

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Thanks KSA, Qatar, UAE for supporting to Pakistan: Ashrafi

PM's aide Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi says he is grateful to leaderships of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Qatar and United Arab Emirates (UAE) for economic cooperation with Pakistan. We were thankful to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Emir of Qatar for the announcement of investment in Pakistan from the KSA and Qatar.



## Thar Coal to produce 2600 MW power this year: Khurram

Federal Minister of Energy (Power Division) Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan says Thar Coal Project will generate 2600 MW electricity this year and it will be one of the major energy project of the country. Thar people have the right of employment in the project and in this regard directives were issued to the relevant companies.

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## SBP sets up PM's flood relief fund

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The State Bank of Pakistan has established Prime Minister Flood Relief Fund on the advice of federal government and asked the banks to create awareness regarding the fund. In a message from its Twitter handle, the State Bank of Pakistan announced that donations can be made through cash or cross cheques at all bank branches across Pakistan and digitally via IBFT or RAAST. "Roshan Digital Account holders can donate by clicking Prime Minister Flood Relief Fund icon on Roshan Samaji Khidmat page of their RDA bank," the central bank said. It further said that overseas Pakistanis can also donate through wire transfers or Money Transfer Operators/exchange companies in their countries of residence.

The SBP also advised the banks to create awareness about fund and facilitate donors in making the donations. Previously, Information and Broadcasting Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb has announced establishment of a relief fund from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to support people who have been trapped in the unprecedented floods in the country. Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has revealed that over 900 people were killed during monsoon rains across Pakistan since June this year. Taking to Twitter, the minister shared that the highest number of deaths and injuries during the time period was recorded in Sindh and Balochistan. "Since June, 903 people, including 326 children and 191 women, have died in various incidents of monsoon rains and floods."

## Financial support

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting with International Donors and Partners on rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas. Islamabad on Thursday.



Photo: PID

PM's appeal

# Int'l donors announce \$500m for flood affectees

PM says Pakistan keen to build solid strategic relations with Qatar

ISLAMABAD/ DOHA: The international organizations and financial institutions on Thursday announced immediate assistance of more than 500 million dollars for the flood victims on the appeal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. The PM chaired an important meeting with the international donors here for providing relief to the flood victims. The representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, international financial institutions, development partners, and donors attended the meeting. The officials of China, the United States and the European Union, agencies of the United Nations and the World Health Organization also took part in the meeting.

The Prime Minister briefed the international partners about the

devastation caused by floods in the country, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. He said the country faced an emergency situation because of the historic rains

PM cancels London visit considering flood situation in country

and floods and a large number of people including women and children lost their lives. He told that houses, infrastructure, crops and orchards were destroyed, roads and bridges were washed away and land routes were cut off which made it difficult to carry out rescue and relief activities. The relief

activities were expanded with the help of the Pakistan army and helicopters, he informed.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan and Qatar had a clear vision of the future with new opportunities and greater awareness to upgrade bilateral relations, particularly the economic cooperation. As the prime minister headed back to homeland after his maiden two-day official visit to Qatar, wrote on Twitter mentioned the conclusion of his "important" trip he made at the invitation of Amir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. "Heading back to Pakistan today after the conclusion of my important trip to Qatar. Thank you to the government & people of Qatar, especially my brother HH Sheikh Tamim

bin Hamad Al Thani for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality," the prime minister tweeted.

Mentioning the two "noteworthy" aspects of his visit, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said firstly Pakistan and Qatar had a clear vision of the future which offered new opportunities and avenues in a swiftly changing world. Secondly, he said there was a greater awareness between the two countries of the need for upgrading the bilateral relations by making economic cooperation the pivot of bilateral ties.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday while considering the flood situation in the country, cancelled his visit to London where he planned to go to inquire after his ailing granddaughter.

## Corps Commanders' Conference

# COAS directs troops to support flood victims

Instructs army formations maintain operational readiness to counter-terrorism

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday chaired the 250th Corps Commanders' Conference at General Headquarters (GHQ) here. During the meeting, participants were briefed in detail on external and internal security situations, with a particular focus on the flood situation in the country and ongoing relief operations being undertaken by Army Formations, according to a press release issued by Inter-Services Public Relations.

While COAS appreciated the ongoing relief efforts and directed Army formations to render all possible support to the flood victims, he also directed formations to maintain

operational readiness and efforts to counter terrorism, particularly in KP and Balochistan, must continue. Every single affected individual must be reached to bring comfort in this hour of distress, COAS concluded.

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and extensive damage to infrastructure due to unprecedented rains and floods, the forum resolved to spare no efforts for mitigating the sufferings of flood affectees. The army chief also directed the formations to maintain operational readiness and underscored the need for efforts to counter terrorism, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to continue.

# Saudi Arabia to invest \$1b in Pakistan

Saudi FM informs FM Bilawal about the decision

ISLAMABAD: King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, has issued a directive to invest \$1 billion in Pakistan, in confirmation of the Kingdom's support of Pakistan economy and its people. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, who received a telephone call from his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday, informed him of the King's directive, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. According to the SPA report, the two Foreign Ministers besides discussing the strong Saudi-Pakistani relations and the ways to boost them, also discussed the regional and international issues of common interest.

The foreign ministers also discussed bilateral ties and means to improve them as well as regional and international affairs of mutual interest, the report added. Pakistan is in economic turmoil and faces a balance of payments crisis, with foreign reserves having dropped as low as \$7.8 billion, barely enough for more than a month of imports. It is also contending with a widening current account deficit, weakening rupee currency, and inflation that exceeded 24% in July.

According to details, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Saudi FM held a telephonic conversation on Thursday to discuss matters of mutual interest and flood situation in Pakistan.

Exiting gray list

# FATF upgrades Pakistan's compliance ratings

HONG KONG: The Asia Pacific Group (APG) of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has upgraded Pakistan's technical compliance ratings in a sign that the country is inching closer to an exit from the gray list of sanctions. Earlier this year, FATF — the international body to check terror financing and money laundering — had acknowledged Pakistan's efforts to curb money laundering and terror financing and declared that the country has met 34 action items it was assigned.

However, a final decision on taking Pakistan off of the gray list remained contingent upon the onsite visit and verification of Pakistan's compliance. The decision will be announced in October. However, the country has taken another step in that direction by getting AGP approval on technical compliance. Pakistan had submitted its 4th Follow-up Report in February 2022 requesting upgrades in four recommendations

"The submissions were made in the light of amendments made to the Mutual Legal Assistance Act, estab-



lishments of comprehensive data collection and management systems and supervisory activities undertaken by the regulatory authorities for designated law enforcement authorities i.e. FBR-DNFBP, ICAP, ICMAP and Ministry of Law and Justice (MoLJ)," the financial monitoring unit of the government of Pakistan said. Before the FATF met in June this year, the follow-up report was reviewed by experts from China, Hong Kong, and APG Secretariat. The report was also discussed at the APG's Mutual Executive Committee meeting

held in June 2022 and in July 2022 it was adopted with the upgrades in the rating of all four recommendations. The APG has upgraded Pakistan's compliance with the following recommendations.

Pakistan is now compliant or largely compliant on 38 out of 40 FATF recommendations — sufficient compliance level to get Pakistan off of the gray list.

The country is fully compliant on 9 recommendations or action items, largely compliant on 29 items, and partially compliant on two items. It no longer faces the blemish of being non-compliant on any of the items.

While upgrading Pakistan's compliance ratings in its July 2022 report, the APG concluded that "overall, Pakistan has made good progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its MER and has been re-rated on Compliant with R.33, Largely Compliant with R.28 and R.37 and Partially Compliant with R.38." "Pakistan has 38 Recommendations rated C/LC. Pakistan will remain in enhanced follow-up.

## Rupee further slides against dollar

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The US dollar on Thursday continued its winning streak in interbank against the Pakistan Rupee (PKR). The dollar, which is consistently gaining ground, gained Rs1.12 against the rupee and was being traded around Rs219.5. However, the US dollar is still down by over Rs20 from record high rate of Rs239.94 in interbank on July 28, 2022. In the interbank market, the local unit closed at 219.41 after losing 0.47 against the dollar. Economic experts have said that the pressure on the rupee will continue till the IMF board's approval of disbursing the \$1.17 billion tranche for Pakistan.

In open market, the US dollar traded between Rs225 and Rs227. The rupee remained on a winning streak for the last two weeks with some exceptions after the IMF assured that Pakistan has fulfilled all formalities to secure a funding of US\$1.17 billion. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had agreed to the letter of intent forwarded by Pakistan.

# Qatar investments end our financing gap: Miftah

Urges development partners to support flood affectees

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said Thursday that the financing gap in Pakistan has ended after Qatari investments in different sectors. Miftah Ismail said that Qatar offered \$3 billion in investments in Pakistan. Foreign investment from Qatar has ended the financing gap in the country. "IMF [International Monetary Fund] has been informed about the Qatari investments." "Qatar shows interest in making investments in Haveli Bahadur Shah and Balloki power plants. Qatar is also willing to make investments at airports. Qatar will make investments at Karachi and Islamabad airports, and solar power projects," the finance minister added.

"Qatar would make investments in the freight cargo terminal of Port Qasim. Doha is also willing to make investments in shares of the stock market. Moreover, Qatar is mulling over giving employment to 200,000 Pakistanis," said Miftah Ismail. Finance Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on



Princess of Jordan H.R.H. Sarah Zeid Raad-World Food Programme (WFP), Special Advisor on Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Mr. Miftah Ismail at Finance Division, Islamabad on Thursday. Photo: PID

Thursday urged all the development partners to extend broad-based support and assistance to Pakistan for the flood-affected people. Miftah also highlighted various reform initiatives introduced by the present government for the social uplift of the masses during a meeting with Princess of Jordan Sarah Zeid Raad, who called on him, said the Finance Division.

He especially apprised the princess of the financial relief provided by the government through the Benazir Income Support Programme and the

cash relief announced for the flood victims.

The present government's initiatives for women development, mother and child healthcare, nutrition facilities, and children education were also discussed in the meeting. The minister thanked the World Food Programme (WFP) for their continued support to Pakistan by providing humanitarian assistance. Representative and Country Director WFP Chris Kaye, Head of Nutrition-WFP Mahamadou Tanimoune, secretary finance and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Princess Sarah Zeid highlighted WFP's various interventions in diverse sectors in Pakistan and appreciated the constant support and assistance at federal and provincial levels in the country.

She further extended her assistance in a number of areas, including humanitarian aid, food and nutritional needs, financing poverty alleviation, women development etc. The finance minister thanked Princess Sarah Zeid Raad for promoting socio-economic development in Pakistan and extended his full cooperation and support.

