



**Imran used 'NAB' against political rivals: Kaira**

Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira says former prime minister Imran Khan for using the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) against his political opponents and for personal vested interest. During the democratic tenure of PTI they have arrested the individuals prior to any accusations against them. Imran Khan was changing his narrative on daily basis and did not abide by the rules and laws of the state.



**Shehbaz helpless PM, Miftah is IMF's spox: Sh Rashid**

Awami Muslim League Pakistan leader Sheikh Rashid says Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is the most helpless PM and Finance Minister Miftah Ismail is the spokesperson of International Monetary Fund (IMF). Along with Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), MQM Pakistan is also pressurizing PM Shehbaz. Toshiakhana and Prohibited Funding cases can not cause any harm to PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

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**Helping hand**

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the Distribution of Cash Transfer launch ceremony for the flood victims in Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

**ECC approves scrapping import ban**

**Our Correspondent**  
ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) Friday approve lifting the ban on hundreds of items after Pakistan's trading partners raised "concerns". In a statement, the Finance Division said that the ECC approved lifting the import ban on 33 classes or categories of goods — covering more than 860 products or tariff lines. The ECC meeting was chaired by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, with federal ministers, state ministers, and officials from the government's economic team in presence. The May 19 ban was imposed as Pakistan's current account deficit (CAD) was soaring persistently and the rupee was coming under pressure due to shortage in dollars. The ECC decided to lift the ban "owing to serious concerns raised by trading partners on the imposition of the ban and consid-

ering the fact that the ban has impacted supply chains and domestic retail industry". Further, the ECC also recommended the release of held-up consignments that had arrived after June 30 up to July 31 with payment of a surcharge. The ECC's approval comes after Finance Minister Miftah announced scrapping the import ban — three months after the restriction was imposed — as the country's economy sees a breather after positive cues. The finance minister, in a press conference alongside members of the economic team, said that the import ban on non-luxury items was being lifted in line with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) demands. Not only did he announce the lifting of the ban, but the finance minister vowed that he would impose heavy regulatory duties on the import of luxury items to ensure that their level stays at the minimum.

**IS 42.31%**  
**Inflation soars to record high**  
**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The weekly review of the sensitive price index (SPI) on Friday highlighted a record increase in inflation upto 42.31 percent on a year-on-year basis in August, the data shared by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said. According to the PBS, the SPI for the current week ended on 18th August recorded an increase of 3.35 percent with hike in prices of 25 items. The report said that the increase was observed in the prices of food items including tomatoes 20.28 percent, chicken 7.57 percent, onions 2.30 percent, powdered milk 2.03 percent, eggs 1.63 percent, pulse moong 1.42 percent and potatoes 1.07 percent. The non-food items that witnessed increase in prices included electricity 6.83 percent, petrol 2.96 percent and cigarette 1.69 percent.

**Govt starts cash distribution among flood affectees: PM**

*Launches Rs 37b cash program; Rs25,000 each victim family*

**Staff Reporter**  
ISLAMABAD: The government has started immediate distribution of cash relief worth 25000 rupees per family in areas hit by recent flash floods and rains in the country. In the first phase, the distribution started on Friday among flood affectees of Balochistan including Jhal Magsi, Khuzdar, Qilla Abdullah which remained worst hit by rains and floods. Addressing a ceremony organized in Islamabad in this connection, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said all relevant institutions along with international partners are working day in and day out to provide relief to the flood affected people. He said started in Balochistan on Friday, a total of 37 billion rupees will be distributed through Benazir Income Support Program among flood affectees across the country. The Prime Minister said

following this immediate cash assistance, damage assessment in flood hit areas will be made with the help of provincial governments and international partners. He said this is a chance for us all to move beyond politics and help our brothers and sisters in need. The prime minister, addressing the launching ceremony, said the cash disbursement would be done through Benazir Income Support Program in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority and other allied departments. He said the heavy monsoon rains and consequent floods affected all four provinces with Balochistan being the most affected where hundreds of people died and infrastructure was destroyed. He also paid tribute to the six martyred army officers including Quetta Corps Commander Lt. General Sarfaraz who sacrificed their lives in a chopper crash during the flood relief operation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif terming 'Polio-free Pakistan' a national goal urged the citizens to cooperate with polio teams for the complete eradication of the crippling disease from the country. "This is a testing time with the resurgence of recent polio cases and the related security incidents, but we can and will overcome it," he said at the launch of the nationwide anti-polio drive. The drive kicked off as the prime minister administered drops of polio vaccine to the children under five years of age, here at

the Prime Minister's House. The current anti-polio campaign for Karachi and six districts of southern Khyber-Pakhtunkwa started on August 15, while the National Polio Vaccination Drive will commence on August 22. The prime minister vowed to get the country free from polio, which he said was affecting the children in some areas. He regretted that polio was one of the few countries in the world where polio was still recognized as an endemic viral infection. He urged the parents not to miss getting their children administered the polio drops and support the government's goal to make Pakistan polio-free. The prime minister expressed Pakistan's commitment to ending polio and emphasised the role of the government leaders, health workers, and parents to ensure that the disease never paralyzed a child jointly.

reference. Petitioner Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha and govt lawyer Khalid Ishaq Advocate appeared before the ECP. The assistant counsel of Imran Khan's lawyer Barrister Ali Zafar said he [Zafar] could not appear before due to a busy schedule, so the hearing should be adjourned. He also said that Imran Khan is no longer a member of the National Assembly. Established in 1974, Toshakhana is a department under the administrative control of the Cabinet Division and stores precious gifts given to rulers, parliamentarians, bureaucrats and officials by heads of other governments and states and foreign dignitaries as a goodwill gesture. It has valuables ranging from bulletproof cars, gold-plated souvenirs and expensive paintings to watches, ornaments, rugs and swords.

**Imran, Asad & Fawad ECP issues contempt notices to PTI top leaders**

**IS Imran, Asad & Fawad**  
ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday issued a contempt notice to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan, Asad Umer, and Fawad Chaudhry. According to details, the ECP has issued a contempt of court notice to Imran Khan, Asad Umer and Fawad Chaudry and ordered them to report themselves or via an attorney to the ECP to submit their answer to the notice on August 30. Earlier on August 18, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) adjourned the hearing into disqualification reference against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan over the Toshakhana gifts scandal till August 22. A 5-member commission headed by the Chief Election Commissioner Sikan-dar Sultan Raja heard the

**Pre-poll**

**Pakistan rejects Indian rigging bids in IIOJK**

*FO says India won't be able to break the will of the Kashmiri people*

**Staff Reporter**  
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has categorically rejected India's pre-poll rigging attempts in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and called on the international community to take cognizance of its attempts at effecting illegal demographic changes in the region. In a statement issued on Friday, the Foreign Office spokesperson said: "Pakistan categorically rejects the deliberate Indian attempts of pre-poll rigging and overt manipulation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir." The statement said that the latest act of permitting temporary residents in the occupied region to register as voters "is a clear manifestation of the treacherous Indian design to influence the outcome of 'so-called' elections" in the territory. "Pakistan reiterates its complete rejection of India's entire litany of steps aimed at turning the Muslim majori-



ty in [occupied Jammu and Kashmir] into a minority — including the formulation of the so-called 'Delimitation' Commission and its baseless report, the issuance of fake Kashmiri domiciles to millions of outsiders, and changes in the property laws," the FO statement read. Despite all reprehensible measures that have followed the illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019, "India will not be able to break the will of the Kashmiri people or to mislead the world community," the FO said. India stripped semi-autonomy from occupied Jammu and Kashmir in 2019, chang-

ing the Indian constitution to allow non-Kashmiris to vote and own land there. Pakistan has called on India to desist from all actions in occupied Jammu and Kashmir that violate the international law, the UN Charter, and the 4th Geneva Convention. Furthermore it has demanded that India "release all political prisoners detained on trumped-up charges, halt human rights violations in the [occupied Jammu and Kashmir], lift the brutal military siege, and let the Kashmiris exercise their legitimate right to self-determination as stipulated in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions".

**Foreign funding**

**FIA to send another notice to Imran Khan**

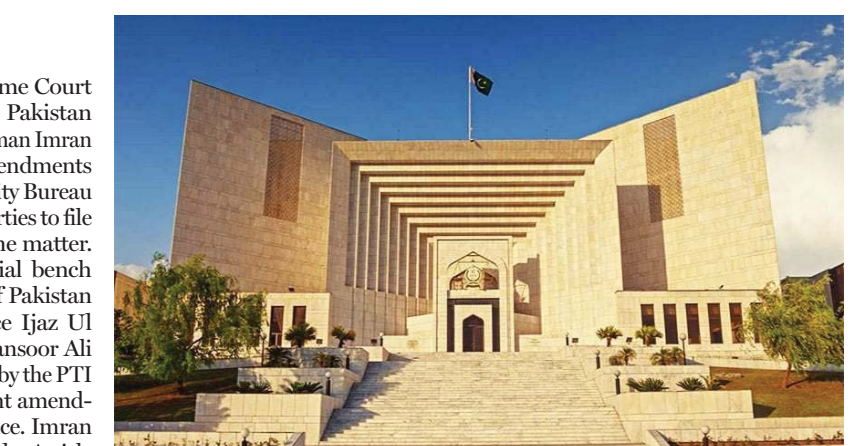
**Staff Reporter**  
ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Authority (FIA) on Friday decided to send another notice to the former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan in the party's prohibited funding case. FIA sources privy to the matter said, five more PTI companies have been traced while the five companies were not mentioned in the reports submitted to Election Commission and FBR. Sources further claimed that the companies are located in the United States (US), England, Australia, Belgium and Canada. Some of these companies are shut while others are still active, they claimed, adding that the FIA has sought audit reports of the companies. It should be noted that Imran Khan refused to provide details of party funds and accounts records to Federal Investigation Authority (FIA). Khan's arrest warrants will be issued after three notices have been sent, said sources within the FIA.

**NAB law case**

**SC directs parties to file written replies**

*CJP says parliamentarians making self-serving legislation*

**Senior Correspondent**  
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Friday while hearing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's petition against amendments in the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) laws, directed the parties to file their written replies over the matter. A three-member SC special bench comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah heard the petition filed by the PTI chairman challenging recent amendments to the NAB Ordinance. Imran Khan, in his petition filed under Article 184 (3) of the Constitution, claims that the new bill amending the NAB Ordinance has virtually eliminated accountability of any public office holder for committing white-collar crime. Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial while hearing Pakistan Khan's petition against the recent amendments made to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law said that those sitting in parliament are making self-serving legislation. During the hearing, the PTI chairman's lawyer Khwaja Harris sought more time to submit written arguments. He said he



could not submit them on time owing to him having contracted Covid-19. The CJP clarified during the hearing that the court will only be focused on examining the point of amendments against the fundamental rights and will refrain from interfering in political matters. It was further added that if the amendments are deriding the process of accountability, it will be a violation of fundamental rights. The CJP added that most of the amendments have provided relief to the accused, adding that the evidence presented by the plea bargainer has been made inadmissible. He said there was no prohibition against custody in the criminal justice system, but that the matter of arrest varied on the nature of the crime committed. Makhdoom Ali Khan, arguing on the federal government's side, stated that the accused are acquitted but their honour is not restored even then. He further argued that the higher judiciary often does not uphold NAB's punishments.



## Investment

Ambassador of Iran, Seyed Mohammed Ali Hussaini called on Federal Minister for Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafiq in Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

## PSMA demands to unban sugar export

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) Sindh zone had demanded the government unban sugar export, warns to delay the crushing season. According to details, the PSMA Sindh zone has said that mills across the country crushed 8 million tonnes of sugar in the last year. The country's consumption of sugar was 6 million tonnes while the rest 2 million tonnes is stored. The association has hinted at delaying the crushing season of sugar due to the leftover stock. Sugarcane production in the country increased by 10% last year, the PSMA said.

