



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے نبی محمد نے بیان کیا کہ میں عبد اللہ بن مہر کے لئے جڑی ہوں، میں موی بن عقبہ نے، میں سامہن بن عبد اللہ بن عمر نے اور ان سے ان کے والد نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا جس نے کسی کی زمین میں سے کچھ نا حق لے لیا تو قیامت کے دن اسے سات زمیوں تک حصا لیا جائے گا۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3196)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

PTI Chairman snatches free electricity from masses: Maryam

PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz says PTI chairman Imran Khan said that Fitna Khan satisfied his ego by snatching free electricity relief package from the poor masses of Punjab. The ego of 'Fitna Khan' is satisfied by snatching free electricity from the poor, adding that he sacrificed the relief of the poor for the sake of bad politics. How Imran Khan can ask for votes from the people of Punjab after snatching necessities from them.



Imran Khan's pilot getting threatening calls: Asad

PTI leader Asad Umer says the pilot who flies the plane used by Chairman Imran Khan is getting threatening phone calls from unknown sources. How low will they sink?

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Forex reserves again fall below \$10b

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) reserves held by the central bank decreased 4.77% on a weekly basis, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday. On June 30, the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$9,816.3 million, down \$493 million compared with \$10,309 on June 24. According to the central bank, the decrease came due to external debt and other payments. Overall liquid foreign currency reserves held by the country, including net reserves held by banks other than the SBP, stood at \$15,742.4 million. Net reserves held by banks amounted to \$5,926.1 million.

Power crisis

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is meeting with a delegation of China Three Gorges International Corporation (CTGI), Kohala Hydropower Project and Karot Hydropower Project led by Charg d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy Ms Pang Chunxue.



Photo by Radio Pakistan

Applause

PM pioneer of mass transit system in Pakistan: Marriyum

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Thursday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was the pioneer of mass transit system in Pakistan. In a tweet, she said the PM has inaugurated first Islamabad bus service from Bhara Kahu to PIMS (Green Line) and from Koral to PIMS (Blue Line). She said that Green Line and Blue Line service (Pindi Islamabad Metro) from PIMS will be merged into Red Line Metro. From Faiz Ahmed Faiz Bus Stop, passengers can travel from Orange Line to the airport, she said. She said Shehbaz Sharif launched Lahore Metro, Lahore Speedo Bus Service, Orange Train, Multan Metro, Rawalpindi Islamabad Metro, Islamabad Red Line, Blue Line Bus Service, Green Line Bus Service and Orange Line Bus Service.

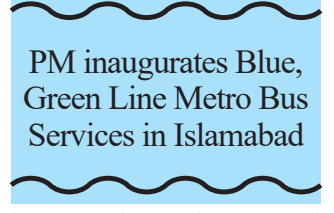
Government determined for solarization of Pakistan: PM

Says national solar energy policy to be announced on August 1

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday expressed determination to utilize in every possible way the available resources for generating solar energy to save the precious foreign exchange reserves being spent on import of oil and gas for generation of expensive thermal power. He was talking to a delegation of China Three Gorges International (CTGI), Kohala Hydro Power Project and Karot Hydro Power Project led by Charge d' Affairs of Chinese embassy Pang Chunxue. He said the government was determined for solarization of Pakistan. The prime minister thanked CTGI for timely completion of Karot Hydro Power Project and the provision of free electricity to Pakistan before the start of the commercial operation of the

project. He evinced keen interest in working with China for generating electricity through alternative sources of energy including hydel, solar and wind. He asked the CTGI to present a comprehensive technical, financial and economic plan after Eid to generate at least 7000-8000 megawatts. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that a national solar energy policy will be announced on the first of next month to address energy related issues. Chairing a meeting Energy Task Force in Islamabad on Thursday, he said that the enforcement of this policy will be linked to the approval by Council of Common Interest (CCI). Shehbaz Sharif said that PM House and Office will be converted to solar energy on emergency basis in one month. The Prime Minister said providing cheap and environment friendly electricity is the top priority of the government. He said it is our effort to Pakistan self-sufficiency in energy sector. Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated Blue Line and Green Line Metro Bus Service routes in Islamabad on Thursday. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the Prime Minister said that provision of a regular, clean and punctual bus service is a major step of the incumbent government. He said that launching of Green Line and Blue Line Metro Bus Services particularly



in prevailing economic situation of the country is appreciable and important step of the government. Shehbaz Sharif directed the concerned authorities to complete all the related facilities of the project including the passenger stations on these routes at the earliest. The Prime Minister also laid foundation stone of the building of Metro Bus Operation Command and Control Centre. The Green Line Metro Bus Service will run between Bhara Kahu area to PIMS Hospital Islamabad. The 15.5 kilometres long route will have eight stations. On this occasion, the Prime Minister announced free-travel for one month in these two Metro Bus Services. The Blue Line Metro Bus Service will run between Koral Chowk to PIMS Hospital Islamabad. The 20 kilometres long route will have 13 stations.

Monetary policy SBP jacks up interest rate to 15%

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday announced an increase of 125 basis points to 15 percent in its benchmark policy rate in a bid to contain runaway inflation. At Thursday's meeting, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to raise the policy rate by 125 basis points to 15 percent. In addition, as foreshadowed in the last monetary policy statement, the interest rates on EFS and LTFF loans are now being linked to the policy rate to strengthen monetary policy transmission, while continuing to incentivize exports by presently offering a discount of 500 basis points relative to the policy rate. This combined action continues the monetary tightening underway since last September, which is aimed at ensuring a soft landing of the economy amid an exceptionally challenging and uncertain global environment. It should help cool economic activity, prevent a de-anchoring of inflation expectations and provide support to the Rupee in the wake of multi-year high inflation and record imports. Since the last meeting, the MPC noted three encouraging developments. First, the unsustainable energy subsidy package was reversed and an FY23 budget centered on strong fiscal consolidation was passed. This has paved the way for completion of the on-going review of the IMF program, which will ensure that tail risks associated with meeting Pakistan's external financing needs are averted. Second, a \$2.3 billion commercial loan from China helped provide support to FX reserves, which had been falling since January due to current account pressures, external debt repayments and paucity of fresh foreign inflows.

Early elections I am ready for talks on one-point agenda: Imran

Says ECP working with Hamza to ensure PML-N victory

ISLAMABAD/ SHEIKHUPURA: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asserted that he was ready for negotiations on the issue of holding early elections. Speaking to journalists during a meeting, the former premier said he was ready to hold talks with anyone if early elections are guaranteed. "The doors of negotiation are open, but only on general elections," he added. Imran Khan said that he was concerned about the country's situation and will continue to raise his voice for the betterment of people of Pakistan. The PTI Chairman added that he can never see the army becoming weak, while appointment of the army chief had never been his issue. "The only solution to the current crisis in the country is an immediate and transparent election," he added. A day earlier, former prime minister and PTI chairman Imran Khan said 'even with the support of the umpires thieves cannot win Punjab by-polls', scheduled to take place on July 17. Addressing a public gathering in Sahiwal, Imran Khan thanked participants for coming in large numbers to the public gathering despite heavy rain and accumulated water in the jalsagah. The former prime minister said the politics of turncoats has been exposed, adding that 'lootas' have joined Asif Ali Zardari and Sharif's for the lust for power.

ECC okays natural gas price hike

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Thursday has decided to hike the natural gas price while subsidized gas will continue to be provided to Pakistan's export industry and other industries. A meeting of the ECC was held under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Miftah Ismail in which it was stated that gas price has not been increased since the financial year 2015-16 and there was a tariff deferential of Rs574 billion till March 2022 while the circular debt in the gas sector in June 2018 was Rs 299 billion. The issued statement stated that the circular debt in the gas sector has reached Rs 1232 billion by March 31, 2022. The meeting was informed in the briefing that it is necessary to review the prices for revenue losses, circular loans, continuity of supply chain and investment in discoveries. On which the meeting decided that gas price will be increased but subsidized gas will continue to be provided to Pakistan's export industry and other



industries. Ministry of Industries and Production also submitted a summary on continuation of PM's relief package, 2020, Sasta Atta initiative for KPK and expansion of Utility Stores network across Pakistan. The ECC approved the continuity of distribution of subsidized Atta under Prime Minister's Sasta Atta Initiative on 1200 additional sale points in KPK for the two months from 1st July to 31st August, 2022 with further directions to submit in the next meeting of ECC complete mechanism on distribution of subsidy packages through USC.

Rupee slightly recovers against dollar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee gained 0.04% against the US dollar on Thursday ahead of a five-day holiday on account of Eid ul Adha. According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed at 207.91 against the US dollar in the interbank market. Currency dealers believe that the rupee will gain ground against the greenback this week aided by inflows from exporters and hopes of revival of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) loan programme. The rupee-dollar parity has been buffeted by concerns of a delay in the revival of the IMF loan programme. The market players fear the Punjab government's provision of power subsidies to the poor consumers could jeopardise Islamabad's progress made towards unlocking the suspended bailout. Currency dealers believe the rupee erased previous sessions' gains by tracking the importers' dollar demand due to the long holidays for Eid.

Declining int'l prices to cut inflation in Pakistan: Miftah

Says ghee price to reduce up to Rs150 per kg soon

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail said here on Thursday that declining trend in international food and fuel prices would help bring down commodity rates in Pakistan. Addressing a press conference, the federal minister said that per barrel crude oil prices have come down to \$100 from \$123 while the prices of edible oil and ghee have also declined from the highest \$1700 per ton to \$1000 per ton. He said that the government would pass on the benefit of decreasing international fuel prices to the people at an appropriate time, while the prices of edible oil were also expected to come down by Rs100 to Rs150 to make the commodity available at Rs350 to Rs370 per kilogram. The minister said that the government was already providing flour and sugar at the rate of Rs40 and Rs70 respectively through Utility Stores Corporation. The prices would further come down keeping in view the downward trend in international wheat prices. The minister said the economy was under control as the incumbent government saved it from collapse despite huge damages inflicted by the previous regime. Currently, most of the economic indicators were stable. He said, the government presented a balanced budget, wherein rich were made to sacrifice and poor



provided initiatives, adding that the budget measures are expected to lead to progress and growth. He said, the previous government had left highest trade and current account deficits accompanied by low reserves. However, he added, with \$2.4 billion provided by China, the foreign exchange reserve position has improved. The reserves would further improve once agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) is finalized. Things are getting better, he remarked. Talking about the energy issues, he said, the PTI government did not complete the power projects that were initiated by Pakistan Muslim League and consequently the people had to face load-shedding. The power project Karot, which should have been started in the beginning of year, was initiated now while Haveli Bahadur Power Plant - II, for which machinery was put in place in 2018 should have been run in 2019, which is being run now by the incumbent government. He refuted the claims of excessive generation capacity, adding that there was around 7500 megawatt shortfall including 5000 megawatt due to gas and fuel shortage and 2500 megawatt due to lack of maintenance in plants. He said the incumbent government could not get any response to its tender for LNG adding that it could have been done by the previous regime when the prices were low.

Political move

LAHORE: Five Members of Punjab Assembly belonging to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are taking oath here on Thursday.



Photo: PID

TTP talks as per constitution: FO

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office (FO) Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad has asserted that the negotiations with banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were being held under the Constitution of Pakistan. Addressing a weekly press conference in Islamabad, the FO spokesperson said the parliamentarians have been apprised on the issue of negotiations with TTP. "All activities in this regard are being carried out under the Constitution," he added.

Asim Iftikhar said that Pakistan has registered a strong protest with New Delhi over its recent blocking of Twitter accounts of Pakistan's diplomatic missions and the national broadcaster Radio Pakistan, in India. "New Delhi's move reflects the alarming pace of shrinking space for pluralistic voices and curbing of fundamental freedoms in India," he said, adding that a petition has also been filed by international organizations in this regard. He also urged the international authorities to take notice of the India's move.

The FO spokesperson pointed out that relations with China, the European Union and the United States have improved. "The Chinese officials visited Pakistan and renewed his commitment to complete the CPEC projects on priority basis," he added. He also noted that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held telephonic conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and both the personalities reaffirmed their mutual desire to further strengthen bilateral ties between Pakistan and the United States. Asim Iftikhar added that Pakistan and the United States have a long-standing relationship in the fields of security and defense, as well as cooperation in counter-terrorism. "The United States itself said it no longer views relations in the context of Pak-China relations," he maintained.