## Plight

Stranded people carry their belongings as they wade through a flooded area after heavy monsoon rainfall in Rajanpur district of Punjab province on Thursday.



## Rains &amp; floods

**PR incur  
Rs100m loss  
daily**

LAHORE: Pakistan Railways is incurring a daily loss of Rs100 million due to the torrential rains and ensuing floods in different parts of the country, a top official said. The devastation by unprecedented floods in different parts of the country has taken a heavy toll on the revenue of Pakistan Railways which is experiencing a loss of millions of rupees every day.

Rains and floods have laid waste to several railway tracks and many of them have been washed away. Such situation has ceased trains to yards, ensuing daily loss of Rs100 million which is piling up every passing day as the devastation seems to leave its footprints. On Thursday, Quetta became inaccessible by train as it was disconnected from the rest of the country for a month after a rail bridge near Mach station collapsed. According to a Pakistan Railways spokesperson, seven important trains between Karachi and Quetta had been canceled on the day too.

## Disaster

## Floods leave 30 million homeless, without food

*Sherry Rehman appeals world for assisting flood victims*

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday referring to the havoc wreaked by the ongoing unprecedented monsoon rains, said Pakistan was going through a climate-induced humanitarian disaster at the moment. The media should play an effective role in highlighting the plight of flood victims, rescue and relief efforts, and damages to life and property so that the stakeholders could manage a well-coordinated response with public support, she told a press conference.

Sherry said the country had so far received an average of 166 millimetres of rainfall during the month of August, which was 241% above normal, whereas its southern parts, particularly Sindh, got 784% more than normal average rain for the season, which was alarming. The Met Office statistics were startling, she said, adding the flash floods caused by massive rains had swept away bridges and communication infrastructure in various areas of the provinces.

The current deluge in the Indus River was even worse than the super flood of 2010, Sherry remarked. The minister said

a national emergency had been declared in the country as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal had postponed their official visits abroad. "We are in the eighth spell of monsoon rains with southern Pakistan receiving heavy rains, including 23 districts of Sindh

Pakistan going through climate-induced humanitarian disaster: Sherry Rehman

declared as calamity-hit."

She said as half of the country in the south was inundated, the armed forces and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), along with provincial governments, were actively engaged in rescue and relief activities. "Almost 30 million people are without shelter, thousands of them displaced and have no food. As needs assessment is underway and will be completed soon, which will help

in approaching donor agencies for relief and rescue as the crisis has surpassed the capacity of the government."

She reiterated that it was not possible for a government or a province to solely handle such massive flooding and heavy rains. "The Prime Minister's Relief Fund account is active to accept donations for the disaster-hit masses, whereas tents have been ordered by the NDMA and PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authorities). The prime minister has also opened a war room at the NDMA to spearhead and monitor rescue and relief efforts."

The minister underlined that there was a forecast of extended monsoon activity in September, which was again an alarming one. She said the Sukkur and Taunsa barrages had high water flow and all available machinery and other resources were being utilised in the affected region. At present, all the departments were focused on flood-hit areas to cope with any evolving situation. Sherry said some 913 people had perished in rain-related incidents, with a higher number of deaths among children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

## Prohibited funding

## FIA traces PTI's three central accounts

*FIA imposes interim ban on Tariq Shafi and Arif Naqvi from travelling abroad*

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has traced three central accounts of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf in connection with its probe into the prohibited funding case. According to FIA sources, the accounts were used to transfer funds from Wootton Cricket Club, from which huge sums came to Pakistan. Sources said that Tariq Shafi had opened Insaaf Trust.

FIA has frozen the accounts of Shafi and summoned him for an answer. An interim ban has been imposed on Tariq Shafi and Arif Naqvi from travelling abroad. On

August 6, FIA identified five more PTI companies saying that the companies were not declared in PTI's assets report submitted to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). "These companies are located in USA, England, Australia, Belgium and Canada, some of which are closed and some are still active," the FIA sources revealed.

FIA sources said that all these companies were registered under different names.

The FIA then issued notices to the chairman and general secretary of the PTI to investigate the issue of prohibited funding and to provide details of party fund records.

## Terror case registered against Rana Sana

LAHORE/ GUJRANWALA:

Punjab Home Minister Colonel (ret'd) Hasim Dogar said on Thursday that a case has been registered against Minister for Interior and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Rana Sanaullah. In his latest Tweet, the provincial minister said that the First Information Report (FIR) has been launched against the federal minister for threatening honorable judiciary and government officials in Gujarat's Industrial Area. He further said that the charges framed in the FIR are serious and action will be taken in accordance with the law. The police on Thursday registered a case against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on the charges of terrorism and interference in the government matters. The case was filed by a citizen in the Industrial Area Police Station of Gujrat.

A first information report (FIR) was filed against Interior Minister and PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah under the Anti-Terrorism Act in Gujranwala's Industrial Area Police Station on Thursday. The FIR was registered on the complaint of common citizen Shahkz Aslam. According to the FIR's content, Sanaullah blatantly targeted honorable judiciary and government officials in 2021. The FIR's copy further read that Rana Sanaullah's statement has instilled anxiety, terror, and unrest among the public.

## Alarming

**SBP reserves fall to \$7.8b**



## Bureau Report

KARACHI: The foreign exchange reserves held by the central bank fell by \$87 million during the week ended on August 19, according to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on Thursday.

Sharing a break-up of the foreign reserves position, the central bank said that the foreign currency reserves held by the SBP were recorded at \$7.81 billion, down by \$87 million compared to \$7.89 on August 19. "During the week ended on August 19, 2022, SBP's reserves decreased by \$87 million to \$7,809.9 million," the SBP said in a statement.

Total liquid foreign reserves held by the country stood at \$13.52 billion, said the SBP on Thursday. Net foreign reserves held by commercial banks amounted to \$5.71 billion. The SBP cited the decline in reserves due to "external debt and other payments". The rupee's slide against US dollar continued in the interbank on Wednesday with the greenback closing at Rs219. According to forex dealers, the greenback increased by Rs1.03 in interbank and closed at Rs219.41.

## Terror case

## ATC grants Imran Khan pre-arrest bail

*Court stops police from arresting Imran Khan till Sept 1*

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Thursday secured pre-arrest bail in the terror case filed against him for threatening Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during a public rally, shortly after he appeared before an anti-terrorism court (ATC) here. The ATC accepted the ex-prime minister's bail plea against a surety of Rs100,000, stopping the police from arresting Khan till September 1. The court also issued notices to the police and petitioner. Khan's bail will be reviewed now at the hearing on September 1.

Khan appeared in the ATC in person where judge Raja Jawwad Abbas heard his plea. Meanwhile, speaking to the



media outside court, PTI chair Imran Khan urged those "making and influencing" decisions to consider the country. He said the world is making fun of Pakistan over news of him being

booked in a terror case for intending to take legal action against officials whom he alleges are involved in the torture of his chief of staff Shahbaz Gill in prison.

"Torture and sexual abuse was inflicted on Shahbaz Gill and when I said that I'll take legal action against the police officials involved and the magistrate who sent Gill into police custody despite torture being proven in court, I was booked in a terror case," he said. He said when news of this spread across the globe it gave an impression of Pakistan being a banana republic. Khan went on to say that he would advise those — who are making and influencing such decisions — to think about the country.

## Floods situation demands a state of emergency: Marriyum

*Calls for national spirit to deal with this calamity*

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has termed floods situation in the country a national emergency. In a statement on Thursday, she said a national spirit is required to cope with the devastation caused by the calamity in Balochistan and Sindh provinces.

The Information Minister asked the countrymen including overseas Pakistanis to give donations for the help of flood victims, noting that a big amount will be required in view of the large scale devastation.

The donations can be deposited in the Prime Minister's Relief Fund 2022 Account No:G-12164.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said the federal government is working in coordination with provinces, and resources are being mobilized to extend relief to the affected people. Alluding to the difficulties being faced in rescue and relief activities due to heavy rains and floods, she



said these could be accelerated with the help of the people.

The federal government, along with the provinces, was making vigorous efforts, all resources were being mobilized, she said. The minister said owing to heavy rains and severe flooding, there were difficulties in relief operations. She said that rescue and relief process of the victims could be accelerated with the help of the public. The minister said that the details and process for depositing donations in the Prime Minister Flood Relief Account 2022 have already been released.

## All stakeholders should work to strengthen economy: Dr. Aisha

*Says national consensus must to overcome pressing challenges*

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha has stressed that all stakeholders should collectively work to strengthen the country's economy. Addressing a seminar on National Identity and Cohesion: Unity In Diversity here on Thursday, she said government took difficult decisions to address the economic issues. She said the government is working on structural reforms which are important to bring equitable and inclusive growth. She stressed we have to learn to live within our means.

The Minister of State said the government is also focusing on equitable distribution of resources.

for State for Finance and Revenue, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha said on Thursday that the country needed a broad-based national consensus to ensure cohesion and unity among the ranks

and files of the nation to overcome pressing challenges. The Minister underlined the key areas demanding focus of the stakeholders to improve the country's social and economic conditions.

Dr Pasha said there were 11 key areas of focus that needed to have national consensus so as a nation to decide to take painful reforms for progress and prosperity of the country.

She added that improving governance, resource mobilisation, accelerating growth, balanced regional development and other priority areas with focus on human development, provision of employment opportunities would demand a unified response for building a strong nation. "It is high time that everyone in Pakistan including our youth should sit together to create that country that was achieved

after many sacrifices in 1947. We need to foster patriotism and national cohesion by upholding the principles of diversity. The youth is our asset and the stakeholders have to forget their past and sit together to reform, rebuild and act together."

Expressing her optimism, the Minister of State said the country could achieve its mission of a self-reliant state with unity. She mentioned that the crises of our identity was persistent throughout the creation of the country, adding that the vested interests of the disgruntled politicians impeded the journey of democracy, and national cohesion. "We lost our vision of human development to the personal interests and ambitions of the politicians. Despite being the sixth most populated country, we are the lowest in human development index."



She added that the countries were secure with human security amid fifth generation warfare phenomenon prevailing in the present age. "It is territorial security, food, economic security, good and quality employment, shelter, no regional disparity and others that safeguard national security."

Minister Pasha underlined that good governance was one of the mechanisms to ensure our security along with environment security to protect ourselves. "We are in a stage of IMF programme and the nations opt so when they are unable to meet their economic needs. We have availed 23 IMF programmes

since 1990," she said. She added that the country's foreign exchange reserves were not in a comfortable position because there were huge imports and export less which was due least priority focus to exports. "As a nation, we will have to learn to live within our means," she concluded.

