



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ اللہ تعالیٰ فرماتا ہے کہ
ان آدمیوں کو مجھ سے ملنا اور ان کے لیے مناسب
نہ تھا کہ وہ مجھ سے ملتا۔ اس نے مجھے جتنا پایا اور اس
کے لیے یہ بھی مناسب تھا اس کی گالی یہ ہے کہ
وہ کہتا ہے میرا بیٹا ہے اور اس کا چھٹا تاہم یہ ہے کہ وہ
کہتا ہے کہ جس طرح اللہ نے مجھے نکلیا ہے یہو کیا،
وہ بار بار موت کے بعد (وہ مجھے زخم نہیں کرتے گا۔
(تجلی بخاری، حدیث نمبر 3193)

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Indian delimitation commission disempowers Kashmiris: Kaira

Prime Minister's Advisor on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira says Indian delimitation Commission was meant to disempower and disenfranchise Kashmiris. Three years ago on August 5, 2019, India undertook illegal and unilateral action to implement its sinister strategy aimed at changing the demographic composition of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). To this end, millions of domicile certificates had been issued to non-Kashmiris.



Imran Khan's name added to ECL: Faisal Javed

PTI leader Senator Faisal Javed says the coalition government has added PTI Chairperson Imran Khan's name to the Exit Control List (ECL). A day prior, Khan had said that he would be thankful to the coalition government if they added his name to the ECL because he had no desire to leave the country.

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Reference filed

PDM seeks Imran's disqualification from ECP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) on Thursday filed a reference in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the disqualification of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha submitted the reference to ECP under Article 63. The reference pleads that the PTI Chairman did not disclose the gifts received from Toshakhana in assets and he should be disqualified under Article 62 (1) (F), which sets the precondition for a member of parliament to be "sadiq and ameen" (honest and righteous).

According to details, the opposition alliance filed a Toshakhana reference under Article 63 of the Constitution with the Election Commission. The reference pleaded with the electoral watchdog to disqualify Imran Khan in light of Article 62 (1) (f) of the Constitution. "Imran Khan is no more Sadiq and Amin (truthful and honest) as he did not declare the gifts received in Toshakhana," the reference stated.

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Mohsin Shah Nawaz Ranjha submitted the reference to ECP under Article 63. The reference pleads that the PTI Chairman did not disclose the gifts received from Toshakhana in assets and he should be disqualified under Article 62 (1) (F), which sets the precondition for a member of parliament to be "sadiq and ameen" (honest and righteous).

Solidarity

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Pakistan Democratic Movement chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and others is addressing the flood hit people here on Thursday.



Photo Radio Pakistan

No politics, favouritism in rehab of flood victims: PM

Asks KP govt to increase compensation for early rehabilitation of flood-hit areas

DERA ISMAIL KHAN/ TANK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday vowed to put in all possible efforts for rehabilitation of the flood-affected people of Pakistan, letting no political differences or discrimination impede the process. The prime minister, during his visit to the flood-ravaged area of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's district here, said though the province was ruled by another party but it should make no difference.

"As another party rules in this province. We have no difference with it at this point of time. We all have to do it collectively. This is the matter of Pakistan, the matter of you, your rehabilitation, your house and your children. God willing, you will see there will be no politics or discrimination in it,"

he assured in his interaction with the people displaced by the flash floods. He said that both the federal and provincial governments were working round the clock for relief of the affected population.

He said the federal government had announced Rs 1 million compensation for the deceased and conveyed a message to chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to increase the compensation amount from existing Rs0.8 million to 1 million to support the distressed families. Moreover, the federal government would also provide Rs 250,000 each for the injured and Rs0.5 million for fully damaged houses and Rs 0.2 million each for partially damaged structures. Moreover, he said the NDMA and provincial authorities would carry out a

joint survey to assess the damage to crops to enable the government pay compensation transparently.

The prime minister also mentioned his interaction with Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on the subject who also assured all of the support to fulfill the collective responsibility of the rehabilitation of the displaced population. He said following the completion of his visits to the affected areas, he would chair a meeting within a couple of days to assess the damage and strategize the compensation process.

However, the prime minister assured the locals that the government would not delay the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure including roads and bridged destroyed by the flash

floods. The prime minister, who earlier visited the flood-affected areas of Tank district, appreciated the performance of the National Highway Authority chairman for rehabilitation of road infrastructure in Balochistan and other areas. He reiterated that the government would not sit idle until last individual was rehabilitated and household was reconstructed.

During the briefing by the authorities concerned, the prime minister was told that the flash floods had fully damaged 143 houses. A survey was in process to assess the extend of the loss to structures, crops and livestock. It was told that no casualty was reported in the area due to flood except one due to the electrocution. Agencies

Risalpur & Nowshehra visit

COAS hails Engineers' Corps' professionalism

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has appreciated the Corps of Engineers for their outstanding contributions during various operations, especially in counterterrorism. He extended his appreciation during his visit to Risalpur and Nowshehra on Thursday. On arrival at Military College of Engineering Risalpur, General Bajwa laid floral wreath at Shahuada monument and offered Fateha.

He visited MCE and was briefed about training modules and various training facilities at MCE includ-

ing Counter IEDs Explosive Munition School, Combat and Civil Engineering wings. The Army chief was briefed that CEMS, a state of the art training facility, is contributing phenomenally for training of Pakistan Army, Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, and Police as well as officials from friendly countries.

This training has been a key element for successful operations during war against terror. It enabled manpower to search and identify IEDs laid by terrorists and clearing and dismantling terrorists infrastructure and area clearance ensuring force protection.

US envoy visits Torkham border

Raja Furqan Ahmed

TORKHAM: Ambassador of the United States to Pakistan, Donald Blome, on Wednesday visited the Torkham border. According to the details, during his visit USAID Mission Director accompany him. Ambassador Blome said, "I learned a lot about the people-to-people and business connections throughout the region that are important to keeping commerce flowing." Both had a chance to see the Peshawar Torkham highway.



It is to be mentioned here that, the US government constructed and rehabilitated 46 km of the road in 2016.

IMF condition

Govt mulls changing POL prices weekly

ISLAMABAD: The federal government, in view of demands of International Monetary Fund (IMF), is considering regulating the petrol prices in the country on a weekly basis. According to sources privy with the development the government wants to shift the advantage of the change in international oil prices to the masses. As cash-strapped Pakistan desperately seeks loans to boost depleting forex reserves, the sources said that the change to the review process is a pre-condition of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the seventh and eighth reviews. Agencies

Add more points

PTI withdraws judicial reference against CEC

Fawad says party will approach SC for Nawaz's return to Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) withdrew reference filed against the Chief Election Commissioner Sikanar Sultan Raja a few hours after filing a reference in the Supreme Judicial Council to remove him from office. PTI leader and former information minister Fawad Chaudhry, while talking to journalists in the federal capital, said that the party has decided to add more evidence to the reference to make it more concrete. Points related to the alleged change in the ECP's verdict on prohibited funding against the PTI would be included in the reference, he added.

Chaudhry said that the party would file the reference against the head of the election body after adding more legal points to the petition. The PTI filed a reference with the JCP, seeking the removal of CEC Raja citing his "continuous deliberate

misconduct", a day after the election commission's verdict on the foreign funding case, stating that the party had received prohibited funding.

"It is humbly prayed that [...] Supreme Judicial Council may graciously be pleased to remove the respondent from his office of Chief Election Commissioner on account of commission of continuous deliberate misconduct of perming his legal and constitutional duties and obligations," read the reference filed by PTI's counsel Babar Awan on behalf of the party.