IS Framework devised

Govt plans to save 50% citizens from gas price hike

Musadik says the Federal Cabinet's guidance and approval to be sought

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Thursday said his ministry had devised a broader framework under which 50 per cent of the country's total population, comprising the poorest of the poorest people, would be saved from the gas price hike. "We have presented a principle, for which the Federal Cabinet's guidance and approval to be sought. The Petroleum Division has evolved a framework that 50 per cent of citizens of the country, which means the poorest of the poor, will be protected from the additional burden of increased price [of gas]. Implementation of the proposal will be subject to approval by the cabinet," he said while addressing a news conference.

Before leaving the government, he said, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) made legislation under which the Federal Government had no authority to change the gas price determined by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA). "We are working out for the last two-three

weeks how the gas consumers can be given relief as OGRA has informed us about the new rate which is far high as compared to the last year because the rate had not been increased for the last two years," he said.

As the PTI government had committed blunders in the energy sector coupled with its mismanagement and inefficiency, a detailed meeting was held to examine whether rationing or re-pricing of the gas was required to rectify the situation, he added. Dr Musadik said it was unfortunate that the past government did not procure Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) cargoes that were available at the reduced rate of \$4 per MMBTU (Metric Million British Thermal Unit) two years ago, which now cost \$40. "It means that now per LNG cargo cost is around \$138 million, which was available at \$12.5 million two years ago for 2-4 years, but the PTI government did not pay any heed towards buying the commodity."

It was beyond understanding as to why the PTI government did not arrange the LNG when regasification terminals were available, whom the country was making 'capacity payment' but those were not

utilized, he added. As the long-term agreements were not signed by the PTI government, he said, now the much-needed gas was not available in the country, even at an increased price, despite frequent tendering in the international market. Commenting on the prevailing gas supply situation, he said on the network of Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited around 670 MMCFD was available against the average winter demand of 1,170 MMCFD of domestic consumers in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa only.

He said it was unfortunate that the poor segments of the society were using the expensive Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the country, while those who had multiple geezers, stoves and cooking ranges, were using the cheap natural gas. The price of LPG was five times higher than the natural gas, he added. The minister said it seemed that nobody bothered to plan how the gas would be purchased in the winter which was the peak season for demand. However, the current management was striving to resolve the issue by engaging the governments of different countries.

IS Rs7.9 per unit

NEPRA notifies power tariff hike

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday approved Rs 7.90 per unit increase in power tariff for May under the monthly fuel cost adjustment (FCA) mechanism. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) had sought Rs 7.96 per unit increase in the power tariff for the said period. After holding a public hearing on the CPPA's petition on June 27, NEPRA approved Rs 3.99 per unit increase in the

FCA for April and Rs 3.91 per unit more than that of April for May i.e. Rs 7.90, it was notified. The FCA would be applicable to all consumers except lifeline and K-Electric and would be recovered in the billing month of July, the notification said.

The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved an additional fuel cost adjustment (FCA) of Rs9.52 per unit for K-Electric (KE) consumers for the month of May. According to a notification issued by the power regulatory

authority, the K-Electric had requested a fuel cost adjustment of Rs11.34/kWh.

NEPRA conducted a public hearing on July 4 on the petition submitted by KE for fuel charges adjustment for May 2022. The increase will be applicable to all consumer categories, except for KE lifeline consumers. The amount would be recovered in the bills of July and August 2022 from the KE consumers. In July, consumers will be charged Rs2.63, while the consumers will be charged Rs6.89 in August.

IS Punjab by-polls

PTI to move LHC against 19 contestants: Fawad

Says his part PTI will file disqualification reference against Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: The PTI will move the Lahore High Court (LHC) against 19 Punjab by-poll candidates who had been de-notified by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in May, the party's senior vice president Fawad Chaudhry announced Thursday. The ECP had de-notified the 19 PTI members over casting votes for PML-N's Hamza Shahbaz against their party line in the Punjab chief minister's election on May 23. The by-elections will take place on July 17 in 20 constituencies after the disqualification of more than two dozen members.

In a press conference, referring to

Article 63 of the Constitution, Fawad said that the candidates are not qualified for contesting the elections, adding that the PTI would file a petition in the LHC in this regard on today (Friday). "Aleem Khan is not contesting the by-election, hence, we would not file a petition against him," he added. Fawad went on to say that the PML-N's workers are not ready to cast their votes for turncoats and claimed that the alliance of the PTI and PML-Q will win all the 20 seats during the upcoming by-elections in the province. "Hamza Shahbaz's government is a guest of 10 days," he said, adding that PML-N has lost the

majority after the addition of five more PTI members in the House.

"After July 22, PTI will be ruling in Punjab," he added. Lashing out at the PML-N, Fawad said that the court should take notice of the solar scandal. He said that PTI Chairman Imran Khan's pilots were receiving threatening calls from unknown numbers, and urged the authorities to take notice of it. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced to file a reference seeking disqualification of Federal Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb over alleged tax relief to her husband's tobacco company.

Elahi administers oath to PTI MPAs on reserved seats

LAHORE: Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Thursday administered oath to the newly appointed five members of the PTI on reserved seats. The speaker administered oath to the newly appointed members by the ECP following orders from the Lahore High Court and the Supreme Court of Pakistan. The members expressed gratitude to Imran Khan for giving them the opportunity and assured that they would play their role in strengthening the party. It is pertinent to mention here that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) notified the lawmakers on five reserved seats of the Punjab Assembly on Wednesday. The seats for women and minority lawmakers in the Punjab Assembly had

fallen vacant after the dissenting legislators of the PA were de-notified by the election commission. The ECP issued notifications for the PTI lawmakers on the vacant seats for women including Batool Zain, Saira Raza and Fauzia Abbas. Habkook Rafiq and Samuel Yaqoob have been notified as the lawmakers on the minority seats. The lawmakers have been notified by the ECP following the directives of the Lahore High Court (LHC). In its 13-page verdict, the high court had ordered the Election Commission of Pakistan to notify members of reserved seats of the Punjab Assembly.

The LHC had directed the Additional Registrar to dispatch the high court order to the election commission forthwith.

IS Eid-ul-Azha

PIA cuts fares by 20pc

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: After the railways, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has also announced a discount on fares for passengers during the Eid-ul-Azha. According to details, Federal Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique has directed CEO of the national flag carrier to cut fares and facilitate people trying to get to their loved ones on Eid. According to details, the fares have been slashed by 20% on all PIA flights amid the three days of Eid-ul-Azha. On July 6, the Pakistan Railways also announced a 30 per cent discount on tickets in train fares to facilitate the passengers on the occasion of Eidul Azha.

According to a notification issued

by Pakistan railways, the reduction in train fares will be applicable to all passenger trains during the three days of Eidul Azha. The PR has also started Eid bookings on discounted fares, the notification read. Separately, Pakistan Railways also announced to run three special trains on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Three special trains will also be operated on multiple routes before Eid-ul-Azha. A Railway spokesperson told that the first special train would depart at 10 am on July 8. It would travel from Quetta to Peshwar via Multan, Sahiwal and Lahore. The second special train would leave at 6:45 pm on July 8 and would travel from Karachi to Lahore via Multan and Faisalabad, he added.

IS PA's reserved seats

PML-N challenges ECP's notification

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday issued notices to the election commission and the PTI in hearing of an appeal against notification on reserved seats of Punjab Assembly. A division bench of the high court was hearing PML-N's intra-court appeal against the notification of five reserved seats of the provincial legislature. A single bench of the LHC had directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to notify members on reserved seats of the Punjab Assembly which fell vacant following the de-seating of PTI MPAs over voting for Hamza Shahbaz during the chief minister's election. "The verdict of the bench was based on a misconceived interpretation of the constitution," the counsel argued. "The house has been incomplete without 20 elected and five reserved members," PML-N counsel said. "It is a constitutional requirement that the reserved seats should be based on a party's existing number of members in assembly," counsel said. "The issuance of notification without completion of the total members of political parties is unconstitutional," he further said. Bureau Report

IS Free electricity

ECP suspends Punjab govt's relief package till by-polls

Warns any violation of elections code of conduct will be dealt as per law

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has suspended the Punjab government's Roshan Gharana Program till July 17, 2022. During the hearing, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) stressed that these by-polls will be held in a transparent manner as the commission has more support from law enforcement agencies. Counsel of Hamza Shahbaz said that the program to subsidize households receiving electricity bills of up to 100 units was launched in the provincial budget for FY2022-23. "This package is for the entire province and not limited to 20 constituencies," he said.

The chief minister's counsel said that it could only be declared a violation of the code of conduct if a package is being announced for a particular constituency. To this, the chief election commissioner asked if the program was part of the budget then why there was a need to announce it later through a press conference. ECP while suspending the program to provide free electricity till by-polls warned that any violation of elections code of conduct will be dealt as per law.

The electoral watchdog had sought a reply from the provincial chief executive on July 7. The reply submitted by Hamza's counsel stated that the CM's relief package is for entire province except for constituencies where by-polls are



being held. "No election is being staged in areas where Gujranwala Electric Power Company (GEPCO) supplies electric power," Hamza's counsel maintained. He said that nine million

consumers will benefit from the programme. However, he added that the programme hasn't been planned but included in the approved provincial budget with an allocation of Rs100 billion.

The counsel further stated that the purpose of this programme is not to attract voters. "Would it also be political if we reduce the electricity price on July 15?" he asked. At this, CEC Sultan asked why Hamza held a separate press conference if the programme was already included in the budget. "The announcement garnered more reaction than the programme's approval in the budget. There was no need to make a separate announcement for it if it was already a part of the budget," the CEC remarked.

He said that the ECP is bound to give equal opportunities and the announcement has directly affected the by-polls. The ECP directed Hamza to launch the programme after the by-election and made it clear to the government that no violation of the Commission's code of conduct will be tolerated. The relief package, announced just a few days ahead of the by-elections on 20 provincial assembly seats in Punjab, was criticised by the PTI, which had sought the apex court's intervention into the matter as well. The relief programme supposed to benefit an estimated nine million poor families, about half of the population of the province, had been announced by the Punjab chief minister while speaking at a press conference on Monday.

PM AJK lauds global agencies' support in improving region's health sector

Govt of AJ&K has made good progress on 17 sustainable development goals-SDGs, says Sardar Tanveer Ilyas

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has appreciated the UN-WHO, UNICEF and other global agencies for their colossal support in improving the health sector in Azad Kashmir. The AJK PM made these remarks during his meeting with Dr. Palitha Mahipala Country Head, UN-WHO and representatives of UNICEF, Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization-GAVI Mission held at PM House Muzaffarabad on Thursday.



He said that the government of AJ&K has made good progress on 17 sustainable development goals-SDGs. "We are grateful to our global and federal partners in health sector with high regards to Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), UN-WHO UNICEF and Federal Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) through regular programmatic interventions and during emergencies in the health sector", he said.

"We have faced major challenges, several disasters and constantly facing challenges at the Line of Control", the PM said, adding that global agencies' support has been instrumental in dealing with these challenges. "We are thankful to Worthy WR for your special consideration and medical supplies for Line of Control in the current year. You have always honored your commitments", the PM said, adding that the government was looking forward to

strengthening the partnership. The Prime Minister assured the visiting delegation that his Government was ready to provide any support and guidance to the donors for operating their functions in AJ&K to help achieving the "2030 Agenda for Sustainability Development". Dr. Palitha Mahipala Country Head, UN-WHO thanked the AJK PM for ownership of UN-WHO interventions in the state and great hospitality extended by him to the visiting delegation.

Dr. Mahipala shared the detail interventions of UN-WHO in AJ&K substantial methodological and enduring support by GAVI and United Nations in particular WHO and UNICEF to Azad State of accomplishing and supporting public health emergencies in the state, along with the smooth organization of regular programmes like Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)/ Polio eradication initiative (PEI), Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) and others.

Street crime increased in Karachi, but overall situation is better: Odho

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Additional Inspector General of Police (IG) Sindh Javed Alam Odho said that Steps should be taken to eradicate crime in Mehran Town and Korangi in collaboration with KATI. Planning and contingency plan will be done in Korangi Causeway to deal with the expected floods due to Balochistan rains. He was expressing these views while addressing a luncheon meeting at the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI).



KARACHI: KATI President Salman Aslam presenting shield to Additional IG Sindh Javed Alam Odho, Zubair Chhaya, Zubair Tufail, Zahid Saeed, Danish Khan, Sheikh Fazal-e-Jalil, Farrukh Qandhari, Ikram Rajput and Faraz-ur-Rehman are also present.