The association said that the production improved due to an increase in rainfall in the last year. On July 30, the federal government retained the export ban on sugar despite having a surplus stock of 1.2 million tons. After lifting the export ban on sugar, the government could formulate a strategy to export the surplus stocks in phases to inject over \$1 billion into the national exchequer.

## Ruined &amp; devastated

## Govt puts economy on right track: Marriyum

Dares Imran Khan to name 'agencies' involved in politics

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb has said the present government believes in rule of law and those who committed corruption will be held accountable. Addressing a news conference here on Friday, she said the PTI government should respond to the foreign funding received by his party and the gifts he got from Toshakhana. She said all the institutions including FIA and the NAB are working as per the law, but Imran Khan is not responding.

The Information Minister regretted that Imran Khan victimized his political opponents when he was in power. She said fake cases were registered against former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz, but they still responded to the allegations because they knew that had not done anything wrong. She said the PTI Chairman has now himself admitted that he had no evidence of corruption against the political opponents.



Marriyum Aurangzeb alleged that Imran Khan wanted the head of every institution to act like former NAB chairman Javed Iqbal, and dared him to name the "agencies and their officials" who were involved in politics and had given him the guarantee that the incumbent chief election commissioner would toe his line. "Either point out the persons and agencies who have given you (Imran) a briefing about the corruption of PML-N and PPP or stop this drama once and for all if you lack the courage," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

The minister said Imran Khan, while addressing a seminar the other day, had claimed that he was briefed about the opposition leaders' corruption by the "agencies" and the incumbent chief election commissioner (CEC) was appointed by him on their guarantee. "Which guarantee was given to him (Imran) for the CEC? Which agency had given him the guarantee? And why he needed the guarantee at all?" she questioned. The minister asked whether he wanted the assurance that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would not be declared a foreign-aided party and he himself as a "foreign agent" under that guarantee.

She said Imran Khan had made a claim that he received reports from the "agencies" about the leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). Whether he himself had sought the reports from the agencies, she wondered, advising the PTI chairman to better stop churning out lies. Marriyum alleged that Imran Khan was a "fascist who wants to impose fascism on the entire country".

## Government to facilitate investors: Saad

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday said that the coalition government was committed to provide favorable atmosphere to investors who were keen to invest in the country. During a meeting with Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Syed Mohammad Ali Hosseini who called on him here, the minister said that Iran's investors should get benefit from the investor-friendly policies of the government. Saad Rafique said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Iran were improving in all the fields.

He said that Pakistan Railways was constantly striving to improve its customer base through long-term

agreements with domestic and international suppliers. The minister said that Pakistani government was offering business-friendly environment to all the foreign and local investors. The ambassador said the relations between Pakistan and Iran was long lasting.

During the meeting, bilateral issues of the two countries and railways were also discussed.

Both the dignitaries discussed the ways to improve and enhance economic ties between Pakistan and Iran during the meeting. Secretary/Chairman Railways Zafar Zaman Ranjha, Secretary Railway Board Mazhar Ali Shah, Director General Planning Abdul Maalik and other officials were also present in the meeting.

## Qatar keen to invest in Pakistan: Envoy

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the State of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani Friday called on the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Miftah Ismail here and discussed with him matters of mutual interests.

The Finance Minister welcomed the Ambassador of Qatar and highlighted about the long-standing mutual ties between Pakistan and Qatar.

He shared that present government is pursuing various reforms for providing greater facilitation to investors and businesses in Pakistan. The Finance Minister also apprised about the available lucrative investment opportunities in various sectors of Pakistan.

State Ambassador of Qatar Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Faisal Al-Thani also shared the warm and welcoming sentiments with the Finance Minister. It was shared the government of Qatar is planning to invest in various sectors of Pakistan especially in energy, trade and businesses for further strengthening the bilateral economic ties between both of the countries.

PM's visit to the State of Qatar in next week also came under discussion in the meeting. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, while welcoming the investment proposals, assured the Ambassador of full support and cooperation by the government of Pakistan.

Rumours

## Not joining PTI: Moonis

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Moonis Elahi has refuted rumours that he is joining Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and will be party's candidate from Mandi Bahaudin in upcoming general elections. Taking to Twitter, Moonis Elahi, who is the son of Chief Minister Punjab Parvez Elahi, tagged a fake PTI circular claiming that he will be the PTI candidate from NA-80 Mandi Bahaudin in upcoming general elections. The PML-Q leader said that Imran Khan is his prime minister and working with Asad Umar was also amazing, however, the letter claiming his PTI candidature was fake.

Moonis Elahi is considered to have played a key role in keeping his father Parvez Elahi on the side of Imran Khan and had openly voiced support for Imran Khan as prime minister besides also playing role in ensuring success of PTI candidate during CM Punjab election. Soon after the PML-N grabbed the central government, the FIA launched a money-laundering probe against him, blaming him of making properties abroad by allegedly sending money through Hundi and Hawala.

Moonis later said that the ruling PML-N was punishing him for supporting PTI chairman Imran Khan. He blamed PML-N's Sanaullah for being a key character in filing cases against him. He added that the prime minister Shehbaz Sharif and Punjab chief minister Hamza Shahbaz were also facing FIA cases and Rs16 billion corruption cases were proved against PM Sharif and his sons.

## Prohibited funding

## IHC maintains PTI'S plea against ECP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The larger bench of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has accepted the plea filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) challenging the verdict of the prohibited funding case. The IHC larger bench announced its reserved verdict regarding the maintainability of the PTI's plea challenging the verdict of the prohibited funding case given by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). Following the PTI's appeal, the high court issued notices to the parties and sought reply from their lawyers in the next hearing. Yesterday, the larger bench reserved its verdict regarding the admissibility of the PTI's plea.



The IHC fixed the hearing of the case for August 24. In the previous hearing, the Islamabad High Court had decided to form a larger bench to hear the PTI's plea against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) judgement in the prohibited funding case. PTI's lawyer Anwar Mansoor argued that the accounts' information, which were provided, was not included in the electoral watchdog's verdict. "We had

told ECP that some accounts' information was not necessary due to some reasons," he added.

"A larger bench will take up the matter," Justice Farooq remarked. Subsequently, the court fixed the matter before a larger bench and adjourned the hearing for August 18. The ECP bench in its reserved verdict said prohibited funding against PTI had been proven. ECP, in its unanimous verdict, ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and from 34 foreign nationals. A three-member bench headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja, comprising Nisar Ahmed Durrani and Shah Muhammad Jatoti announced the reserved verdict.

## Political consensus must to resolve economic issues: Nawaz

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Friday said present economic issues could be resolved through political consensus across the board. This he said while meeting the National Assembly Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani, who had called on the PML(N) supremo here in the United Kingdom, said a press release.

Former finance minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar was also present on the occasion. Meanwhile, the deputy speaker conceded with the former prime minister that Pakistan's development was interlinked with political and economic stability.

The deputy speaker said the incum-



bent government was striving to resolve the socio-economic challenges faced by country with all possible means. He expressed the hope that the dynamic leadership of PML(N) supremo could steer the country towards the path of economic progress.

He proposed that all political parties should work together to get the country rid from the current social, political and economic issues. In return, terming the PML(N) government's tenure an era of economic stability, Nawaz said his party would continue to work for a progressive and developed Pakistan. He also said the parliamentary supremacy was vital for democracy to thrive in Pakistan.

## Sexual abuse

## PTI to hold rallies to show solidarity with Shahbaz Gill

Imran Khan says police forcing Gill to say I told him to make those remarks

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan on Friday announced nationwide rallies to show solidarity with his chief of staff, Shahbaz Gill, after the Islamabad Police barred him from meeting Gill at PIMS hospital. Talking to the media outside PIMS Hospital, PTI Chairman said that despite the court order the police blocked their way, adding that the police did not let him meet Shahbaz Gill. There is no rule of law in the country, he said.

"I will lead a rally in Islamabad tomorrow [...] and rallies will be held in all divisional headquarters across

the country for Shahbaz Gill tomorrow, I invite the people of Islamabad to participate in the rally, if torture can happen to Gill, it can happen to anyone, the rally will be held tomorrow evening. The media is being controlled by the thieves by closing their mouths, we will never accept the slavery of these thieves," Imran added.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday alleged that Shahbaz Gill was tortured mentally, physically and also faced sexual abuse in police custody.

Taking to Twitter, the former PM penned that "All the pictures and videos show Gill was torture both mentally and physically, including

sexual abuse — most too gruesome to relate." He further wrote that "He was humiliated to break him down. I now have full detailed info." PTI Chairman said that "Islamabad Police said that they did not torture, my question is who did terrible torture on Shahbaz Gill?" Imran Khan added that remember the people will react, they will leave no stone unturned to find the responsible and bring them to justice.

Despite the police's demand to extend Gill's remand in a sedition case, a district and sessions court in Islamabad earlier today ordered to send him to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) for a reassessment of his health." Shah-



baz Gill's condition is not fine," the court remarked while announcing

the verdict reserved by duty judge Judicial Magistrate Raja Farrukh Ali

Khan. PTI leaders have demanded the release of Gill from police custody and repeatedly claimed that he was tortured in police custody. Amnesty International has also raised concerns over reports regarding the PTI leader.

Gill is currently under treatment at the PIMS hospital after his health reportedly deteriorated at the Adiala Jail. Subsequently, a medical board was formed to determine the condition of Gill. The board recommended several tests and X-rays for the PTI leader. The results showed that there were no abnormalities and his health was fine. Meanwhile, in his press conference, Khan reiterated that he would prefer death and will not accept the current government.



# Miftah lauds research activities of IUB

*Islamia University of Bahawalpur's research on cotton very important for country, says Finance Minister*

**Spokesman Report**

BAHAWALPUR/ISLAMABAD: Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has appreciated the research activities of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur which are very important in the country's economy.

This was expressed Friday during a meeting with Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob at the office of the Federal Ministry of Finance. He said that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur's research on cotton varieties is very important for the country's textile industry and he is happy to know that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur has researched very positive results in other agricultural fields apart from the cotton field.

On this occasion, Vice-Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob said that the research projects of the Islamia



University of Bahawalpur are adding 30 billion dollars to the country's economy annually, which can improve the Pakistan's economy and the university's contribution to the country. He said that the cotton varieties of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur have excellent production and are effective against diseases in local climatic changes and cotton seeds of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur are grown on

50% of the cultivated area of Punjab.

On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor told the Federal Minister of Finance that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur in collaboration with Chinese University is also working on intercropping technology by which soybean and maize crops are grown in the same field, which will provide the country with poultry feed and edible oil. In this way, billions of rupees of

foreign exchange will be saved. He informed about the establishment of agro-economic zone in Cholistan and the research of scientists of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur about artificial rain project in this regard.

He said that the plan to increase the rains can turn Cholistan into a fruit basket and it can add 10 billion dollars to the annual agricultural economy of Pakistan. He invited the Federal Minister to visit the Islamia University of Bahawalpur and review these research activities in detail. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor also informed the Federal Minister about the development projects worth Rs. 12 billion in the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, including the Rs. 4 billion projects of the federal government, the major development projects of Rs. 4 billion under public-private partnership and the university's Rs. 4 billion projects from own sources are included.

## Four injured in roof collapse incident in Wana

WANA: Four members of the one family belonging to the Wazir Desi Khel tribe were injured when the ceiling of the room collapsed in the Wana area of spin South Waziristan at around 3 pm last night, including three small children and a boy.

According to the report, all of them belong to the area of Wana tehsil, Spin, including Sumya Bibi, father of Hazrat Hussain, Umyya Bibi, father of Hazrat Hussain, Kalimullah, father of Hazrat Hussain, and Sayed Noor, father of Noor Uddin resident, from Spin.