Sources privy to the matter said that the decision to withdraw the reference was made immediately after reaching the reference registrar's office to highlight further legal aspects and points related to the alleged change in the ECP's verdict on prohibited funding against the PTI would be included in the reference.

It has been decided to include points to change

the decision of the prohibited funding case in the reference. Earlier today, PTI moved a reference before the Supreme Judicial Council against Chief Election Commissioner Sikanar Sultan Raja. Two days after the announcement of the verdict by the Election Commission of Pakistan in the prohibited funding case, the reference pleaded with the SJC to order removal of the CEC on account of the "commission of continuous and deliberate misconduct".

The reference alleged that on July 29, a delegation of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) met the CEC and four other members of the ECP in his office to "pressure" him into announcing the verdict in the prohibited funding case. It was a consequence of that meeting that the Election Commission decided to deliver the verdict on Aug 2, PTI alleged. Thus the CEC allegedly violated his oath, the reference argued.

PTI should seek Imran's resignation, not of CEC's: Maryam



Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) vice president Maryam Nawaz said on Thursday that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should demand resignation of former PM and party chairman Imran Khan instead of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The PML-N vice president took to the Twitter and wrote, "Instead of asking for the resignation of the CEC, PTI should ask for the resignation of Imran Khan, who has defrauded the party to fill his pockets with illegal money. She said that not only Imran will himself go but he will also drown his members on whose name he asked for money from foreign countries.

Illegal & unilateral

India should reverse action of August 5: Pakistan

FO says Pakistani nation along with Kashmiris to observe Youm e Istehsal today

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani nation will join the Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), Azad Jammu and Kashmir and the world over in solemnly observing Youm-e-Istehsal on August 5 to denounce Indian atrocities. The Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a weekly press briefing on Thursday that during the day, the nation and Kashmiris would denounce Indian atrocities and express full support for the realization of the right to self-determination and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions.

"Tomorrow, 5th August, marks the third anniversary of India's illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019 and subsequent steps that were designed to undermine the internationally recognized status of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and to alter the demographic structure of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) - all in violation of international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute." He said India had reneged on its obligations and the



solemn commitments of its leadership to abide by the UNSC resolutions and let the Kashmiri people exercise their right to self-determination.

India had let loose a reign of terror and suppression, gross and widespread violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in an attempt to perpetuate its illegal and forcible occupation of IIOJK, he added. "And this situation has been particularly aggravated since India's illegal actions of 5th August that as you

are aware, were accompanied by the inhuman siege, curfews, physical lockdowns and communication blackouts, enforced by over 900,000 Indian occupation forces, in what is considered the densest military occupation anywhere in recent history." He told that since August 2019, at least 660 Kashmiris had been martyred by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK.

"Behind those figures is a systematic campaign of oppression, extra-judicial killings of innocent Kashmiris in fake encounters and so-called 'cordon-and-search' operations, custodial deaths, use of pellet guns, enforced disappearances, collective punishment, and incarceration of almost the entire Kashmiri leadership - their true representatives in order to prevent them from raising their voice for the peaceful and legitimate Kashmiri struggle for self-determination." In parallel, he said there were a series of arbitrary legal and administrative steps including land confiscation, influx of non-Kashmiris, creation of alien settlements, and issuance of millions of illegal domicile certificates - all aimed at demographic engineering in order to turn the Kashmiri Muslim majority into a minority in their own land.

Bilateral coop

PHNOM PENH: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his Japanese counterpart Hayashi Yoshimasa are holding a meeting here on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Structural reforms govt's prime focus: Miftah



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance, Miftah Ismail said here on Thursday that the government was primarily focusing on effective structural reforms for cultivation of sustainable and inclusive economic growth in the country. During a meeting with Asian Development Bank's Ex-Country Director and Chief Thematic Officer in ADB's Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Ms. Xiaohong Yang, the minister acknowledged ADB's role in pursuing reform agenda through various projects in Pakistan.

According to press statement issued by finance ministry, ADB Country Director Yong Ye and senior officers from Finance Division also participated in the meeting. Miftah expressed gratitude to ADB delegation for their continuous collaboration and assured them of full cooperation for the speedy implementation of the ongoing programs.

On the occasion, the ADB delegation apprised the minister about the progress of various projects being undertaken by ADB in Pakistan especially in the areas of energy and social protection.

They reiterated that the Country Partnership Strategy for Pakistan 2021-25 is in complete consonance with the vision of the government of Pakistan.

ML probe ordered

Cabinet nods placing Imran's name on ECL

Mariyum says govt decides to send declaration against PTI to SC

ISLAMABAD: Days after Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in its unanimous verdict announced that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had received funding from prohibited sources, the federal cabinet approved placing former prime minister Imran Khan's name in the Exit Control List (ECL).

Following the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) prohibited funding case, the incumbent government has decided to send a declaration against the PTI to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

In a press conference after the federal cabinet meeting, Minister for Information Mariyum Aurangzeb said that after the consultation with legal time the government has decided to take action against the PTI leadership under Articles 2, 6, 15 and 17 of the Political Party Order 2002, adding that PTI has been declared as a party receiving foreign aid, and now the government is bound to send a declaration against the PTI to the Supreme Court



of Pakistan.

"This is a matter of law and order, not political rivalries. Sixteen accounts were not declared which were opened in the name of senior leadership, including Imran Khan. Money kept coming in the name of Imran Khan's employees and was not declared, according to the verdict," she added.

Meanwhile, the minister said that another important decision that was taken in the cabinet meeting was that the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) will be given the task of investigating the funding case.

"Cabinet has given instructions to the FIA and interior ministry to conduct an

independent inquiry and investigation into money laundering, fake accounts and misappropriation of funds."

Aurangzeb revealed that all the financial institutions such as the FIA and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) had begun probing all the individuals involved in the crime.

Later Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb said that awareness has come in the nation and it had identified foreign agents. In a statement reaction to Imran Khan's address, she said the nation had recognized the faces of those who took funding from Indians and Israelis and the face of their mastermind. She said that "foreign agent" Imran Khan admitted all his crimes today.

Taking a jibe on Imran Khan, she said after admitting to a little money laundering, today he also admitted to taking foreign funding. As the public rejected the call of the foreign agent, disappointment was writ large of the face of Imran Khan, she maintained. APP

PML-Q executive council backs Ch Shujaat as party leader

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League's (PML-Q) executive council has expressed its confidence in party leader Chaudhry Shujaat and decided to issue a show cause notice to Kamil Ali Agha and other participants of the Lahore session of the party. According to details, PML-Q held its executive council session on Thursday and backed Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain as the party head of the party. The council denounced Kamil Ali Agha's statement about Chaudhry Shujaat's health.

The PML-Q executive council also announced to issue

show cause notices to Kamil Ali Agha and other participants of the party meeting held in Lahore. The council also decided to challenge the action to remove Chaudhry Shujaat as the party head in the court. A resolution deeming the 10 August session summoned by Kamil Ali Agha 'unmandatory'. The Punjab organization does not have the authority to summon any session. Party leaders who participate in the meeting called by Agha will be suspended, the resolution said.

According to the statement issued after the meeting, the president of PML-Q Sindh and officials of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

declared disassociation with the Lahore leadership, while it was also decided to issue show-cause notice to Kamil Ali Agha and participants of the Lahore meeting. The meeting also strongly condemned illegal dismissal of Ch Shujaat Hussain, Tariq Bashir Cheema.

It was also decided to consult the legal team to challenge the illegal action of the Punjab organization. In the resolution presented in the meeting, it has been said that the Punjab organization is not authorized to call the meeting on August 10, and the party membership of those participating in the illegal meeting will be suspended.