DIG East Muqaddas Haider, DIG Traffic Ahmed Nawaz Cheema, Javed Yousafzai and other senior police officers and members of KATI were also present. Additional IG Sindh Javed Alam Odho said that we are aware of the rise in street crime in Karachi but overall the crime situation was much better than before. He said that according to the data released by CPLC,

the overall street crime in Karachi has decreased by 30 percent while the theft of motorcycles has been reduced to 40 percent. The police department is short of manpower. In the rapidly expanding city of Karachi, the police force is very small. Javed Alam Odho further said that police patrolling, police check posts, and snap checking are being increased

in industrial and commercial areas of Karachi on a priority basis. Police officers have been directed to increase the police presence in the city and eliminate unnecessary activities. He said that the investigation complex was being shifted to Korangi at the request of KATI, adding that some offices had already been shifted to Shah Faisal in this regard.

Earlier, KATI President Salman Aslam said that crime has reduced recently but street crime is on the rise. President KATI said that police patrolling should be increased in Karachi especially in Korangi to discourage criminal elements.

He said that the officers posted in Korangi are performing their duties honestly, which has improved the traffic situation in the industrial area.

Sichuan Agri University selected 22 students of IUB for scholarships

Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: Sichuan Agriculture University China has selected 22 students of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur for scholarships. This year, students from more than 30 countries from around the world applied for scholarships at Sichuan Agriculture University, and only 54 students from 15 countries were selected for the International Talent Scholarship.

Among these selected students, 22 Pakistani students are from the Islamia University of Bahawalpur availing scholarships worth Rs. 7 million.

As a result of the efforts of Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob, a memorandum of understanding was signed last year in 2021 with Sichuan Agriculture University, one of the best agricultural universities in China.

For Child-Safe Pakistan

Indus Motors partners with The ChildLife Foundation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Indus Motor Company (IMC) joined hands with The ChildLife Foundation, pledging its support with a Rs 6.50 million donation, towards establishing the ChildLife Resuscitation Room-equipped with cutting-edge life-saving medical equipment-at the Children's ER (Emergency Room) at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad.



Room at the Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital, Karachi. The facility is set to be operational in August 2022. The cheque was presented by IMC's Head of CSR and Media Management, Asad Abdullah as CEO, ChildLife Foundation, Ahsan Rabbani at the Foundation's corporate office at Karachi.

ChildLife provides life-saving treatment to more than 1 million children annually-free of cost. It manages 24x7 Children Emergency Rooms & Telemedicine Satellite Centers in 75+ public sector hospitals across Pakistan, in partnership with the government. The Foundation, currently,

has 11 state-of-the-art model ERs in government teaching hospitals at Karachi, Nawabshah, Larkana, Sukkur, Quetta, Hyderabad and Lahore.

CEO IMC, Ali Asghar Jamali expressed, "Pakistan has one of the world's highest child mortality rates. According to UNICEF, over 1,000 children below the age of 5 years die every day, 80% owing to preventable causes. Our CSR program, Concern Beyond Cars, aims at initiatives that are sustainable with a visible impact and this partnership with The ChildLife Foundation is one such instance.

RCCI strongly resents 125 basis points hike in SBP's interest rate

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) on Thursday showed strong reservations for increasing 125 basis points in the interest rate by the State Bank of Pakistan taking it from 13.75 percent to 15 percent.

The RCCI President Nadeem Rauf in a statement urged the government to withdraw the hike as it would increase the credit cost of commercial banks, ultimately have a bad effect on the growth of industrial activities and create more difficulties for the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) in its efforts aimed at reviving the economy.

Safety Training

LCBDDA collaborates with Rescue 1122



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: To establish a Community Rescue Service through a training session on Basic Life Support and Fire Safety, Lahore Central Business District Development Authority (LCBDDA) also known as Central Business District (CBD) Punjab, collaborated with the Punjab Emergency Service Rescue 1122.

The training session was conducted at CBD House Punjab. In this session directorate heads, mid-level management and ancillary staff of CBD Punjab underwent hands-on training in basic life support and fire safety.

The employees of CBD Punjab were given a complete briefing on basic life support by seasoned rescue professionals of Rescue 1122 who are experts in basic life support, fire safety, rescue techniques, emergency evacuation, disaster preparedness and prevention.

Rescue trainers told the participants that the main art of handling an emergency is to use your all senses and not to panic. They also gave a practical demonstration by using different props like mannequins and actual footage of basic life support skills including first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), fracture, wound management, cardiac arrest, foreign-body airway obstruction, management for angina pectoris and myocardial infarction, burn injuries and fire evacuation as the first responder. As per increasing numbers of Covid 19 cases, attendees were also briefed about the initial treatment and quarantine process for a Covid 19 patient

Imran Amin Chief Executive Officer LCBDDA while sharing his views on this training session said " Public safety is the cornerstone for a great society, basic life support training should be mandatory for everyone. We should feel proud of our rescue services who live their lives on the edge and risk it with prompt actions to save us from further misery during any emergency".

NHA Holds E-Kachehri

NHA committed to provide better services to travelers: Asim Amin

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National Highway Authority's Member Planning Asim Amin held E-Kachehri at head office of the Authority through NHA official Facebook Page on Thursday and answered to the questions raised by the people all over the country.



In his opening remarks, Asim Amin said, we are committed to provide better services to the travelers on motorways and national highways throughout the country and to further improve the performance of the organization. He also asked the concerned Members of NHA to resolve the issues identified by people regarding construction activity of NHA. He assured to contact other agencies affiliated to NHA for redressal of legitimate grievances of the complainants. Referring to some of the roads, Asim Amin said that the same are under the jurisdiction of the provincial governments, therefore the concerned agencies of the provincial governments should be contacted with regard to these roads.

He said, that highways are our national asset, whose protection and maintenance is our first responsibility, therefore overloading should be avoided for comfortable travelling on NHA network. Responding to questions from people across the country, he said that work was underway on all packages of Chitral-Shandur project, while Jamshoro-Larkana highway was being dualised.

He said that work on dualization of Indus Highway from Karachi to Peshawar was underway which would be completed in next 2-3 years. He said, steps are being taken to start construction work on Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway soon. He said that technical bids have been received for the construction of Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway. Replying to a question, he said that maintenance work of Dera Ghazi Khan and Dera Ismail Khan Road is among our priorities.

Giving IPPs incredible profits tantamount to economic suicide: PEW

Country had gone bankrupt in 2018, IMF loan saved it from insolvency, says Dr. Murtaza Mughal

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said in the presence of contradictory, ambiguous and negative policies, only a miracle can save Pakistan from going bankrupt.

Pakistan had gone bankrupt in 2018 but an IMF loan and help from friendly countries saved it from insolvency but after rescue, no attempt was made to correct the direction of the economy, the result of which is now a more serious crisis, it said. Pakistan's import bill from 1960 to 1973 was less than one billion dollars while from 1973 to 2002 the volume of imports increased to eleven billion dollars annually but reforms were avoided to please influential people, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

In 2018 the import bill for goods jumped to \$63 billion while the services import bill jumped to \$9 billion which shook the foundations of the economy, he added. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that from 2002 to 2022 the import bill jumped by 600 percent which was unsustainable while the energy

import bill surpassed \$27 billion but no attempts have been made to save electricity. IPPs are getting unbelievable profits and government has to pay Rs380 billion to Chinese IPPs while China has refused to reconsider the amount, he informed.

Dr. Mughal noted that many export industry is almost 1000 to 1200 kilometre away from the port, power plants using imported fuel are also set up around a thousand kilometre away from the port due to political considerations, and no major dam has been constructed since 1973 which is a recipe for disaster.

He said that goods are not transported through rail but by road transport which increases the cost of doing business and rail as well as public transport have not been developed which benefits the automakers and damages the country and masses.

Due to the plight of public transport, people are forced to use motorbikes and cars, which waste tens of millions of rupees of fuel daily. The majority of the economic experts are linked to international institutions therefore they do not reveal the truth about important issues, he said.

Advertisement for the 17th National Procurement Commission. It details the commission's mandate, the public procurement rules (36(a)), and lists various categories of goods and services to be procured, including medical equipment, IT services, and construction materials. It also provides contact information for the commission.

Mastercard partners with Bank Alfalah to accelerate e-commerce

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Mastercard has announced a strategic partnership with Bank Alfalah, which will see the bank's online payment gateway infrastructure accept a wider array of cards, including the ability to make China Union Pay online payments in the market for the first time. The technology leader will power more than 13 million cards across Pakistan through the capabilities of its Mastercard Payment Gateway Services.



The collaboration between Mastercard and Bank Alfalah, one of the largest private banks in Pakistan, will offer enhanced value for merchants and consumers, and provide greater opportunities for people across Pakistan to benefit from the digital economy.

J.K. Khalil, Cluster General Manager, MENA East, Mastercard, said: "We are committed to driving financial inclusion by

harnessing the power of technology. Mastercard Payment Gateway Services connects more people and merchants to the endless possibilities offered by the digital economy. We are delighted to build on our longstanding partnership with Bank Alfalah to accelerate Pakistan's digital journey and create a more connected world as we unlock the potential of online payments for millions of people."

According to Statista, the e-commerce market in Pakistan is expected to reach \$7.6 billion in 2022 and should reach \$9.1 billion by 2025. Mehreen Ahmed, Group Head Retail Banking at Bank Alfalah commented on the occasion, "Online payments are vital for building the payment ecosystem in the country. We are delighted to be partnering with Mastercard to create yet another avenue for accelerating e-commerce in Pakistan."



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:21 am
Zohr 12:13 pm
Asr 5:12 pm
Maghrib 7:22 pm
Isha 9:04 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

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MH 561116
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Met Office 9250360-6
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
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Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

PTA formulates cyber security framework

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Through extensive consultation and deliberation with Telecom Industry and leading cyber security experts, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has formulated "Cyber Security Framework".

This framework is based on Critical Telecom Data and Infrastructure Security Regulation (CTDISR) by PTA and defines the obligation for auditors and PTA's licensees. It provides guidance to the auditors for performing gap assessment in the light of PTA's Cyber Security Regulations including interpretation and expectations against each security control where necessary.

As part of the framework, a maturity model has also been devised, whereby the controls have been classified on the basis of their criticality. It is pertinent to highlight that International Telecommunication Union (ITU) gives significance to the Cyber Security Framework of each member state while calculating Global Cyber Security Index (GCI).

Education Minister urges HEC to enhance education quality

Says universities should be encouraged to generate resources

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain during a meeting held here Thursday urged the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to put more efforts to enhance the quality of country's higher education.

In the meeting held at the HEC Secretariat, the federal minister also stressed on increasing access to higher education in such a way that it does not compromise quality.

Acting Chairperson HEC, Dr Shaista Sohail gave a detailed briefing to the minister on roles and responsibilities of HEC as well as challenges being faced by the higher education sector.

The meeting was attended by all divisional heads of HEC. The federal minister appreciated HEC for its various initiatives to develop the higher education sector but stressed that more efforts are required to implement the policies to improve quality in letter and spirit. "There is no denying the fact that access to higher education must increase, but there should be a constant



improvement in the quality of education and research", he stressed.

Rana Tanveer also emphasized that the universities should be encouraged to generate resources other than the government's funding.

He underlined the need to strengthen universities' capacity for resource generation as well as efficient management of these resources.

"Teachers play a key role in any education system. HEC has a system in place for their capacity building, but it needs to be further strengthened and planning should also be done to include training of college teachers. Secondly, the world is shifting towards a

system where focus is being given to skills of students therefore we also need to train our teachers and university management to plan their curricula and teaching methodology in that way," he said.

Rana Tanveer directed HEC authorities to restart the national ranking process of universities, saying that it is an important factor to urge universities for improving their performance.

"It is good that a few of our universities have made it to top ranked global universities but the figure is too low. I believe that ranking at national level will play a catalytic role for enhancing performance of our universities."

Dr. Shaista Sohail, in her briefing, gave an overview of all major functions of HEC, including quality assurance, accreditation of universities and degree programmes, funding mechanism, strengthening of universities' physical and technological infrastructure including Smart Universities and other HEC services like attestation and equivalence of degrees.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Visitors take keen interest in a painting during exhibition of Rabia Zajir artist title "The Spiritual Journey" at a local mall in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

IB students receive Diploma Programme results

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: 173,878 students worldwide, including 264 students from Pakistan, receive their Diploma Programme (DP) results from the May 2022 examination session. Pakistan's DP total points average is 31.14.

