with other senior officials from both entities. BankIslami is among the nation's leading Banks with the highest number of depositors' accounts operating with NCMCL for financing under EWHR regime.



Syed Amir Ali, President & CEO BankIslami, congratulated the NCMCL team for taking this important initiative to strengthen the most important link of Pakistan's Agriculture value chain and making EWHR financing a success. He emphasized that agriculture is the main stay of Pakistan's economy providing food security so any investment in the sector will not only benefit farmers to enhance the crop yield but also help Pakistan to generate foreign exchange through surplus exports. He further stated "BankIslami is keenly focusing on the agriculture sector and consistently growing its Agri portfolio by facilitating farmers through its 340+ branches in more than 123 cities, while offering excellent turnaround times, especially in terms of Shariah Compliant EWR Financing".

SIB records 25% higher profits in H1

ABU DHABI: Sharjah Islamic Bank (SIB) recorded a 25% year-on-year (YoY) rise in its net profits attributable to the shareholders to AED 361.87 million in the first half (H1) of 2022 from AED 289.49 million, according to the bank's consolidated interim financials for the six-month period ended on 30 June 2022.

The bank's net income from financing and investment products reached AED 587.30 million in H1-22, up from AED 538.01 million in the year-ago period.

The bank's assets reached AED 56.06 billion as of 30 June 2022, up from AED 54.95 billion as of 31 December 2021. The basic and diluted earnings per share (EPS) stood at AED 0.12 in the January-June period of 2022, against AED 0.09 in the same period of 2021.

During the second quarter (Q2) of 2022, the bank's net profits amounted to AED 174.85 million in the first six months (6M) of 2022, higher than AED 125.31 million in the year-ago period. Zawya

Sukuk issuance from core markets down 17.2% in Q2

DUBAI: Total US dollar-denominated sukuk issuance from the core markets of the GCC, Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, and Pakistan fell by 17.2% quarter-on-quarter (qoq) in Q2, whilst US dollar bond issuance fell by 63.8%, said Fitch Ratings.

More than 90% of Fitch-rated sukuk that returned to the market in Q2 of 2022 (2Q22) were investment-grade.

"It remains unclear if sukuk supply will be able to recover in 2H22 because of higher oil prices reducing oil-exporting sovereigns' new funding needs, funding diversification plans not being followed, complexities related to sharia compliance, political risks, interest-rate hikes and lower global invest-

ment appetite for emerging-market debt," said Bashar Al-Natoo, Global Head of Islamic Finance at Fitch.

"However, intact Islamic investor appetite, upcoming debt maturities, Islamic-finance development plans from a number of governments, and funding diversification strategies across the sector will support the market longer-term."

Issuance of US dollar-denominated sukuk has been less affected than bonds amid the volatilities in 1H22. Fitch analysed the pricing of 42 comparable sukuk and bonds issued by the same obligors from the GCC, Malaysia, Indonesia and Turkey. Their yield-to-maturity continued to be strongly correlated

in 2Q22 despite macro volatilities, as was the pricing of comparable sukuk and bonds.

In 2Q22, 77.8% of sukuk ratings were investment-grade. About 72% of sukuk issuers have a Stable Outlook and 19.4% have Positive Outlook. Total ESG-linked outstanding sukuk reached \$19.3 billion in 2Q22, up 11.2% qoq.

Fitch has updated its Sukuk Rating Criteria to describe triggers that are increasingly seen in sukuk documentation that could take the form of put options, a dissolution event, a partial loss event or covenants related to tangibility events, which are specific to sukuk and driven by certain sharia requirements. TradeArabia



Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
39,831.75	40,459.70
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,577.06	39,801.21
Index Value	Change
3,292,435,015	-627.95
Percentage	Time
-1.55%	21 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,257.98	-6.33
Percentage	Time
-0.087%	21 Jul, 4:30 pm GMT+1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
31,764.41	-110.43
Percentage	Time
-0.35%	21 Jul, 11:44 am GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,803.00	+122.74
Percentage	Time
+0.44%	21 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	153.08	154.33
Bahrain Dinar	587.87	592.37
Canadian Dollar	172.05	173.04
China Yuan	32.88	33.13
Danish Krone	30.5	30.85
Euro	223	226
Hong Kong Dollar	28.25	28.6
Indian Rupee	2.78	2.86
Japanese Yen	1.7	1.75
Kuwaiti Dinar	717.26	722.26
Malaysian Ringgit	49.84	50.29
New Zealand \$	138.11	139.31
Norwegians Krone	22.37	22.67
Omani Riyal	574.83	579.33
Qatari Riyal	60.93	61.43
Saudi Riyal	58.5	59.5
Singapore Dollar	158.38	159.68
Swedish Korona	21.71	22.01
Swiss Franc	227.02	228.77
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	60	61
UK Pound Sterling	261.5	265
US Dollar	224	227

E-commerce opportunities

Alibaba.com's Lahore Seller Summit to grab export potential available to local traders

Pakistan's economy is comprised of almost 5.2 million small and medium enterprises

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) trade, Thursday hosted its first seller summit in Lahore to highlight export opportunities available to local businesses in the e-commerce space. The event was well attended by more than 250 participants, including 200+ participants who tuned in online.

Titled "Go Export with Alibaba.com", the event brought together existing and potential exporters in Lahore to offer tips and advice on how to start and grow an online export business. It is the first event of its type held by Alibaba.com in Lahore, signifying the platform's enhanced efforts to support suppliers in the region and increase the city's visibility as an online supplier base.

Various experts in the export and e-commerce fields took part as speakers in the event, including Sheharyar Tahir, Head of External Relations of SMEIDA, and Mian Rehman Aziz, Senior Vice President of Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industries, who shed light on government support and infrastructure available to assist exporters in Lahore; Md Ammar Khan, CEO of Raaziq International Logistics, Tariq Mahmood, Senior Partner at Raaziq International Logis-



tics, and Barrister Ahmed Uzair, an export law specialist at AUC| Law, who provided insights into how to set up and expand an export business; Muhammad Sajid Minhas, an Alibaba.com supplier who talked about his journey on the platform over the last 15 years; and Alibaba.com representatives including Song Song, Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan, and Ethan Wang, Product Operation Manager, who shared about products and services offered by Alibaba.com that can help suppliers digitalise their export business.

"Pakistan is one of Alibaba.com's most important supplier markets. Lahore, in particular, shows a high potential of e-commerce growth as it already contributed US\$4.7 billion in export

volume or 17% of the country's total export volume in fiscal year 2021-22. As the global pandemic has sped up B2B buyers' adoption of online sourcing channels, we feel that now is the time for more high-quality suppliers here in Lahore to go online and be discovered by the 34 million-strong global online buyer community on Alibaba.com," said Song Song, Business Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan.

"Pakistan's economy is comprised of almost 5.2 million small and medium enterprises. With an established e-commerce platform like Alibaba.com and an enabling environment and business development services provided by SMEIDA, we encourage small and medium enterprises

here to take action and grow beyond their home market," said Sheharyar Tahir, Head of External Relations of SMEIDA.

Alibaba.com is now more focused to increase the e-commerce industry in Pakistan, especially in Lahore to make B2B trade as easy and as accessible as possible for buyers and sellers. Alibaba.com has been enabling the growth of small and medium-sized businesses since 1999 with tools designed specifically for B2B trade. Supplier members on the platform can tap a suite of tools and services including a custom digital storefront, buyer analytics, targeted advertising, and support in the form of training courses and live support, among others.

Govt sets target to generate 60% energy through RE: MD NEECA

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) Dr Sardar Mohazzam while underlining the importance of Renewable Energy (RE) on Thursday said the government has set a target to generate 60 per cent of total energy through RE by 2030.

Addressing a 'Free GoodWe Solar Energy Storage' seminar here, he said that RE being a clean and green energy is a future and currently this is aligned with the government agenda and also aligns with global agenda of sustainable development goal number seven.

First part of which is related to access to energy and second with RE and efficiency. But it needs a lot of effort in terms of technology and developing markets in this regard, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Syed Salman Mohiuddin Country Manager GoodWe presenting memento to MD NEECA Sardar Mohazzam at GoodWe Solar Energy Storage seminar.