Rs30b taxes

Govt plans to bring mini-budget

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal government has decided to bring a mini-budget to impose additional taxes of Rs30 billion before an executive committee meeting of the IMF for the release of a USD1.17 billion tranche. According to sources in the finance ministry, an ordinance will be brought forward for the collection of Rs30 billion in additional taxes.

"The FBR has already made arrangements for collection of Rs30 billion," they said, adding that the additional funds generated through the mini-budget would be used to make payments to the PSO.

Moreover, the sources said that relief could be given to retailers and shop owners on the fixed tax being collected through their electricity bills. "The additional tax will be able to overcome a gap that would be created after relief to retailers and shop owners," they said.

On July 31, Finance Minister



Miftah Ismail announced relief in tax for shopkeepers who consume less than 150 units of electricity per month.

Addressing a press conference, Ismail said that government is seeking annual tax of Rs96,000 from small shopkeepers and stressed that everyone will have to pay taxes. "Industries as well as bankers would also have to pay taxes," he said.

Finance Minister said that another tax will come into force from the next year. "10 percent tax will be imposed on the companies that could not export 10 percent of their output," he said.

21-member

Punjab cabinet likely to take oath today

Bureau Report

LAHORE: The oath-taking ceremony of the 21-member Punjab cabinet is likely to be held today (Friday). Sources privy to the development said that Chief Minister (CM) House has contacted Punjab Governor Balighur Rehman for the oath-taking ceremony. The 21-member cabinet of CM Pervaiz Elahi will take oath at Punjab Governor House, sources say.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman this week approved an 18-member working cabinet for the Punjab Assembly. Only PTI ministers would take oath in the first phase PTI MPs including Yasmin Rashid, Mian Aslam Iqbal, Raja Yasir Humayun, Ali Afzal Sahi, Hashim Dogar and Fayaz-ul-Hasan Chohan and Hashim Jawan Bakht will take oath as provincial ministers.

It is learnt that Raja Basharat will likely get the portfolio of the law ministry, Murad Raas will be given the education ministry, Yasmin Rashid is likely to get the health ministry while Hashim Jawan Bakht's name has been finalized for the finance ministry. Moreover, Fawad Chaudhry is likely to get the portfolio of the home minister, say sources.

Pak, Japanese FMs for strengthening bilateral ties

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a meeting with Hayashi Yoshimasa, Foreign Minister of Japan, on the sidelines of the 29th Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on Thursday.

The two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on the various aspects of Pakistan-Japan bilateral relations which have steadily grown over the last 70 years.

They agreed on further strengthening bilateral political relations and deepening of mutually beneficial trade and economic ties, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Foreign Minister Zardari and Foreign Minister Hayashi noted the importance of enhanced bilateral engagement and regular interactions and dialogue at all levels to provide momentum to Pakistan-Japan relations.

They also agreed to remain engaged on regional and global issues of mutual interest.

EVMs to end game of secret hands in election: Imran Khan

Says coalition allies 'rushed' ECP for foreign funding verdict

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said he was trying to introduce electronic voting machines (EVMs) in elections for more than two years, and the game of secret hands will end if EVM is introduced in the election. While addressing his party workers at the F9 Park via video link, Imran said Islamabad has been made a fortress as if someone is attacking from outside, the constitution allows us to protest peacefully but it seemed as if an enemy army had come, adding that PTI always hold protest within the constitutional limits.

"The Punjab administration was getting secret help in the by-elections but

they lost the elections despite the rigging when all these tactics failed, they finally used the Election Commission," he said.

Regarding the recent ECP verdict, the former PM said that the ECP took decisions beyond its limits, adding that the rulers have made the Election Commission the way through which governments are controlled. "I have been pushing for electronic voting machines for two and a half years and if EVM is introduced the game of secret hands will end when the voting ends," he added.

The former PM said that how can a political party run without money? If a political party wants to run, it needs money, adding that when he formed a political party, it was very difficult to collect money, overseas Pakistan-

is first gave me money and supported me, and half of Shaukat Khanum's money was overseas Pakistanis. "PTI is the only party which started political fund-raising, and political parties in the world do fund-raising. Fund raising details of PPP and PML-N should also be brought forward," he demanded.

"The Election Commission has declared the money of overseas Pakistanis as foreign funding. If it is foreign funding, then what about the foreign remittances of \$31bn which the overseas Pakistanis send? Does the Election Commission even know how fundraising is done? It is not foreign funding, when you raise money from a foreign country it is foreign funding, if you take money from a private company it is foreign funding," Imran added.

\$100

PR to send coach inspectors to China with hefty TA/DA

Pakistan Railways already incurs over Rs. 45 billion losses to national kitty

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways will send 93 Coach Inspectors to China with \$100 daily allowance. Pakistan Railways has borne losses of over Rs. 45 billion but is now sending its officers and staff to China on a phased tour starting 9 August 2022. Pakistan Railways which is currently making losses worth billions of rupees is going to send 93 of its officers and staff to China on a 22-day tour.

The PR officials are going to inspect 230 passenger coaches that Pakistan is importing from China for an amount of \$149 million. Meanwhile, they

will receive \$100 per day as traveling allowance and dearness allowance (TA/DA). A list of eight alternative officers will also be prepared separately as the officers who are due to retire next year are also in the inspection crew.

It includes Additional General Manager (AGM), Shahid Aziz; Divisional Superintendent (DS) Workshop, Rahat Mirza; Director General (DG) Planning, Abdul Malik; Managing

I have no idea and I will see: Saad



Director (MD) Loco Factory Raisalpur, Aqeel Yousuf; and Project Director Mughalpur Workshop among others.

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Raisalpur, Muhammad Ghuffran Khan (Team Leader), and Works Manager Mughalpur, Muhammad Ismail, are among the first group of officers that will be going for the 22-day visit to China. Staff Member Mughalpur, Muhammad Khalid Khan, and Works Manager Hyderabad, Rajesh Kumar, will be among the officials leading the second team. Additionally, DS Karachi, Abdul Waqas, will be part of the third group.

When Daily The Spokesman

contacted Federal Minister for Railway Khawaja Saad Rafique for his version

Pakistan is importing 230 passenger coaches from China for an amount of \$149 million

over the news report he said "I have no idea and I will see. He replied of a question after a press conference.

KP CS, INL Director, UNDP rep inaugurate KP Prosecution Academy

The Academy will deliver a wide range of trainings to men and women prosecutors, lawyers

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: The Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, U.S. Embassy's International Narcotics and Law (INL) Director Lori Antolinez, and UNDP Pakistan Resident Representative Knut Ostby inaugurated the KP Prosecution Academy at Mira Kachori here on Thursday.

The Academy was built by UNDP in partnership with the Government of KP with support from the United States Government through its Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (US-INL).

Spread over 50 Kanal of land (6.25 Acres) allocated by the Government of KP, the Academy is equipped with a state-of-the-art training facility, an administration block with conference and meeting halls, dedicated monitoring and research rooms, computer labs, auditoriums, libraries, and a large

residential compound. The Academy will deliver a wide range of trainings to men and women prosecutors, lawyers, and other professionals. In addition to curriculum designed for basic and specialized trainings, the Academy is also equipped with an e-learning center to meet digital learning needs.

The Chief Secretary of KP, Dr. Shahzad Khan Bangash, was the chief guest at the inauguration, and applauded the joint effort of the Government of United States, UNDP, and the Prosecution Directorate. "Prosecution is an important component of the criminal justice chain, and it is a prerequisite for an equitable criminal justice system. This academy will help strengthen the criminal justice system by contributing to the professional growth of present and future prosecutors and legal professionals in Pakistan." He also extended his appreciation to Government of KP, the United

States Government, and UNDP in their efforts to improve prosecution services through well-trained prosecutors and legal professionals.