In Pakistan, students who participated in the May 2022 session will be subject to the revised conversion formula as per the updated Inter-Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) Equivalence Committee guidelines for International Baccalaureate (IB).

Olli-Pekka Heinonen, Director General of the International Baccalaureate, said: "Our students have shown outstanding resilience and dedication to learning. The pandemic has thrown up challenges at almost every step of their educational journey and yet they have overcome them. I am proud of every single one of them.

To recognise these challenges the IB

provided adaptations to our programmes – but it is the IB World Schools and teachers who deliver our programmes that have also been incredibly resilient and dedicated to help their students get to this point. Today is an incredible day for the whole IB family and I salute everyone involved in making it this far. The character on display illustrates everything the IB stands for."

The IB understands that students globally continue to face disruption to their lives and their teaching and learning as a result of the global pandemic. To ensure that all students could continue to the next step of their learner journey and achieve valid results, the IB made adaptations to help address the challenges caused by the pandemic, including adjustments to learning, teaching, and assessment, for the May 2022 examination session.

The IB also developed a procedure to award grades without written examinations as a contingency measure for the circumstances preventing exam administration.

The impact of the pandemic on students was deeply considered throughout the grade awarding process for the May 2022 examination session and appropriate grade boundaries were set to account for the disruption to education. A review of results was undertaken to ensure the IB mitigated the disruption students face.

The IB is immensely proud of all IB students who have reached this milestone. Throughout the DP two-year learning journey students have acquired the knowledge and skills to thrive and make a difference in the world. This achievement has been reached through the incredible efforts and ongoing support of the whole school community.

The IB is offered by 5,603 schools in 160 countries around the world, and 31 of these schools offering 48 programmes are located in Pakistan. In addition, the IB is widely recognized by prestigious universities globally and employers alike, for the depth and breadth of its programmes.

Need stressed on integrated, participatory approach to achieve SDGs

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Highlighting the important role of Voluntary National Review process towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals, the participants stressed the importance of an integrated & participatory approach towards making of Voluntary National Review Report.

The process adopted by Planning Commission of Pakistan was inclusive and broad-based, however the official VNR report does not reflect the progress on critical SDGs that related to basic social services including education, human rights, women & gender rights, peace, democracy and accountability mechanisms.

These thoughts were expressed in Pre - HLPF CSOs Consultation session on Voluntary National Review (VNR) process and report, organized by AwazCDS-Pakistan and Malala Fund in Islamabad.

Presented every year at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), VNRs



provide the opportunity for countries to share their individual experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating SDG implementation. The review process and report also discusses the governing framework and policies supporting the development process.

Chief Executive Awaz CDS Pakistan, Zia ur Rehman appreciated government for setting up institutional structures like Parliamentary Task Forces and SDGs Units at national, provincial and regional levels to facilitate and oversight the implementa-

tion processes towards the achievement of SDGs.

He expressed concern that the official VNR report apparently focuses on the SDGs other than the five priority SDGs for this year's HLPF review, including Goals 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality) 14 (Life Below Water), 15 (Life on Land), and 17 (Partnership for the Goals). He expressed his dismay for not reflecting progress on quality education and gender equality as standalone segments.

According to him the report also failed to capture and highlight the

stakeholders input on VNR process and progress on SDGs collected through stakeholders' consultations held across Pakistan.

Manager Programs & Campaigns AwazCDS, Maryam Amjad Khan presented the combined statement of national CSOs on SDGs for HLPF 2022. The statement highlighted the importance of collecting information through Peoples Scorecard and collecting input from the civil society organizations on the subject. According to the results of Peoples Scorecard 2022 the average score of progress on SDGs is 27 as compared to the average score of 22 in 2021.

Pakistan Development Alliance releases the Peoples Scorecard on SDGs every year to measure the progress on SDGs. Global score for Pakistan progress on SDGs is 59.34. The global score is determined through government sponsored secondary data whereas Peoples Scorecard (PSC) is based on the evidence based perception of informed civil society in Pakistan.

Health Corner

Preventing Type 1 Diabetes

ISLAMABAD: Research into the causes of type 1 diabetes often focuses on the autoimmune response, where the immune system destroys pancreatic islet beta cells that produce insulin. A new study by scientists at the University of Chicago instead looks at the role of the beta cells themselves in triggering autoimmunity. The research also raises the possibility that new medications could block the immune system from destroying beta cells and prevent type 1 diabetes from developing in at risk or early onset patients.

The study, published today in Cell Reports, describes how the researchers used genetic tools to knock out or delete a gene called Alox15 in mice that are genetically predisposed to developing type 1 diabetes. This gene produces an enzyme called 12/15-Lipoxygenase, which is known to be involved in processes that produce inflammation in beta cells. Deleting Alox15 in these mice preserved their amount of beta cells, reduced the number of immune T cells infiltrating the islet environment, and prevented type 1 diabetes from developing in both males and females. These mice also showed increased expression of the gene encoding a protein called PD-L1 that suppresses autoimmunity.

"The immune system doesn't just decide one day that it's going to attack your beta cells. Our thinking was that the beta cell itself has somehow fundamentally altered itself to invite that immunity," said senior author Raghavendra Mirmira, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Diabetes Translational Research Center at UChicago.

"When we got rid of this gene, the beta cells no longer signaled to the immune system and the immune onslaught was completely suppressed, even though we didn't touch the immune system," he said. "That tells us that there is a complex dialogue between beta cells and immune cells, and if you intervene in that dialogue, you can prevent diabetes."

The study is the result of a long-term collaboration that began when Mirmira and several members of his lab were at Indiana University. Jerry Nadler, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at New York Medical College discovered the role of the 12/15-Lipoxygenase enzyme, and Maureen Gannon, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Cell and Developmental Biology, and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Vanderbilt University, provided a strain of mice that was used in the study, which allowed for the knockout of the Alox15 gene when given the drug tamoxifen.

In 2012, Sarah Tersey, PhD, Research Associate Professor at UChicago and co-senior author of the new study, led a project that was among the first to suggest that the beta cell might be a central player in the development of type 1 diabetes. "This allows us to understand the underlying mechanisms leading to the development of type 1 diabetes," Tersey said. "This has been a huge, changing part of the field where we focus more on the role of beta cells and not just autoimmunity."

The study also has interesting connections to cancer treatments that harness the immune system to fight tumors. Cancer cells often express the PD-L1 protein to suppress the immune system and evade the body's defenses. New drugs called checkpoint inhibitors target this protein, inhibiting or removing the PD-L1 "checkpoint" and unleashing the immune system to attack tumors. In the new study, increased PD-L1 in the knockout mice serves its intended purpose by preventing the immune system from attacking the beta cells.

In the new study, the researchers also tested a drug that inhibits the 12/15-Lipoxygenase enzyme on human beta cells. They saw that the drug, called ML355, increases levels of PD-L1, suggesting that it could interrupt the autoimmune response and prevent diabetes from developing. Ideally, it would be given to patients who are at high risk because of family history and show early signs of developing type 1 diabetes, or shortly after diagnosis before too much damage has been done to the pancreas. Mirmira and his team are taking the first steps to start clinical trials to test a possible treatment using ML355.

"This study certainly suggests that inhibiting the enzyme in humans can increase levels of PD-L1, which is very promising," Mirmira said. "With beta cell targeted therapeutics, we believe that as long as the disease hasn't progressed to the point that there's massive destruction of beta cells, you can catch an individual before that process starts and prevent the disease progression altogether." (Courtesy Science Daily)



More monsoon rains predicted during Eid holidays

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday said the provincial and district authorities should remain vigilant and ensure prerequisite arrangements to cope with impending inclement weather predicted by the Pakistan Meteorological Department during the Eid holidays.

Apropos Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) media advisory stating that monsoon currents were continuously penetrating countrywide and were likely to strengthen from during Eid Holidays that is from 9th and 10th July. Therefore, Rain-wind, thundershower and heavy falls were expected in various parts of country, said the NDMA news release.

The NDMA issued fresh advisory to the Federal ministries, departments, respective provincial governments, their line departments including PIDs, PDMA, GBDMA, SDMA, district administrations and DDMA, municipal administrations and major metropolitan to remain vigilant and take all necessary precautionary measures.

Keeping in view the expected situation during Eid holidays, the NDMA has specifically advised rescue departments to make personnel, staff and equipment available to cope with any rain and flood-related incident.

NDMA has also advised the relevant departments to ensure pre-placement of necessary inventory and equipment along with availability of required personnel at identified vulnerable locations to back-up generators for de-watering pumps in case of urban flooding. Moreover, there was a need for efficient solid waste management to avoid choking of main sewerage and storm water drains in view of Eid Ul Aza.

Furthermore, the NDMA has instructed relevant departments to coordinate with NHA, FWO and C&W for restoration of roads and pre-placement of necessary machinery at strategic location to respond landsliding immediately.

In its Advisory, the NDMA has urged relevant authorities and departments to conduct mass awareness campaign for necessary precautionary and safety measures by public during monsoon. Agencies

More cameras to be installed under Safe City Project

ISLAMABAD: A total of 400 cameras would be installed in Islamabad during the next month to expand the coverage of the Safe City Project and ensure assistance to the police in tracking and identifying the criminals at the request of the operation division and investigation wing.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that these cameras will be active in August and are being installed to ensure high vigilance in the city.

As per vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif following special orders of the Minister of Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan, the IGP said that steps are being taken to expand the scope of Safe City Islamabad.

Similarly, he said the traffic management system has also been revived under which e-challans will be issued to vehicles violating traffic rules.

He said that drivers would be also warned to abide by traffic rules and traffic licenses of drivers with more numbers of traffic challans will be revoked.

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Another Reason for Travelling Pakistan



Analysis
Munaza Kazmi

Joined by China, Afghanistan, Iran and India and with a population of more than 200 million people it's no surprise that Pakistan is a country of geographical and linguistic diversity. However, there's common ground to be found in the cuisine. Overall Pakistanis are passionate about their cuisine, which is full of flavor and bursting with color. And they just love eating. Food is among the most significant! Even we have foods for different occasions and from different regions. However, a habit of Colonial-Past, Pakistan is a nation of tea lovers, and there are several varieties of tea on offer from Kawa, Karak chai, Masala chai to Gulabi chai. Adding tea leaves into the boiling cup of water.

Tea is a social drink bringing everyone together, often served with savory dishes such as samosa, pakora or paratha. These easy-to-make crispy, fried fritters are a classic finger food served as a starter or a side dish with the sweet cup of tea. Also, it's our Pakistan's sweetheart dish in Ramadan. Vegetables are thinly sliced before being soaked in a seasoned and spice gram flour batter and then fried for a few minutes. Grab

them while they are hot. If you prefer a meatier option, chicken pakoras are also on menu. Abroad bread is eaten cold, here it's always hot and comes with different flavors. Pakistanis make a range of perfect melt-in-your-mouth flatbreads including roti and naans but the paratha, made with clarified butter or ghee is a particularly delicious indulgence.

Eaten for breakfast, you can go for the plain option but there are also various fillings to choose from including mince-meat, potato, spinach, and cauliflower paratha etc. There are many types of kebabs in Pakistani cuisine. Such as the popular seekh kebab, which is ground meat grilled on skewers. The highly favorite chapli kebab, name is taken from the Pashto word "chaprikh" which means "flat". It comes from the flat shape of minced meat slices, dish of the North - You can taste the flavors of coriander and pomegranate seeds in this tasty recipe. And the shami kebab, small patties made with minced meat mixed with split chickpeas, finely chopped onion, mint, green chilli and egg to hold it all together.

A popular street food having roots with Bangladesh was once sold by cart-pushing vendors. However, with the growing trend fast food restaurants you can enjoy it along the ambience. The round shell is made with semolina and fried. Once it cools and becomes brittle, a hole is created and filled with a mixture of tamarind chutney, chilli, chaat masala, potato, onion and chickpeas. It is served with a bowl of spicy tamarind dip. Try and you will crave it back home.

Created in the royal kitchens of the 16th-19th century Mughal Empire by Beghum Mumtaz Mahal aimed to create a delicious, nutritious and wholesome dish for the soldiers in her husband Emperor Shahjahan's army.

Today it is among the most celebrated dishes in Pakistan and often served on special occasions. Made with lamb or beef but chicken biryani is a favorite. However, Karachi city is famous for the bone marrow Biryani version. The meat and rice are cooked separately before being layered and cooked together with an assortment of spices. Nevertheless, Kabuli Pulao is a specialty of Afghan cuisine, but it is very common in Pakistan. Kabul's families made it first with tender meat, raisins, nuts, rice, and caramelized carrots. Silk Road traders brought it from Afghanistan to western Pakistan, and it gradually spread throughout the country.