Terming the RE as the future, the MD NEECA said there are great opportunities in solar and wind as due to sharp surge in energy prices at global level, both the domestic and industrial consumers are looking for its substitute and viable solu-

tion. Solar is the best substitute for the grid, he said.

He said the government is also going for solarization of all public buildings which will further boost demand and requirement of RE technology in the country.

However, he said there is also a big challenge whether the people can afford it and whether they have easy access to RE technology.

Dr Mohazzam appreciated the efforts of GoodWe for bringing such innovation in the Pakistani market.

Speaking on the occasion, Country Manager Syed Salman Mohiuddin said power tariff of K-Electric and XWDISCOs has gradually been increasing due to surge in fuel prices at international market. He said in such a scenario, solarization is the only viable and alternative solution to curtail the skyrocketing prices of fuel.

SECP unveils SROs Regulations, 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: To promote the culture of self-regulatory organizations (SROs), the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued the Self-Regulatory Organizations (Registration) Regulations, 2022. These regulations will aid in corporate sector development, improved financial services and better protection for the interests of investors and other stakeholders.

SRO Regulations, 2022 provide a framework for registration of self-regulatory organizations (SROs), including specifying the form and manner of registration as an SRO under the SECP Act, 1997. They also specify minimum paid-

up capital requirements for companies desirous of registration as an SRO, along with the "fit and proper criteria" applicable on promoters, directors, chief executive and chairperson of board of directors of an SRO.

Self-regulation is an important globally practiced mechanism for encouraging industry participation to impose self-discipline. An SRO exercises certain level of authority over an industry and typically has some powers to create and enforce standards in an industry. They instill deeper acceptance of ethical behavior and principles as the rules are based on social norms and market conduct instead of a top-down regulatory approach.

Reviving Agri Sector

Acumen brings together stakeholders to 'Reimagine Agriculture in Pakistan'

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Agriculture in Pakistan is in crisis. Diminishing yields, decreasing soil fertility, lack of quality inputs, and water scarcity have created a fragile ecosystem that has already been devastated by global warming and extreme weather events. This, in turn, threatens to devastate food systems and increase the economic disparity in an agriculture-dependent and vulnerable nation. To revive agriculture in Pakistan, it is critical to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogues. Acumen hosted "Reimagining Agriculture in Pakistan"—an event that brought together entrepreneurs, thinkers, and industry leaders from banks, development finance institutions, the public sector, and agri sector



corporations. Panelists speaking at the event highlighted the need to reimagine the agri value chain, introduce pro-farmer legislation, and create an enabling regulatory framework. Some of the core themes emerging from the discussions include: 1) Public-sector leadership is critical for agricultural development. Wherever agriculture has prospered, the government has led from the front; 2) The water, agriculture, and climate nexus is an existential issue for Pakistan; and 3) Data and technology are critical. Examples include P2P lending, digital financial solutions (DFS), smart

farming, crop advisory, digital marketplaces, etc. The event also focused on highlighting the experience and insights of entrepreneurs working directly in the sector, through a spotlight session led by members of the Acumen community.

During her remarks, Dr Ayesha Khan, Managing Director, Acumen, highlighted the importance of focusing on climate resilient agriculture, continued dialogue, and collective action. "Agriculture lies at the core of our economy and the devastating impact of climate change means that the future of millions of smallholder farmers and the food security of our entire nation is at risk. We need to act now to ensure affordable, nutritious food for all, and it's exciting to see a movement towards building solutions," said Dr Khan.

Session on national preparations for ITU WRC 2023 held

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with Ericsson and Frequency Allocation Board (FAB), organized a webinar on national preparations for ITU World Radio-communication Conference-2023 (ITU WRC-23) at the FAB Headquarters, Islamabad.

Head of Govt. & Industry Relations for Middle-East & Africa, Ericsson, Ali Cheema conducted the session that was attended by senior officers from the Ministry of IT&T, PTA and FAB. The session highlighted the importance of ITU WRC-23, agenda items & preparatory process. The participants identified and discussed the key agenda items that are priority areas for Pakistan's ICT sector with special focus on efficient spectrum management and emerging tech-



nology propagation. It was agreed that all stakeholders should be part of the national discussions in order to present & maintain a coherent national approach at the ITU WRC-23.