On the other hand, due to non-availability of facilities at the District Headquarter Hospital, Wana, the injured were shifted to a private clinic, where their treatment is ongoing.

When the MS of the hospital was asked about this, he replied that the work has started in DHQ Hospital Wana. It will take two months to make them fully functional, then facilities will be available for patients in the hospital.

In this regard, Hazrat Hussain Wazir Desi Khel, the father of the affected children, while describing his plea to the media, said that I do not have money for the treatment of these children.

## Golf Green City: A Project That Emanates Urban Luxury

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Boasting an elegant façade Golf Green City is an ultra-modern project that flawlessly blends elements of architectural sophistication with modern-day comforts.

Golf Green City is developing plots, apartments and homes complemented by lifestyle, entertainment, hospitality and retail offerings. In living up to their promise, residents would enjoy access to world-class amenities such as park areas, schools, hospitals and community clubs for a comprehensive community experience. Master-planned by the most renowned architecture company, i.e. Design INC.

A newly launched housing scheme Golf Green City recently opened gates for its Phase I, Block A, which offers exquisite commercial and residential projects of 3 and 5, Marla. It is located on -Ferozpur Road, within a minute's effortless drive from any busy locale in and around Lahore.

Golf courses often provide the best views. One that the eyes get fixated on. Golf courses, however, go the extra mile as their obstacles make for a beautiful site. The greens, the fairways, and flowing water bodies make this course a site to be seen. Wake up to this view every day! What more could a soul want for peace and serenity?

## Wafaqi Mohtasib concludes his visit to Peshawar

**Staff Reporter**

PESHAWAR: Wafaqi Mohtasib Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi visited Peshawar on 18th August to hold a number of important meetings which included a review of the working of the WMS Peshawar Regional Office, chaired a meeting with the Chief Secretary to monitor the pace of Jails Reforms, and attended a luncheon meeting with prominent Editors and media personalities. Wafaqi Mohtasib appreciated the good work of the Peshawar Office as there was a major increase in the disposal of public complaints. He advised them to ensure prompt and sympathetic response to the citizens who came to the office for redressal of their grievances. He underlined the need for good governance practices at all levels including investigation and implementation. He noted that the hundreds of cases under Informal resolution of disputes are being disposed of and the public was been provided with due relief.

## Rains wreak havoc

KARACHI: A view of closed Liaqatabad road due to damage after heavy rain in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# BARD Foundation celebrating success of Naila Kiani

*Naila Kiani becomes the first Pakistani woman to scale 3 peaks over 8000 meters*

**Our Correspondent**

LAHORE: BARD Foundation hosted a press conference at the Lahore Press Club to highlight Naila Kiani's experience during her 2-month long mountaineering feat. The Dubai-based banker by profession and mother of two, Kiani, became the first Pakistani female climber to summit three 8000+ peaks in her first attempt. Her original expedition commenced in June 2022 from Skardu, where she was accompanied by Sirbaz Khan & Suhail Sakhi, as she summited K2 and Gasherbrum I.

Speaking at the conference, Naila said, "It's very important to have a strong support system during times like this and I'm proud that my nation, my fellow climbing community and the BARD Foundation, did not fail me. The foundation's unconditional faith



in my endeavours is proof of its vision to enable the Pakistani sports ecosystem. Even though this was one of the most difficult chal-

lenges I've undertaken, I pledge to continue to take on more mountaineering adventures and encourage aspiring climbers to experi-

ence this amazing quest for themselves." During her talk, Mehreen Dawood said, "Naila has inspired and motivated women across the nation to pursue their sports careers with zeal. She has also promoted gender equality in the sports community and proven, through her conviction, that women can surpass any challenge in their path. The foundation encouraged by Naila's success will continue to nurture young athletes so that they can be stars for Pakistan."

Previously, in 2021, Kiani also set a record by becoming the first Pakistani woman to climb Gasherbrum-II (8,035 meters), the world's thirteenth highest mountain. She was presented with an award in December 2021 by the President of Pakistan in acknowledgement of her achievements and contributions to mountaineering.

## KE clarifies facts on incidents during rains

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Noting an alarming number of electrocution incidents reported from across the city amid the ongoing rainy weather conditions, the Spokesperson KE confirmed that no company infrastructure was involved in any of the 08 reported unfortunate incidents occurred between 15 to 18 August, and the majority were observed to be taking place inside premises under construction, factory sites, or inside homes. The company extended its deepest and sincerest condolences with the affected families while urging citizens to take care and follow safety precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones during and after the rains.

Per the KE Spokesperson, "These unfortunate incidents only highlight the importance of ensuring that internal wiring for premises must follow safety and insulation guidelines to protect valuable life and property. Though KE has invested heavily in properly earthing and grounding our infrastructure to prevent untoward incidents, but the use of illegal kundas, unauthorized civil works, and encroachment are also phenomena which compromise these parameters and create a hazard for citizens at large. KE urges its citizens to follow safety guidelines within and beyond the rainy season to stay safe."

# Business leader late Tariq Sayeed remembered



Senator Maulana Tanveer Ul Haque Thanvi is leading the Dua-e-Maghfirat for the late Tariq Sayeed on the occasion of first death anniversary of late Tariq Sayeed at Federation House Karachi. Mr. Sultan Chawla, Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, Mr. Zakaria Usman, Mr. Khurram Tariq Sayeed, Mr. Humayun Sayeed, Mr. Suleman Chawla, Haji Muhammad Yaqoob, Mr. Shaukat Omeron, Mr. Sultan Rehman, Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Haji Ghani Usman and others are also present on the occasion.

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has paid glowing tributes to the legendary, highly-accomplished and immensely popular business leader late Tariq Sayeed on the occasion of his first death anniversary. He added that Tariq Sayeed nurtured and inspired three generations of trade & industry leaders.

Khurram Tariq Sayeed, son of late Tariq Sayeed, said that his father always led from the front and unified the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan to promote business, economic and employment growth in the country.

International Business Community from the platforms of Islamic Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA), SAARC

Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce & Industry (CACCI) have also acknowledged the contributions of late Tariq Sayeed. Leadership of these apex bodies also credit late Tariq Sayeed in bringing the Islamic, SAARC and Asia-Pacific countries & regions together, respectively. Tariq Sayeed was also instrumental in making active participation of Pakistani business, industry and trade community in these international and regional forums of significance and economic cooperation.

The anniversary was very well-attended by prominent business personalities of the city and witnessed mass participation from across country over zoom link. Dua-e-Maghfirat was offered by Senator Maulana Tanveer Ul Haq Thanvi.

**Monsoon Rains**

# KCCI, AWT ink MoU for providing relief to flood victims

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: The Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) and Alamgir Welfare Trust (AWT) Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to join hands for carrying out relief activities in Monsoon rain and flashflood hit areas not only in Baluchistan but also in Sindh and other parts of the country. The MoU was inked by President

KCCI Muhammad Idrees and Chairman AWT Chaudary Nisar Ahmed at a simple ceremony held at AWT Head Office. Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala, General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil, Senior Vice President KCCI Abdul Rehman Naqi, Former President Shamim Ahmed Firpo, AWT Organizer Rehan Yasin, KCCI Managing Committee Members and others were also present on the occasion.

Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala, while expressing deep sympathies with flashflood affectees, stated that the situation was extremely disturbing in many areas particularly Baluchistan where around 80 percent of the villages have been completely wiped out by torrential rains and subsequent flashfloods. He said, "The entire business community is shocked to see the overall disaster so we felt it necessary to support our brothers and sisters in

distress and chose Alamgir Welfare Trust within a matter of seconds for this noble cause keeping in view its expertise and exceptional services towards serving the humanity."

Chairman BMG said that KCCI's donation of Rs1 million may appear to be a meager contribution in front of the enormous efforts and huge funds being utilized by AWT for this noble cause. "But this not the end as we will encourage every member of

the business and industrial community associated with the Chamber to come forward and donate generously for this noble cause", he assured, adding that KCCI will also look into the possibility of establishing a tent city in rain-hit areas.

General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil said that KCCI fully realizes the hardships being suffered by the poor masses inhabiting in Baluchistan, Sindh and other areas hence, the business

community will never leave them alone during the ongoing difficult times. While urging the members of the business community to donate generously for this noble cause, AQ Khalil advised that anyone looking forward to provide assistance to flashflood affectees can approach KCCI and they will ensure that the generous contribution promptly reaches the poor and deserving people living in rain-hit and flashflood affected areas.



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**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:02 am
Zohr	12:12 pm
Asr	4:56 pm
Maghrib	6:51 pm
Isha	8:21 pm

**EMERGENCY**

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 & 4451122
& 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**

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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 Tanker	0331-5022125

**World Humanitarian Day observed**

ISLAMABAD: World Humanitarian Day was observed on Friday. This year, the World Humanitarian Day is remembering Real Life Heroes, focusing on what drives humanitarians to continue to save and protect lives despite conflict, insecurity and risks.

**Through sinister plan**

# Fascist Modi wants IIOJK under Hindu rule: Mushaal

*Says fascist Indian govt now granting franchise to Indian citizens in so-called assembly polls to bring IIOJK under Hindu rule*

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Friday said after stripping special status of the occupied valley, the fascist Indian government was now granting franchise to the Indian citizens in so-called assembly polls to bring the IIOJK under Hindu rule.

In a strong worded-statement issued here on Friday, Mushaal said that the Hindutva regime hell-bent to give voting rights to Indian Hindus in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) under another sinister move against the Kashmiri people.

She said that allowing Indians living in IIOJK to vote in polls was meant to further disempower the Kashmiris as BJP wanted to install fascist people in Jammu and Kashmir to advance the interests of the party.

The hurriyate leader went on to say

that importing voters from India, notorious Narendra Modi wanted to bring Muslim-majority IIOJK under Hindu rule in brazen violations of UN resolutions.

She said that installing Hindu Chief Minister in Muslim majority Jammu and Kashmir had been a long-held ambition of Hindutva forces, which she said would never be materialized.

The chairperson sound alarmed that giving Indians living in the siege valley to vote in polls was part of series of measures started from August 5, 2019 to marginalize Kashmiris.

"Redrawing electoral boundaries, giving more seats to Hindu-dominated Jammu and importing voters from India were intended to colonize Kashmir," she added.

Mushaal further stated that Modi regime's ultimate aim was to efface Muslim identity and establish Hindu civilization in the region.

She revealed that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-backed Indian government was violating all democratic values to bring Jammu and Kashmir under Hindu rule.

She lamented that the people of Kashmir have been forced to live under a fascist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule, that neither respected the lives of the Kashmiri people, nor their fundamental right to self-determination, adding that despite unprecedented human rights abuses, and instances of state torture, the international community remains largely impotent.

She urged the world, UN bodies and human rights organizations to take notice of Modi's sinister plans in the valley and must step-in and stop fascist Modi from violating the UN's resolutions on Kashmir. Mushaal made it clear that the brave Kashmiris were determined to foil Modi's nefarious game plans in the valley. APP

# All Pakistan Azadi Mushaira held at PAC

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council arranged All Pakistan Azadi Mushaira in collaboration with Halqa Ilm o Adab and Kashmir Media Service.

Prof. Dr. Munawar Hashmi and Ali Akbar Abbas chaired the mushaira while Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman of Academy of Letters, Islamabad, was chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Yousuf Khushk said on this occasion that 14th August is the day of renewal of pledge of allegiance for all the Pakistanis as the day reminds that our elders got this country after countless sacrifices. Director Arts Council waqar Ahmed said that during independence, many families were separated from each other but there was a feeling that we lived in a free country. We all have to work with the same spirit for the development of the country.