"Narha" an Arabic word that means "Morning", perhaps that's the reason it is a must have breakfast dish. It used to be left to simmer and cook overnight to be served at sunrise. Logically it's so rich that surely it will fill your stomach. The food was born in Old Delhi, including lamb shanks, mutton, including the bone marrow as the main complements. It is also usually served with rice or naan. Served mostly in Breakfast and Lunch, but popular in the Holy Muharram, originated from Middle East, Indian Sub-continent and Central Asia. Warm and comforting, this dish may look simple enough, but a combination of lentils, wheat, barley and

minced beef are slow-cooked for overnight in gentle spices to get sticky consistency.

This warming goat curry, with a soup-like consistency, is often eaten on cold winter mornings. Again, slow-cooking it will ensure that all the spices have infused into the perfectly tender meat. An essential part of Punjabi breakfast, the combination of a poori which is light and fluffy is served with the rich tasting halwa and chickpea curry. For the lovers of chicken Chargha is a fantastic suggestion. This recipe combines chicken, spices, and yogurt to make a distinctive and delicate flavor. Its name "Chargha" means chicken in Pushto, and it is an invention in Lahore city, Pakistan. You can choose from the Tandoori Chargha version with roasted chicken or the traditional deep-fried chicken version.

It is traditional Balochi dish and my favorite, Pakistani's eat likes their Emperors. The whole mutton is very slowly cooked into the mud furnace by first stuffing with carrots and raisin rice. The aroma and taste are worth of waiting. The mild and delicious recipe found its origins in the Royal Mughal Kitchens, lamb shanks steamed for about 6-7 hours in dough-sealed pot along seasonal vegetables and salt. After cooking Served mostly with white rice, you can have them easily in Peshawar or any Desi restaurant across Pakistan. If you are vegetarian, Pakistani Cuisine offers a variety of delicious treats.

Kadhi Pakora is one of the choices you should consider. This delicious yogurt curry is a combination of gram flour, fritters, and spices that will add

flavor to this food. Smooth and consistent texture will make your taste buds fall in love with this food. The recipe originates from Rajasthan and is popular in Pakistan and India. People often combine it with rice or roti for dinner. Another vegan delight, so tasty, simple and quick to make; a masala base is created by frying onions, tomatoes, with spices, and mixing with roasted eggplant in the oven, that gives the dish a smoky flavor.

A quite simple dish of lentils served with cumin rice, mostly common in Punjab. When the lentils are thoroughly cooked, the tarka is applied; onions, cumin seeds and crushed garlic cloves are fried until brown in a separate pan and added to the lentils without stirring. It makes a sizzling sound as the tarka mixture hits the lentils. Gajrela is made using a combination of grated carrots, nuts, milk, sugar, boiled eggs, khoya and clarified butter.

This flavorful dessert often makes an appearance at weddings.

Dating back to Mughal India, this was a sweetheart of Emperors. An eye-catching multicolor dessert, made with sugar, milk, sweet meat, food coloring and flavored with cardamoms, raisins, pistachios and various dry-fruits. A dessert eaten at weddings or on Eid al Fitr at the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan; sweet and milky dish is slow-cooked using milk, vermicelli, sugar, infused with cardamom and topped with crushed pistachios. I am sure you had found another reason to visit Pakistan. Have a nice Holiday.

Kashmir Resistance Day

Every year on July 8, Burhan Wani's martyrdom anniversary is observed as 'Resistance Day' while July 13 as Kashmir Martyrs' Day in memory of 22 people who fell to the bullets of Maharaja's troops in Srinagar in 1931. The Resistance Day would be commemorated to pay tribute to Wani and his fellows in particular and all martyrs in general; reiterate commitment for continuing freedom struggle; and remind the world of its promises made to Kashmiris.

The purpose to observe Martyrs Week is to pay tribute to martyrs and reiterate commitment to continue their mission for freedom of Kashmir. Kashmiris are observing Martyrs Week from July 8 to July 13. Every year, the Indian authorities impose strict restrictions to prevent people from commemorating the day and pay tribute to the martyred leader. However, despite restraints, people reach Tral (home town of the deceased leader) to pay homage to him.

Six years after Indian forces martyred tech-savvy young icon of Kashmir freedom struggle, Burhan Muzaffar Wani, many things have changed, but normalcy seems to be far off dream for Kashmiris as Indian forces continued unabated state terrorism to suppress peaceful resistance movement. The cricket-lover Wani and his fellows were extra-judicially martyred by Indian forces on July 8, 2016. Representing his generation, the martyred youth rekindled the freedom struggle and defeated the fictitious Indian narrative about Kashmiris' indigenous freedom struggle. India had been striving hard for many years to equalize the struggle with terrorism; however Wani frustrated these designs by sacrificing his life for the cause.

The martyrdom of his brother in 2015 strengthened his resolve to fight the Indian occupation and entice Kashmiri youth through the social networking media. He was not alone in this, rather dozens of educated youth belonging to well-off families, who had been witnessing the oppression and Indian state terrorism, joined him to fight against Indian occupation. Wani was exceptionally active on social media, and did not hide his identity behind a mask. Following the sayings of martyred leader, Syed Ali Shah Gilani "Shuhada Kay Waris Zinda Hay" (The heirs of martyrs are alive), Kashmiris is determined to render sacrifices for continuation of martyrs' mission for freedom struggle.

Indian forces have martyred 96,089 Kashmiris since 1989 which include 7,244 custodial killings. The authorities arrested 164,931 civilians and destroyed or arsoned 110,484 structures. During this period 22,946 women were widowed, 107,866 orphaned and 11,255 women were gang-raped or molested. Kashmiris are waiting for last over 7 decades to exercise their UN-Mandated plebiscite to decide about their future.

However, Indian obduracy is the only hurdle to let them exercise this right. Consequently, not only Kashmiris but people of whole South Asian Region are exposed to nuclear war threat and are facing challenges like underdevelopment and poverty. We hope sanity prevails over India to let Kashmiris exercise their right. This would not only have positive impact on the lives of Kashmiris, but would be more beneficial for the whole sub-continent in terms of peace and prosperity.

The APHC AJK Chapter is holding a solidarity rally on Friday to commemorate the day and pay tributes to the martyrs. Protest rallies are also scheduled at Muzaffarabad and other parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmiris living abroad would also hold seminars, conferences and rallies to pay tribute to the martyred leader and remind the world of its commitments made to Kashmiris for providing them right to plebiscite to decide their future.

History should not repeat in Afghanistan

Ishtiaq Ahmad

Since 1979, Afghanistan has been a theater of two major global conflicts. We know what happened in the first instance: The Afghan people not only bore the brunt of the war but also had to face its deadly consequences. Global apathy fueled ethno-religious fissures. The brewing conflict finally resurged to threaten international peace and the world was left with no choice but to intervene in the war-torn nation. The second instance — the longest war in Afghan history — ended last year, producing an unprecedented humanitarian disaster. The world is again unwilling to rescue the Afghans from its ravages. With a simmering crisis and sources of conflict intact, Afghanistan will descend a familiar path, slowly but surely.

The scale of its current disaster is enormous. The evidence furnished by UN agencies is stark: Over 24 million people — more than half of the Afghan population — need emergency assistance to survive. More than a million children under the age of five face a high risk of dying from starvation. The economy has contracted by almost half in the past year and the official poverty rate could soon reach 97 percent. Last year alone, 1.3 million Afghans were internally displaced. Millions more have taken refuge abroad.

Of course, much of this disaster is human-made, rooted in persistent ethnic conflict, religious terrorism and foreign aggression. But nature is also not so kind to the Afghans. A protracted drought has devastated agriculture and livestock, compounding the food crisis. Last month, a devastating earthquake also struck the southeastern provinces, causing massive loss of life and property and exposing half a million people to hunger and disease, according to UN estimates. The global apathy to Afghan suffering is writ large. In March, the UN appealed for \$4.4 billion in emergency support from donor nations.

It got merely half of this amount and that too with severe restrictions on its disbursement by UN relief agencies due to Western sanctions against the de facto Taliban regime. Some of these restrictions have relaxed over time, but serious issues continue to hamper the delivery of essential food and health supplies to the bulk of the rural Afghan population. Other sources of support include the Humanitarian Trust Fund for Afghanistan, set up by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in March. Saudi Arabia has provided the bulk of this support with a grant of \$30 million. But contributions to this fund and other bilateral commitments pale in comparison to the gravity of the crisis. Neighboring countries are already overstretched due to the Afghan refugee presence.



Pakistan, for instance, has hosted millions of Afghan refugees for the last four decades. Several hundred more have arrived since last year. It has limited economic capacity to help, but still does. No matter what other countries do to help the Afghans out of Muslim solidarity or geographical affinity the primary responsibility for mitigating their humanitarian suffering falls on the shoulders of the US. This is where the real problem lies. About \$9.5 billion of funds from the Afghan central bank were frozen by the US and its European allies as they exited the 20-year war last August. Out of this, \$7 billion was held in US banks and the remaining \$2.5 billion in European banks. The Biden administration has unfrozen \$3.5 billion in Afghan assets, but it is yet to decide how to safely transfer them to the UN and

other humanitarian organizations in Afghanistan without involving the Taliban.

US officials are concerned that money meant for humanitarian operations may end up in Taliban hands if donors use the Afghan central bank. US Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West, accompanied by officials from the Treasury Department, last week met with a Taliban delegation led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Doha, but they failed to solve the financial row. However, in a promising sign, both sides agreed to keep the conversation going. This was the first high-level contact between US and Taliban officials since March, when the Taliban government decided to ban secondary schooling for girls.

Since then, more restrictions have followed. Last week's loya jirga (grand assembly) of more than 3,000 Afghan tribal elders and religious scholars in Kabul clearly suggests that the Taliban regime is in no mood for compromising on women's and minority rights. Without such a compromise, it should forget about being recognized by the world. The Taliban leadership may, however, agree to negotiate on this issue in exchange for the US unfreezing Afghan funds. The economic crisis is a potential driver of conflict and misery in Afghanistan. But once the country's humanitarian woes subside, the Taliban regime can claim international legitimacy on the basis of domestic stability.

Therefore, the Biden administration must

find a way to deliver the money, which belongs to Afghanistan and can provide direly needed relief to its hapless population. The best option would be to use the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the principal world institution supervising humanitarian activities in Afghanistan. UN relief agencies such as the UN Food Program and the World Health Organization have extensive experience in dealing with the financial complexities involved in humanitarian operations.

In fact, the US and its European allies owe a lot more to the Afghan people. Is it not ironic that the US spent \$2 trillion in waging the war and is now squabbling over a mere \$7 billion in relief? The humanitarian disaster Afghanistan faces today is a direct outcome of this war. Yet, American commitment to mitigating this disaster is only \$772 million. The Afghans, resilient as they are for having gone through so much pain and suffering, do not deserve such a rebuke. To cut a long story short, back in the 1980s, the US blundered by walking away from Afghanistan. The consequences were grave. Failure to learn from history this time around could push the US, and the rest of the world, into even greater danger. This is an outcome we must avoid at all costs.

The writer is a former vice chancellor of Sargodha University & Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford. Courtesy Arab News



SBP adopts additional 4 new AAOIFI Shari'ah standards

This makes the total number of standards adopted by State Bank of Pakistan 20

Spokesman Report

KARACHI/MANAMA: Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) is pleased to learn that the State Bank of Pakistan has adopted four additional AAOIFI Shari'ah standards. These standards include Shari'ah standard (SS) No. 10 – Salam and Parallel Salam, SS No. 11 – Istisna'a and Parallel Istisna'a, SS. No. 25 – Combination of Contracts and SS. No. 50 – Irrigation Partnership (Musaqat). This makes the total number of standards adopted by SBP 20.

On this occasion, Omar Mustafa Ansari, Secretary General of AAOIFI commented "we are pleased to note that SBP has adopted four more AAOIFI Shari'ah standards for the Islamic banking and finance industry in the country. We believe harmonisation and standardisation of the industry and aligning with global standards will play an important role in achieving the strategic goals of SBP for the development of Islamic finance industry in line with the decision of Federal Shari'at Court of Pakistan".

The Director of Islamic Banking Department (IBD), Mr. GM Abbasi commented "To further strengthen Shariah compliance regime, State Bank of Pakistan has adopted additional four AAOIFI Shari'ah Standards with certain clarifications/amendments. These include AAOIFI Shari'ah Standard No.