The World Radio-communication Conference (WRC) is a global conference on spectrum management held after every four years by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to review and revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of radio-frequency spectrum and geostationary-satellite orbits.

Pakistan export to Italy, remittances to Pakistan cross \$2b

ISLAMABAD: The exports to Italy and remittances to Pakistan has crossed US \$ 2 billion, recording highest ever annual growth where both the sectors observed highest growth as compared to any other potential market.

Posting multiple records of growth, Pakistan's earnings from Italy in exports and remittances crossed \$ 2 Billion in Financial Year 2021-2022.

A substantial growth in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Italy was also witnessed during the record breaking year, said a press statement issued here.

Italy became the seven billion dollar export country for Pakistan in the world during the year with a record growth of export volume to \$ 1146 million, while the remittances from

Italy were also on the path to touch billion dollars soon with a total of \$ 857 million during the year.

June 2022 also set the record for highest export volume ever to Italy in a single month crossing \$ 144 million.

Italy posted the highest growth both in workers remittances among all countries with high numbers of Pakistani diaspora and for exports among the top ten export destinations of Pakistan.

This phenomenal growth in exports and remittances has come at a time when European economies in general and Italian economy in particular is slowing down and facing multiple challenges due to Ukraine war.

The exports to Italy of \$1.15 billion in FY 2021-22 are 46% higher than the previous year, while the remittanc-

es are 41% higher for the same period than the last year.

While talking to media, Pakistan's Ambassador to Italy, Jauhar Saleem paid glowing tributes to the Pakistani exporters for their initiative and hard work and to the Pakistani diaspora in Italy for standing by the country in a most challenging economic environment.

He also shared that Pakistan had posted a record trade surplus of \$ 573 million during the financial year 2021-22 which is 91% higher than the previous year.

According to the envoy, the value added sectors were the main drivers of the exceptional export growth with exports of plastic products increasing by 208%, sports goods 80%, leather 42%, home textiles 36% and

garments 35%. The ambassador also shared that even as the pandemic hit global footwear market witnessed a contraction of shrank demand during the year, Pakistan's exports of footwear to Italy increased by 19% in the year and Italy has become the 3rd largest export destination for Pakistani footwear. Italy is also the 5th largest destination for Pakistani home textiles and ranks No.6 in garments exports.

Ambassador Saleem also informed that with the revival of market activities after removal of pandemic related restrictions in Italy, the Pakistan Embassy in Italy was further pacing up its activities to connect Pakistani businesses with Italian firms to sustain the exports and FDI growth.

During the just concluded financial year, Pakistan received Italian invest-

ment in the sectors of food processing, chemicals, construction, leather, footwear, energy related equipment and IT. The Ambassador also shared that some of the recent joint ventures between leading Pakistani and Italian footwear firms were enabling technology transfer, international marketing skills and supply chain management to Pakistani firms.

Moreover, Italy was also providing technical support in agriculture sector especially related to olive and olive products. Similarly, Italy is supporting the efforts for reduction of risks of Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) and hydrogeological hazards in mountainous areas by establishing an evidence-based assessment and monitoring system for glaciers in Gilgit Baltistan. APP

Zong, SehatKahani achieve another milestone

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, a leading cellular and digital service provider in Pakistan, has reached a new milestone of providing free online health consultation to over 12000 underprivileged people, in collaboration with the leading telemedicine enterprise of Pakistan, SehatKahani.

Ensuring that people had access to free healthcare, especially during the pandemic, Zong enabled the customers to gain free sessions through the promo code: ZONGSEHAT. Resultantly, more than 5000 consultations for non-covid patients and over 7000 consultations for COVID patients have been provided across the length and breadth of the country. Recognizing the importance of timely and accurate information to the public, Zong also conducted several health awareness sessions through Facebook Live, reaching millions with knowledge about various health concerns including diabetes, obesity, Covid-19, Mental health etc.

As part of the partnership, Zong 4G and SehatKahani also launched an influencer campaign to reiterate their commitment to digital health inclusion. Continuing the momentum, the company is also set to celebrate the more than 12000 free health consultations, a milestone on Twitter spaces.