U.S. Embassy's INL Director, Lori Antolinez congratulated the Government of KP and UNDP on this important initiative and said, "These efforts pave the way for the effective and efficient delivery of justice in KP through the training of a professional cadre of prosecutors." She emphasized that the United States remains committed to strengthening institutions and promoting the rule of law in Pakistan. This year marks the 75th anniversary of bilateral relations between the United States and Pakistan, during which the U.S. Government has provided over \$92 billion USD in development and security assistance to Pakistan since 2002 alone.

In his address, UNDP Pakistan Resident Representative Knut Ostby highlighted that the design and construction

of the academy was also informed by the needs of women prosecutors and legal professionals. "Increasing women's representation in rule of law institutions is integral to equitable justice service delivery in Pakistan. Therefore, it is crucial to ensure an enabling environment for women. The KP Prosecution Academy has a dedicated women's wing with a hostel and a day care facility, and it will help more women to attend trainings and advance in their careers. We hope these efforts will also encourage more women to join the legal profession."

The Prosecution Academy is a remarkable addition to KP rule of law institutions and will play a key role in strengthening the capacity of rule of law professionals, encouraging more women to join and advance in the legal profession, and building a well-trained legal fraternity of highly skilled women and men in the province.

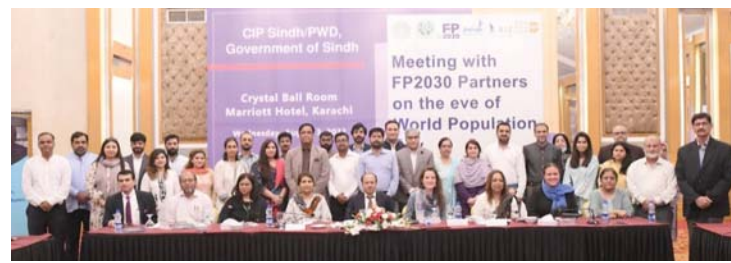
Integrated approach imperative for family planning

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Stressing the need and importance of family planning towards achieving national goals and country's development, Experts lauded the role of Provincial Minister of Health and Population Welfare (Sindh), Dr Azra Fazal Pechuho and Secretary Health Sindh, Zulfiqar Ali Shah, for their continuous efforts towards putting the agenda of family planning at the forefront and introducing reproductive health bill.

These thoughts were expressed in FP (Family Planning) 2030 meeting, held in commemoration of World Population Day. Participants of the meeting highlighted the impact of high population growth rate on its socio-economic development and emphasized its linkages with rising poverty and disparity, to climate change, high urbanization and urban migration, all restraining investment in human development and improving lives of people. Pakistan has made its FP2030 Commitments in line with its national goals agreed under the CCI Recommendations and the targets set for the National Action Plan.

Technical Advisor and Focal Person FP 2030, Dr Talib Lashari highlighted key reforms made under the FP2030



working group such as functional integration between Department of Health and Population Welfare Department. He added that significant progress has been observed in the areas of staff capacity building, youth engagement, legislative reforms and Life skills-based Education. Dr Lashari also shared the implementation progress of self-injectable DMPA-SC (Sayana Press) in Sindh and noted that CIP is moving to initiate self-injection by clients.

Speaking at the event, Country Advisor Gates Foundation, Dr Yasmin Qazi shared the historical perspective on family planning in Pakistan and stressed that we need to work collaboratively to address the gaps and fulfill the unmet needs of couples who want access to family planning support. For this we need to ensure steady supply of

contraceptive commodities supplemented by behavior change engagement and counselling.

Country Director Jhpiego, Dr Fauzia Assad said that an integrated multisectoral approach is imperative for expansion of family planning choices by scaling up self-injection contraceptives. She added that we need to continue to innovate by inclusion of concepts such as self-care in Family Planning and in particular focus upon engaging men in the ongoing discourse of Family Planning.

President Szabist University, Ms. Shehnaz Wazir Ali remarked that joint planning is critical for creating cohesion amongst FP2030 partners and assured galvanizing academia support for partners. Ms. Wazir also appreciated CIP for being acknowledged as global best practice model out of 43 countries.

433 cases of lumpy skin disease reported in SW: AD Dr. Noor Sultan

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: So far 19412 animals have been vaccinated to prevent Lumpy Skin disease in the tribal district of South Waziristan, and the vaccination process is still going on, our teams are going door to door in different areas of the district to apply vaccination contracts.

Lumpy skin disease cannot be transmitted to humans except in large animals, nor can it be transmitted to small animals such as sheep and goats.

Assistant Director of Livestock Department, South Waziristan Tribal District, Dr. Noor Sultan told media representatives.

That lumpy skin disease is not like Zontec disease that is transmitted from animals to humans, therefore, only large animals can be affected by lumpy skin disease, which does not pose any threat to humans.



ISLAMABAD: President Muslim League-N Youth Wing Punjab and former advisor to Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Sarfraz Afzal to pay tribute to martyrs Lt. Gen. Sarfaraz Ali Shaheed, Brigadier Khalid Shaheed, Brigadier Amjad Hanif Shaheed, Major Saeed Ahmed Shaheed, Major Talha Manan Shaheed and Naik Mudassar Fayyaz Shaheed. Banners displayed on the highways of Rawalpindi-Islamabad stated as "Aye Rah-E-Haq Ke Shaheedo – Tumhein Watan Ki Hawain Salam Kehti Hain". The Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

IUB, Punjab Police organize ceremony to pay tribute to martyrs



Our Correspondent

BAHAWALPUR: The Islamia University of Bahawalpur and Punjab Police jointly organized a ceremony to pay tribute to the Police Martyrs at Ghulam Muhammad Ghotvi Hall, Abbasia Campus, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur. In the event, tributes was paid to the families of police martyrs.

On this occasion, Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Raja Jahangir Anwar said that police martyrs are our pride. When the head of the family leaves, the family is always sad, but the spirit of these families is admirable. A package has also been given by the Punjab Government for Shohada-e-Police. Police men and officers walk with their lives on their hands all day long. May Allah accept the sacrifices of these martyrs.

Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that the whole university pay tribute to the families of these martyrs on behalf of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and assure them of special support and scholarships for the higher education of their families and children. Like the forces of Pakistan, our police officers also sacrificing their lives for this country and nation. Surely these martyrs are our pride.

Making the Invisible Visible

ICRC organizes workshop for journalists on Climate Change

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Climate Change experts and journalists highlighted the need of clean, nature based solutions to the problem of climate change and the need of sensitizing journalists towards promoting responsible reporting on the impacts of climate change.

These issues were discussed and addressed during a workshop organized for journalists titled "Reporting on Climate Change: Making the Invisible Visible", on August 2-3, 2022 by The Centre for Excellence in Journalism (CEJ) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Centered around building the technical knowledge and skills of journalists, the workshop's objective was to promote responsible and inclusive reporting on the way climate change is playing out locally. Climate change is deeply intertwined with local patterns of inequality and those already margin-



alized or in vulnerable situations face disproportionate impacts of this crisis.

Veteran journalist and lead trainer for the workshop, Shahzeb Jillani said "It is imperative that we place local communities at the heart of our stories and highlight the indigenous impacts of climate change that are otherwise absent from mainstream media coverage".