# KP CM announces replication of 'Drug Free Peshawar' drive

*Around 1,100 drug addicts were returned to their families after a three-month rehabilitation course*

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mahmood Khan on Thursday announced replication of 'Drug Free Peshawar' campaign in other districts of the province and initiating of strict measures for curbing the supply chain.



He made this announcement while speaking as chief guest at "Social Reintegration Ceremony of Rehabilitated persons" under the Drugs Free Peshawar campaign launched around three months earlier.

The ceremony was attended by large number of people including relatives of rehabilitated drug addicts, government officials, businessmen, media persons and representatives of different social welfare organizations that extended cooperation in drug free campaign and provided services.

Around 1,100 drug addicts were returned to their families after a three-

month rehabilitation course including detoxification, mental counseling and imparting of skill training under the Drug Free Peshawar campaign launched under the supervision of Commissioner Peshawar, Riaz Mehsud in pursuance of the directives of Chief Minister KP.

The ceremony was started with recitation of Quranic verses by a rehabilitated young boy, Shah Khalid who was Hafiz-e-Quran (one who learn Quran by heart) and was indulged in drug

addiction for the last six years.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister said this was the first ever state owned initiative of providing free of cost rehabilitation services to chronic drug addicts who were now returned to society as responsible citizens.

In the initial stage, it was very difficult to plan rehabilitation of such a large number of drug addicts but after achieving successful results in treatment of first batch of 1,100 addicts, we would replicate this programme to other districts as well, CM added.

He directed the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners of all the districts to take guidance from measures taken in Peshawar for its implementation in their respective areas. The chief minister said drug addiction was a curse and those who struggled for rehabilitation of affected people would receive the benefits in this world and life hereafter.

He also commended the leading role played by Commissioner Peshawar in successful implementation of Drug Free Peshawar campaign. Mahmood Khan also thanked trading community who pledged for providing jobs to 400 rehabilitated addicts and said government would reserve some quota for such persons. He said an integrated approach would be adopted by involving all the departments including Police, Customs, Excise, Narcotics, District Administration and local people for evolving a fool-proof policy for eradication of drugs from society.

Due to long porous border with Afghanistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Peshawar were the main victims of easy supply of drugs in society, he added. Chief Minister also laid stress on parents to play their effective role in prevention of youngsters from drug addiction.

## Sindh to form bodies for flood rescue, damage assessment

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday decided to constitute district-level committees comprising deputy commissioners concerned, representatives from Corps-V, Engineering Corps, local government, PDMA, and local communities to conduct a survey and damages assessment right from village level so that proper relief could be provided to the rain-affected people.



"The purpose is to reach to the affected families and support them in a transparent, proper, and decent way," the CM told this to participants while presiding over a rain emergency and relief meeting here, said a statement issued by a spokesperson of the CM's House.

The CM Sindh said that the committees being formed at the district level would not only work for relief, rescue, survey, early recovery, and damage assessment but procure all the required material and goods, right from tents, mosquito nets, food items, medicines, machinery, and such other things.

It was pointed out that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has distributed 80,000 tents and has placed an order for another 180,000 tents but a requirement of one million tents has been generated by the district admonition.

The chief minister said that the River Indus was in high flood, Guddu Barrage has 517392 cusecs upstream and downstream flows, Sukkur Barrage 597753 and Kotri 297178 cusecs flows.

"Comparatively our embankments of our rivers are in a better position than the flood situation of 2010 and 2011 but even then, various vulnerable points are under pressure," he said and added if the mountains range of Punjab received more rain the flows in the river would increase thereby exerting more pressure on the protective walls. APP

## CM Punjab allocates Rs5b funds for flood victims

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Thursday announced to allocate Rs. 5 billion funds for the rehabilitation of flood victims of south Punjab besides setting up the "Chief Minister Punjab Flood Relief Fund" for their resettlement.



He said this while talking to various parliamentarians who called on him here. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that the entire machinery of the Punjab government was busy to provide help to the flood affected. Chief Secretary Kamran Afzal was also monitoring the rescue and relief operations in the affected areas, he mentioned and grieved over the loss of life and property in Taunsa, DG Khan and Rajanpur areas.

The government would utilize every available resource to provide help to the flood affected, he said and appealed to the philanthropists to come forward to help the people in need.

No words could heal the wounds of the affected, he said and vowed to do whatever was humanly possible.

He said the provincial government had asked to conduct survey of damages occurred so that compensation process could be started immediately as their rehabilitation was a priority.

The Punjab government stood with the victims in their time of need and would not sit idle till their complete resettlement, the CM added.

The chief minister appreciated the cooperation of the Pakistan Army in relief activities and added that army jawans were participating in relief activities along with civil administration. He noted that be it an earthquake, flood or any other sudden calamity, Pakistan Army had always come up to the expectations of the nation in every hour of trial.

Those who met the chief minister included Ghazanfar Abbas Chhina, Shahabuddin Khan, Muhammad Amir Inayat Shahani, Ghazanfar Abbas Shah, Ghulam Ali Asghar Khan Lehri, Gulraiz Afzal Gondal, Taimur Ali Lali, Sardar Muhammad Mohyuddin Khan Khosa, Muhammad Ali Raza Khan Khakwani, Muhammad Ejaz Hussain and Muhammad Ahsan Jahangir. APP

## Miseries of flood victims

HYDERABAD: Flood affected family living in temporary makeshifts alongside Tando Jam road, as incessant rains in Hyderabad since the past week have made lives miserable in the city, especially for people living in the low-lying areas. The rains and consequent floods have wreaked havoc in several colonies, with water inundating homes up to several feet and washing away valuables.



Photo: Online

## Intervention of Ombudsman

# Jubilee Insurance refunded Rs3m to lady complainant

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Due to the intervention of Federal Ombudsman, Jubilee Insurance Company has refunded three million to a lady complainant, Dr. Nighat Gillani.

As per details, Dr. Nighat Gillani filed a complaint before the Federal Ombudsman under Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) system for redressal of her grievance against Jubilee Insurance Company. She stated that she had invested Rs. 3 million in the HBL against which HBL has to pay her profit @11%. Next year when she contacted the bank authorities for profit, she was informed that her amount has been invested into Jubilee Life Insurance Company.

She stated that a lady bank officer got some signatures on some forms

telling her to get profit. Later, it transpired that her amount was invested fraudulently by the lady bank officer into Jubilee Insurance Company against which she had received Rs. 4 lacks as commission.

She agitated and asked to refund her amount, but HBL informed that she may get back her amount only after deduction of 85% of the total amount. After failing to get her money back, she filed a complaint before Insurance Mohtasib but did not get relief. Resultantly, she approached Registrar Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Muhammad Saqib Khan and Dy. Registrar Ms. Zariab Mussarat for registration of her case under IRD system for redressal of her grievance. HBL, FIA, Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and State Bank of Pakistan were engaged in the matter.

Under the direction of Federal Ombudsman, SECP intervened as per its official mandate and asked Jubilee Insurance Company to refund her amount, as the latter had violated basic insurance rules. Finally, after hectic efforts of Registrar and Dy. Registrar WMS and SECP, Jubilee Life Insurance Company refunded Rs. 3 million to the lady complainant, Dr. Nighat Gillani who has thanked the Federal Ombudsman for his kind intervention in getting refund of her amount from Jubilee Life Insurance Company.

The Federal Ombudsman Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has appreciated the efforts of Registrar, Dy. Registrar WMS, SECP and State Bank of Pakistan in successfully getting the refund of the large amount of the lady complainant through the IRD System.

## Due to rains

# Edu institutions to remain closed for two days

D.I.KHAN: The district administration on Thursday announced to keep all the educational institutions across the district closed for two days due to expected rain fall and prevailing situation of flash flood.

In a notification issued here, Deputy Commissioner Nasrullah Khan announced that all the public and private institutions including schools and colleges would remain closed on Thursday and Friday keeping in view of weather forecast, prevailing flash flood situation and continuous spell of heavy rainfall.

Due to havoc situation, various schools and communication infrastructure was damaged in different areas of the district. The decision was taken after the declaration of emergency in the affected areas of the district by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Relief Rehabilitation and Settlement Department.

# Australian HC visits AEO Expo Islamabad



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: With world gradually moving back to normal, the day when international borders of top study destinations of the world will open for foreign students, is coming closer. It is time that the students gear up and start preparing themselves to realize their dreams to study at top ranked international universities.

With over 5000 alumni and 300,000+ IELTS registrations, AEO Pakistan over the past two decades has established itself as Australian & Global Education Specialists, the most trusted IELTS Official Test Centre and the preferred official OET Test Centre in Pakistan. AEO Pakistan operates as the official Liaison office for over 40 leading Australian Universities/Institutions and facilitates the enrolment of International students at these Universities / Institutions.

Since 2002, AEO Pakistan has been conducting Australian Education Expos providing an excellent opportunity to Pakistani students planning to Study in Australia. Over the years thousands of students have benefited from AEO expos held twice annually, across all major cities of Pakistan. This August once again AEO Education Expo is being organized across 10 major cities of Pakistan i.e., Lahore, Islamabad, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Faisalabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Bahawalpur and Hyderabad. The AEO expo is providing an ideal platform to prospective students across the country, to get free expert

advice and counselling about how to apply to study in at top ranked international universities in Australia, USA, Canada and UK. Representatives of more than 20 universities/institutes are participating at the expo providing golden opportunity for Pakistani students to get free guidance and counseling for their future study endeavors. Information about IELTS test and preparatory classes is also being provided at the expo.

After Lahore and Sialkot, today the third and forth exhibition of the series were simultaneously held in Islamabad Serena Hotel and Faisalabad Hotel One. Hundreds of students along with their parents participated at the expo with great interest and excitement to enroll for admissions at top ranked Australian and other leading International Universities. The participants appreciated AEO's effort in provision of a perfect platform offering free counselling sessions with official representatives of international universities to explore the options of enrolling for a degree of their choice.

The next expo of the series is scheduled to be held in Multan 26th August Hotel One, Karachi 27th August Beach Luxury Hotel, Abbottabad 27th August Hotel One, Peshawar 28th August PC Hotel, Hyderabad 28th August Indus Hotel and Bahawalpur 28th August Four Seasons Restaurant. Entry to the exhibition is FREE with a mask and Scholarships up to 75% opportunities are also available.