The local poets, including Prof. Dr. Munawar Hashmi,



Ali Akbar Abbas, Shakeel Jazib, Dr. Arshad Mehmood Nashad, Wafa Chishti, Anjum Khaliq, Khurram Khaliq, Rahat Sarhadi, Mazhar Shahzad Khan, Ali Ahmed Qamar, Dr Aziz Faisal, Prof Habib Gohar, Prof Farah Deeba Abdul Qadir Taban, Irfan Khan, Irfan Jameel, Farkhanda Shamim, Nusrat Yab Khan, Shehbaz Chohan, Gule Nazuk and Faqih Haider, in their verses highlighted the sacrifices of the people for the establishment of an independent country. The poets from other cities were Shahid Zaman (Kohat), Syeda Zarnain Masood (Karachi), Asmath Kanwal (Lahore), Khalid Naqash (Lahore), Nasir Ali Syed (Peshawar), Rabail Rani (Sargodha), Dr. Shafiq Asif (Sargodha), Syed Saqib Imam Rizvi (Gujar Khan), Rahat Samar (Gujranwala), Naseer Zinda (Gujar Khan), Sadaqat Tahir (Muzaffarabad), Rana Saeed Doshi (Taxila), Shaukat Kamal Rana (Fateh Jang), Sardar Fakhr Khan (Fateh Jang), Malik Jawed Akhtar (Taxila), Hashim Ali Khan (Attock), Bilal Shabbir Hadi (Chakwal), Hafeezullah Badal (Taxila), Andalib Rathore (Azad Kashmir), Hasan Zaheer Raja (Kabota), Malik Khalid Mahmood (Hasan Abdal) and Dr. Mazhar Iqbal (Mandi Baha ud Din) who through their kalams projected the purpose of the separate homeland.

# Pakistan launches National Priority Sectors Export Strategy

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Commerce and the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) today unveiled a comprehensive National Priority Sectors Export Strategy (NPSES) for Pakistan to achieve the country's ambition of growing its trade.

It was launched by the Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar.

The ten, five-year (2023-2027) sector strategies are the result of a consultative process between public and private-sector stakeholders. They address constraints and specific steps to avail concrete opportunities in a comprehensive manner and are an integral part of Pakistan's Strategic Trade Policy Framework (STPF).

The NPSES provides Pakistan with a set of sectoral and functional strategies, each specifying priorities and actions to improve trade performance.

Implementing these strategies would mean strengthening and diversifying Pakistan's economy, more jobs, higher investment opportunities, and improved competitiveness of exports.

**Health Corner**

## Therapy for Treatment-Resistant Depression



ISLAMABAD: Deep brain stimulation (DBS) to the superolateral branch of the medial forebrain bundle (MFB), which is linked to reward and motivation, revealed metabolic brain changes over 12 months post-DBS implantation, making it a strong potential therapy for treatment-resistant depression according to researchers at UTHealth Houston.

The results of the study, which included 10 patients, were published today in Molecular Psychiatry.

"This is something that people have been trying to do for a long time, but we have not always been very successful with using DBS for psychiatric illnesses," said first author Christopher Conner, MD, PhD, a former neurosurgery resident in the Vivian L. Smith Department of Neurosurgery at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston. "But this PET study shows that we're altering how the brain is functioning long term and we are starting to change the way brain starts to organize itself and starts to process information and data." Conner is currently a fellow with the University of Toronto.

For years, DBS has been used to treat patients suffering from movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease, tremor, and dystonia, and studied as a possible treatment for patients with treatment-resistant depression. In DBS, electrodes are implanted into certain brain areas, where they generate electrical impulses to affect brain activity.

However, finding what part of the brain needs to be targeted to treat depression long term has been challenging.

"We targeted a bundle of fibers that leave this small area in the brainstem to travel to other areas throughout the brain," Conner said. "The PET scans indicated that this small target area has very diffuse downstream effects. It's not one single effect because there's not one single area of the brain linked to depression. The whole brain needs to be changed and through this one small target, that's what we were able to do."

Researchers performed an initial PET scan before the DBS procedure on the 10 patients in the study for a baseline image. They performed additional PET scans at six and 12 months to assess changes after treatment. Scans of 8 of the 10 patients showed a response.

"A responder to the treatment means that your depression potentially decreases at least 50%; you're feeling much better," said co-author João de Quevedo, MD, PhD, professor in the Louis A. Failace, MD, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at McGovern Medical School. "So, for patients with severe chronic treatment-resistant depression, decreasing our symptoms by half is a lot. It's the difference between being disabled to being able to do something. Correlating with the PET image changes, our patients reported that their depression lessened after the treatment." De Quevedo also serves as director of the Translational Psychiatry Program and the Treatment-Resistant Depression Program, part of the Center of Excellence on Mood Disorders. (Courtesy: Science Daily)

# MTCP reflects Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation: Deddy Faisal

## Reception in honour of Alumni of Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme held

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia, Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh and his wife, Madam Noor Emilia Alias hosted a reception at Islamabad Marriott Hotel in honour of the Alumni of Malaysia Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP).

The reception was attended by 92 distinguished members of the alumni who have attended the programme in Malaysia. Former Pakistani diplomats who were previously posted in Kuala Lumpur including Lieutenant General Tahir Mahmood Qazi (Retd.) were also present on the occasion.

The purpose of the reception is to promote continuous engagements and foster a long-lasting and strong bond of friendship with all government officials who have attended the MTCP courses in Malaysia. It is also to establish closer relations and strengthen networking between the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad and former MTCP participants, particularly from Pakistan.

Malaysia attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Pakistan. The long standing bilateral relations and close cooperation between our two brotherly countries have covered various areas in trade, investment, education, tourism, culture, defence and technical assistance on human capital development.

Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh stated in his remarks that MTCP reflects Malaysia's commitment to South-South cooperation, particularly technical cooperation and formulated based on Malaysia's principle that the development of a country depends on the quality of its human resources. In addition, Malaysia sees MTCP as integral towards strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral relations.

Deddy Faisal added that this is also in line with the idea of "Keluarga Malaysia" or Malaysian Family based on the values of inclusion, togetherness and gratitude which was introduced by Prime Minister Dato' Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob. Malaysia, with its pluralistic society, had implemented and translated the fiqh of al-Ia'ayah which laid down three main principles in building good fraternal relations with all components of society. The three main principles are:

1. Brotherhood among fellow Muslims (ukhuwwah Islamiyyah);
2. Brotherhood among fellow citizens (ukhuwwah wataniyyah);
3. Brotherhood among fellow human beings (ukhuwwah basyariyyah).

Ukhuwwah basyariyyah is based on a brotherhood that grew and developed on universal human values regardless of racial, religious, tradition, belief and cultural background.

Mr Deddy Faisal highlighted that the Malaysian High Commission is planning to offer more courses in various sectors for Pakistan, such as agriculture, economy, finance and trade, education, environment, industrial technical training, diplomacy, public management and administra-



tion, professional services, social development and science, technology and ICT. The envoy reiterated the Malaysian High Commission's commitment to sharing developmental experiences and expertise by providing various human capacity-building programmes and technical assistance to Pakistan in the coming years.

"Hopefully the MTCP participants would utilize the knowledge and experience to further contribute for the betterment of Pakistan," the Malaysian envoy added.

MTCP emphasizes human resources development mainly through training and capacity-building courses including short-term courses at Malaysian public and private training institutions, and long-term courses at Malaysian public universities.

Annually, Malaysia's flagship MTCP offers more than 60 technical training and capacity-building programmes in vast areas of development in collaboration with leading local training institutions and international development partners.

He said that the Malaysian Government aims to encourage more future participation from Pakistani officials in the MTCP, as it would not only be beneficial for the bilateral



Malaysia attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Pakistan



relations but it would also assist in the career development of the participants.

The Acting HC also stated that Malaysia's trade relations with Pakistan have been encouraging. In 2021, the bilateral trade has grown to 36.3% and our total trade is worth 1.901 billion US Dollars. A majority of this total trade volume is contributed by the export of Palm Oil and palm Oil Based Agriculture Products which account for 51.9% share of this total volume. Malaysia has been ranked first among 135 countries in the Global Islamic Finance Development Indicator and first among 81 in the Global Islamic Econo-

my Indicator, both for the 9th year running.

Deddy Faisal concluded his remarks by saying that: "No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main". Likewise, I believe no nation no matter how strong or advanced can succeed alone or can remain resilient as we continue to face the challenges that lie ahead. However, if we pool our strengths together, join hands in enhancing our efforts at integration and work towards the achievement of progress and shared prosperity, I believe we will succeed.



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# Halala, Temporary Marriage & Muta'a

**Munir M Hasan, PhD**

I have come across many people who ask about the religious validity of Halala. Halala is considered a process in which a divorced woman, if she wants to remarry the same husband, she first has to marry another man, and only after getting divorce from the second husband, she is allowed to remarry her first husband. This is understood on the basis of a verse of the holy Qur'an which, to me, is totally misinterpreted.

The verse says: So, if he (a husband) (finally) divorces her (his wife), it is not lawful for him to remarry her until after she has married another man. And if he also divorces her, then there is no blame on either of them if they reunite (in marriage), provided they think that they can keep the limits of Allah. In my opinion, many of those who call themselves "Ulama", meaning religiously knowledgeable persons, and also those interpreters of Qur'an who support the idea of Halala, interpret this verse wrongly and advise a divorced woman to marry a man first other than her previous husband, for a short period - even for a day - and after getting divorce from him, remarry her first husband. This interpretation has given rise to a type of marriage which can be called a "temporary marriage" or "short term contract marriage".

As I understand this verse, there is no concept of short-term or temporary marriage in Islam. This verse is totally misunderstood and misinterpreted by these people making a mockery of this verse. It is so because they have been interpreting this verse in isolation neglecting many other verses of the holy Qur'an where the purpose of marriage is defined. They have completely neglected these verses. So, with their faulty knowledge, not only they have been distorting

the message of Allah, but also promoting adultery in the name of Shari'a (Islamic Law). This interpretation and practice is a clear contempt, humiliation, insult and below the dignity of the class of women which, by itself, is a sin.

Before I give the reference of some Qur'anic verses, let us first see how the marriage is understood in various major religions of the world. Marriage is considered a permanent and life-time contract between a man and a woman not only in Islam, but also in other religions as well. For example, in Christianity, on the occasion of marriage, the couple is asked to pronounce the words: "I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wife (or husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, . . . . " Jews also consider marriage as a life-time contract which can be broken only in some extraordinary circumstances.

The Talmud reflects the tragedy of a failed marriage when it says, "Even God sheds tears when a couple divorces." In an obsolete funeral custom in some Hindu sects, the wife of a deceased husband used to end her life in a tradition called "Sati", where a widow used to immolate herself on her husband's pyre, or commit suicide in another fashion shortly after her husband's death. And in Islam, divorce has been defined as the worst possible action in all the actions which are permitted. So, the marriage means a life-time binding, and one-day marriage is not a marriage. It is a kind of adultery. Some verses of the holy Qur'an are quoted here to show the relationship of husband and wife as the lifetime partners.

And of His signs, another one is that He created for you mates from among yourselves that you may find comfort with them, and He planted love and kindness in your hearts. Surely, there are signs in this for those who think about

it. My comment: Allah creates Love and kindness not for one night. He creates for all times to live together. And they pray: "Our Rabb! Make our wives and our children to be the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders of the righteous." My comment: The purpose of marriage is to have children who become comfort for the eyes of the couple. It is Allah who has made for you mates from your own species, and He gives you through your wives sons and grandsons; The purpose of marriage is to have children and grandchildren, a lifelong process.