10 (Salam and Parallel Salam), No. 11 (Istisna'a and Parallel Istisna'a), No. 25 (Combination of Contracts) and No. 50 (Irrigation Partnership (Musaqat)). With the adoption of these Standards, the total number of AAOIFI Shari'ah Standards adopted reaches to twenty whereas the remaining standards are in process of adoption. The initiative will help in harmonizing the Shariah practices in Islamic banking industry. Further, this adoption of the Standards is

in addition to current regulations, other instructions and directives issued by SBP from time to time."

Additionally, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has also adopted seven AAOIFI Shari'ah standards and have also issued directives of public consultation on seven additional Shari'ah standards. SECP has also joined AAOIFI as its institutional member in 2022 and there are ongoing discussions for further collaboration on

areas of mutual interest.

AAOIFI standards are now adopted in no less than 43 jurisdiction and 36 countries globally. This includes countries where AAOIFI standards are adopted / adapted fully / partially, as well as, those jurisdictions where local standards are based on AAOIFI standards or use them as guidelines to develop local standards. Additionally, there are jurisdictions where AAOIFI standards are adopted on a voluntary basis.

Pak-Qatar General Takaful signs MoU with Auto One



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Pak-Qatar General Takaful came into an agreement with Auto One (The largest Automotive marketplace for car buyers and sellers in Pakistan).

They deal with numerous certified second-hand and used, cars from large numbers of dealers and private sellers. The signing ceremony was held in Karachi. The agreement will allow Auto One to officer Motor Takaful for their clients.

The agreement was signed between Azem I. Pirani, (CEO, PQFTL), Saqib Zeeshan (Depty-CEO, PQFTL) Junaid Ibrahim (Chairman Auto One) and Zeeshan Haider (Head Alternative Distribution & Banca Takaful) along with other officials from the organization.

BankIslami sponsors Bahria's BSPC talks 'Voice Of Youth'

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: BankIslami, Pakistan's leading Islamic financial institution, served as the title sponsor for Bahria Society of Professional Communication (BSPC) Talks, a platform where captivating stories and ideas are exchanged that have the potential to transform the listeners' lives. BSPC is a student-run society at Bahria University that focuses on the development of communication skills among its members by organizing various workshops and seminars.

The event, which took place on Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at the Al-Beruni Auditorium, Bahria University on Karsaz, focused on the theme 'Voice of Youth', bringing on board speakers with inspirational stories to spark confidence among the participants. The Talks were held in the presence of Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker Honorable President and CEO BankIslami, Syed Amir Ali.

Commenting on the occasion, Syed Amir Ali, President & CEO, BankIslami said, "I am honored to be invited as the Chief Guest and thrilled to connect with the future of our country, which is the promising youth sitting before me. Communication is the most crucial ingredient when it

AlHuda CMF-UAE signs MOU with UMT

AlHuda CMF-UAE is highly optimistic about the future of the modest fashion industry



Spokesman Report

DUBAI: AlHuda Centre of Modest Fashion-United Arab Emirates and School of Design and Textile of University of Management and Technology-Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding for mutually enhancing the potential of Modest Fashion Industry. The MoU is signed by Dr. Aysha Zubair, Chief Operating Officer, AlHuda Centre of Modest Fashion and Prof. Dr. Mumtaz Hassan Malik-Dean, School of Design and Textile-UMT.

AlHuda CMF-UAE has been working tirelessly since

2019 to expand the modest fashion industry's prospects by capacity building, advisory and consultancy, research and development and through publications. The major ways for capacity building are in-house training, virtual training, physical training, exposure visits to advanced markets, events and internships. AlHuda CMF already had many successful strategic partnerships and collaborations all over the world with multiple institutions, brands and other organizations for support and for the development of modest fashion industry.

Both parties will collaborate

rate on training programs, events, and internships as a result of this MoU. Both sides think that cooperation will help them make better use of each other's resources and offer them with more opportunities, thus they will work together for mutual benefits. Both parties recognize the importance of education for university students and faculty members, and value international cooperation in educational development. Also collaborate for research and development to make innovation in the line of Modest Fashion, particularly Abaya fabric and designing.

Sukuk issuance to fall by \$17.4b in 2022 amid higher oil prices

Global liquidity is also dwindling, while investors have become more risk averse

DUBAI: Sukuk issuance volumes will fall this year as global liquidity dwindles and higher oil prices lower the need for financing in some Islamic markets.

Total issuance for this year is likely to reach \$130 billion, a 12.5 percent drop from \$147.4 billion in 2021, and a revised down from the initial forecast of \$145 billion to \$150 billion, according to the latest analysis by S&P.

During the first half of 2022, sukuk issuance amounted to \$74.5 billion, down from \$93.3 billion during the same period in 2021, both in local and foreign currency. Issuance in most core Islamic finance countries posted declines, with a few exceptions.

Issuance in the UAE remained flat compared with the prior year, and slightly up in Bahrain and Turkey. Markets experiencing declines include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia and Indonesia. "Sukuk issuance volumes will decline in 2022 as lower, more expensive global and regional liquidity, increased complexity and reducing financing needs for issuers in some core Islamic finance countries, thanks to higher oil prices, deter the market," S&P said in a report released on Monday.

The sukuk market could also face additional hurdles, such as Sharia scholars' preference for a higher proportion of profit and loss shar-



ing. "What's more, we believe that if sukuk become an equity-like instrument, investor and issuer appetite will likely diminish," S&P said.

"Therefore, standardising sukuk structures and satisfying the needs of all stakeholders could be a plausible way for the market to maintain its appeal," S&P said.

"The market is also being supported by the energy transition and increased awareness of environmental, social and governance considerations among regional issuers in key Islamic finance countries."

Liquidity has dropped and become more expensive after record-high inflation prompted central banks to tighten policy and accelerate interest rate increases.

Investors have also become more risk averse, and this has led to significantly lower activity in the capital markets. "The sukuk market, as a component of the global capital market, is not immune to global trends," S&P said.

And, with oil prices rising, balance sheets of some leading players in the sukuk market have improved, hence there's lesser need to initiate sukuk offerings. "We also observe corporates' continued caution regarding capital expenditure plans," said S&P.

"The scars of the pandemic and uncertainty related to the financing environment have led many to rein in growth investments, turn to banks for funding, or start deleveraging," Zawya

Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank publishes its first ESG report

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, a leading Islamic financial institution, has announced today the release of its first ESG report highlighting the progress made on the bank's Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) goals and commitments for the year 2021. The report builds on ADIB's sustainability Report, which ADIB had been publishing since 2016.

This report details ADIB's ongoing efforts to address some of society's greatest challenges and build more sustainable, diverse and equitable communities. It underlines the bank's goal to embed Islamic values and sustainability at the core of its business and focuses on a wide range of topics, including governance and integrity, customer focus, commitment to the environment and society, community empowerment, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Nasser Al Awadhi, Group Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are proud to present our first ESG report for the year 2021. It was an eventful year for us as we have achieved many milestones and strengthened our business model while putting a greater focus on sustainability by integrating it as a pillar in our new 5-year strategic plan. ESG and sustainability have always been a key element of ADIB's success. Our new strategy is aligned with the long-term

economic interests of our stakeholders and the communities we operate in."

"At ADIB, we are aware that sustainability is a journey that requires every individual to play an active role. We are committed to pushing our ESG agenda forward every year and inspiring our stakeholders to join us on this journey," he added.

In 2021, ADIB launched 'Sustainable Future', a new pillar in its 2025 strategy bolstering its sustainability agenda and accelerating growth in areas that are most pertinent to emerging sustainability opportunities and challenges. The new strategy approach is guided by four pillars that include continuous innovation, a segment focus, digital excellence, and a sustainable future.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards. It is aligned to the UAE Vision 2021 as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Among the many ESG initiatives, this report covers key highlights from the past year which include:

ADIB is committed to the growth prosperity of Abu Dhabi and the UAE, supporting the UAE's sustainability objectives, UAE Green Agenda 2015-2030, and the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030. ADIB is a signatory to the Abu Dhabi Sustainable Finance Declaration



which supports sustainable financing for economic development.

In addition, ADIB has a strong track record in supporting its clients to meet

their own ESG targets, including the provision of ethical, socially responsible financing based on Shari'a-principles. ADIB is now working on develop-

ing a detailed ESG strategy along with a transformed ESG governance structure designed to accelerate commitment. Agencies

CBB Sukuk Al-Ijara oversubscribed



MANAMA: The Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB) announces that the monthly issue of the short-term Islamic leasing bonds, Sukuk Al-Ijara, has been oversubscribed by 248%.

Subscriptions worth BD 64.5 million were received for the BD 26 million issue, which carries a maturity of 182 days.

The expected return on the issue, which begins on 7th July 2022 and matures on 5th January 2023, is 4.05% compared to 3.15% of the previous issue on 9th June 2022.

The Sukuk Al-Ijara are issued by the CBB on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This is issue No.203 (BH0004910517) of the short-term Sukuk Al-Ijara series. Zawya

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,344.01	41,159.79
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,396.57	41,009.64
Index Value	Change
3,320,850,853	+184.22
Percentage	Time
+0.45%	7 Jul, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,203.00	+95.23
Percentage	Time
+1.32%	7 Jul, 4:20 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
31,294.66	+256.98
Percentage	Time
+0.83%	7 Jul, 11:20 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,490.53	+382.88
Percentage	Time
+1.47%	7 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	139.81	141.06
Bahrain Dinar	548.93	553.43
Canadian Dollar	157.99	159.34
China Yuan	30.72	30.97
Danish Krone	28.46	28.81
Euro	213.5	217.5
Hong Kong Dollar	26.08	26.43
Indian Rupee	2.59	2.67
Japanese Yen	1.47	1.51
Kuwaiti Dinar	671.7	676.7
Malaysian Ringgit	46.37	46.82
New Zealand \$	126.79	127.99
Norwegians Krone	20.76	21.06
Omani Riyal	536.79	541.29
Qatari Riyal	56.22	56.72
Saudi Riyal	54.5	55.3
Singapore Dollar	146.76	148.06
Swedish Korona	19.77	20.07
Swiss Franc	213.04	214.79
Thai Bhat	5.94	6.04
U.A.E Dirham	55.7	56.5
UK Pound Sterling	248	251
US Dollar	206	209.5

To improve economy

Govt facilitating SMEs, optimizing businesses, agri sectors: Ahsan Iqbal

Says economy has been brought out of red zone towards improvement

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning & Development said that when the new government took over power, Pakistan was heading towards default, but with tough decisions, the economy has now been brought out of the red zone towards improvement and efforts are afoot to reconstruct it. He highlighted the jumpstart in exports, export-led growth, enhanced tax revenue, USD 25-30 billion annual FDI, political stability and consistency in policies as key requirements for Pakistan to emerge as a stable economy.

He said that China's annual imports were USD 1 trillion and the business community should focus on increasing their share in this huge market to improve trade with China. He said that the government was focusing on facilitating SMEs and optimizing businesses & agriculture sectors to improve the economy.

He said that the government was seeking proposals from chambers of commerce to abolish



laws or amend them that were creating hurdles for the private sector in order to turnaround Pakistan and urged that ICCI should form a task force to develop such proposals and share them with his ministry for consideration and implementation.

He further said that ICCI should share its proposal for industrial estate in writing that

would be given due consideration. He announced that ICCI would be given representation in the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Planning.

Speaking on the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that ICCI has been making efforts since long to establish a new industrial estate in the region to promote

industrialization, investment and employment, therefore, he demanded that the government should cooperate fully with ICCI in early materialization of this important project.

He said that a modern Expo Center should be set up in Islamabad on the pattern of Karachi and Lahore Expo Centres to organize exhibitions for better promotion of business activities and exports. He said that the government should announce an industrial package to boost industrialization and exports. He said that ICCI should be given representation in the Advisory Board of the Ministry of Planning to finalize development projects keeping in view the interests of the private sector.

He said that high taxes, SBP's high interest rate, sharp devaluation of rupee and increase in oil, electricity and gas prices have multiplied the cost of doing business and demanded that the government should take measures to reduce the cost of doing business so that business and investment activities could flourish and the economy could move towards stability.

Pakistan ambitiously working to achieve \$15b IT exports: Amin-ul-Haq

IT Minister says Pakistan's IT exports reached 2.6 in 2021-22

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Amin-ul-Haq, on Thursday, said that Pakistan is ambitiously working to achieve \$15 billion IT exports in the coming three years.