## Change in Name



I Wasif Salim s/o Muhammad Salim resident of Nahla Talian P/O Qamrooti Khad Gujran Kotli Azad Kashmir that I was registered with FBISE at SSC level under Registration No 1769681032, Passed the SSC annual Examination under roll No 142885.

That I have decided to partially change my father's Name from Muhammad Salim which is written as Muhammad Saleem in board's documents hence the same may be changed.

The statement given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, belief and nothing material has been concealed or withheld.

Wasif Salim  
S/o Muhammad Salim

# KP govt declared Tank district, DI Khan as disaster zone

Adam Khan Wazir

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: From last evening till now, the flood rains caused widespread destruction in Dera Ismail Khan and Tank district, dozens of houses were washed away, Electricity supply stopped for two days.

On the other hand, a girl and a boy were killed when the roof of a room collapsed in Badar area of South tribal district. In Dera Ismail, apart from Parwa and Tank city, most of the rural areas including suburbs, Deputy Commissioner Tank Office, Tehsil Building, PTCL Colony, FC Line have been submerged.

Dozens of houses have collapsed, hundreds of families have been trapped in the flood,

dozens of villages have been cut off from the land connection with the city. No officials of the district administration and tehsil municipal administration went out of their way to help the flood victims, but they did not even go out to draw water from the city.

Expressed great anger against the Deputy Commissioner Tank and TMO in public and repeatedly repeated the incompetence of the administration. Only Pak Army, FC and Rescue 1122 were seen engaged in rescue operation at some places.

Tank electricity grade station is completely shut down by water filling. Due to which electricity supply has been suspended from the entire

district of Tank and tribal South Waziristan for the last two days.

According to the details, the rain started from 6 am in the district of DI Khan, Tank and tribal district of South Waziristan and continued till the last reports. Due to which the high level floods from Tank Head Zam and other hill ranges entered the suburbs and remote rural areas of Rails in Tank.

Tattur Road, Pezo Road and South Waziristan Road were closed for traffic. While dozens of houses have collapsed and hundreds of people have been rendered homeless, most of the communication roads in the rural areas have been flooded.

Recently, the provincial government has given a grant of

50 lakh rupees to the TMA tank for cleaning, which may have been used for a photo session. However, due to the closure of the sewerage system, the entire city continued to present a view of rivers and lakes till the last reports.

In the city too, walls and other construction walls have collapsed in civilian areas including the FC Fort and police residential quarters.

But despite all the bad and pitiful situation, none of the officials of Tehsil Municipal Administration, including the Deputy Commissioner and other officers of the district administration, even bothered to leave their offices to help the flood victims.

**Islamabad**  
23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**  
**Namaz Timings**  
Fajr ..... 4:08 am  
Zohr ..... 12:10 pm  
Asr ..... 4:50 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:43 pm  
Isha ..... 8:11 pm

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

**Women Police Stations**  
Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

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

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

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

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

## Gold price up by Rs.1200 to Rs.147,100 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.1200 per tola and was sold at Rs147,100 on Thursday against its sale at Rs145,900 the previous day in the local market. The price of 10 gram 24 karat fold also increased by Rs1029 and was sold at Rs126,115 against its sale at Rs. 125,086 whereas the prices of ten gram 22 karat gold also went up to Rs115,605 against its sale at Rs114,662. All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained stagnant at Rs1540 and Rs1320.30 respectively. The price of gold in international market increased by \$18 and was sold at \$1764 against its sale at \$1746, the association reported. APP

# Gilgit-Baltistan has tremendous natural resources: President

Advises students to take advantage of online sources of knowledge

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday urged the students to persistently continue their quest for knowledge by remaining intellectually humble, developing critical and logical thinking, and gaining marketable skills to achieve academic and professional excellence.

He was talking to the students of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), who achieved top positions in the Matriculation exams, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chief Secretary Gilgit-Baltistan Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, and senior officials of the GB government attended the meeting. The President said that persistence and hard work as well as developing critical thinking skills were the bedrock for success in academic and professional life.

He added that the youth should have confidence in their abilities to achieve success and should continue to increase their knowledge and competency to achieve gainful careers, a press release issued by President's Media Wing said.

The President advised the students to seek Almighty Allah's blessing for opening their hearts and minds for receiving knowledge and information, gaining effective and convincing communication and analytical skills and the ability to achieve targets and goals which were beneficial for



them and the entire society.

While expressing his concern over the lower female retention rates in the medical profession, he said that women made up almost 70% to 80% of the total students enrolled in the professional institutes, whereas only 20 % of them enter the job market which was quite low and worrisome.

The President said that there should be counseling at all levels for female students and their families on regular basis to give them the confidence and assurance that women can pursue their careers without any fear or intimidation.

He advised the students to take advantage of online sources of knowledge and information to continuously update their knowledge for remaining abreast with the latest developments as well as for competing with other students of other countries,

seek admissions in reputed institutions, win scholarships and secure jobs in the international markets.

The President said that despite the shortcomings of education system in the country, Pakistani students were capable of competing with their fellow students from developed countries due to their exceptional intellect, unmatched hard work and desire to seek knowledge.

He highlighted the crucial role of the educational institutions to produce quality and skillful human resource which was direly needed for fast-track socio-economic uplift of the country.

The President advised the students to seek employment in business, trade and commerce preferably within the country, as their knowledge and skills were needed for the progress and development of the country.

## Downpour

ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way during heavy rain at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# MOL Pakistan donates laptops to school

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company B.V. has donated brand-new laptops for the young students of a govt. school located in Margalla Block, one of the company's operational areas.

A simple ceremony was held at the school where the senior representatives of the company handed-over laptop computers to the school headmistress Ms Samra Kulsoom. While thanking for this initiative the headmistress said, "This support will help the school enhance the quality of education of the students, making them more equipped



and competitive".

In his message, MOL Group Regional Vice President for Middle East, Africa, and Pakistan, Ali Murtaza Abbas said, "As a responsible corporate entity, we recognize that education is a priority in the sustainable

development of Pakistan. MOL Group supports these development efforts through our CSR initiatives. In particular, we believe that education brings positive change to our communities located in our areas of operations such as Margalla Block."

It is pertinent to mention here that MOL Pakistan, being a fully owned subsidiary of MOL Group, operating in the country since 1999, continues to prioritize education in communities located in the company's areas of operation by donating IT equipment such as laptops and computers, as well as academic books to schools and universities for the benefit of underprivileged students of all ages and backgrounds.

Appreciating the company's CSR initiative, the students, teachers and staff of the school expressed their sincere gratitude to MOL Pakistan, maintaining that these laptops were very needed to augment the educational capabilities of the students.

## Health Corner

### Gene therapy partly restores cones in colorblind

ISLAMABAD: Gene therapy has partly restored the function of the retina's cone receptors in two children who were born completely colour-blind, reports a new study led by UCL researchers.

The findings, published in Brain, provide hope that the treatment is effectively activating previously dormant communication pathways between the retina and the brain, drawing on the plastic nature of the developing adolescent brain.

The academically-led study has been running alongside a phase 1/2 clinical trial in children with achromatopsia, using a new way to test whether the treatment is changing the neural pathways specific to the cones.

Achromatopsia is caused by disease-causing variants to one of a few genes. It affects cone cells, which (along with rods) are one of two types of photoreceptors in the eyes. As cones are responsible for colour vision, people with achromatopsia are completely colourblind, while they also have very poor vision overall and find bright light uncomfortable (photophobia). Their cone cells do not send signals to the brain, but many remain present, so researchers have been seeking to activate the dormant cells.

Lead author Dr Tessa Dekker (UCL Institute of Ophthalmology) said: "Our study is the first to directly confirm widespread speculation that gene therapy offered to children and adolescents can successfully activate the dormant cone photoreceptor pathways and evoke visual signals never previously experienced by these patients."

"We are demonstrating the potential of leveraging the plasticity of our brains, which may be particularly able to adapt to treatment effects when people are young."

The study involved four young people with achromatopsia aged 10 to 15 years old, who were taking part in two trials led by Professor James Bainbridge at UCL and Moorfields Eye Hospital, sponsored by MeiraGTx-Janssen Pharmaceuticals.

The two trials are testing gene therapies targeting specific genes known to be implicated in achromatopsia (the two trials are each targeting a different gene). Their primary aim is to test that the treatment is safe, while also testing for improved vision. Their results have not yet been fully compiled so the overall effectiveness of the treatments remains to be determined.

The accompanying academic study used a novel functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI, a type of brain scan) mapping approach to separate emerging post-treatment cone signals from existing rod-driven signals in patients, allowing the researchers to pinpoint any changes in visual function, after treatment, directly to the targeted cone photoreceptor system. They employed a 'silent substitution' technique using pairs of lights to selectively stimulate cones or rods. The researchers also had to adapt their methods to accommodate nystagmus (involuntary eye oscillations, or 'dancing eyes'), another symptom of achromatopsia. The results were compared to tests involving nine untreated patients and 28 volunteers with normal vision.

Each of the four children was treated with gene therapy in one eye, enabling doctors to compare the treatment's effectiveness with the untreated eye.

For two of the four children, there was strong evidence for cone-mediated signals in the brain's visual cortex coming from the treated eye, six to 14 months after treatment. Before the treatment, the patients showed no evidence of cone function on any tests. After treatment, their measures closely resembled those from normal sighted study participants.

The study participants also completed a psychophysical test of cone function, which assesses the ability of the eyes to distinguish between different levels of contrast. This showed there was a difference in cone-supported vision in the treated eyes in the same two children. Courtesy Science Daily



ISLAMABAD: Chaudhry Nadeem Gujjar, Sheikh Owais Mehmood, Mirza Asad and others are presenting bouquets to PTI Islamabad Region's newly elected Secretary General Malik Sajid Mehmood.

## PANAH organizes training workshop at PM House



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) organized a training workshop on awareness of heart and related diseases and CPR at Prime Minister House Islamabad in which all the staff of Prime Minister House participated.

Representatives of PANAH delegation, Sectary General Sanaullah Ghamman first thanked Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for increasing tax while appreciating PANAH's campaign against tobacco and sugary drinks.

Addressing the ceremony, Secretary General of PANAH Sanahullah Ghaman further said that the efforts of PANAH for the betterment of the society are not hidden from anyone. PANAH has been trying to protect its people from diseases for the past 38 years and today's program is also a link to that success.

While giving on-head CPR training to the staff, PANAH said that if someone has a heart attack in front of you, how can you save someone's life?

The staff of the Prime Minister's House took a lot of interest in Training and appreciated the humanitarian work of the shelter. At the end, the staff of the Prime Minister's House thanked the team of the PANAH and said, "Hopefully, PANAH will continue its efforts for a healthy Pakistan with the same commitment."