On the achievement of this milestone, Zong spokesperson commented, "One of the core values we have at Zong 4G is creating a digitally and socially inclusive Pakistan. Our partnership with SehatKahani is a testament to ensure that the people in far-flung areas that are deprived of health resources, get medical attention at the ease of their home, especially during the times of crisis."

The spokesperson added, "We congratulate SehatKahani on the fulfilment of this milestone. Having the best connectivity is imperative for delivering digital health services. And our partnership with Zong 4G leverages the best connectivity to achieve this milestone.

The outstanding achievement and continuous efforts reflect that, and also aligns with Digital Pakistan agenda."



Enaam Ahmed bags 2nd position at Toronto Grand Prix

He is currently competing in Indy Pro 2000 Championship for Juncos Hollinger Racing

Spokesman Report

TORONTO: Pakistan's most exciting race car driver, Enaam Ahmed, bagged the second position on the podium at the Streets of Toronto circuit of the Indy Pro 2000 races.

Securing his place on the podium in races 13 and 14, Enaam Ahmed became the first Pakistani to ever stand on the podium in the Toronto Grand Prix. Determined to win the series, the maverick racer will stop at nothing to make Pakistan proud through his efforts as he sports the country's flag on his car as well.

Enaam Ahmed has already been deemed one of the most promising racers in motorsport and rightfully so. His podium win to 2nd place has been one of his many impressive achievements throughout the Indy Pro 2000.

Having secured the second position in Race 13, he could have only moved up from there. Then officially made his way



to the podium in the next race despite some car damage as he started the race in P7. Enaam previously finished 4th at Mid Ohio despite some hurdles and secured 3rd place on the Road America race track. The season has undoubtedly been an excellent one for Enaam Ahmed as he speeds his way to the finish line with his eyes on the prize.

Being the only representative of Pakistan on the race track, Enaam zealously flashes his love for the green and white flag, being one of the few drivers of Asian heritage in professional motorsport. Through his exceptional dedication to the field, he hopes his on-track success will inspire a new generation of drivers from a wide range of different cultures. Now that the ace driver has begun his career in America, he aims to win the Indy Pro 2000.

Enaam is currently competing in the Indy Pro 2000 Championship for Juncos Hollinger Racing. The Championship is presented by Cooper Tires, is sanctioned by INDYCAR, and is the second official step on the Road to the INDYCAR series.

The Indy Pro 2000 Championship Presented by Cooper Tires, debuted in 1991 as the Star Mazda Championship and was taken over in 2013 by Andersen Promotions 2013. It is the second official step on the Road to Indy ladder system

bridging the gap between the Cooper Tires U.S. F2000 Championship and Indy Lights Presented by Cooper Tires. It competes in all open-wheel disciplines: road courses, street courses, and ovals. The series' primary sponsor is The Good-year Tire and Rubber Company through their Cooper Tires brand.

Enaam Ahmed is undoubtedly on the track to making history, showing the world that Pakistanis can do anything and everything they set their minds to and are on an equal footing when it comes to outstanding achievements.

His 2nd podium place on the Street of Toronto race track only shows how incredibly committed he is to winning the entire Indy Pro 2000 series. His next race will be at Gateway Motorsport Park on August 20th. More on that will be disclosed at a later date. Enaam's fans in Pakistan are encouraged to follow his historic "Road to Indy" career live on www.indypro2000.com or their YouTube channel.

Secretary, DG Sports Punjab felicitate national cricket team

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz and Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi have congratulated Pakistan cricket team for inflicting a historic four-wicket in the first Test match of 2-match Test series against hosts Sri Lanka in their home grounds.

In his greeting message on Wednesday, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz said the Pakistan cricket team exhibited wonderful teamwork and fighting spirit and chased down the biggest total of 342 runs at Galle Stadium during the first Test match of the series.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi in his message said that the national cricket squad and team management deserved huge appreciation for their magnificent performance. He expressed his hope that the national cricket team will maintain its winning sequence in the second Test match against the same opponents.

They showered praise on in-form opening batter Abdullah Shafique (160 runs not out), skipper Babar Azam (119 and 55 runs) and spin bowlers M Nawaz (6 wickets), Yasir Shah (5 wickets) and pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi (4 wickets) for their match-winning performances in this memorable victory.

They also lauded the performance of Sri Lankan players Dinesh Chandimal (76 and 94 runs not out) and Prabath Jayasuriya (9 wickets in match).