He was addressing a panel discussion on "Promoting U.S.-Pakistan Innovation and Investment" at National Incubation Centre Karachi (NICK) at NED University of Engineering and Technology.

U.S. Department of State Special Representative (S/R) for Commercial and Business Affairs Dilawar Syed participated in the panel discussion with co speakers Dr. Syed Akbar Zaidi, Executive Director of the Institute of Business Administration and Atif Rais Khan, Founder and CEO of technology company LMKT.

The federal minister said that Pakistan's IT exports reached 2.6 in 2021-22 while



target for FY 2022-23 was set at \$ 3 billion and the IT ministry was fully determined to enhance the figure to \$ 15 n three year plan.

Following the vision of Digital Pakistan, IT ministry has taken multiple steps for promotion of the sector which resulted in expansion of internet connectivity, broadband, and cellular coverage in the country, he said adding that, nowadays, 193 million Pakistanis had mobile phone and

internet connectivity while earlier in FY 2018-19 the figure was 160 million.

By ensuring a steady monthly growth of broadband coverage and expansion of 4G technology the government is eyeing the launch of 5G in Pakistan during the ongoing year, Aminul Haq said.

After digitalization of all the federal ministries and paperless cabinet meetings, now we are working to materialize the objective of paperless parlia-

ment till coming March, the federal IT minister vowed.

National Incubation Centres played a significant role in promotion of entrepreneurship and the number of start-ups crossed 1000 in the country which created hundreds of employment opportunities, he said and informed that financial volume of start-ups remarkably increased five times (500%) to \$373 million from \$75 million of FY 2019-20.

The IT minister, emphasizing on the importance of gender inclusiveness in national development informed that there was 36% representation of females in NICs and the ratio would be raised to 50% in coming year.

The US representative Dilawar Syed while speaking at the panel discussion said "U.S. investors are attracted to the Pakistani market because of its large, young population and its entrepreneurial spirit."



Khurshid Barlas founder & Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry holds meeting with Muhammad Farukh Sharif Trade & Investment Counsellor Embassy of Pakistan in Bangkok, Thailand and discussed feature Business and Trade prospects.

airblue launches flights to Skardu

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: airblue expands its operations and launches its regular flights to Skardu, after successful training and proving flights to the destination. This is another great milestone achieved by the airline.

airblue affirms vigilant planning with strict compliance to all protocols and SOPs at every step of the journey to ensure Passengers' Comfort and Convenience & Safety.

Speaking about the new sector launch, airblue Managing Director Aslam Chaudhary commented "We are very proud to achieve this milestone. This sector flights shall open up a steady stream of domestic as well as interna-

tional tourists in and out of Skardu, resulting in an exponential growth in the tourist based economy of the region. Moreover, we are positive that our careful preparations made at every step of passengers' journey shall build up our passengers' confidence to travel with more convenience and with complete peace of mind"

airblue, a private sector airline with headquarters in Islamabad, started its operations in 2004 and has completed its 18 years of service as Pakistan's second largest and fastest growing airline with the Youngest Aircraft Fleet. airblue, recognized for its quality services, operates a fleet of Airbus A320 & A321 family aircraft including two A321neos.

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PTCL to provide ICT services to DHA Phase-VIII Karachi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) is set to provide ICT services to Defense Housing Authority (DHA) Phase-VIII in Karachi through its state-of-the-art Flash Fiber; Optic Fiber Cable (OFC) service. The premium service will provide uninterrupted high-speed internet to the residents and business community of the society to fulfill their connectivity needs.

Head of Fixed & Wireless Access Technical South, PTCL Group, Ashar Hayat Siddiqui, and Brigadier Hafeez Ullah Khan (Retired) Secretary DHA Karachi, signed the agreement in presence of Shehzad Yousuf, Chief Business Operations Officer, PTCL, Mr Khurram Noor Chief Financial Officer DHA Karachi and other senior officials from both organizations.



Speaking at the event, Shehzad Yousuf, Chief Business Operations Officer, PTCL, thanked DHA for their continued trust in PTCL. He said: "PTCL is the pioneer and backbone of Pakistan's ICT landscape, supporting the operations, expansion and services of a number of sectors within the

country. We continue to scale-up and transform our infrastructure and service delivery system, to meet the growing demands of our individual and enterprise customers. Through such partnerships, we endeavor to further strengthen the communication network across the country, and be able to better serve our valued customers."

Also sharing his thoughts at the occasion, Brigadier Hafeez Ullah Khan (Retired) Secretary DHA Karachi, said: "We are glad to partner up with PTCL for provision of high-quality ICT services to DHA Phase-8 community. Over these years, a reliable internet connection has gained importance at par with other crucial commodities; therefore, our focus remains on the evolving needs of our community members. We commit to delivering the highest quality of service in every domain. I am positive that PTCL's high speed connectivity will effectively fulfill the needs of residents and business community."

PTCL Flash Fiber is Pakistan's premium Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) service with speeds clocking at upto 1GBps. The OFC has various packages tailored to meet the varying needs and demand of individual and business customers.

Value-added textile industries compelled to closure

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Value-Added Textile Export Industries of Karachi are deeply shocked and totally disappointed with the sitting Government for utter silence, indecisiveness and no response towards the appeal and SOS calls to the Prime Minister and his Economic & Energy Team with regards to lack of legitimate supply of gas to the industries on which the industries cannot operate causing colossal financial losses.

The industries of Karachi have been deprived of its legitimate gas share for the last several decades. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is following the footsteps of his predecessors and has totally ignored the industries of Karachi while on other hand he has been meetings with the Spinners Association of Punjab. The ECC of the Cabinet has also one-sidedly, without consultation and taking on board the stakeholder Textile Associations of Karachi, have approved one-sidedly to upward revise the rates of RLNG from existing price of USD 6.5 mmbtu to USD 9 mmbtu. While, indigenous gas being provided to the export-industries in Sindh province will be charged at Rs. 1,350/

mmbtu (USD 6.6 mmbtu) with an increase of 65 percent and RLNG USD 9 mmbtu for SSGCL consumers which the industries of Karachi have termed "unjustified and unacceptable".

Relevant to mention here that the previous Government had approved RLNG USD 6.5 mmbtu tariffs for export-oriented industries across Pakistan but the same was implemented only in the SNGPL territory in north and despite of repeated requests and reminders it was never given to export-oriented industries in the territory of SSGCL whereby the RLNG industrial consumers were charged in January 2021 Rs 1361 per mmbtu which has been enhanced till June 2022 to Rs 4626 per mmbtu. Previous financial year, Government disbursed Rs 81 Billion against the subsidy to provide RLNG on Competitive Tariff in Punjab only. This financial year Government allocated Rs 40 Billion and these benefit were passed on to the export-industries in Punjab creating a competition between the export-industries within the country. The said subsidy is given from Taxpayers money and the successive Governments always forget that it is Karachi is engine

of the economy and contributes in generation of highest revenue and taxes for the national exchequer which is passed on to all else depriving Karachi itself. Like previous Government, the sitting Government is also treating Karachi step-motherly with sheer discrimination.

The Export-Oriented Industries of Karachi, mainly of the Value-Added Textile Exports are highly upset as to why this sheer discrimination is being done alone with Karachi which is the industrial and textile hub of Pakistan that generates 70 percent revenue for the national exchequer, contributes to 54 percent in total national exports and 52 percent in textile exports? They understand that they have been given punishment by reduced supply of gas against their success and accomplishment to enhance textile exports worth USD 4 billion this year and earning more foreign exchange. Out of this USD 4 billion Karachi has generated and contributed more than USD 2 billion. Still Karachi is suffering for the last 35 years due to no infrastructure, scarcity of water, power and gas, extortion, law and order situation, street crimes, civic and basic facilities.

In the present most difficult

economic turmoil in the history of Pakistan only the export-sector is performing. The Value-Added Textile exports have surpassed and achieved milestone with historic enhancement in export and foreign exchange earnings by delivering beyond excellence and total national exports recorded to the tune of approx USD 31.76 Billion for FY2021-22 in which total textile export is worth USD 19.4 Billion with an increase 26 percent, worth USD 4 Billion. This new increase of 26 percent in value-added textile exports also tantamount to 26 percent enhancement in employment and as well revenue generation and taxes. Value-Added Textile sector is the only highest labour-intensive sector providing highest employment than the Government and any other sector. Provided the Government had ensured uninterrupted supply of energy/ gas, the export would have enhanced more than 26 percent. More than 40 allied industries of Textile have also excelled in their growth and performance.

The Exporters of Karachi are highly distressed and a perception and feeling is emerging that nobody in the Government seems thoughtful of the situation and has

not uttered a single note of care for the industries of Karachi! Are there any ulterior motives to purposefully target and victimize the industries of Karachi so they may shift elsewhere in Pakistan or abroad? The export industries of Karachi are also victimized and denied of other alternate fuel. Production of export industries which have no other alternate energy or power connection/ source but only gas/RLNG have completely shutdown. Several will be shutdown after Eid and many have been planning to shift abroad.

Amid continuous gas crisis in the country specially in Karachi and in view of contradictory moves by the Government towards its own business policies by depriving the exporters from level playing field and viable business environment, the Value-Added Textile Exporters from Karachi have constituted a Committee for due-diligence to shift Textile Export Industries elsewhere, on the exporters demand, to correspond and negotiate with those countries who have much better business and export friendly policies and are offering most attractive incentives to their foreign investors as well as their local

industries. How industries can work out the basic raw material-gas and other basic amenities and utilities? Textile exporters were most disappointed and burdened with one adverse factor after another have been compelled to make plans to shift their business to such countries where they can work and expand their business with peace of mind and with honour.

This was articulated by Jawed Bilwani, Chairman, Pakistan Apparel Forum & Chief Coordinator, Value Added Textile Forum, Abdul Rehman, Chairman, Abdul Qadir Bilwani, Sr Vice Chairman, Faisal Arshad Sheikh, Vice Chairman, Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Kamran Chandna, Chairman, Pakistan Knitwear and Sweater Exporters Association, Shaikh Shafiq Jhokwala, Chairman, Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers & Exporter Association, Kashif Mahtab Chawla, Chairman, Towel Manufacturers Association of Pakistan, Abdul Samad, Former Chairman, Pakistan Cloth Merchants Association and various other representatives and eminent exporters of Value-Added Textiles in a joint Press Conference held today at

PHMA House, Karachi addressing the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

They added the export industries are saddened over such unwelcoming act and behaviour of the Federal Government who has shut eyes and ears over and silent over the SOS call and appeal. Besides, downfall in exports, even the national revenue shall face decline along with reduced inflow of foreign exchange but yet the Government's silence is hither to break in order to come to a rescue as the industries of Karachi have also given solution to address the gas crises proposing to rationalize distribution of gas which is already available in the system. Why should the industries of Karachi alone bear the brunt of gas shortage? Prime Minister of Pakistan is appealed to take immediate notice of the highly aggravated situation as Karachi is the heart of Pakistan and driving force of the national economy. Exporters of Karachi also feel that whether Government want to destroy the exports and industry of Karachi which contribute 60% revenue for the Federal Government and 95% for the Provincial Government? Destroying exports of Pakistan tantamount to complete economic disaster and default.

Pakistani climbers Shehroze, Fazal rescued from Nanga Parbat

Kashif and Ali went missing during descend from Nanga Parbat

GILGIT: Pakistan Army Aviation have successfully rescued both stranded mountaineers, Shehroze Kashif and Fazal Ali, from Nanga Parbat.

The rescue team and the climbers have landed at Jaglot near Gilgit. Shehroze's father, Kashif Salman, thanked Chief of Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Pakistan Army, DG ISPR and the Gilgit-Baltistan government for their support throughout.

It must be noted that Shehroze and Fazal were found after going missing at Nanga Parbat on Tuesday. Kashif had become the youngest, 20, climber in the world to scale the Nanga Parbat. However, Kashif and Ali went missing during the descend from the ninth high-



est mountain in the world.

Thankfully, the two climbers were seen descending to camp three from

the basecamp on Wednesday morning. "The duo [Shehroze and Fazal] survived the night at 7350m with their sheer willpower and resilience and resumed descent in the early morning as soon as weather opened," a tweet from Shehroze's official Twitter account stated.

Pakistan Army Aviation helicopters have picked Shehroze Kashif and Fazal Ali from Camp 1 4948m on Nanga Parbat 8126m.