# Self-introspection before going forward is must: Ahsan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan turns 75 this year. It has come a long way from where it started back in 1947. Rarely has a country experienced so much turbulence in its history as Pakistan did. The embedded resilience of the nation has made its way too thick and thin. The country has remained relevant on the global landscape, no matter what. There is a lot about Pakistan that needs improvement, but a positive hint at an assuring future.

In her welcoming remarks, PIDE's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Durr-e-Nayab said that in order to talk about 75 years' journey, from where we started to where we are and where we want to be, the National Seminar was organized by the Planning Commission of Pakistan and the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor PIDE said that the economy is not in dire straits but it certainly is in a difficult situation. Pakistan's economy has always performed strangely. We are still stuck in the realm of extractive institutions and a



colonial state. The stabilization of the economy is not a joke. The economy is what people produce through their exchange through incentive-based institutions, but if we continue holding on to colonial institutions, there will be a problem. Pakistan has made significant headway despite the numerous issues it has confronted. As a result, the country had the option to move into a semi-industrial economy and a hub for business activities.

The National High-Level Seminar of "Development Leaders on PAKISTAN@75: The Development Journey" was chaired by the Federal Minister for Planning and Development Prof. Dr. Ahsan Iqbal as a chief guest at the ceremony. On

the occasion of Pakistan at 75, I would like to say that tragedy in our story is that to this day, we as a nation, could not ascertain our direction. We go one step forward and two steps backward. Our trajectory keeps changing every few years, stated Dr. Ahsan Iqbal.

He further stated that despite all the odds, Pakistan still has come a long way. Though, that's the better version of ourselves. What if we compare our progress with others? Certainly, we would find ourselves far behind in the league of nations. At this point in time, we need self-introspection. Let's decide as a nation and choose a trajectory and stick to it for at least next 10 to 15 years.

Evidence shows that export-led growth is the right prescrip-

tion for an economic take off. However, I impress upon a sense of urgency that we have no time for incremental growth, we need to get on fast track export-led growth. Nevertheless, it won't be possible without sorting two things, which happen to be at the core - political stability and policy consistency, said the Minister. He thanked PIDE for its valuable and timely research which indeed would help in better and effective policy formulation for long-term growth and sustainable development.

Dr. Hafeez Pasha, while sharing his thoughts on 75 years of economic journey of Pakistan, apprised the participants that per capita income has risen by 4.5 times since 1947. He went

on to say that the sub-continent which once comprised Pakistan, India and Bangladesh achieved an average growth rate of around 5%. India rather performed poorly in the first three decades. In parallel, Pakistan's growth rate in initial decades went above 6%. So, what went wrong? Apart from many other issues, he highlighted two as crucial for the country. First is the tax to GDP ratio which is around 10.3%. Research shows that it should at least be at 14%. Pakistan is to climb up to 3.7% to get on the train to long-term growth.

Dr. Ishtat Husain, explained the roller coaster ride of Pakistan since its inception. He said that for the first 40 years the growth rate was more than 6%, later 35 years could only manage under 4%. Additionally, he informed the audience that India's global export share increased from 0.5% to 1.5%, while that of Pakistan got slashed from 0.2% to 0.1% over the course of time. Explaining Pakistan's downfall, Dr. Husain expressed that it was Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) that helped in establishing Singapore Airlines, Jordanian Airlines and Emirates.

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# Kashmir Dispute: Role of Diaspora

**Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai**

First of all, let me express deep appreciation to the Pakistan Business Forum, Azad Kashmir for inviting the leadership of Kashmiri Diaspora of Washington metropolitan area to speak on the subject, "Kashmir Dispute & the Role of Diaspora." Lot has happened on the corridors of power in Washington, DC and it would not have been possible without the deep involvement, selfless efforts, and constant struggle of your guests: Sardar Zulfiqar Khan, Sardar Zarif Khan, Sardar Zubair Khan and Irfan Tasaduq Sahib. These brothers may belong to different political parties of Azad Kashmir but in Washington they represent not one except the oppressed people of Jammu & Kashmir. The nation of Indian occupied Jammu & Kashmir remains thankful for the sincerity and understanding of diaspora of Azad Kashmir origin, be they in America, Europe, Middle east, or elsewhere.

It is a fact that the situation in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir has dramatically changed, particularly since August 5, 2019, and it will not be an exaggeration to say that the people of occupied land are facing an existential threat. Indian colonialist rulers have put their machinery in motion which is fast moving to accelerate the process of genocide they have systematically put in place through their proxies since October 27, 1947. It will be grossly unfair to forget that,

over the years, All Parties Hurriyet Conference has shown formidable leadership in representing the people of Kashmir. Now, Syed Ali Geelani, the most towering personality is no more. Yasin Malik is facing a situation of life and death. Shabir Ahmed Shah has been incarcerated for more than half of his life. Masarat Alam has been booked 37 times under Public Safety Act. Aasia Andrabi has been charged under UAPA.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has been under house arrest for the last three years. They all, however, remain undeterred and clear in their thought processes that people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir have only one option which is total freedom from the colonial clutches of India. And the people of Indian occupied Kashmir, despite all the odds, have never lost hope in the right of self-determination. The Kashmiri diaspora does not need to remind them that. The Kashmiri diaspora needs to simply take the reins, open the doors, pave the road, and take advantage of those opportunities that become available to express that will. The role of our global Kashmiri diaspora becomes much more pertinent and important after the developments since August 5, 2019, and because of the changes occurring at a global level. Kashmiri diaspora knows it well that a coordinated effort on every level to counter India's disinformation campaign should be the top priority.

Kashmiri diaspora understands that multiplicity of Kashmiri organization in any important world capitol is not only unnecessary but counterproductive to Kashmir's right to self-determination. It's time, for all the flowers to be a bouquet of flowers. It's time that the diaspora gives all that flows from its heart, because it is only then that the people will respond with theirs and demonstrate the power of their love for their country, Kashmir – that was once the paradise on earth. It's imperative at this stage in our history for the Kashmiri diaspora to recognize that real change is needed and cannot happen without a change in the way that we do business. Foremost, what is needed is a united front that will inspire the people as well. A united front will demonstrate that we are Kashmiris first and foremost, and not simply members of some political party or social group. Only a united people can bring about the change that will help us achieve our ultimate objective – the right of self-determination.

The leadership of all political parties in Azad Kashmir have exhibited strong sensitivity to the issue of IOK (Indian occupied Kashmir) and have paid strong tributes to the sacrifices made by the leaders like late Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Yasin Malik. However, the abominable plan of Indian government to change the demographic character of Kashmir needs very serious strategic planning by Azad Kashmir leadership to counter these evil designs. Finally, let us also briefly present to you some of the activities that Kashmiri diaspora have initiated since August 5, 2019, when Indian abrogated Article 370 and 35 A. Kashmiri diaspora is conscious of the strength and extent of the Indian lobby in the US. Despite significant odds,

we were able to do the following activities since August 5, 2019.

World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF) has been doing all its activities in collaboration with Kashmir America Welfare Association (KAWA). The guest speakers of today are the members of the board of KAWA. Kashmiri diaspora is fully engaged in Washington as well as in New York to advocate for the political and human rights of the people of Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. On social media front, we use the digital trucks, billboards, both in Washington as well as in New York. Since August 5, 2019, we organized 5 rallies in front of the White House; 4 at Indian Embassy, Washington, DC; 6 at the United Nations; 4 at Indian Mission in New York; 6 Indian Consulate in New York.

Narendra Modi will be speaking at the United Nations on September 24, 2022. A plan of action has been prepared for a peaceful rally in front of the United Nations during his speech. It is important because Narendra Modi will not tell the United Nations that Kashmir is on the brink of genocide as mentioned by Genocide Watch; and that Kashmir is the World's Most Beautiful Prison as suggested by John Cushman, former MEP; and that Kashmir is the most militarized place on the earth as cited by Arundhati Roy.

**Recommendations:**

We aspire for Pakistan to immediately create a Kashmir Cell comprising retired and sitting diplomats, with expertise on India. This cell should also include members from all the

political parties of Pakistan, as well as representatives from the civil society and Kashmiri diaspora. We also aspire for Pakistan to work on sustaining the momentum on engaging major powers to pressurize India not only to lift the on-going repressive measures, including crippling restrictions and communication blockade, but more importantly to eventually engage with the Kashmiri leadership and Pakistan, and work out a negotiated settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

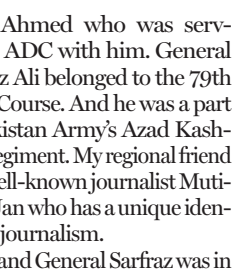
Pakistan's current domestic politics is very worrisome for a common Kashmiri. They see their success only in a strong and viable Pakistan. The Pakistan government should create a constructive atmosphere where the top leadership of various political parties can be seen visibly and manifestly on the same page with regards to Kashmir issue. Any weakness in this area plays into the hands of India's rabidly nationalist Media.

Lastly, there is also a serious discussion going on in many important Capitols to pursue the Musharraf formula to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Except for one point, viz the withdrawal of troops (the demilitarization of Kashmir leading to a settlement of the dispute), all other points are either pure fake or protective cover for the Indian position. Kashmiri diaspora wants to make it clear that Musharraf formula is an absolute fallacy.

*The writer is Chairman World Forum for Peace & Justice and can be reached at: Whatsapp: 1-202-607-6435 Or: [gnfai2003@yahoo.com](mailto:gnfai2003@yahoo.com)*



## Bright memories of General Sarfaraz Ali Shaheed - I



relief operation, went missing while going to Karachi from Othal area of Lasbela. Its wreckage was found in some krawar near Musa Goth in Sakran. Lasbela is the native area of former Chief Minister Jam Kamal. The local people were busy in the search till one o'clock in the night but the search operation had to be stopped due to the darkness of the night. And the diamonds and pearls of the buried nation were found in it. Along with General Sarfaraz Ali, recently promoted Major General Amjad Hanif, Brigadier Muhammad Khalid, Major Saeed Ahmed, Major Talha Manan, and Naik Mudassar Fayyaz also entered Jannat Firdous-ul-Ala.