You shall inherit one half of your wives' estate if they leave no child. And if they leave behind a child, then you will get one fourth of their estate after fulfilling the terms of their will and the payment of debts. Your wives shall inherit one fourth if you leave no child behind you. But if you leave a child, then they shall get one-eighth of your estate after fulfilling the terms of your will and the payment of debts; These orders of Allah apply when a married couple may or may not have children, and one of them dies before the other - a life-long process.

This verse is in continuation of the previous verse where a number of relations are mentioned whom men are forbidden to marry; Also forbidden for you are married women, except those who have fallen in your hands (as prisoners of war). This is the order of Allah (relating to marriage prohibitions). All women other than these are lawful provided you seek them in marriage with gifts from your property, desiring chastity and not lust.

If any of you cannot afford to marry a free believing woman, let him marry one of slave girls who is a believer; Allah knows how good you are in your faith. You all belong to one and the same community. Marry them with the permission of their family and give them their Meher (an amount in Muslim tradi-

tion which the man gives to his wife soon after the marriage, or later) so that they may live a decent life (in wedlock) desiring chastity, not lust, and do not look for secret illicit relationships. In these verses Allah has made quite clear that the main purpose of marriage is to desire Chastity (to form a family), not lust. This order of Allah applies to both free women, and also to slave women if married to a man other than her master.

In addition to describing the purpose of marriage - to form a family to live together for life, and take comfort from your children and grandchildren - Allah also tells us that, after marriage, divorce is not a child's play, and has given instructions how to tackle the situation if living together due some reasons becomes difficult. Allah has not forced the couple to make lives like hell and ruin their lives and the lives of their children, and so, the divorce has been allowed with certain conditions. Considering that, this divorce could be the result of some spontaneous reaction on an argument between husband and wife, rage or misunderstanding, in which case the couple later will repent this divorce, so Allah has put some conditions before the final divorce takes place.

These restrictions are given in two ways. Separation cannot be done just by uttering the words of divorce, but Allah has given quite reasonable time to think and rethink over it before taking this action. Some stages are defined to keep them united and avoid divorce. Pronouncement of divorce is twice when she should be allowed to stay with honor or let go with kindness; This verse clearly says that pronouncement of divorce three times (or even more than three times for that matter) on one occasion is against the orders of Allah. Even if somebody does it, it will be considered as the first divorce.

*The writer is senior analyst and columnist.*

## Global Food Security

Following the start of the war in Ukraine, trade-related policies imposed by countries have surged. The global food crisis has been partially made worse by the growing number of food trade restrictions put in place by countries with a goal of increasing domestic supply and reducing prices. As of August 11, at least 23 countries have implemented 33 food export bans, and at least seven have implemented 11 export-limiting measures. By June 2022 the number of acute food insecure people - whose access to food in the short term has been restricted to the point that their lives and livelihoods are at risk - increased to 345 million in 82 countries according to WFP. In addition, WFP and FAO warned that acute food insecurity could worsen in 20 countries or areas during June to September 2022.

Domestic food price inflation remains high around the world. Information from between April and July 2022 shows high inflation in almost all low- and middle-income countries; 92.9% of low-income countries, 92.7% of lower-middle-income countries, and 89% of upper-middle-income countries have seen inflation levels above 5%, with many experiencing double-digit inflation. The share of high-income countries with high inflation has also increased sharply, with about 83.3% experiencing high food price inflation.

Record high food prices have triggered a global crisis that will drive millions more into extreme poverty, magnifying hunger and malnutrition, while threatening to erase hard-won gains in development. The war in Ukraine, supply chain disruptions, and the continued economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic are reversing years of development gains and pushing food prices to all-time highs. Rising food prices have a greater impact on people in low- and middle-income countries, since they spend a larger share of their income on food than people in high-income countries. This brief looks at rising food insecurity and World Bank responses to date.

As of August 11, 2022, the Agricultural Price Index was 1% higher than two weeks ago. Both maize and wheat prices are 2% higher compared to January 2022, while rice prices are about 6% higher. Compared to the January 2021 average, maize and wheat price indices are 20% higher, while the rice price index is 16% lower. According to the World Bank's April 2022 Commodity Markets Outlook, the war in Ukraine has altered global patterns of trade, production, and consumption of commodities in ways that will keep prices at historically high levels through the end of 2024 exacerbating food insecurity and inflation.



## Azerbaijan in charge of commanding heights in Karabakh

**Orkhan Amashov**

The circumstances pertaining to the Russian peacekeepers temporarily stationed in Karabakh may be shrouded in obscurity, and Article 4 of the 10 November ceasefire deal may have not been fully implemented, but Azerbaijan has its design being carefully and, when the necessity arises, very swiftly implemented. The recent early August escalation is a testament to Baku's resolve not to shrink from the duty of effectively neutralising the remnants of the illegal Armenian formations that, contrary to the aforementioned provision of the trilateral declaration, remain present in Karabakh. The meaning of Article 4 could be disputed, but Azerbaijan has a clear view that the Russian contingent's deployment in the area should have happened concurrently with the withdrawal of the separatist forces.

Any future escalation, which can by no means be overruled, will be defined by two sets of circumstances. Firstly, Azerbaijan's decisiveness in counteracting the separatists bordering on the zone under the temporary responsibility of the Russian contingent will be critical. The March advance to the Fardukh Plateau was a clear indication of Baku's 'no-nonsense' approach, only reinforced by the recent escalation. There is also the question of how the Russian peacekeepers will react. Given that their mandate does not explicitly prescribe any mode of action, it will rather be decided on certain diplomatically agreed, yet publicly muted, understanding achieved on the Baku-Moscow front. The Kremlin's preoccupation with Ukraine may give rise to the assumption that it will be accommodating towards Baku's anti-terrorist operations.

There is no equality of arms between the Azerbaijan Armed Forces and the separatist remnants. Baku's Operation Retribution, which followed Azerbaijani serviceman Anar Kazimov's death, saw the

employment of new generation warfare in the form of the ruthlessly effective application of network-centric combat actions. Drone operators, flawlessly supported by ground units, paved the way for Azerbaijan to regain control over the strategically vital heights of the Karabakh mountain range in a single day, stretching around 100 km from north to south.

Now, Baku's military positions in Karabakh have significantly improved. For all the illegal separatists' residual 'luxury' of finding refuge within the area controlled by the Russian contingent, the Azerbaijani Army is in complete charge of the strategic heights of Buzluq, Qirxqiz, Uchdik, Saribaba, and Lachin Dag, forming the line of control points, enabling it to keep a sharp eye over the adjacent territory and main road infrastructure on both sides of the ridge.

Having safely positioned itself along the mountain range of the western side of the Karabakh Economic Region, Baku is now able to control the commanding heights overseeing Khankandi. The Armenian argument is that Azerbaijan is seeking two interrelated objectives, namely, to achieve a large exodus of the Armenian population from the region, and secondly, to create favourable conditions for the withdrawal of the Russian contingent. It is true that Baku has no interest in extending the peacekeepers' presence in Karabakh, and strictly views their situation as temporary.

However, the first element is rather contrived, as Azerbaijan distinguishes between the remnants of the so-called illegal 'NKR' and the Armenian population. The former is outside the legal space and should have already been negated in Karabakh. The latter, however, constitutes citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which Baku views as being within its constitutional framework. Another discernible line in the rhetoric employed by Yerevan is to present the post-escalation scene as representative of the Azerbaijani-Russian plot against it. Yet the truth of the matter is that the alternative route bypassing the city of Lachin has its firm foundation in the ceasefire deal and the Arme-

nian recalcitrance was bound to backfire.

When I asked H. E. Richard Kauzlarich, former US Ambassador to Azerbaijan, about the August escalation, he attributed it to the lack of a properly constructed peace process. There is some undeniable truth in his suggestion. The 10 November document, for all its historic significance, was not a peace deal, and any so-called 'peace' accompanied by the uncertain legal status of the Russian 'peacekeepers' exacerbates the complexity of the whole situation. There is an interstate normalisation agenda, which does not have Karabakh itself at its core. Nevertheless, there is a logic emanating from the trilateral declaration which mandates the gradual resumption of full de facto Azerbaijani control over the region and the incorporation of the Armenian population into Azerbaijani citizenry, with their security and rights constitutionally protected.

Although during certain phases of the post-war process, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has shown feigned signs of submission to this logic, his overall policy, however, in large chunks, seems to favour winning time and procrastinating until the circumstances on the ground miraculously change into a mode of pro-Armenian fertility to rectify the 2020 deal. This leaves Azerbaijan with an option of putting into practice a measured assertive policy, exerting pressure on Yerevan, forcing its hand through various modes. Baku is expected to pursue the line of 'neutralisation' of whatever remains of the former, illegal and misbegotten 'NKR', actively working towards the opening of communications, with a heavy focus on the Zangazur project, and accelerating the process leading to a comprehensive peace treaty. An opponent's goodwill is never taken for granted or naively expected, it is usually squeezed out of them by virtue of an overwhelming pythonesque pressure, ensuring that they can follow their conscience on the foundations of the mores of cold sober reasoning.

*The writer is senior analyst and commentator.*

### Letters to the Editor

## Inflation and Us!

Continuous price increases signal a weak economy. When it comes to the Pakistan economy, inflation has no pauses; it is fast-paced, and the reins are far removed from the hands of governments and experts. Poor planning, deficit financing, challenges and frequent changes in taxing techniques, population, industrial concerns, accountability systems, constant political upheavals, and blaming others for our lack of control all contribute to it escalating and remaining elevated. It impacts both the affluent and the poor, as rising prices harm the business community just as much as the fixed-income stratum and the destitute, and exports suffer as well. AAA Associates is concerned that prices are rocketing high, producing great concerns at all levels and putting our people in a difficult financial situation. The real estate sector and allied businesses generate job opportunities for our people and provide investment prospects as well therefore nourishing the country's economic and financial status. Prioritizing enterprises that improve the economy, such as manufacturers, builders, and dealers, with long-term plans to avoid a sudden spike in prices, is advised.

The significant spike in worldwide oil and commodity prices has put Pakistan's economy in jeopardy, and the country is reliant on the IMF for assistance. Pakistan receives financial objectives from the IMF to meet in order to avoid an economic downturn. However, it will result in significant food inflation of 28.77%, power price increases in the double digits, and transportation price increases of 64.73%, in addition to the previously mentioned fuel price increases. The State Bank of Pakistan is forced to hike interest rates, raising consumer costs and reducing government subsidies.

Our economy is unstable, resources are scarce, and notably the lower and middle-class sectors are caught in a rut, vulnerable to adversities, even to meet basic needs. AAA Associates requests, on behalf of the Real Estate fraternity, that the government prioritises and assists the most productive and revenue-generating firms in order to avoid the financial degradation of these businesses, linked industries, and, eventually, the public. The real estate business offers several chances to the public in the form of investment options, job opportunities, and welfare endeavours. It needs concessions and assistance since the real sector acts as a lubricant in the dragging economy.