The workshop was attended by 13

print, broadcast and digital journalists from various media organizations and featured expert sessions by Malik Amin Aslam, former Minister for Climate Change, Dr. Nausheen Anwar, Director Karachi Urban Lab, Sardar Sarfaraz, Chief Meteorologist at the Pakistan Met Department, Dr. Sher Muhammad, Glaciologist at ICIMOD, and Maaz Tanveer, Head of Communications for HANDS Pakistan.

Historical gallery-cum-museum set up at Hamdard Matab Arambagh



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: A special historical gallery-cum-museum has been set up at Hamdard Matab Arambagh, dedicated to Rooh Afza's unique journey spanning over a century, and the rich cultural heritage it shares with the subcontinent. The gallery was unveiled yesterday at Hamdard Matab Arambagh, hosted by Hamdard Pakistan. Ms. Sadia Rashid, Chief Mutawallia, along with the senior-most member of Hamdard, serving the organization for over 70 years, Hakim Mohammad Hameed graced the occasion as chief guests.

Thieves robbed a poor family's house in Wana city

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Increase in theft incidents in the tribal district of South Waziristan, the thieves robbed the house of Janan Wazir, who was living in a tent, in the area of Wana City, took away a car and Rs.250,000. According to the details, last night in Wana tribal district of South Waziristan, unknown persons broke into the house of Janan Wazir, a sub caste of Ahmadzai Wazir belonging to Gangi Khel living in a tent due to poverty in Wacha Khawara area, where the thieves ran sacked the house, completely wiped out the thieves took away a vehicle and two hundred and fifty thousand rupees.

Digital Literacy Program

CIRCLE, L'ORÉAL Fund for women celebrates graduates from Karachi

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The women-led not-for-profit tech startup CIRCLE, in collaboration with L'Oréal under its L'Oréal Fund for Women program, which aims to support women in vulnerable situations through digital literacy and entrepreneurial skills, celebrates the Digital Literacy Program graduates in Karachi.

Held at the Movenpick Hotel with Deputy Governor of State Bank of Pakistan Sima Kamil as the Guest of Honour, the event aimed to promote and encourage the exemplary women who were driven to change the course of their future by learning new skills under the Digital Literacy Program thus enabling them to gain access to the digital world



along with skills that are integral for the participation in the online economy, enabling them to excel in their relevant fields and keep at par with the requirements of being digitally sound in this era.

With Pakistan as a global econom-

ing economy, L'ORÉAL FUND FOR WOMEN recognises and believes in the power of women's participation in driving the nations growth and innovation. Currently according to official figures, women in Pakistan represent only 25% of the labour workforce and 1% of entrepreneurship. Through this collaborative Digital Literacy Program, the teams endeavour to positively impact these statistics, supporting projects and initiatives to empower more women, bringing the gap.

The Digital Literacy Program was initially designed and piloted under the pandemic with the support of UN Women in 2021. Under the L'Oréal Fund for Women x CIRCLE Digital Literacy Program, launched in March 2022, 1,680 women in 30 cities across

Pakistan have been trained to date with more to come, as it is an ongoing mission to reach the target of training 5,000 women all over Pakistan by the end of 2022.

"Digitalization is changing how we experience our world. Unfortunately, not every woman experiences this transformation. Globally, men are 21% more likely to be online than women, it rises to 52% in low-income countries. This disparity has to change now. Ensuring women and girls have equal access to and use of digital technologies — mobile phones, computers, and the internet — is central to their economic empowerment therefore imperative to develop and build empowered societies," said Sharmela Rassool, Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan.

Zong becomes connectivity partner for SMTH



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Pakistan's leading digital and telecommunication company, Zong 4G has become the connectivity partner for one of the largest, multi-specialty private hospitals in Lahore, Saleem Memorial Trust Hospital. The collaboration will ensure that Zong 4G's cutting-edge digital connectivity solution will provide unmatched assistance to cater to the day-to-day business needs of Saleem Memorial Trust Hospital.

The partnership was formalized in a signing ceremony held in Lahore in the presence of management from both organizations. With the ambition to digitally transform Pakistan and equip corporate entities with its unrivalled connectivity solutions, the partnership is a testament to Zong's commitment to facilitating corporates to operate more efficiently, collaborate more effectively, and connect better with their customers.

Through this collaboration, Saleem Memorial Trust Hospital will have access to Zong 4G's cutting-edge business solutions, allowing them to provide connectivity across the hospital. This will enable the hospital's revolutionized machinery to treat critical patients and support digital learning for medical students and doctors through strong connectivity.

Commenting on the partnership, the spokesperson of Zong 4G said, "Our corporate and business solutions are paving the way towards a connected world by providing innovative, fine-tuned business applications and intelligent digital solutions. We are thrilled to have partnered with Saleem Memorial Trust Hospital to provide them with connectivity solutions. Our tailored corporate solutions are designed to facilitate the companies to embark on their digital transformation journey."



Islamabad

23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 3:47 am
Zohr 12:14 pm
Asr 5:05 pm
Maghrib 7:06 pm
Isha 8:40 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal 15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad 1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 &
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police 9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service
E-7, F-10 & F-11 9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316
Wapda Islamabad 9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint 119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi 0331-5022125

JKSM Chairman urges Kashmiris to raise voice against oppression

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Chairman Altaf Ahmed Bhat urged Kashmiris to raise their voice against oppression aimed to carry their rightful struggle till the complete freedom from Indian illegal occupation.

Recalling August 5, 2019 Bhat said that on the day Hindu extremist backed Modi government revoked the special status of Jammu Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir IIOJK while violating the spirit of United Nations resolutions on the vexed Kashmir issue. Bhat said August 5, should be observed as an "Exploitation Day," and Kashmiri diaspora should protest outside Indian embassies across the globe.

"Kashmiris will never relinquish their rightful struggle for their rights," Bhat added. Scrapping the India's only Muslim-majority state with its autonomy reflects the real face of Hindu extremist Modi regime.

Pakistani nation stands with Kashmiri brethren: Speakers

Term August 5 unilateral action by India an assault on Kashmiris' identity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at a seminar on Thursday described the Indian action of August 05, 2019, an assault not only on Kashmiris identity but on the United Nations that had failed to implement its security councils' resolutions in providing Kashmiris the right to self-determination.

They were of the view that India was the party of UNSC resolutions, bilateral agreement where it was decided between India and Pakistan that issue of Kashmir will be resolved through peaceful means.

They were addressing the seminar titled "August 5, 2019 - An Assault on Kashmiri identity," organized by Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI).

Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed elaborated that India has adopted 3D approach towards Pakistan i.e. damage, demonize and destabilise Pakistan. Bashing Muslims inside India and Pakistan in international forums is India's policy. He saluted the resilience shown by the Kashmiris for the past more than seven decades. He expressed his disappointment that the option of Lawfare has not been utilized.

He also cautioned against starting trade with India as that country does not mean



well for Pakistan which is evident from the fact that every terrorist act meant to sabotage CPEC and China -Pakistan relations has its roots in cross border terrorism sponsored by RAW.

Director India Study Centre Dr. Arshad Ali said that for the past seventy-five years, India has resorted to ruthless oppression and grave human rights violations with impunity against the Kashmiri people, to deny them their right to self-determination. The human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir has further deteriorated after August 5, 2019. Since then, the brutality of Indian forces has resulted in the killing of more than 640 innocent Kashmiris, including over 120 through extrajudicial killings this year alone. Prom-

inent Kashmiri leaders have been detained in Indian jails or are under house arrest.

Director General ISSI Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry while welcoming the guests said Kashmiris had been resisting first Dogra rule and later Indian rule. But on August 5, 2019, India made a very sinister move. The very identity of Kashmiri people was assaulted which had never happened before.