Punjab Sports Dept to support para-athlete Naem

Our correspondent

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Asadullah Faiz has announced that Sports Department Punjab will extend financial support to para-athlete Naem Masih for his participation in the Islamic Paralympic Games scheduled to be staged at Konya, Turkey from August 9 to 18, 2022.

Asadullah Faiz made this announcement on Thursday when para-athlete Naem Masih called on him at Punjab Stadium. Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Asadullah on this occasion said that Punjab Sports Department will provide Naem Masih air ticket and make all possible arrangements for his top level training at the coaching camp.

Meanwhile, DG Sports Punjab Tariq Qureshi awarded a cash prize of Rs 10,000 to player of Youth Club Quetta Abdul Nafay for his excellent performance in his team's 8-4 victory against Sindh Club Larkana during a match of Chief of Army Staff Inter-Club Hockey Championship at National Hockey Stadium on Wednesday evening. Director Sports Nadeem Qaiser, Director Youth Affairs Omair Hasan, Secretary Punjab Hockey Association Col (retd) Asif Naz Khokhar and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Nepali Sherpa sets climbing record on Pakistan mountain

KATHMANDU: A 47-year-old Nepali Sherpa has set a climbing record by scaling all the world's 14 peaks that are higher than 8,000 metres (26,247 ft) for a second time, his agency said on Thursday.

Sanu Sherpa, from Sankhuwasabha district in east Nepal, reached the top of Pakistan's Gasherbrum II, which at 8,035 metres is the 13th highest, on Thursday morning, his Pioneer Adventure hiking company said in Kathmandu.

"He is the only person in the world to scale each of the 14 highest mountains twice," Nibesh Karki, the company's executive director told Reuters. No further details were available.

Eight of the 14 highest peaks, including Mount Everest, are in Nepal. The other six are in Pakistan and the Tibet region of China.

Veteran Scotland star announces T20I retirement

EDINBURGH: Former Scotland captain Kyle Coetzer has announced his retirement from T20I cricket.

Coetzer recently stepped down from captaincy after an ICC Cricket World Cup League 2 tri-series match against the UAE, with Richie Berrington taking over from the 38-year-old.

Coetzer, the ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Decade, has now also decided to hang up his boots from the shortest format of the game. He captained Scotland in the 2021 ICC Men's T20 World Cup in UAE and Oman.

On his decision to retire, Coetzer said in a statement, "After considered discussions with Cricket Scotland and the head coach, the team would gain more from someone else playing in the upcoming T20 fixtures and the subsequent T20 World Cup."

"It was a pleasure to take part and lead my country in the previous World Cup and help Scotland qualify for this year. It was a real driving force for me to continue helping the team in any way that I could."

Coetzer also added that he was looking forward to spending more time with his family, which would be afforded to him after his T20I retirement. "From a personal point of view, I am looking forward to having a bit more time to spend with my family with two young daughters while also focusing on my coaching career and having more time for that. But ultimately, it is about what is best for the direction of the team going forward," he concluded.

Coetzer played 70 T20Is for Scotland, scoring 1495 runs, with 6 fifties. He led Scotland in 41 of those matches, registering 20 wins.

Coetzer will only be available for the upcoming one-off ODI against New Zealand at home. Scotland will also host New Zealand for two T20Is. Scotland announced an 18-member squad for the series, which will begin with the T20Is on July 27. All the matches will be played in Edinburgh.

World Test Championship

Blow for Sri Lanka as spinner ruled out of second Pakistan Test

Spokesman Report

GALLE: Sri Lanka have been dealt with a blow ahead of the second Test against Pakistan in Galle, with Maheesh Theekshana being ruled out.

The spinner has been released from the squad owing to a finger injury on his right hand. Theekshana returned with figures of 2/68 and 0/44 in the first Test against Pakistan in Galle. Sri Lanka ended up losing the contest, with Pakistan mounting an incredible chase, to win the contest by four wickets. The visitors chased down a target of 342.

Theekshana has so far played two Test matches for Sri Lanka, scalping five wickets. He will be replaced in the squad by 22-year old off-break bowler Lakshitha Manasinghe.