The helicopter lost contact with the control tower on the way after taking off from Othal at 5:10. Everyone has gone. But this world is such that it confuses us all the time that there is still a lot of time left. Life has just begun. But successful are those who are busy preparing for it. While doing so, they leave to meet their real creator. Lieutenant General Chaudhry Sarfaraz Ali Shaheed was from Sialkot. He was born in Sargodha, the city of Shaheed. His father was Squadron Leader Chaudhry Dewan Ali. Apart from him, he has two brothers and two sisters. His mother is alive. He has one son and There are two daughters. The son is

Capt Ahmed who was serving as ADC with him. General Sarfaraz Ali belonged to the 79th Long Course. And he was a part of Pakistan Army's Azad Kashmir Regiment. My regional friend and well-known journalist Muttullah Jan who has a unique identity in journalism.

He and General Sarfaraz were in the same platoon. A true honest journalist also reminisced about this period with the General. He showed humility, tolerance and a balanced personality everywhere. A hardworking and diligent student. Knowledge, whose prepared notes served as a continuous charity. General Sarfaraz Ali was the IG of Frontier Corps. During this period he was also in Turbat. Brigadier Abdullah was with him during that time. But when he left, he was still in abluition). And whenever a martyr's funeral was brought, he would lead the funeral prayer. His eyes would be filled with tears while kissing the coffin of the martyr. Brigadier Abdullah offered three prayers under his leadership. He was a true believer. Once in a distant village an old lady was sick. He himself went to visit her and then shifted her to Quetta Hospital. He wished that girls should be taught. Longing for forgiveness in the hereafter, he contributed to this work to the best of his ability and made a large number of women of Turbat skilled. You were Pakistan's Defense Attaché in the US.

When the current Chief of Army Staff was commanding the 10th Corps, you commanded the Triple One Brigade. After returning from America, he was appointed Commandant of Staff College Quetta, then DG Military Intelligence was appointed. After Military Intelligence, he was appointed FC Balochistan South. This is the area where General was martyred. In December 2020, you were appointed as Corps Commander Quetta. My first introduction to the general was Major General Dilawar Khan. He hails from Gujarat. He is a soldier with a true professional character and a highly educated intellectual. He was performing his duties. During his trip to Quetta, where he was the host, he was having a detailed discussion about Balochistan. At the end of 2019, when I went to Quetta with the Federal Minister for Religious Affairs, Sardar Muhammad Yousof, our host used to say: not to go out after sunset. But this was no longer the case. Chaudhry Imtiaz and we were walking outside even late at night and enjoying the beautiful weather. Brother Major Dilawar Khan explained the situation in detail.

*To be concluded*  
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## On a Road to Nowhere

The social fabric of Pakistan is so closely interwoven that whenever the country is affected by adverse events there is immediately a spontaneous process of healing which takes place across all levels of society. Since 1947 people in Pakistan somehow manage to cover themselves from turmoil and difficulties. But in recent year Pakistan has seen a great deal of psychological trauma from inside and outside sources. Such traumas have shaken majority of people living in Pakistan. From Parliament to media, every pillar of country is disturbed and at stake. It is not wrong to say Pakistan is on a road to nowhere. Recent political traumatic events are having long-term adverse effects on Pakistan's young people and children in particular, undermining their motivation and reducing their level of engagement with the normal functioning of society.

Problems with learning are having a direct impact on their cognitive health and, accompanied by feelings of social isolation, this is resulting in psychological instability. The nation's political crisis has deeply affected the lives of millions of Pakistanis. Skyrocketing foreclosures and job layoffs have pulled the rug out from under many families, particularly those living in low-income communities. Deepening poverty, inflation, political polarization is inextricably linked with rising levels of homelessness, mental distress and life insecurity and curb on freedom of speech for many. Our youth is particularly affected by these conditions. There is scarcity of research in developing world about the psychosocial effects of polarization and political uncertainty. For example, according to a study conducted in America by Smith KB, reported that adverse effects of polarization in politics and contrasting political views on psychosocial well-being are not less than a public health concern, leading to damaged friendships, persistent fatigue and even suicidal behaviours in significant number of populations.

Similarly, the stress associated with political disagreements has the add-on effect on psychosocial well-being of people holding diverse political views leading to deleterious effect on mental and physical health.

In addition to the existing heavy burden of mental health issues and traditional entrenched religious intolerance in Pakistan, the recent wave of political intolerance has polarized the society to an unprecedented level. This wave of political polarization has permeated into all stratum of society, with sporadic reports of violence, which is likely to deteriorate further in the presence of unregulated and excessive use of social media. The widespread consumption of social media reports without verification of its authenticity could be one of the sources of social and political polarization which may cause further deterioration in near future. Regrettably, the young population constitute about 60% of the Pakistani population has been found to be affected more easily by the polarized environment in the country, which otherwise should be the most productive segment of society.

As a matter of fact, depriving them of critical thinking and ability to formulate and ask appropriate questions tantamount to a huge social capital loss. Scientific literature shows that younger population is more impressionable and highly vulnerable to become radicalized easily in a polarized society, unfortunately, Pakistan is not an exception, currently a fertile ground to support the growth of such tendencies. The recent published reports in lay press pointing to a shocking situation of violence in various part of the country due to political rivalry and contrasting posts on social media. Now the question that is to blame for such situation? Political leaders? institutes? Actually everyone is to blame because when don't react to wrong at first, they regret at the end. Pakistan has accepted those leaderships since 1947 which were hardly in its favour. This acceptance has dragged Pakistan to current state of sorry. It is important for a common public of Pakistan to revamp the entire structure of Pakistan through political reforms and democratic ways. There is dire need to bring back the lost political sanity and put a full stop to the rising psychosocial turmoil in Pakistan.

*The writer is senior analyst and observer.*



# Uzbekistan's President, IsDB discuss boosting bilateral coop

*IsDB Chairman reiterated keenness of IsDB to enhance cooperation between Bank and the Govt of Uzbekistan*

JEDDAH: President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev met with the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the IsDB Group Dr. Muhammad Al Jasser.

The Uzbekistan's President stressed that his government has implemented comprehensive reforms aimed at improving the business and investment environment, enhancing regional cooperation, improving the agricultural sector, and promoting innovation and entrepreneurship to reach the goal of achieving dignity for all people by 2026.

IsDB Chairman Al-Jasser valued the fruitful relationship between the two sides and Uzbekistan's continuous support for the Islamic Development Bank group, in addition to the bank's current portfolio, which includes sectors in line with the priorities and needs of development in Uzbekistan, adding that the bank supports rural development and access to an affordable rural housing, the agricultural sector, and rebuilding water supply and sanitation facilities, health, education and transportation sectors, and energy sector.

He reiterated the keenness of IsDB to enhance cooperation between the Bank and the Government of Uzbekistan.

The two parties exchanged views on the National Development Strategy of Uzbekistan (2026) and agreed on the need to align the Bank's country strategy with the national charter, a task that will be worked on as a priority, according to



IsDB President.

The meeting witnessed the signing of a letter of intent between the two sides, signed by IsDB President, and

the Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade of Uzbekistan Jamshid Khojayev, to provide a framework for facilitating cooperation between the two parties,

promote rapid processing and approval of projects and operations that are part of the work program of IsDB for Uzbekistan in 2022. Zawya

## Syngenta Pakistan, Salaam Takaful to transform agriculture



KARACHI: Syngenta Pakistan has partnered with Salaam Takaful Limited to safeguard the farmers against the impacts of climate change through a weather and parametric index based crop insurance programme, a statement said on Thursday. This strategic partnership is in line with Syngenta Pakistan's farmer centric vision: "One Team, One Dream, Farmer Future", to transform the farmer community's quality of life and to catalyse the progress on making Pakistan's agriculture sector more robust and climate resilient. Syngenta Pakistan General Manager Zeeshan Haseeb Baig said that it is a great opportunity for both Syngenta and Salaam Takaful to create a positive impact for the farming community of Pakistan. "Both partners aim to empower the farmers to combat climate change and create a better future. The farmers will soon be able to reap the benefits of this initiative, elevate their quality of life and protect themselves against crop losses due to climate change," he added. Salaam Takaful Chief Executive Officer Rizwan Hussain expressed his delight in the partnership with Syngenta Pakistan, to pursue the common goal to make farmers resilient to climate change. Agencies

## Saudi closes Sukuk offering

*For Aug 2022 at total amount of \$824m*

RIYADH: The National Debt Management Center (NDMC) announced the completion of receiving investor requests for the local issuance for the month of August 2022 within the Saudi government's sukuk program in Saudi riyal as the total volume of subscription requests amounted to about SR5.08 billion, and the total volume of allotment was set at SR3.090 billion (three billion

ninety million Saudi riyals). According to the statement issued by NDMC, the issuances were divided into three tranches, the size of the first amounted to SR1.690 billion (one billion six hundred and ninety million Saudi riyals) for sukuk maturing in 2027, the second tranche amounted to SR1.300 billion (one billion and three hundred million Saudi riyals) for sukuk maturing 2030.

## UAE central bank urges IFIs to appoint Emiratis as trainees

ABU DHABI: In line with the leadership's vision and the CBUAE's commitment to implement the Emiratisation strategy in the financial sector, the Higher Shari'ah Authority at the CBUAE ("HSA") has issued a Resolution encouraging Islamic financial institutions ("IFIs") to appoint UAE nationals as trainee members at the Internal Shari'ah Supervision Committees to train them in Islamic Finance Fatwa.

The Resolution includes guidance for IFIs on the membership of the trainees, required qualifications and competencies, appointments process, as well as, training and development plan for the trainee members.

The IFIs that should not have less than five members in the Internal Shari'ah Supervision Committees may appoint two trainees as members of the ISSC to serve for the fifth membership. The two trainee members will be considered for one full membership.

The trainee members do not have the right to vote on the Internal Shari'ah Supervision Committees resolutions, but may participate in discussions, research and other tasks that Committees may delegate to them.

## Bank ABC Islamic wins MENA Islamic Finance Bank of Year award

MANAMA: Bank ABC Islamic, the Shari'a compliant arm of MENA's leading international bank, was named the 'MENA Islamic Finance Bank of the Year' at the MENA Banking Excellence Awards organised by MEEED. The Awards programme celebrates the best-in-class banking and financial services institutions for their innovative offering and commitment to customer excellence. This recognition attests to the Bank's solid performance and commitment to meeting client needs through its strategic expansion, innovative approach to Islamic finance and digital transformation endeavours.

Commenting on this prestigious recognition, Bank ABC Islamic CEO, Hammad Hassan said: "We at Bank ABC Islamic are deeply honoured to have received MEEED's MENA Islamic Finance Bank of the year award. Winning this title further reinforces our confidence in our strategy, especially the emphasis on digital transformation and expanding our offering in MENA with the launch of alburraq in Algeria."