Yours sincerely  
 Maryam Nawaz Kayani  
 Islamabad



# US should not miscalculate our resolve to defend territorial integrity: China

*US air force says China's actions around Taiwan increase risk*

**BELJING:** Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin on Friday urged the U.S. side not to miscalculate China's firm resolve to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Wang made the remarks at a daily news briefing, in response to what the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink had said about China's response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. "Regarding Pelosi's provocative visit to China's Taiwan region, the context, cause and course of events are crystal clear," Wang said. It is the United States that has gone back on its commitment to the one-China principle and undermined China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, not the other way round. It is the U.S. leaders who went to Taiwan to support "Taiwan independence" separatist activities, not the Chinese ones who went to the United States to support Alaska's "independence," Wang added. Wang said that China's firm response to the U.S. provocation is reasonable,

lawful and justified, which has been widely understood and supported by the international community. For the U.S. side, the only solution for the problem is to return to the three China-U.S. joint communiques and the one-China principle, instead of shirking responsibility and deflecting blame, still less acting recklessly to create a bigger crisis. "We are firmly determined to safeguard our national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We urge the U.S. side not to miscalculate on this," Wang added. US Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall said on Friday that China's actions around Taiwan increase the level of risk and he hoped that China's behaviour returns to the norms that were established before. China, which claims democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has been staging military exercises this month to show its anger about a visit to Taipei of US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, blaming Washington for the tension. Mr Kendall, speaking to reporters on a teleconference from the US Pacific

territory of Guam as part of a trip to the region that will also take in Australia and Japan, said: "We are living in a dangerous time." Referring to China's drills around Taiwan, which included firing missiles over the island and repeatedly crossing the median line of the Taiwan Strait, normally an unofficial barrier, he said Beijing was being very provocative. "The military activities that China engaged in during the time of the speaker's visit increased the level of risk and they violated a number of norms. Crossing the line was one, firing into the exclusive economic zone of Japan was another, and firing over Taiwan itself was another," Mr Kendall said. Japan said five of the missiles China fired landed in its economic zone. "These are not actions that are designed to promote peace and stability in the region, they are very provocative and they increase the level of risk," he said. While Mr Kendall declined to comment directly on the details of China's crossing of the median line, he said China

had overreacted to Mrs Pelosi's trip. "I would hope that their behaviour returns to the norms that were established before," he said. China says Taiwan is the most sensitive and important issue in its ties with the United States, and that it has a right to ensure its security and defend its territorial integrity. Taiwan's government says that as the People's Republic of China has never ruled Taiwan, it has no right to claim it or decide its future, which can only be set by the island's 23 million people. Chinese President Xi Jinping has been overseeing an impressive military modernisation programme, including developing stealth fighters and aircraft carriers, alarming many of its neighbours and the United States. "I am concerned, I think it's clear to say the United States is concerned, about China's modernisation programmes, and we're also concerned about its behaviour in the region," Mr Kendall said.

## US dooms EU to hunger, cold, isolation: Russia

**MOSCOW:** Washington has doomed Europe to hunger, cold and isolation, said Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of Russia's lower parliament house, the State Duma, on Friday. The United States sells gas to Europe, which is already hit by record inflation, at much higher prices than in the domestic market, thus weakening the competitiveness of the European Union economies, Volodin wrote on Telegram. The abnormal heat in Europe has hit the agriculture sector hard and the harvest was significantly less than last year, while electricity shortages have resulted in power price hikes, he noted. It was under pressure from Washington that some European states have refused Russian energy, severed economic cooperation with Russia, and banned the entry of Russian citizens, Volodin noted. "Washington is ready to do everything to maintain its power over the world, sacrificing for this the welfare of citizens and the economy of European countries," he said.

## Odesa trip

## Massive & generous support vital to ease global food crisis: Guterres

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday urged wealthier countries "to open their wallets and their hearts" for those bearing the brunt of global food crisis aggravated by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. Guterres visited the Ukrainian port city of Odesa to oversee the movement of grain, a day after he met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Lviv. Accompanied by Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov, Guterres inspected the loading of grain bound for global markets.

The military conflict that began in late February had disrupted global agricultural exports from Russia and Ukraine, two grain exporting powerhouses, pushing international prices.

However, as many as 25 ships loaded with thousands of tons of agricultural products have departed Ukraine since last month's landmark food export deal, brokered by Türkiye and the UN, opened up three Ukrainian Black Sea ports. "It is time for massive and generous support so developing countries can purchase the food from this and other ports - and people can buy it," the UN chief said, adding that "each ship is also a vessel of hope" for the world's most vulnerable people and countries. He termed the export deal "unprecedented" but said there "is still a long way to go on many fronts."

"But let's not forget that what we see here in Odesa is only the more visible part of the solution. The other part that is also important, that we have been defending, relate to the unimpeded access to the global markets of Russian food and fertilizer, which are not subject to sanctions. "It is important that all governments and the private sector cooperate to bring them to market," he said.

Guterres is also scheduled to visit the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul, formed as part of the grain deal to carry out inspections, on Saturday.

## North Korea rejects Seoul's aid-for-disarmament offer

**SEOUL:** The sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said her country will never accept South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's "foolish" offer of economic benefits in exchange for denuclearization steps, accusing Seoul of recycling proposals Pyongyang already rejected.

In a commentary published by state media Friday, Kim Yo Jong stressed that her country has no intentions to give away its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program for economic cooperation, saying "no one barter's its destiny for corn cake."

She questioned the sincerity of South Korea's calls for improved bilateral relations while it continues its combined military exercises with the United States and fails to stop civilian activists from flying anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and other "dirty waste" across their border. She also ridiculed South Korea's military capabilities, saying the South misread the launch site of the North's latest missile tests on Wednesday, hours before Yoon used a news conference to urge Pyongyang to return to diplomacy. South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, expressed "strong regret" over Kim Yo Jong's comments that it said were disrespectful to President Yoon Suk Yeol and reaffirmed the North's desire to continue developing nuclear weapons.

"This attitude from North Korea will not only threaten peace on the Korean Peninsula but result in further difficulties for the North by worsening its international isolation and economic situation," said Lee Hyo-jung, a ministry spokesperson. Kim Yo Jong last week had threatened "deadly" retaliation against the South over the COVID-19 outbreak in the North, which it dubiously claims was caused by leaflets and other objects dropped from balloons launched by southern activists. Yoon during a nationally televised speech on Monday proposed an "audacious" economic assistance package to North Korea if it takes steps to abandon its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles program. The offers of large-scale aid in food and health care and modernizing electricity generation systems and seaports and airports weren't meaningfully different from previous South Korean proposals rejected by the North, which is speeding the development of an arsenal Kim Jong Un sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

# Xi, Putin to attend G20 summit in Nov: Indonesia

**BALI:** Chinese and Russian Presidents Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin will attend the G20 summit on the resort island of Indonesia's Bali this November, a longtime adviser to the Indonesian president said on Friday. Andi Widjajanto, former cabinet secretary and unofficial adviser to President Joko Widodo, who is popularly known as Jokowi, told Reuters the two leaders would join the summit. "Jokowi told me that Xi and Putin are both planning to attend in Bali," Widjajanto, who heads the National Resilience Institute, told Reuters. A day earlier, Jokowi told Bloomberg News that both leaders had given him their assurances. The Chinese foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. A Kremlin spokesperson declined to comment to Bloomberg, but another official familiar with the situation told the news agen-

cy Putin plans to attend the meeting in person. The trip would be significant given it would be Xi's first time outside China since January 2020, when he visited Myanmar. China maintains a zero-COVID policy that has all but shut its borders to international travel. Since then, Xi made his only trip outside of mainland China on June 30, visiting Hong Kong to mark the 25th anniversary of the handover of the territory from British control. Xi is widely expected to secure a precedent-breaking third leadership term during a one-in-five-years congress of the ruling Communist Party scheduled for this autumn, most likely before he would head to Bali for the mid-November G20 gathering. No dates have been announced for the party congress, but the last two took place in late October and early November. Chinese officials are also reportedly making plans

for a November meeting in Southeast Asia between Xi and US President Joe Biden, who is expected to attend the G20 summit in Bali, according to a report in the Wall Street Journal. As head of the G20 this year, Indonesia has faced pressure from Western countries to withdraw its invitation to Putin over his country's invasion of Ukraine, which his government calls a "special military operation". Indonesia has also invited Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy to attend the Bali summit. Jokowi has sought to position himself as mediator between the warring countries, and has in recent months travelled to meet both the Ukrainian and Russian presidents to call for an end to the war, and seek ways to ease the global food crisis. This week, Jokowi said both countries have accepted Indonesia as a "bridge of peace"

## Pak businessmen visit Sumgait Chemical Industrial Park



**BAKU:** A representatives of several companies from Pakistan visited the Sumgait Chemical Industrial Park of the Economic Zones Development Agency of the Ministry of Economy, Report informs. The representatives of companies operating in the fields of food products, construction materials, and furniture production were informed about favorable investment opportunities created for entrepreneurs in industrial zones and agricultural parks in Azerbaijan, and they were invited to take advantage of the current business environment. Pakistani businessmen got acquainted with the production process at ALCO LLC, a resident of the Park.

# Foreign engagement will be in line with Shariah: Taliban

**PESHAWAR/KABUL:** The Taliban will deal with the international community in line with sharia law, the supreme leader of the hardline Islamist group said, according to a copy of his speech shared by the information ministry on Friday. Yet to be formally recognised as a government by any foreign capital, the group is struggling with a severe economic crisis due to strict enforcement of international sanctions and the cutting off of development aid. Many governments, including Washington, have put pressure on the Taliban to ease its restrictions on women and to open schools for high-school aged girls. Around 3,000 tribal leaders, officials and religious scholars had gathered in the southern city of Kandahar, where the group's supreme spiritual leader Haibatullah Akhundzada is



based, on Thursday, according to state-run news agency Bakhtar. It was the second such gathering since the group took power around a year ago. "This meeting is called to think about the freedom we received by the blessing of Allah, which we achieved from the

blood of our mujahideen (fighters)," he said in the speech. "We will deal with the international community as per Islamic Shariah...if Sharia doesn't allow it, we will not deal with any other country," Akhundzada said. Talks with U.S. diplomats have continued, in particular

over how to revive the country's stalled banking sector and the possible release of frozen central bank assets held overseas. But officials have cautioned that many hurdles remain to any progress. In an escalation of tensions, the United States last month carried out a drone strike in central Kabul to kill al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri and accused the Taliban of violating an agreement between them by sheltering Zawahiri. Thursday's gathering issued several resolutions, according to Bakhtar news agency, including one condemning the drone strike and another saying any neighbouring country that allowed the use of its airspace for the strike was complicit. The United States usually needs to receive permission from neighbouring nations to access landlocked Afghanistan via air.

# 'Khujum' the most creative and attractive carpet factory in Samarkand

**SAMARKAND:** Wisdom, regularity, mystery, infinity — such associations arise in a person listening to stories about the mysterious East. In addition to the fabulous idea of this region, there is also a real personification of the Far East, expressed in art objects, which can be safely attributed to the magnificent, luxurious carpets made in this wonderful region. Since ancient times, the main purpose of the oriental carpet has been the insulation of residential premises. Over time, this need practically disappeared, and the carpet began to be used as part of the decorative decoration of the interior. The carpet can tell about the wonderful sense of style of the owner of the house, symbolizing wealth and well-being. It is impossible to pass by a worthy thing that has an unusual energy, causing a genuine feeling of delight. There can be no other way, because the exclusive oriental carpet has been made by the hands of craftsmen for more than one year. At the same time, the product absorbs the most powerful energy coming from the needlewomen while working on the carpet, weaving each thread into it with love. Only a few factories for the production of authentic oriental carpets have survived to this day, and even fewer

craftsmen who possess the ancient secrets of weaving. Despite this, you can see with your own eyes the creation of one of the creations by visiting a unique production preserved in Samarkand, where the art of carpet making is cherished and passed down from generation to generation. You can see how complicated the process of hand weaving is, and understand what makes up a rather big price for such a product by visiting the Khujum carpet factory in the city of Samarkand. The carpet factory is one of the significant sights of Uzbekistan, which makes it possible to follow the work of skilled craftsmen creating handmade carpets in real time. Going on a tour of the factory, you will be able to track the entire process of making carpets from silk threads, from the moment of unwinding the cocoon of the silkworm to the creation of the last knot. All stages of work are carried out manually with the use of auxiliary, simple devices. Only girls work at the machines, bringing a piece of their soul into each small knot, creating a unique work of art. It takes about one year to create one carpet, but this is an average, the specific production time depends on the complexity of the weaving

pattern and the size of the product. The number of nodules per square centimeter also plays an important role in the production process. The picturesqueness and value of the carpet directly depends on the accuracy of the knots and the intricacy of the pattern. At the Khujum carpet factory, only natural materials are used in production, for example, silk threads are tinted manually, using natural dyes obtained from the pomace of pomegranate peel, green walnut, asparagus leaves. Silk threads dyed in this way retain a shade and juiciness for a long period, eventually acquiring a kind of golden color. The drawings used in the creation of carpets are quite diverse and are implemented with the use of national ornaments in various versions, which gives the products uniqueness, while at the same time emphasizing belonging to the Asian direction of carpet weaving. The carpet pattern, as in ancient times, conveys specific information that an initiated person reads with ease, as if looking through a page in a book. For the most part, carpets at the factory are made to order, so every visitor has the opportunity to purchase a carpet made from a picture or photo they like. Accordingly, the price of such a product will



be significant, because a real work of art becomes priceless over time. There are also ready-made carpets on sale, from which you can choose the one you like, returning home with an unusual souvenir from Samarkand,

in the form of a carpet with a unique pattern. Be that as it may, no one sets a goal to buy a painting by visiting a gallery, but only seeks to delight his eyes with beauty, replenishing the box of the

inner world with treasures. All these words can be said about the Khujum factory, a visit to which will fill the spiritual storeroom with stored valuables, the mystery of oriental ornament, making it richer and more cozy.