Manasinghe is yet to make his debut for Sri Lanka, but has an impressive record in first-class cricket. He has



picked up 73 wickets in 17 matches. He is also a handy contributor with the bat, scoring 582 runs in those games.

In Theekshana's absence, Sri Lanka could also hand a Test debut to young all-rounder Dunith Wellalage, who impressed one and all at the 2022 ICC Men's U19 World Cup.

The hosts will also be bolstered by the return of Pathum Nissanka to the squad. Nissanka has played 9 Tests, scoring 537 runs,

with one century and five fifties. Nissanka was ruled out midway during the second Test against Australia, after testing positive for COVID-19. Nissanka was also unable to take part in the first Test against Pakistan in Galle.

The series will of vital importance for Sri Lanka, in terms of crucial World Test Championship points. After their loss in the first Test, they slipped to the sixth position in the table, with a points percentage of 48.15.

Pakistan, on the other hand, moved up to the No.3 spot, with a points percentage of 58.33.

In the first Test, featuring in only the sixth Test of his career, opener Abdullah Shafique produced an innings for the ages to spearhead Pakistan's record setting 342-run chase as the Babar Azam-led side completed a four wicket victory on the fifth and final day of ICC World Test Championship match against Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium.

Pakistan beat the previous highest chase at Galle—Sri Lanka's 268 (2019) against New Zealand to set a new venue record of 344. Pakistan chased down four 300 plus scores in their Test history, three of the chases have been against Sri Lanka with the 377 for three at Pallakkele in 2015, the highest.

The second Test will be played at the same venue from Sunday, 24 July.

Heat on Leclerc before French GP

LE CASTELLET: Charles Leclerc will seek to complete Ferrari's first hat-trick since 2019 by fending off world champion Max Verstappen and a likely threat from reinvigorated Lewis Hamilton at this weekend's French Grand Prix.

The 24-year-old Leclerc, who battled to victory in Austria last time out after teammate Carlos Sainz triumphed in Britain, is likely to enjoy strong support from a big holiday crowd sweltering in the merciless sunshine of south-eastern France.

But he will need to overcome several challenges if he is to further trim Red Bull star Verstappen's 38-point advantage at the halfway mark in this 22-race season, not least from Sainz, who is keen to add to his maiden Silverstone success. Ferrari team chief Mattia Binotto has made clear he will not issue team orders to support Leclerc — not yet, at least — and with potent attacks expected from Sergio Perez, in the second Red Bull, and George Russell, in the second Mercedes, a tight, combative and dramatic race is in prospect.

"We have closed the gap in terms of speed," said Binotto, of Ferrari's pursuit of Red Bull. "I think they still have a slight advantage, but very little, or negligible." Given the forecast high temperatures of close to 40 degrees, Ferrari's recent frailties could be exposed again as aerodynamics chief Diego Tondi suggested in a team preview. "The high temperatures mean that ensuring the power unit and the tyres perform at their best is a real challenge — and it's up to those working on the aerodynamics to take the appropriate countermeasures," he said.

B-5 coaching course will help promote baseball: DG KDA

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The comprehensive Baseball-5 Training and Coaching Course being organized jointly by the Softball Federation of Pakistan in collaboration with the National Softball Academy was held at Sindh Madressatul Islam University in which approximately one hundred players, coaches, and sports teachers of schools, colleges, and universities participated to horn their skills regarding the game, its techniques and rule and regulations.

Expert Muhammad Zeeshan Merchant, Event Director Murad Hussain, Coordinator Shiraz Asif, and Shahid Aftab delivered key lectures on the occasion to provide the participants with up-to-date training and skills on the occasion while in the practical sessions; baseball encounters were arranged among the participants to educate them practically on rules and regulations of the game.

Special sessions with Sports Engineers were also arranged and KU Physical Education and Sports Science Assis-



tant Prof Dr Humayun Imran Azeemi delivered a key lecture enlightening the participants on how to avoid the looming danger of injuries while in action.

Later, certificates were distributed among the course participants.