"I'd like to thank MEEED for recognizing our performance and innovative initiatives, and my colleagues at Bank ABC Islamic, whose relentless hard work and commitment, not



Bank ABC Islamic CEO, Hammad Hassan

only helped us weather some of the most challenging times, but also kept us on the growth trajectory with the aim to enhance our offering and to future-proof the Bank."

Bank ABC Islamic achieved major milestones in the past 12-18 months, in terms of digitisation, leveraging the Bank ABC Group's new digital client onboarding solution and dramatically transforming client experience. In addition, it's Islamic finance window, alburraq's successful foray into consumer and corporate banking in Algeria, delivered exceptional customer acquisition results and is paving the way for the rollout of Islamic finance products

across other network markets. In parallel, Bank ABC Islamic is working closely with the digital mobile-only ila Bank to introduce Shari'a compliant versions of ila's customer-centric products and solutions for the Bahraini market, under the brand name 'alburraq'.

The Bank's performance in 2021 was also highly encouraging, closing the year with a net profit of US\$ 29.9 million, representing a 4.4% improvement year-on-year from US\$ 28.6 Million in 2020. The solid results of 2021 are a reflection on Bank's continued focus on generating growth while maintaining prudent risk management practices. Agencies

## Volume of Islamic banking in Egyptian market reached \$23.38b

DUBAI: Mohamed Al-Beltagy — President of the Egyptian Association for Islamic Finance — said that the volume of Islamic banking in Egypt recorded EGP 443bn by the end of June — an increase of EGP 52.8bn and a growth rate of 13.5% from June 2021.

He pointed out that the volume of Islamic banking represents about 5% of the total size of the Egyptian banking market as a whole.

The Egyptian banking market includes 14 banks that have a license from the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) to provide Islamic banking products, and there are three fully Islamic banks — namely Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt, Al-Baraka Bank Egypt, and Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Egypt — in addition to 11 banks that have Islamic branches alongside their traditional ones.

Al-Beltagy explained in a recent report issued by the association that the Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt came in first in the Islamic banking market in Egypt with a business volume of EGP 138.3bn, accounting for 31.3% of the total industry.

In second place, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Egypt achieved a turnover of EGP 98.7bn and a share of 22.3%. And in third place was Banque Misr's Islamic branches with a turnover of EGP 91.6bn and a share of 20.7%, followed by Al-Baraka Bank in fourth place with a business volume of EGP 82.8bn and a share of 18.7%.



According to Al-Beltagy, the volume of deposits conforming to Islamic law in the Egyptian market amounted to about EGP 360.2bn by the end of the first half (1H) of 2022 — an increase of EGP 17bn and a growth rate of 5% compared to 1H 2021.

He explained that Islamic deposits represent about 6.3% of the total volume of deposits in the Egyptian banking market, pointing out that the increase in those deposits was concentrated by 88% in Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt's branches with a value of EGP 6bn, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank Egypt with EGP 7bn, and the Islamic branches of Banque Misr at EGP 2bn. He added that the volume of Islamic Sharia-compliant financing in the Egyptian market recorded about EGP 348.5bn — an increase of EGP 52.4bn and a growth rate of 17.7% — pointing out that this form of financing represents about 5% of the volume

of financing in the Egyptian banking market.

Al-Beltagy also pointed out that the increase in Islamic finance was concentrated by 96% in Faisal banks at a value of EGP 13bn, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank EGP 19bn, and the Islamic branches of Banque Misr EGP 18bn.

Furthermore, the number of Islamic branches in Egyptian banks reached 247, representing about 5.6% of the total number of branches in the Egyptian banking market and serving more than 3.2 million customers.

He added that the Egyptian market has witnessed the development of many Islamic banking products, which exceed 60 banking products and services, stressing that the market still needs to develop and innovate many Sharia-compliant products, whether for the individual, corporate, or small and medium enterprises sector. Zawya/ Reuters

# Meezan Bank, Samba Bank collaborate with Embassy of Pakistan in Bahrain

*To celebrate the Success of Roshan Digital Account – A Banking Service for Non-Resident Pakistanis*

### Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Meezan Bank and Samba Bank in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan in Bahrain hosted a reception at the Gulf Hotel, Manama - Bahrain by inviting prominent Non-Resident Pakistanis and customers to celebrate the success of Roshan Digital Account (RDA) in Pakistan. Dr. Murtaza Syed – Acting Governor, State Bank of Pakistan virtually participated in the event and addressed the audience. Also present at the occasion were Muhammad Ayub, Ambassador of Pakistan in Bahrain, Irfan Siddiqui – President & CEO, Meezan Bank and Ahmad Tariq Azam – Acting President & CEO, Samba Bank Limited along with key team members.

State Bank of Pakistan, with the goal of achieving digitization is working towards providing technology-enabled banking solutions for everyone in Pakistan. As an extension of this goal, Non-Resident Pakistanis can also avail financial services digitally through

RDA, which include account opening and investment in different sectors in the country even from outside Pakistan.

In his speech, Dr. Murtaza Syed – Acting Governor, State Bank of Pakistan briefed the audience on the current economic situation of the country and thanked the NRPs living in Bahrain for their support and contribution over the past two years, that has evidently resulted in increasing the inflow of foreign remittances to Pakistan.

In his welcome address, His Excellency, Muhammad Ayub, Ambassador of Pakistan highlighted the contributions of the Pakistani diaspora in the socio-economic development of the Kingdom of Bahrain and also Pakistan through significant remittances. He also underlined the vital contributions of the Pakistani community in strengthening the bilateral relations between Pakistan and Bahrain.

In his welcome speech, Irfan Siddiqui – President & CEO, Meezan Bank thanked the guests for attend-



ing the event and said, "Alhamdulillah, Meezan Bank is the only bank to have received One Billion USD in remittances under the Roshan Digital Account

initiative. We are pleased to be celebrating this achievement with you on Meezan Bank's 25th Anniversary, to honour the support extended by the Overseas Pakistani community who have raised the profile of the Bank in local and international communities. I would like to dedicate this celebration to our valued customers and employees whose trust and commitment has enabled the Bank to grow into one of the leading banks of the country."

Ahmad Tariq Azam, Officiating President & CEO, Samba Bank Limited, while addressing the gathering of Non-Resident Pakistani diaspora accentuated on the national importance of the Roshan Digital initiative and highlighted that this digital platform has provided the all-important financial linkage to the Overseas Pakistanis with their homeland. It not only fulfills their basic banking needs but also provides a complete lifestyle solution to the NRPs and their families. He asserted that Samba Bank Limited takes pride in extending world class

banking services to its RDA holders and would continue to cater to their varied banking requirements through our state-of-the-art technological infrastructure.

Azam, in his closing remarks, further stressed that Pakistan and Bahrain have a long-standing relationship of bilateral cooperation and such events not only bring the Pakistani community closer but also strengthen the bond of coalition between two countries.

Over 200 guests attended the event including various industry leaders and professionals from the Pakistani community in Bahrain. The event also coincides with Pakistan's 75th Independence Day celebrations.

After dinner, Meezan Bank and Samba Bank announced availability of their teams at the Pakistan Embassy on the next day for facilitation of Overseas Pakistanis living in Bahrain. Subsequently, the teams will be visiting various camp sites for two additional days to provide them with maximum assistance.

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

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
43,032.57	43,337.97
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,457.55	42,961.10
Index Value	Change
6,159,496,741	-305.40
Percentage	Time
-0.7%	25 Aug, 2022 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,479.74	+8.23
Percentage	Time
+0.11%	25 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
33,019.38	+50.15
Percentage	Time
+0.15%	25 Aug, 12:07 pm GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
28,479.01	+165.54
Percentage	Time
0.58%	25 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.7	151.95
Bahrain Dinar	583.73	588.23
Canadian Dollar	169.22	170.57
China Yuan	31.76	32.01
Danish Krone	29.41	29.76
Euro	224	228
Hong Kong Dollar	27.67	28.02
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	1.7	1.75
Kuwaiti Dinar	713.08	718.08
Malaysian Ringgit	48.38	48.83
New Zealand \$	135.16	136.36
Norwegians Krone	22.67	22.97
Omani Riyal	570.12	574.62
Qatari Riyal	59.66	60.16
Saudi Riyal	59.5	60.4
Singapore Dollar	157.48	158.78
Swedish Korona	20.46	20.76
Swiss Franc	227.14	228.89
Thai Bhat	6.65	6.75
U.A.E Dirham	60.5	61.5
UK Pound Sterling	266	270
US Dollar	224	227

**Pak-China Trade**

# China offered to set up industry at Dhabaji SEZ for export purpose

Minister for Industries and Production Syed Murtaza Mahmud meets with Chinese Ambassador

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Industries and Production, Syed Murtaza Mahmud here on Thursday offered China to set up its industry in 1,500-acre Dhabaji Special Economic Zone in Sindh, manufacture products there and export to the world.

The minister was talking to Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong who called him, according to a press statement issued by the Ministry of Industries. Both the dignitaries exchanged views on range of bilateral issues of mutual interest and cooperation, it added.

The minister asked the Chinese companies, already working in mobile manufacturing, automobile and other sectors in Pakistan, to bring more investment keeping in view cheap and competitive labour in the country.

For export promotion, the minister said both the countries could work together on



long term policies and exchange ideas with regard to exporting zones. He said, currently

700 processing zones were working in China while only 8 processing zones were operational in Pakistan.

He said, Pakistan had a great potential in agriculture sector especially fruits could be exported to China after its value addition. He also stressed the need to increase volume of chilli export although Pakistan was already exporting the commodity to China.

The minister informed the ambassador that the floods incurred heavy loss to the agricultural sector, especially different crops were damaged badly.

On the occasion, the ambassador told the minister that China had given financial assistance to flood affectees through Red Crescent Society and Chinese companies working in Pakistan were being mobilized for fund raising for the purpose.

Chinese ambassador assured the minister of supporting Pakistani agricultural sector through modern technology and trained management to enhance yield of crops.

## KATI's expression of reservations on Presidential Ordinance of Rs38b new taxes

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam has expressed reservations over the imposition of new taxes of 38 billion rupees by a Presidential Ordinance. Whereas, instead of keeping the interest rate at 15%, it should have been reduced considering the current situation, which would have stabilized the economy.

Salman Aslam, while reacting to the announcement of a further increase in income & sales tax on electricity bills and super tax said that the government has issued this ordinance to get additional revenue of 80 billion rupees from the IMF. Due to this, the difficulties of the industry will increase enor-



mously and it will be impossible to continue the industrial production process because the cost of production and electricity prices are already at the highest level in history and a further increase in them will bring the industries to the brink of collapse. President KATI said that along with the announce-

ment of the agricultural policy, the Prime Minister should also announce the industrial and economic policy on the long-standing demand of the business community and industrialists so that investment in the country is promoted and the economy moves towards improvement.