**Bull & Bears**  
**PSX 100-Share**  
**Index Fluctuation**

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
43,481.50	43,676.56
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,879.23	43,390.33
Index Value	Change
7,174,088,795	-195.06
Percentage	Time
-0.45%	18 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,541.85	+26.10
Percentage	Time
+0.35%	18 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,908.15	-72.17
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	18 Aug, 12:23 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
28,942.14	-280.63
Percentage	Time
-0.96%	18 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	147.86	149.11
Bahrain Dinar	568.75	573.25
Canadian Dollar	165.35	166.7
China Yuan	31.53	31.78
Danish Krone	29.26	29.61
Euro	217	220
Hong Kong Dollar	27.26	27.61
Indian Rupee	2.69	2.77
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.61
Kuwaiti Dinar	695.89	700.89
Malaysian Ringgit	47.97	48.42
New Zealand \$	133.92	135.12
Norwegians Krone	22.09	22.39
Omani Riyal	555.41	559.91
Qatari Riyal	58.77	59.27
Saudi Riyal	57	57.9
Singapore Dollar	154.49	155.79
Swedish Korona	20.75	21.05
Swiss Franc	224.2	225.99
Thai Bhat	6.65	6.75
U.A.E Dirham	57.55	57.9
UK Pound Sterling	258	263
US Dollar	215	218

**\$280b debt is alarming, unsustainable: PEW**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said the country's debt has reached 60 trillion rupees or 280 billion dollars which is alarming and unsustainable. Pakistan owes almost \$150 billion to foreign countries and international institutions while the remaining debt has been arranged from local sources, it said. Manipulation of data, extensions of the repayment date of loans or loans from international organizations and friendly countries temporarily reduces the pressure on the government but this is not the solution to the problem, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW. A continued increase in debt and liabilities has compromised the development process resulting in widespread poverty, he added. On the one hand, the debts imposed on the country are increasing rapidly, on the other hand, the exports and remittances are decreasing, while the increasing inflation has broken the back of the people, he observed. He noted that interest rate hike has increased the difficulties of the business community, while the policy of giving tax exemptions to important sectors or charging nominal taxes is also increasing the problems. Dr. Mughal said that after the recent increase in the price of petrol, the Finance Minister is being criticised which is unjustified.

**Power Cement joins ACCA's strong global community**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Power Cement Limited is pleased to announce inclusion in ACCA's 7,800 plus global Approved Employer Network under the Trainee Development - Gold Category. The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) is one of the world's leading professional accountancy body, and Power Cement's approved employer accreditation reflects its commitment to uphold the highest level of support on technical, professional, and ethical skills to the students, affiliates, and members of ACCA. The ACCA Approved Employer Program recognizes and rewards employers' quality staff training & development and ensures the highest professional standards for both the employers and the students/employees.

**Regional Connectivity**

# Pakistan wants to enhance trade with Kyrgyzstan

*Dy. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Aibek Artykbaev holds meeting with Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar*

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Aibek Artykbaev on Friday called on Federal Minister for Commerce & Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar.

The meeting which was held in the Minister's Office was attended by Special Secretary Commerce Dr. Ahmed Mujtaba Memon and Additional Secretary, Syed Hamad Ali.

During the meeting, both sides discussed ways and means of increasing trade volume between the two countries and enhancing cooperation in other areas of mutual interest.

The minister said that promoting international trade, transit and investment is the pivot around which Pakistan seeks to devise its economic policies. Naveed Qamar stated that the government's vision is to make Pakistan a trade, transit and transshipment hub ensuring connectivity with Afghanistan and beyond. In this regard, Pakistan has signed a transit trade agreement with Uzbekistan, and is negotiating a Transit Trade Agreement with Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, he added.

Bilateral trade between Pakistan



and Kyrgyzstan remained at US\$ 4.27 million during fiscal year 2021-22 which does not reflect the true potential of trade between the two countries, the minister opined.

Commerce minister said that the Pak-Kyrgyzstan Trade and Investment

Forum was held from 19-20 April 2022 in Islamabad and 22nd April in Lahore and desired that such activities should be held on a regular basis in future.

Syed Naveed Qamar maintained that the draft MoU on establishment of Joint Working Group has been shared

with Kyrgyz republic and their response was awaited.

The Kyrgyz Deputy Foreign Minister assured the Pakistani side of further enhancing trade ties between the two countries and said that he would take practical measures in this regard.

**Rise of dollar against rupee is troubling**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on



Fridays aid the stability of the dollar against the rupee is worrying as the rupee has not yet stabilized as expected. Steps should be taken to bring the rupee to one hundred eighty or one hundred and eighty-five to a dollar as per the expectations of the business community, he said.

Talking to the business community, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the dollar was worth 215 rupees after retreating for two weeks but now it is gaining strength against the rupee which is disturbing.

The dollar fell from 239.50 rupees to 213.90 rupees this year, but now the fall has stopped and its value has increased to more than 218 rupees due to a reduction in remittances and dwindling exports and some decisions, he observed. The business leader said that if the dollar continued to stabilize again, this will allow speculators and profiteers to again distort the market, affecting the public and the business community.

## ICCI signs MoU with Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University

*To promote research activities*

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University (STMU) Islamabad to promote joint academic and R&D activities of mutual interest in accordance with their respective needs and objectives as well as to promote academia-industry linkages. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Dr. Muhammad Tanvir Afzal, Director Campus, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad signed the MoU during a ceremony held at ICCI. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI, Dr. Shazia Shehzadi, Phycologist and others were present at the occasion.

By signing the MoU, ICCI shall help in providing Internship opportunities to the students of STMU and would invite STMU to its specific



events. ICCI shall facilitate the students of STMU in start-ups and in finding jobs with its member companies. Both parties shall promote collaboration in the field of mutual interest and work jointly for resolving problems of local industrial units. STMU shall provide a 10% discount in tuition fee to the children of ICCI members for selective programs.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that strong industry-academia linkages are important to conduct research projects for industry and help it produce

value added products for exports. He said that universities should focus on applied research with a focus to resolve the key issues of industry and enhance industrial efficiency to make it more competitive for exports promotion.

Dr. Muhammad Tanvir Afzal, Director Campus, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University, Islamabad said that it is high time to introduce research culture in the industry. He said that research promotion for industry would help achieve the future demands of the industrial sector and stressed that academia-industry linkages needed to be strengthened to attain this goal.

## SCO, Celmore and Inbox enter into understanding

*For telecom professional services and business opportunities in A&K and GB*

**Staff Reporter**

RAWALPINDI: Special Communications Organization (SCO) largest integrated network with multiple layers of backhaul connectivity in Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit Baltistan (GB), Celmore Technologies (Pvt) Limited, a IT and Fiber manufacturing company and Inbox Business Technologies Ltd, a leading professional services company working in the information technology, digital infrastructure and telecom industry has entered into an understanding for telecom professional services and business opportunities in AJ&K and GB.

The overall purpose of the MoU is to strengthen cooperation for mutual cooperation on WMS system and other potential opportunities required in digital transformation of society. The MoU was signed by Mr Mirza



Zia-ud-Din, Chief Executive Officer Celmore and Mr Mohsin Ali, Chief Executive Officer Inbox Business Technologies in the presence of Major General Muhammad Shahid Sideeq, Director General SCO and officials from both sides.

Through this MoU, both Celmore and Inbox Business Technologies will jointly work towards enhancing the collaboration beyond the current opportunities. This collaboration brings forth a commitment of Inbox Business Technologies to act as a professional service and consultative arm of Celmore with regards to business

opportunities, Defense project, Public sector, Private sector and International opportunities.

Director General SCO Major General Muhammad Shahid Sideeq, expressed his view on the occasion that "SCO shall enhance connectivity in AJ&K and GB by developing telecom infrastructure with latest product, technologies and solutions to facilitate private sector. This cooperation shall provide a boost to telecom technology from all angles besides WMS. The objective in this regard was reaffirmed to help the end users to benefit from the digital technology".

## Additional taxes will cripple industrial sector

*Govt should target non-productive sector for revenue, says Mian Zahid Hussain*

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said imposing a five percent tax on the productive sector will cripple it.

Many factories will close, production will be reduced and unemployment will increase if taxes are increased on the sector which is already paying three times more taxes. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the industrial sector cannot bear the burden of more taxes therefore instead of targeting the industry, tax should be imposed on those sectors which are not paying tax or paying nominal tax.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government never imposed adequate taxes on agriculture, banks, brokers, property, transport and other non-productive sectors to increase its income, which is surprising because it causes a loss of over 75 billion rupees.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the increased tax on the cigarette



manufacturers is the right decision which will benefit the public while increasing the revenue of the government as this sector has been the favourite of the previous government and has been given immense benefits. The business leader further said that the IMF is not in favour of giving co-relief to any sector, but the government has given to the favoured sectors and has assured the international organization that the loss will be compensated by imposing more burden on the tax-paying sectors.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that there is a demand to lift the ban on the import of 866 items, but the Prime Minister is in favour of the ban because it is saving a large amount of foreign exchange. He noted that the ban has also covered motorcycle and vehicle spare parts and industrial machinery which has led to a sharp increase in their prices.

## 1st meeting of Pak-Brazil Business Council of FPCCI 2022 held

*Brazil Ambassador says we need to work on promoting bilateral trade between Pakistan and Brazil*

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: First meeting of Pakistan Brazil Business Council of FPCCI 2022 Chaired by Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI, held at FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. The meeting was also graced by the Brazilian Ambassador Olyntho Vieira.

The Chairman Pakistan-Brazil Business Council of FPCCI Arif Mehmood along with Saad Masood ur Rehman, President Mardan CCI, Sehbaz Majeed, Former President, Sher Afghan SVP Haripur CCI, Zuhab Khan, EC Member Mardan CCI, Khush Noor Didar, President Women CCI Gilgit Division and others members of the Council, also attended the meeting. They discussed bilateral trade, and cooperation in various fields was also discussed and agreed upon.

The Brazilian Ambassador emphasized on the potential exist in both countries to enhance economic cooperation and said that opportunities should be explored for the promo-



tion of bilateral trade and economic activities. He further emphasized on investment opportunities that emerged with the CPEC in Pakistan for global foreign investors including Brazil. Commenting on the geographical location of Pakistan and Brazil, he said that both countries are not that much distant from each other and both countries can fulfil the need of quality products of each other," the envoy said.