The current disposition in India went against the promises made by not only Nehru but AtalBihari Vajpayee who raised the slogan of Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat (humanity) and Jamhuriyat (democracy). He stressed the fact that Pakistan has always stood with its Kashmiri brethren and will continue to do so.

SPCAI, COMSTECH organize Int'l Workshop on AI

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Sino-Pak Center for Artificial Intelligence (SPCAI) located at Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences (PAF-IAST), and COMSTECH co-organized an International workshop on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare, agriculture and energy sectors to showcase and debate emerging AI technologies and innovative practices at the COMSTECH Secretariat on Thursday.

The workshop began with the keynote address by Prof. Dr. Atta-ur-Rehman, Former Chairman, Prime Minister's National Task Force



on Science and Technology, Pakistan. Prof. Atta shared his views about the impact of AI on various walks of everyday life. He appreciated the remarkable increase of per capita international research publications in the country.

The inaugural session of the event was also addressed by

the chief guest, Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq, Additional Secretary IT and Telecommunication, Dr. Atif Mashkoor, Managing Director SPCA, Dr. Mohammad Mujahid, Rector PAF-IAST and Prof. Dr. Syed Khurshid Hasanain, Advisor COMSTECH. The workshop comprised on three technical

sessions on healthcare, agriculture, and energy respectively.

Each session was addressed by three field experts and followed by panel discussion. The workshop was attended by more than 300 participants in-person and many joined online.

PAC organizes painting exhibition

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A painting exhibition titled 'From Muhammad bin Qasim to Quaid-i-Azam' was organized in Punjab Arts Council in connection with Pakistan's Diamond Jubilee.

The exhibition was inaugurated by Naheed Manzoor along with Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed. The works of art made by Muhammad Azim Iqbal are placed in the exhibition. Among the works of art are Khanna Kaaba, Badshahi Masjid, Rohtas Fort and Shahi Fort and others, Allama Iqbals poetry was also written on the paintings as well.

Speaking at the ceremony, Naheed Manzoor said that arts and crafts are the best means of expressing one's feelings. The centuries-long history of fine arts came to Pakistan from the subcontinent traveling through culture, civilization, traditions and beliefs and we got to see unforgettable



art in it. Allah Ta'ala has blessed our country Pakistan with beautiful sights and the entertainment places here are an example to the whole world.

Besides, there is no shortage of talent in our country. Our painters play a very important role in conveying the beautiful views of nature to the whole

world, she added. Finally, he also congratulated the Arts Council and Muhammad Azim Iqbal for the successful organization of the exhibition.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that Pakistan's art has been based on Islam and geography. Music, painting, sculpture, poetry and dance are branches of fine

arts. Punjab Arts Council is trying to promote all branches of arts. The aim of the exhibition is to highlight the importance of the arts which are gradually disappearing and to provide a platform to the new artists. The exhibition was attended by a large number of people from the twin cities.

Kazakh envoy visits Muslim Hands Pakistan headquarters



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin visited 'Muslim Hands Pakistan' charity organization headquarters.

The leadership of the country office spoke about the activities, current projects and priority areas in the work of the charity organization.

Following the meeting, the parties agreed to establish cooperation and possible participation in projects organized by 'Muslim Hands Pakistan'.

Youn-e-Shuhada

Shahida Akhtar pays tribute to police martyrs



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Communications Shahida Akhtar was the chief guest at National Highways and Motorway Police's 'Youn-e-Shuhada' ceremony in Islamabad on Thursday.

She was welcomed by Inspector General Khalid Mehmood before she addressed families of the martyred and distributed rewards to best performing officers of NHMP.

In her address, the parliamentary secretary recognized the sacrifices of 45 martyred NHMP officials who sacrificed their life in the line of duty. She also appreciated efforts taken by NHMP, especially the recent #NoMore campaign and reiterated her commitment to improving the welfare of NHMP officers through advocating for an increase in salaries improving the welfare of families of martyred officers.

IG Khalid Mehmood thanked families of the martyred and emphasized the role of shuhada in the development of NHMP as an island of excellence. IG Khalid Mehmood thanked the Federal Minister for Communications Asad Mehmood, and Parliamentary Secretary to Ministry of Communications Shahida Akhtar Ali for their support and advocacy in improving the welfare of NHMP officers.

Federal Ombudsman approves action plan for street children



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A Task Force on Street Children approved by Wafaqi Mohtasib Secretariat presented its study report to the Federal Ombudsman for implementation.

Taking cognizance of the exploitation of children in terms of their involvement in labour / beggary, the Hon'ble Federal Ombudsman, Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi had directed a study titled "Inquiry into the Plight of Street Children in ICT - Challenges & Way Forward. The research sets out priorities and gives evidence-based recommendations to the key stakeholders.

The research was conducted by Syeda Viqar un Nisa Hashmi, Advisor / Grievance Commissioner for Children and her team. This is the first ever empirical study focusing on street children in ICT. The Task Force conducted 506 in-depth interviews including 443 street children, 44 community members including parents of street children and 19 officials of LEAs and service providers.

The team devised a mechanism for the maximum utilization of the resources for the protection, welfare and development of street children. The research revealed that child labour / beggary to some extent is an outcome of extreme poverty, homelessness / abandonment of children, etc., and predominantly a lucrative family business of some communities and begging rings. The compelling factors for them to work/beg include low income in 83% cases, followed by 9% illness/disability of parent(s) while in 1% case it was drug addiction of parent/guardian.

The team also reported that there is no Child Court in ICT and only one Model Police Station has a desk for children. The report stated that street children were picked up by the police, dropped at Edhi Centre and CPI but these centers have no capacity to accommodate these street children therefore, they release them in the evening.

The report recommended a robust mechanism for the rescue and care of children in needs; registration of refugees on priority basis and basic facilities of health and to ensure education and health facilities regardless of their status. The report also recommended training of Police and CPI officials to rescue street children.

Global documentary week on Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritage starts

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Since July 20, China Cultural Center in Pakistan has launched a month-long activities with the theme of "Grand Canal Overseas Tourism Promotion Season 2022" on official Facebook page, Wechat official account, channels and other social media platforms.

The eight provinces (cities) along the Grand Canal, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui and Zhejiang have all presented their cultural heritage sites, historical and cultural districts and colorful intangible cultures along the canal in this promotion season. Through video display and graphic introduction, we focus on the tourism and cultural resources along the Grand Canal and tell the story of the Grand Canal to Pakistani people.



documentaries as the carrier to record and display the Grand Canal Intangible Cultural Heritage, and presents the cultural memory and historical value it carries.

Global screening of the documentaries provided by the National Radio and Television Administration, not only conveyed the skillfulness and depth of the Intangible items by

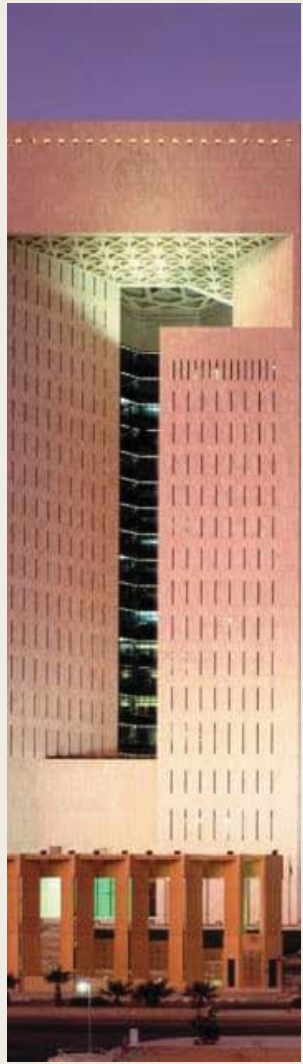
discovering the centuries-old shadow of Kangjian Guilin, silk rugs making techniques, paper-cutting art and other intangible cultural heritage items etc., but also recorded the cultural tradition of people revering nature.