KDA DG Syed Muhammad Ali Shah, who was the chief guest on the occasion; Sindh Madressatul Islam University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mujeebuddin Sehrai Memon, Softball Federation of Pakistan Secretary General Asif Azeem, Chairman All Private Schools Management Association Sindh Tariq Shah, KDA Member Finance Shuja'at Hussain, Director Sports Ayaz Munshi, Director Moosani Electronics Ahsan

Moosani were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director General of KDA, Syed Muhammad Ali Shah observed that baseball-5 is a beautiful combination of softball and baseball which is an interesting Game during which not only physical fitness matters but mental alertness is also required, adding that the Softball Federation of Pakistan has done a commendable job by organizing the Baseball 5 course at schools, colleges and universities level which will not only help introduce the game all over the country in coming times but will also prove a milestone in promoting the game at

the grass root level. He hoped that the course participants would provide the best training and coaching to Pak baseball-5 players, who are scheduled to feature in the next month's inaugural B-5 Asia Cup in Malaysian city Kuala Lumpur. Prof Dr Mujeebuddin Sehrai Memon said that educational institutions play a pivotal role in the promotion of any sport, adding that this course will help in hunt for new talent and in preparing the team for upcoming international events.

SFP Secretary General Asif Azeem said that the aim and objective of this course were to ensure practical steps for the promotion of this game in the country at the grass-root level by providing modern training and skill to the coaches.

"We also intend and plan to send abroad those coaches who performed brilliantly during this course for further training so that they can help in providing international level training to our players to prepare them for international events in future," he concluded.

England women rally to reach Euro 2022 semi-finals

BRIGHTON: England rallied from the brink of elimination to beat Spain 2-1 after extra time and reach the semi-finals of Euro 2022 thanks to Georgia Stanway's stunning strike.

Ether Gonzalez's opener had the hosts heading for an early exit, but Ella Toone rescued the Lionesses six minutes from the end of normal time before Stanway's winner took England into the last four of a fourth consecutive major tournament. Sarina Wiegman's side will face Sweden or Belgium in the final four on Tuesday. England were given a boost pre-match with the return of Wiegman to the touchline after

she tested negative for Covid-19 earlier in the day. The Lionesses had everything their own way in the group stage as they plundered 14 goals without reply against Austria, Norway and Northern Ireland. However, despite their own struggles to reach the knockout stages, Spain were a big step up in class. "I won't forget this day," said Wiegman.

"A crazy day, I came with the team late, prepared, trying to stay calm. "The whole game was a test. The level of this game was so high. I haven't experienced that too much." Spain had been pre-tournament favourites before injuries to reigning Ballon

d'Or winner Alexia Putellas and all-time top goalscorer Jennifer Hermoso rocked their preparation. Jorge Vilda's side suffered their first defeat since 2019 to Germany in the group stage, but even in that game dominated possession of the ball. Spain's ability to keep the ball off the hosts frustrated England and another sell-out crowd of 29,000 in Brighton for the vast majority of the first 90 minutes.

England have still never lost in now 18 games since Wiegman took charge in September. But they have never come so close to defeat in that time and had to show admirable fight to battle

back from a goal down. "That just shows the level that we're at," said Stanway. "We get a setback and we come back and do it." Spanish substitute Athenea Del Castillo jinked past Rachel Daly and squared for Gonzalez, who had time to take a touch before firing low into the far corner. Mary Earps then had to make a brilliant save to prevent a cross from the lively Del Castillo from floating into the far corner to double Spain's lead.

Wiegman did not waste time in turning to her bench with Ellen White, Fran Kirby and the tournament's top goalscorer Beth Mead surprisingly sacrificed for



the introduction of Chloe Kelly, Alessia Russo and Toone. "We were behind and knew we had to do something," added Wiegman. "We scored quickly after doing that so we could go back

into our normal shape. "The fans behind us, you could feel it. This is home advantage."

Wiegman's changes had the desired effect to keep England's hopes of a first major tournament

win in the women's game alive. Lauren Hemp's cross was headed down by Russo for her Manchester United teammate Toone to fire in from close range. Suddenly the momentum completely swung in England's favour and six minutes into extra-time they led.

Stanway drove forward before the Bayern Munich-bound midfielder smashed the ball past Sandra Panos from outside the box. Aitana Bonmati came closest to a reply when she fired wide early in the second period of extra time. But Spain's wait to win a knockout game at a major women's tournament goes on.