Earlier, in a desperate appeal for help, Shehroze Khasif's father called on the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday for rescuing his son and fellow mountaineer Fazal Ali.

Kashif Salman, in a video message posted on Twitter, said that he had not been able to establish contact with his son since 7:30 pm on Tuesday and was in need to rescue. The two climbers remain stranded at 7,350 metres at Nanga Parbat, according to his father. Nanga Parbat is said to be one of the toughest and most lethal mountains in the world.

GB Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid had took notice of the incident and directed the home department to immediately launch a search and rescue operation. He had also ordered seeking help from the army, and instructed to establish a control room to monitor the operation.

NBP extends support to Blind Cricket Council

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In order to promote inclusivity and diversity in sports in the country, the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) presented a cheque of Rs. 1.5 million to Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC).

Rehmat Ali Hasnie, President (A) presented the cheque to Mr. Salman Tariq Bukhari, Director Operations, PBCC. Ms. Nausshaba Shahzad, EVP & (A) Group Head, Inclusive Development Group and Mr. Mirza Babur Baig EVP & Divisional Head CSR also graced the occasion.

Pakistan Blind Cricket Council is the governing body of blind cricket in Pakistan and is a founding member



of the World Blind Cricket Council. Since its establishment in 1997, the Council has been actively organizing national and international tours for talented and visually impaired cricketers in the country.

Sharing his thoughts on

Cricket Tournament in Pakistan which has brought out some of the best-talented sportsmen.

It is quite admirable that PBCC is now focusing on team creation for female players. We are optimistic that other organizations will also step forward and help differently-abled players to play a positive role in society and set an example for all.

Thanking NBP for the support, Salman Tariq Bukhari said "We are grateful to NBP for the constant and regular backing over the years. Our recent 19th Edition of Blind Cricket Tournament T-20 was a national success with participation by about 250 visually impaired players."

National U19 Cup final

CP Blues to meet aggressive KP Whites in final

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Two unbeaten sides will clash against each other when Central Punjab U19 Blues take on the last year's finalist Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U19 Whites in the final of the National U19 Cup on Friday at the Rana Naveed Cricket Academy in Sheikhupura. Both teams topped their pools in the 12-team 50-over tournament.

The winning team will receive PKR One million while the runner-up will bag PKR500,000.

The tournament's top performers - best player, best batter, best bowler and best wicketkeeper - will receive PKR50,000 each. The player of the final will be awarded PKR20,000.

Both captains have led their teams from the front as Central Punjab U19 Blues captain Obaid Shahid has scored 246 runs from four matches at 82 with three half-centuries to his name. Opposing captain Abbas Ali has scored 158 from five matches at 39.50 with two half-centuries and taken seven wickets.

Abbas Ali while talking to PCB digital on the eve of the final said: "We are really excited and geared up for the final. We lost in the final last year, but will give our all-out effort to win this year."

"Central Punjab has also remained unbeaten in the tournament and it will be a good contest. We will try to keep it simple, play it as we have been playing in the tournament."

Obaid Shahid said: "We have played some exceptional cricket throughout the tournament and we are confident to continue this in the final."

"Every day is a new day, we are really proud of the way we have performed in the tournament and we will try to repeat the same performance tomorrow."

"Being a leader it is really important to perform and to be an example for your teammates and help your team rise."

Players to watch out for in the final: Central Punjab U19 Blues: Right-arm off-spinner Arham Nawab and 18-year old left-arm spinner Ali Asfand - both part of the squad for Pakistan U19 in ICC U19 World Cup 2022 have featured in four matches taking 10 wickets apiece in

the tournament. Arham has bowled at an economy rate of 2.64, while Ali has an economy rate of 3.13.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa U19 Whites: Right-arm fast Aimal Khan has snaffled eight wickets from four matches at an economy rate of 4.87. Aimal has four for 23 as his best figures in the match. The 17-year old Mohammad Irfan has picked seven wickets from four outings in the tournament. The left-arm orthodox has bowled at an economy rate of 2.47.

In the batting department, the 17-year old Shahzaib has scored 196 runs from five matches at 98. The left-handed batter has scored one century and one half-century in the tournament.

Record crowd as England win at Euro

MANCHESTER: England manager Sarina Wiegman hailed a record crowd of 69,000 as a testament to how far the women's game has come, as the Lionesses started Euro 2022 with a 1-0 win over Austria.

The attendance smashed the previous best for a match at the women's European Championship by nearly 30,000. The vast majority inside the Theatre of Dreams got what they wanted to see as Beth Mead's early goal ensured the hosts claimed victory despite a sub-par performance. "It was incredible, (there are) no more words," said Wiegman.

"It is unbelievable, from where we've come from, to be playing here at Old Trafford in front of 70,000. I hope they keep coming and they will because we've sold out stadiums." Home advantage is



just one of the reasons why England are considered among the favourites to win their first ever major tournament

in the women's game. Wiegman, who led the Netherlands to victory at Euro 2017, is now unbeaten in 15 games since

taking charge in September. The weight of expectation appeared heavy on the hosts in a nervous start.

However, they kicked the tournament into life in style on 16 minutes when Fran Kirby's lofted pass picked out Mead and the Arsenal forward calmly lifted the ball over her club teammate Manuela Zinsberger. Carina Wenninger made a desperate attempt to clear but the ball had just crossed the line before she intervened.

England then settled into the rhythm that has seen them score 85 goals and concede just three in the Wiegman era. Ellen White should have added to her record 50 international goals for England when the Manchester City striker headed wide a tempting delivery from Lauren Hemp.

PSB denotifies PHF office-bearers

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) on Thursday denotified all the office-bearers of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on the expiry of their tenure.

According to a PSB press release, the election of PHF was held on 15-05-2018 in which office-bearers were elected for a term of four years. Brig. (ret'd) M. Khalid Sajjad Khokhar was elected as president PHF, Olympian Shahbaz Ahmad Senior secretary general and Muhammad Ikhtlaq treasurer.

Asif Bajwa was nominated as secretary general for the second term in 2019 for the intervening period after the resignation of Shahbaz Ahmad which has been expired on 14-05-2022 along with other office-bearers.

"The tenure of the office-bearers has expired on 14-05-2022 and no election notice/schedule has been issued by the PHF despite a lapse of more than two months which is in violation of National Sports Policy 2005.

"Foregoing in view, the PSB hereby de-notifies all the office-bearers on the expiry of their tenure with immediate effect," the press release added.

Garena partners with Justin Bieber for Free Fire's anniversary celebrations



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Garena has announced a partnership with global icon Justin Bieber as part of Free Fire's 5th anniversary celebrations.

Set to be the biggest to date, this year's festivities include bringing back players' favourite themed contents, exclusive rewards and giveaways, as well as a series of collaboration events and activities, both in-game and beyond. "I'm excited to partner with Garena Free Fire to have this opportunity to entertain my fans across the globe," said Justin Bieber. "This collaboration with Free Fire has allowed us to explore various dimensions in which we can integrate my music with games and I can't wait for everyone to enjoy what we have worked hard on behind the scenes."

"The tremendous support we have received from our global community of fans and players over the years has made Free Fire what it is today and this celebration is for them," said Harold Teo, Producer of Free Fire, Garena.

"We are excited and humbled to partner with a global icon such as Justin Bieber, whose influence in fashion and music has undoubtedly inspired many worldwide, including our Free Fire community which expresses their own creativity through battling in style. Free Fire's 5th anniversary celebrations will be the biggest yet and I'm sure the lineup of events we have planned will thrill our fans and players."

"Consumers are looking for immersive experiences that converge their passions in a unique, but organic way," said Rachel Schlegel, Account Director of UTA Esports, whose team brokered the deal between Bieber and the agency's marketing client Garena. "Integrations aren't new, but the sheer scale of unique in-game opportunities with a globally renowned artist is what makes this partnership so dynamic."

Free Fire's first ever in-game performance Free Fire will host its first ever in-game performance on 27 August, with Justin Bieber set to debut an exclusive track as part of the 5th anniversary celebrations. Players can look forward to immersing themselves in an interactive set-up, groove along to custom emotes, participate in mini games and potentially even perform with Justin Bieber's avatar on stage.

Haitians dream of international success

MONTERREY: They may be considered international minnows, but women footballers from Haiti hope to finally make their mark on the world stage, helped by their experience playing professionally in Europe.

The move across the Atlantic has been challenging for members of the national team, said Nerilia Mondesir, who has played in France since 2017. "It's not easy for Haitian women to play football. Opportunities are rare. We have to make sacrifices like leaving our country and family," said the 23-year-old forward who plays for Montpellier HSC, Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, was devastated by earthquakes in 2010 and 2021.

It has also been rocked by political turmoil - including the assassination of president Jovenel Moise a year ago - and a crippling economic crisis. The hardships have prompted waves of Haitians to leave, many of them heading for the United States in search of the American dream.

Haiti's football scene has also been shaken by scandal. In 2020, the country's football federation president Yves Jean-Bart was banned for life by world body FIFA over allegations that he had sexually harassed and abused various female players, including minors. Fourteen members of the Haiti women's national football team play in Europe, and a handful for universities in the United States, their coach Nicolas Delepine said after their debut at the CONCACAF W tournament in Mexico.

"The first thing we do is to send our players to the big leagues," the Frenchman said.

Nadal unsure if he will be fit

LONDON: Rafael Nadal admits he does not know whether he will be fit to face Nick Kyrgios in Friday's Wimbledon semi-finals after an abdominal injury nearly forced him to quit against Taylor Fritz.

The second seed had to take a medical time-out in the second set but battled through to win 3-6, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (10/4) in a grueling contest lasting four hours and 21 minutes. Earlier, Australian maverick Kyrgios cruised past Chile's Cristian Garin with relative ease 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5). Nadal, the 2008 and 2010 champion, said in his post-match press conference that he was unsure over his ongoing participation in the tournament as he targets the third leg of a rare calendar Grand Slam.

"I can't give you a clear answer because if I gave you a clear answer and tomorrow another thing happens, I will be a liar," said the 36-year-old Nadal, who was given pain relief during the match, said he would have tests before deciding whether to play on at the All England Club. The Spaniard admitted his father and sister had been gesticulating for him to quit his quarter-final match against Fritz but said he "hated" the idea. "I fought," he said. "Proud about the fighting spirit and the way that I managed to be competitive under those conditions."

Kyrgios, ranked 40th in the world, is a major threat, even to a fully fit Nadal. The 22-time Grand Slam champion leads 6-3 in their

head-to-head meetings but Kyrgios beat the Spaniard on his way to the quarter-finals in 2014 before Nadal gained revenge three years ago. A pumped-up Nadal raced out of the blocks on Centre Court to take a 3-1 lead but then lost five straight games to drop the first set. The players swapped breaks in the second set but Nadal was not moving freely and when leading 4-3 he took a medical time-out. When he returned, American 11th seed Fritz served out to love, with Nadal's movement still looking hampered. But the Spaniard twice held serve comfortably to lead 6-5 and a backhand volley into the open court sealed the second set, to roars from the crowd.

Nadal, 36, was now moving more easily but was broken twice

as he lost the third set. There were five breaks in a topsy-turvy fourth set but Nadal came out on top to level the match. The fifth set went to a tie-break and Nadal seized control, racing into a 9-3 lead and sealing the win on his second match point. Nadal, who has already won the Australian Open and the French Open this year, is half way to the first calendar Grand Slam by a man since Rod Laver in 1969. He is also bidding to win his 23rd Grand Slam title and equal Serena Williams in second place on the all-time list for most Grand Slam singles titles. Margaret Court is the leader on 24 titles.

Kyrgios's match on Court One contained none of the drama of Nadal's match. The 27-year-old



was broken just once by Garin and hit 35 winners as he reached his first Grand Slam semi-final. "I never thought I'd be in the

semi-final of a Grand Slam," said the Australian. "I thought that ship had sailed, that I may have wasted that little window in my

career. "I am really happy I was able to come out here with my team and able to put on a performance."

Kyrgios is the first Australian man into the semi-finals at Wimbledon since Lleyton Hewitt in 2005. But he went into the match under a new cloud of controversy after it emerged he faces an Australian court next month to answer an allegation of assault. His 2022 Wimbledon has also been a rollercoaster on the court. Brilliant, crowd-pleasing shot-making has been accompanied by \$14,000 in fines and an ugly, bitter spat with third-round rival Stefanos Tsitsipas. Top seed Novak Djokovic plays British ninth seed Cameron Norrie in Friday's other semi-final.