In today's digitalization and rapidly changing science and technology, intangible cultural heritage plays an important role in enriching our emotional identity and embodying our way of life, and is the root of our culture and the soul of our nation, as well as an important marker for other peoples to know the Chinese nation.

The promotion season will last until August 20. Welcome to follow "China Cultural Center in Pakistan" on Facebook www.facebook.com/eccenterinapk and Wechat official account ChinaCulturalcenter and official Wechat Channels to enjoy the beauty of intangible cultural heritage by touring the thousand-year canal.

Friday, August 5, 2022

IsDBI initiates Arabic language course on edX Platform



JEDDAH: The Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI) is offering its first Arabic online course on introducing the concept of transforming conventional banks to operate in accordance with Islamic Shari'ah by presenting all the practical and applied aspects of the transformation process.

This course is the first of its kind designed for capacity building in order to bring theory and practice together with the authoring and video lectures in transforming the conventional banks into operation in Islamic principles and Shari'ah compliance.

The course which is open to all interested professionals and Islamic financial specialists from 15th August 2022, is uniquely designed to provide the participants with the state-of-the-art legal and regulatory requirements and their amendment in light of the new Islamic identity of the bank, illegal activities and transactions, cancellation mechanisms, and the legitimate alternatives transition.

Divided into seven modules, the course training program clarifies how to prepare and develop the information system, the accounting system of the new bank, how to design and develop the Shariah governance system, and train the human cadre working in the Islamic bank.

Upon completion of the course, the participants will be able to determine the differences and understand the nature of activities and transactions between the conventional banking system and the Islamic banking system, in addition to, the use of new alternatives shariah financing products and services for the conventional products to individuals and companies. Zawya

Global ESG Sukuk Market

ESG-linked Sukuk on growth trajectory

Commonalities exist between Islamic finance and ESG principles due to built-in sharia filters, says Fitch

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Environmental, social and governance (ESG)-linked sukuk is likely to persist as a key issuance theme in core Islamic-finance jurisdictions amid government initiatives that promote sustainability and economic diversification, along with rising investor demand and awareness, says Fitch Ratings. Fitch rates more than 80% of the hard-currency ESG-linked sukuk market; while 10.4% of all Fitch-rated sukuk is ESG-linked, the segment's growth potential remains high. "Commonalities exist between Islamic finance and ESG principles due to built-in sharia filters, but there are differences," said Bashar Al-Natour, Global Head of Islamic Finance at Fitch. "Islamic finance does not relate only to the use of proceeds, but Islamic products also have to be structured in a way that complies with sharia. The global ESG-linked sukuk market has flourished in recent



years, and we expect growth to continue in the medium term." Outstanding ESG-linked sukuk expanded by 11.2% qoq in 2Q22, reaching USD19.3 billion. About USD4.3 billion of ESG-linked sukuk was issued in 1H22. Key challenges in core Islamic-finance markets include a complex issuance process, regulatory constraints as well as a shortage of domestic ESG-focused investors and issuers. Sukuk must also comply with sharia (Islamic rulings). ESG-related issues, such as water scarcity, climate change and governance reform, are key issues in a number of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries. For example, five out of six countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council region rank in the top-10 globally when it comes to extreme temperature and drought.

and governance reform, are key issues in a number of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation countries. For example, five out of six countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council region rank in the top-10 globally when it comes to extreme temperature and drought.

Awareness of Islamic Finance growing in UK

LONDON: The pandemic has provided another opportunity for Islamic finance to prove its potential and shine. The Islamic financial system is based on the principles of risk-sharing, ethics and morality, which equip it to act as a potential warrior to safeguard the interest of the poor and vulnerable under crisis. Islamic Finance has developed rapidly in the United Kingdom during the past decade (2011- 2021) and the government has been very supportive of its development and promotion. The United Kingdom hosted the first stand alone Islamic financial Institution in European Union and has the highest value of Sharia-Compliant assets of any non-muslim country.

The success of the government's initiative to develop Islamic finance in the UK was shown in 2021 when the government issued its second sovereign sukuk of £500 million, which was sold to institutional investors in the UK, the Middle East and Asia. Islamic finance will continue to expand in the next decade across regions and asset classes. From a market of just \$200bn in 2003, the Islamic Finance sector is expected to grow to over \$4 trillion in assets by 2030. Five years ago, Western

economies experienced a surge in fintech start-ups offering more effective and efficient services through the creative application of software. Consequently, traditional finance institutions are now competing with challenger brands and neobanks to appeal to consumers, investors, and businesses.

In the UK, fintech challenger brands like Monzo and Revolut have become part of the banking landscape. Established banks like JPMorgan have responded by launching their own challenger brands to rival the new competition. The scale and pace of digital disruption led by startups initially focused on the delivery of traditional financial services. The success of this first fintech wave has encouraged a new generation of start-ups, which are applying technology to deliver products and services designed specifically for certain demographics.

The creation of tech-enabled Sharia-compliant banks is on the rise in both Western and Islamic jurisdictions. Particularly in regions like Central Asia where countries are undergoing economic modernisation, fintech companies are playing an important role in giving consumers and investors the digital tools needed to effectively manage their finances.

As more investment is directed into these Islamic fintech companies we are likely to see the sector grow.

Take Sukuk (an Islamic financial bond that effectively acts as a trust certificate) as an example. Sukuk supply has been rising in both Islamic and non-Islamic markets. Most Sukuk issuances are hybrid, with debt making up no less than 30 per cent.

According to Fitch, the global amount of outstanding Sukuk reached \$754.1bn in Q2 2021, which is 5 per cent higher than the same figure recorded in Q1. As the first western nation to issue a sovereign Sukuk, the UK has raised more than \$50bn through 68 Sukuk issuances on the London Stock Exchange.

While there is general awareness of Islamic finance, actual knowledge of its basic principles is not typically high among financial professionals based in non-Muslim jurisdictions. This is an issue that has been raised on numerous occasions in the UK.

There have been attempts by the government to make the financial environment more religiously inclusive in the UK, yet the overall lack of available Sharia-compliant products has been a topic of recent debate.

Marriott, Gulf Islamic Investments to debut Autograph Collection Residences

DUBAI: Marriott International has signed an agreement with UAE-based Gulf Islamic Investments (GII) to introduce The Lucan, Autograph Collection Residences in London, the first standalone Autograph Collection Residences globally.

The sophisticated project is set to include 31 contemporary, stylish homes in a historic redeveloped property located within the storied Chelsea neighbourhood in London. The Lucan, Autograph Collection Residences is expected to welcome its first residents in 2024.

With this milestone agreement, Gulf Islamic Investments (GII) introduces a new landmark London property and signs its first real estate management agreement with a global hospitality brand, setting the stage for the debut of the Autograph Collection Residences brand in the United Kingdom and debuting the first standalone residential product for the brand globally.

"The stunning, historic Chelsea neighbourhood in London is such an exciting location for the inaugural standalone Autograph Collection Residences. It truly speaks to the dynamic brand, with its unique perspective and heartfelt design, and we look forward to exploring the future of standalone Autograph Collection Residences," said Jaidev Menezes, Regional Vice President, Mixed-Use Development - EMEA at Marriott International.