Umar Masood ur Rehman Vice President FPCCI said that FPCCI wants to promote business, mutual understanding and friendly relations between

the business communities of Pakistan and Brazil. "We also want to promote Brazilian investment in Pakistan and do everything for the development of Pakistan-Brazilian business cooperation," he concluded. Talking about Pakistan-Brazil relations, he said that relations between both the countries have zero issues and a friendly image. Brazil is keen to enhance good relations with Pakistan. He further emphasized on the joint venture in various sectors like trade, education, and agriculture which are the key areas that could promote ties between both countries

The Chairman Pakistan

Brazil Business Council Arif Malik and Chairman Pakistan Belarus Business Council Saad Masood ur Rehman & others said that Pakistan's geographical location is very important and Brazilian investors should focus on Pakistan for investment and joint ventures. They also suggested to enhance people to people contact between the private sectors of both countries. They highlighted the potential of Pakistani marble, textile products, leather and leather products, pharmaceutical, surgical instruments and agro products including rice, pulses, fruits, and vegetables could find a good market in Brazil.



# Pakistan secures 3rd spot in ICC Men's Cricket WC Super League

*Netherlands vs Pakistan: Pak have sealed series 2-0, with one match left, due to take place today*

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan have overtaken Afghanistan to secure the third spot in the ICC Men's cricket World Cup Super League after consistently playing well against the Netherlands.

Pakistan have sealed the series 2-0, with one match left, due to take place on August 20, while playing a bilateral series against the Netherlands in Rotterdam.

After consecutive two victories, Pakistan have 110 points after playing 17 matches in the current cycle with a net run rate of +0.221, as per the latest ICC standings.

England is on top with 125 points, Bangladesh is at the second with 120 points while India is on the seventh spot on the list with 89 points after losing four matches out of nine played.

Under the criteria, each team gets 10 points for a win, five for a tie/no result/abandoned match, and zero for a loss.

If Pakistan win the Netherlands series it will reach to 120 points and consequently it will find a place in next year's event proper, no matter what their remaining two series against New Zealand and Afghanistan yield any result. Agencies



## Raducanu hungry for repeat of miracle

*British tennis star craving bagel, also looking forward to defend US Open title*

CINCINNATI: A local breakfast staple will be on the menu when Emma Raducanu returns to New York next week to begin preparations for defending her US Open title.

The London teenager who won the Grand Slam from a qualifying start without dropping a set has her mind set on scratching a particular non-tennis itch.

"I've really been craving a bagel for the last year," the 19-year-old said after Thursday's 7-5, 6-4 third-round

loss to US seventh seed Jessica Pegula at the ATP and WTA Cincinnati Masters.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the city. But of course the tournament — I've got special memories there from the juniors... and then last year, obviously that happened. "I'm looking forward to it."

Raducanu and her team are taking a look back at her run to glory which ended with the title last September. "I'm rewatching my matches from the US Open," she said.

"There are certain moments where I was given a lot of gifts (opponent errors) or maybe they got a bit tight.

"I think I've improved as a player. I'm finding freedom in my swinging.

"I think I achieved something great... but I was playing completely free (at last year's Open). I'm starting to do that again."

Raducanu, who was seeded 10th, is relatively untroubled over her exit in Cincinnati after knocking out Serena Williams and Victoria

Azarenka in back-to-back matches.

"I did really enjoy this week. If I made an error, it was almost like a positive thing — good, you are going for it," Raducanu said. "It paid off a lot more than it didn't. But I also think, honestly, that my opponents have been playing a lot better this year.

"This week was a great step for me. It's one of the few tournaments that I have actually started going for my shots." AFP

## SA thrash England as 'Bazball' era comes back down to earth

LONDON: South Africa inflicted England's first defeat of the 'Bazball' era as they won the first Test by a crushing 12 runs with more than two days to spare at Lord's on Friday. England were dismissed for 149 in their second innings before tea on the third day, with the Proteas effectively winning the game in six sessions after most of Wednesday's first day was lost to rain.

Left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj struck twice before fast bowler Anrich Nortje followed up with a superb spell of three wickets for no runs in 10 balls as the Proteas, leaders of the World Test Championship table, took a 1-0 lead in a three-match series. England had won all four of their previous Tests under a new leadership of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, after whom 'Bazball' is named.

## Traditional sports

ISLAMABAD: Traditional Sports and Games Islamabad Chapter held a meeting which was chaired by Brig (r) Azam Effendi.



Photo: Daily The Spokesman

## PSF-Combaxx Int'l Squash 2022 from Aug 24

*World-ranking players from Egypt, Iran and Malaysia to feature*

### Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The coveted PSF-Combaxx International Squash Tournament 2022 for Men being organized by Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) in collaboration with Combaxx Sports is all set to commence from August 24-28 at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad. The 5-day event, which carries attractive prize money of US\$ 12,000/- is also featuring international ranking players from Egypt, Iran, and Pakistan. According to Game Development Officer Flight Lt. M Atif Riaz, apart from 16 Pakistanis, as many as three international ranking players from Egypt, two from Iran, and three others from Malaysia have also confirmed their participation in this coveted tournament.

"World No 97 Khaled Labib from



Egypt is top seed whereas World No 110 Noor Zaman from Pakistan is 2nd seed of the tournament", he further informed. Two top seeds withdraw from PSF In'l Squash It is to be noted that three under-19 players from Paki-

stan namely Talha Saeed from Karachi, Moen-ud-Din from Rawalpindi, and M Ammad from Peshawar have also been given wildcards for this event.

Quarter Finals and semis will be played on Aug 26 and Aug 27 respectively while the grand finale is set for Aug. 28.

The following is the complete list of the entries from Pakistan and other counties: Khalid Labib, Noor Zaman, Alireza Shami, Nasir Iqbal, Farhan Zaman, Ahsan Ayaz, Muhammad Ashab Irfan, Hamza Khan, Farhan Mehmoob, Abdellah E.Marsy, Zeeshan Zeb, Saeed Abdul, Salman Saleem, Zahir Shahin Duncan Lee, Wee Ming Hock, Abdelrahman Nassar, Hafiz Zhafri, Sepelr Etamadpoor, Naveed Rehman, Waqar Mehboob, Muhammad Ammad (WC), Moenuddin (WC), and Talha Saeed (WC).

## Quartararo bids to halt Bagnaia title surge

*MotoGP champion hoping to get the right result in 'not our best circuit' at Austrian Grand Prix*

SPIELBERG: France's world champion Fabio Quartararo starts the Austrian MotoGP on Sunday looking over his shoulder at surging Francesco Bagnaia. Quartararo leads Spaniard Alex Espargaro, who will compete despite a broken heel, by 22 points but Italian Bagnaia, who finished fast last season, is third 49 points back after winning the last two races.

Last season Ducati's Bagnaia was second in the race with Quartararo seventh on his Yamaha, although the Frenchman had finished third in the Styrian MotoGP on the same track a week earlier. Ducati won seven straight at Spielberg, including the first Styrian MotoGP in 2020, before KTM won both races last year.

Quartararo's eighth place in the British MotoGP a fortnight ago was a rare blot this season — he has three victories and six podium finishes in 12 races



— and he takes heart from two of his previous rides in Austria.

"We know that Spielberg is not our best circuit, but I was third here in 2019 and 2021," said the 23-year-old.

"If we keep the right attitude and work hard, we can get the right results. "After Silverstone, I was a bit disappointed, but I used that energy in a productive way. "I've been doing a lot of training, and I feel focused and ready

for the weekend."

Last season Bagnaia was fourth in the standings, 70 points behind Quartararo at the end of August. But the Italian won four of the last six races to finish second. This year he has started his surge earlier.

"At Silverstone we gained several points in the overall standings," he said. "But for the moment I do not want to think about the Championship. "I must stay focused, race by race, trying to get the best possible result.

"In the last GP, I got an unexpected victory, and I think it was one of the best of my career."

The 25-year-old is encouraged by Ducati's dominance in Austria. "We will have to see what it will be like with the new chicane, but I am convinced the conditions are there for us to do well," he said. "I am ready and excited to race there again." AFP

## Khalid Sajjad Khokhar elected as PHF President



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Brigadier (R) Khalid Sajjad Khokhar has been elected President of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) as unopposed. Under the Chief Election Commissioner of PHF M. Riaz the election process completed. Saeed Khan was elected as Vice President Major General (R) Tariq Haleem Soori VP, Amjad Sani, Shehla Raza Chairperson women wing, Sana Jamali Vice Chairman, and Tanzeela Aamir Cheema elected Secretary women wing PHF for 4 years. On this occasion, PHF members, POA member Ahmed Ali Rajpoot, and representative of Sports Board Shahid Ali were also present.

## PCB gives NOC to Azam Khan for CPL

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday issued a no-objection certificate (NOC) to right-handed batter Azam Khan for the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

PCB re-opened Khan's request for NOC and decided to give him permission for participating in the CPL — scheduled to take place from September 1 to October 1.

Later on, the PCB official confirmed that NOC was issued to Khan for participating in the CPL. On Thursday, PCB rejected Khan's request for NOC while advising him to participate in the National T20 Cup which is starting on August 30.

The aggressive batter is currently representing Overseas Warriors in Kashmir Premier League (KPL) season 2 in Muzaffarabad. Agencies

## Strength, Conditioning Badminton training camp continues

PESHAWAR: With the support of Directorate General of Sports Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Strength and Conditioning Badminton training camp is going on in Peshawar in which Najeeb Ullah Khattak, a qualified sports conditioning experts from Islamabad is imparting training to players. Najeeb Ullah Khattak is imparting strength and conditioning modern skills and techniques to the players with the aim to up boot their overall skills in a modern way. MPA Malik Wajidullah graced the occasion as chief guest with two international coaches Muhammad Nadeem Khan and Hayat Ullah, Secretary KP Badminton Association Haji Amjad, players and officials were also present. The badminton players from U16 to U21 and position holders and national ranking players are also part of the Strength and Conditioning Training Camps. Coaches Muhammad Nadeem Khan and Hayatullah are also introducing the basic techniques of badminton to the participating players. Najeeb Khattak said that awareness of physical fitness and sports nutrition is important for athletes. APP

## Throw Ball Coaching Course held in CGC Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Throw Ball Association with the support of Directorate of Higher Education, organized a day long Throw Ball Coaching and Orientation Course here at City Girls College Peshawar on Friday.

The aim and objective of the course was to update the lectures, sports in-charge of the Health and Physical Education working in different colleges of Peshawar, District Khyber, Nowshera and Charsadda. Assistant Professors and Lecturers of Physical Education enthusiastically participated in the course as a total of 35 health and physical education lectures and teachers turned up. During the course proper training and coaching drills have been taught to the participants besides updating them regarding the rules, regulations and techniques of Throw ball gaining roots in the educational institutions, especially in women colleges. Deputy Director of Sports and General Secretary of Throw Ball Association Arshad Hussain briefed the participants about Throw Ball along with other course conductors of the Pakistan Throw Ball Federation. The aim of the course was to promote the sport in colleges, Arshad Hussain told APP when contacted. APP

## Secretary Sports Punjab inspects NPSC sports venues

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ali Jan Khan visited different sports venues at Nishtar Park Sports Complex (NPSC), here on Friday. He inspected the State of the Art Punjab International Swimming Complex, Tennis Stadium, E-Library, National Hockey Stadium and NPSC Gymnasium Hall. Secretary Sports Punjab Ali was accompanied by Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Admin Syed Omair Hasan and Deputy Director Tariq Wattoo. Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi briefed Ali Jan Khan about various features of the top class sports facilities at Nishtar Park Sports Complex. Secretary Sports Punjab on this occasion appreciated the valuable sports facilities at Nishtar Park Sports Complex saying that the talented youth of the Punjab should avail Sports board Punjab's top class sports facilities fully.