Achievement

ADIB named as Most Innovative Islamic Bank by IFN

ADIB also won Best Islamic Private Bank, Egypt Deal of the Year, and Best Islamic Bank for Treasury Management

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB), a leading financial institution, has been recognised as the Most Innovative Islamic Bank of the year by Islamic Finance News Magazine, establishing the bank's position as an innovation leader reshaping the future of Islamic banking. ADIB also won Best Islamic Private Bank, Egypt Deal of the Year, and Best Islamic Bank for Treasury Management.

The IFN Awards is one of the most prestigious awards in the Islamic finance industry honouring institutions which have displayed leadership, innovation, and excellence in deal execution. Established in 2006, the IFN Awards have grown significantly since then as demand for Sharia'a-compliant products and services increased manifold around the world. The winners are selected by a panel of independent experts who judge each transaction based on a set of predetermined criteria. The IFN's Innovation Awards recognise the most innovative Islamic banks across the world for their digital banking initiatives, strategy, and overall commitment to digital transformation.

As an industry leader in digital innovation, ADIB launched several ground-breaking initiatives that tap on emerging technologies. Last year, the Bank rolled out a number of digital initiatives, including providing customers with convenient remote account opening services through a government linked facial recognition system, the launch of ADIB Chat Banking, the UAE's first Emirati customer care chatbot and "Amwali", the world's first Islamic digital proposition targeting youth between the age of 8 to 18. Additionally, the bank introduced new integrated digital kiosks - branded 'Smart Tellers' by ADIB - across key UAE branches and its first Application Programming Interface (API) developer portal, allowing fintech developers to use ADIB APIs for the purpose of developing their own applications.

Nasser Al Awadhi, Group CEO, ADIB said: "ADIB is immensely proud to receive these prestigious awards and to be recognised as the most innovative Islamic bank in the region. Leveraging our solid digital capabilities, we were able to continue our growth strategy by offering innovative and industry-leading solutions to our customers. We take pride in excelling at providing our customers with the very best service and presenting new opportunities for growth. As we look ahead, we will continue to move forward with our innovation agenda and tap into growth opportunities and emerging technologies, all the while focusing on sustainability and ESG agenda."

Islamic finance converges with sustainability

Total Islamic finance assets will grow to nearly \$5trln by 2025, up from \$2.2trln a decade earlier, forecasts Refinitiv

DUBAI: One group of financiers believes it has a ready-made solution to the rapidly rising global concerns over sustainability.

Islamic finance, say its proponents, can help divert capital flows towards human activities with a positive environmental and social impact, and away from those with a negative effect.

According to Rafe Haneef, Group Chief Sustainability officer at CIMB bank, there's a growing recognition that the moral precepts of Islam have a lot in common with global standards like the sustainable development goals (SDGs) set out by the United Nations (UN).

The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the UN General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.

"Islamic banking was always focused on social impact: ensuring that sectors which are socially harmful, such as alcohol, tobacco, arms, ammunition, pornography and gambling, have been excluded," Haneef said during a 2021 Refinitiv webinar.

"Now we are expanding the boundaries of social responsibility by aligning with the UN SDGs," said Haneef.

"In essence, the SDGs are aspirations towards meeting the higher objectives of Shariah (Islamic law): whether that's

eradicating poverty or ensuring the sustainability of life on earth or under the sea. These are all core responsibilities of humans, as dictated in the Quran itself," said Haneef.

There are signs that investors around the world are noting the convergence between Islamic finance and sustainability: according to Refinitiv, sustainability-linked Sukuks (Islamic bonds) grew more than thirteen times in assets during the four years to 2021.

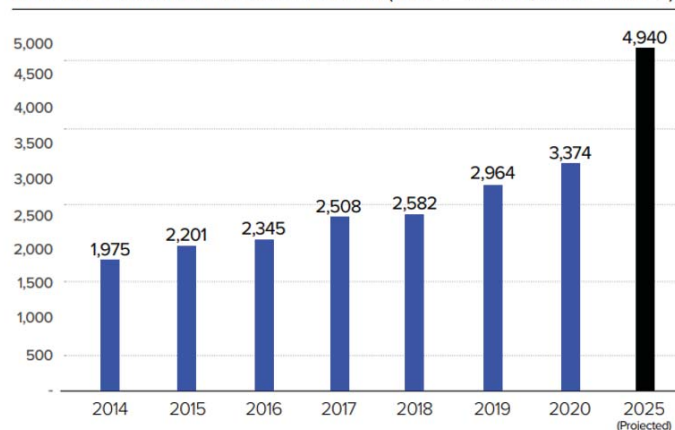
Refinitiv forecasts that total Islamic finance assets (including Islamic banking, Sukuk, Islamic funds and Islamic insurance) will grow to nearly \$5trn by 2025, up from \$2.2trn a decade earlier.

But while there may be a convergence between sustainable investment approaches in conventional (Western) finance and Islamic finance, it's important to recognise that there are also differences.

Islamic finance has a fundamentally different approach to money than Western banking systems: it is based on the belief that money doesn't have any intrinsic value.

Instead, according to Islamic scholars, money should be seen just as a medium for exchanging products and services. Linked to this idea is Islamic

Islamic Finance Assets Growth (2014 - 2020, USD Billion)



Source: Refinitiv as of June 30, 2022. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Please see the end for important legal disclosures.

finance's ban on making money from money (in the form of interest).

As a result, equity investment strategies that comply with Islamic (Shariah) law tend to limit the amount of leverage that portfolio constituents can incur, as well as screening out whole sectors of Western finance.

FTSE Russell's new FTSE Ideal Ratings Islamic Index Series, for example, prohibits investment in companies

deriving more than 5 percent of their total revenue from conventional finance.

The Index Series then performs a screen for excessive leverage: it removes companies whose ratio of total debt over the larger of average daily market capitalisation or total assets (calculated over the previous 24 months) exceeds 33 percent, plus companies whose holdings in interest-bearing items (like deposits) exceed the same threshold.

This stringent approach to leverage seems miles away from the beliefs of Western finance. But is the underlying idea—that excessive debt creates an economic approach based on gambling and risks financial instability—so different from the tenets of some global policymakers?

"The Bank for International Settlements (BIS), for example, wrote in May this year that "high household and non-financial corporate debt can affect financial stability as well as macroeconomic performance."

"Debt directly affects financial stability by making borrowers more vulnerable to shocks," the BIS said. And global shocks—whether it's Covid-19, war or the accelerating climate emergency—appear to be arriving more frequently than ever.

Islamic equity investment strategies' screening policies also overlap with conventional environmental, social and governance-focused (ESG) approaches more in some areas than others.

Both Islamic and ESG approaches routinely bar investment in alcohol and tobacco producers and distributors, in arms manufacturers and in companies promoting gambling.

But only Islamic scholars tend to view

investment in entertainment and music as equally non-permissible or "haram" (non-compliant with Islamic law). These differences clearly exist. But it's hard to ignore the broader and deeper similarities between Islamic finance and ESG.

"S—Social—has been the driving factor for Islamic finance while E—Environment—has been the driving factor on the conventional finance side. Now, E and S are merging. It's a beautiful confluence," said Ali Adnan Ibrahim, global head of social and sustainable finance, Al Baraka banking group, during the Refinitiv webinar.

"The journey towards sustainability is just starting and Islamic finance is at the starting point," said Ibrahim. And a convergence in ideas is now increasingly becoming a convergence in business approaches and operational standards, according to one central banker.

"Sustainability has a growing practical relevance to Islamic finance. It has shifted from a more conceptual aspiration to an anchoring strategy in many organisations, including Islamic financial institutions," said Madeena Mohamed, Director of the Islamic banking and Takaful department at Bank Negara Malaysia. Zawya/Reuters