Salman Aslam said that the government is lifting the ban on imports of luxury and non-essential goods following the demand of the IMF, which will lead to the import of luxury goods despite the additional duty and outflow of valuable foreign exchange. He said that the ban on imports should have been maintained by the government.

Salman Aslam welcomed the government's reduction in duty

and import of raw materials, machinery, and other essential items. He said that instead of imposing more taxes to collect additional revenue, the government should consult with the industrialists, and if taxes are reduced including the cost of production, tariffs of electricity and gas reduced, then the business will be faster in the country, the industrial wheel will start moving, which will help the government. The required tax target will also be achieved.

President KATI demanded the government not to increase super tax and tax on electricity bills, otherwise, industries in the country will be closed, unemployment will spread rapidly and the economic crisis will intensify due to lack of investment.



RAWALPINDI: President RCCI Ch Nadeem A. Rauf along with Group leader RCCI Mr. Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Mr. Asim Malik, Vice President Taltal Mahmood Awan, Former President RCCI Malik Shahid Saleem holds a meeting with Ms. Riffat Shaheen Qazi, Adviser Incharge of Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO). She gave a presentation and briefed about the services of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman.

## Logistics giant BlueEX partners with ABHI

To offer the facility of Earned Wage Access to all their employees across Pakistan.

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: BlueEX joins hands with ABHI, Pakistan's first financial wellness platform, to offer its employees the facility of Earned Wage Access, giving them the freedom to access their salaries whenever they want, saving them from financial distress.

On a mission to financially empower salaried individuals, ABHI is changing the landscape of the payroll in Pakistan and how an average employee spends/receives their salary by introducing the Earned Wage Access facility in the country. On the other hand, BlueEX prioritizes its employees' financial wellness and understands that increased productivity in the logistics industry of Pakistan is imperative to the country's future growth. Therefore, this partnership will help enable this growth, while building the overall financially empowered ecosystem.

In light of this collaboration, Omair Ansari CEO & Co-founder of ABHI, explained that "ABHI's ultimate goal is to provide financial wellness solutions to all employees. You can only live a happier,



healthier, and more productive life when you are not stressed about finances, which is the core of ABHI's existence. This partnership with BlueEX to offer earned wage

access to all its employees will bring some much-needed security and relief to them, enabling us to work towards a financially stress-free and productive Pakistan."

## FFC holds 2nd Corporate Briefing for the Year 2022

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), held its second Corporate Briefing for the year 2022, as a part of its best corporate governance practices.

FFC has been recognized by Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as first amongst Top 25 Companies consecutively for 11 years attributed to its Compliance of Code of Corporate Governance, Company Performance and Efficient Management.

In the same backdrop the subject briefing for the period ended 30th June 2022 was held at FFC's corporate Head Office, Rawalpindi where prominent capital market analysts and dignitary from Pakistan Stock Exchange attended the event.



Company Secretary FFC, Brig Asrat Mahmood SI(M) (Retd) opened the meeting and apprised the house about

significance of the event. Chief Financial Officer, Syed Atif Ali briefed the house about FFC's performance for first half of the

year 2022 and assured Company's commitment to achieve higher standards of performance and sustained earnings.

## NBP to collect funds for relief, rehabilitation of flood victims

**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: The National Bank of Pakistan, as part of the "Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022" has opened an account for the collection of funds contributions for the people affected by the recent floods in the country. The Government of Pakistan has established a fund to provide relief and rehabilitation to the people affected by the torrential rains and flash floods in several parts of the country. Under this initiative, an account titled "Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund, 2022" has been established and all NBP branches will receive donations/contributions in cash, through Drop Cheques, and through Alternate Delivery Channels (ADCs) across Pakistan.

The donations can also be received with in Pakistan through Debit/Credit Card and the people living abroad can send in their funds through Internet Payment Gateway.

## LCBDDA renamed as PCBDDA

**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: Lahore Central Business District Development Authority (LCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab) has recently been renamed as Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA). The authority was formed in February 2021, by an act of parliament and was tasked to establish Pakistan's first and most anticipated business district in the heart of Lahore. LCBDDA has achieved new horizons as its wings expand from Lahore to all over the province of Punjab.

The authority has done many remunerative wonders and proved itself as a wealth generator for the development of Punjab. Keeping in view the track record of LCBDDA, the Punjab Cabinet has done amendments to its act and expanded the jurisdiction of the authority to all over Punjab. PCBDDA will work in various cities of Punjab like Faisalabad, Sialkot, Gujranwala, Multan and Rawalpindi & more to boost the economic activities for the development of the province.

## NA body asks to ensure vehicles on control prices

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly, Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Thursday asked for taking measures to ensure the timely availability of vehicles on controlled prices.

The committee directed that ministry may take stringent measures to stop the monopoly of Manufacturing Companies and middlemen to eliminate the extra payment of "Own" in order to ensure the timely availability of vehicles on controlled prices.

The committee met under the chairmanship of Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, Member National Assembly (MNA) to discuss the various issues pertaining to ministry and its attached departments, said a press release issued here.

The committee also expressed concern over the price hike of vehicles in Pakistan despite the fact that Dollar rate had been decreased incredibly during the recent past.

The committee warmly welcomed the newly elected chairman, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, and assured to extend full cooperation for smooth functioning of the committee.

The committee expressed grave concern over the theft of valuable items of Rs. 10 Billions (aprx) from Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) and directed that ministry may pursue the case effectively and develop proper liaison with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for early completion of Inquiry Report so that culprits could be penalized accordingly.

The committee also decided to discuss the privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills with Privatization Commission in its next meeting.

The committee also expressed concern over the shortage of "Urea" in the country despite the fact the Urea were not being used in the country due to heavy floods across the country. Agencies

## Amid selling pressure

## KSE-100 extends losses, declines over 300 points

KARACHI: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) endured another volatile session on Thursday, as investors were observed weighing the impact of ongoing political uncertainty and deteriorating macro-economic indicators after a brief pause.

Pushed by these factors, the market players opted to offload their stockholdings at attractive valuations and the KSE-100 index lost over 300 points.

Fresh devaluation of the rupee against the US dollar, as it dropped another Re1 on a day-on-day basis in the interbank market, dented the confidence of market participants.

Moreover, uncertainty about the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board meeting scheduled to be held on August 29 to resume the programme haunted the trading environment at the bourse.

Earlier, the trading started on a positive note; however, it failed to sustain the rally due to late-session profit-taking and the index, after oscillating in a narrow range, finally settled in the red zone for the second consecutive day.

At close, the benchmark KSE-100 index closed at 43,032.57 points with a decrease of 305.40 points or 0.70%. Agencies

# PCB announces squads, schedule for National T20

National T20 will be played in two legs at Pindi Cricket Stadium and Multan Cricket Stadium

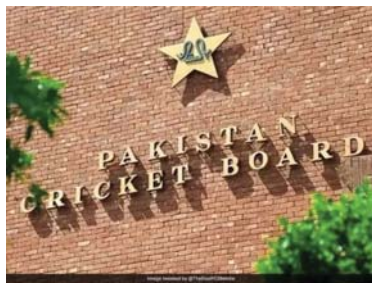
**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will defend their National T20 title under the leadership of Khalid Usman as the all-rounder has been announced the captain of the winners of the 2020 and 2021 editions.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have had an impressive run in the last two editions of the tournament, winning 15 off 24 matches, and will be eager to continue their form when they open their campaign on 31 August, the second day of the tournament, against Central Punjab.

Another tournament win will further stamp Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a T20 powerhouse, embellish their trophy cabinet with the prestigious silverware and another PKR5million in their bank account.

All-rounder Faheem Ashraf takes the reins of Central Punjab, the runners up of the previous edition, who will lock horns



with Yasir Shah-captained Balochistan in the second match of the tournament on the National T20 opening day (30 August).

The tournament will begin with what promises to be a thriller with Saud Shakeel's Sindh taking on Hasan Ali's Southern Punjab. Northern, the home side, will begin their campaign on 1 September and will be captained by top-order batter Umar Amin.

The squads, both for the National T20 and Cricket Associations T20 have been

finalised by national men's chief selector, Muhammad Wasim, in consultation with the six Cricket Associations. The selectors have ensured that the players on the fringes of the national side get the opportunities to continue to push their case for the national selection and this summer's top performers in the City Cricket Association and Divisional tournaments climb another rung.

The National T20 will be played in two legs with Pindi Cricket Stadium playing host to first 16 of the 33 matches from 30 August till 7 September. Multan Cricket Stadium will stage the second leg between 10 till 19 September.

To ensure the players participating in the tournament get their due share of exposure and the fans get to enjoy the action-packed matches, the double-headers from 30 August till 11 September have been scheduled in a manner that they do not clash with the ACC Asia Cup T20.

The first match of the day will

commence on 0930 and the second will begin at 1400. From 12 September, the first of the two matches will start at 1500, while the second will begin at 1930.

As the Pakistan Cricket Board continues to incentivise domestic performers, PKR0.4million will be shared equally between the tournament's top performers (player of the tournament, best batter of the tournament, best bowler of the tournament and best wicketkeeper of the tournament).

The best performer of every match will get PKR25,000 and the player of the final will bag PKR35,000. The team ending second in the tournament will get PKR2.5million.

The head coaches of the first XI teams for the 2022-23 domestic season are: Mushtaq Ahmed (Balochistan), Abdul Razzaq (Central Punjab), Abdul Rehman (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa), Ijaz Ahmed Snr (Northern), Ghulam Ali (Sindh) and Shahid Anwar (Southern Punjab).

# Afridi appointed brand ambassador for AAA Associates' grand project

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: AAA Associates, one of Pakistan's most leading and prominent companies, particularly among professional real estate associations, has announced that it has signed Shahid Khan Afridi, one of Pakistan's most prolific cricketers from the former national team, as its brand ambassador. The MoU signing was done on 22nd August, 2022 at the Main Head Office of AAA Associates.

According to the MoU Shahid Khan Afridi will be the exclusive brand ambassador of AAA Associates' Grand project AAA Octa Karachi in the sought-after location in Bahria Town Karachi.

Shahid Khan Afridi popularly known as "Boom Boom" or "Lala", because of his explosive batting style and magical spinner, is a former Pakistani cricketer and also the former captain of the Pakistan cricket team. He is the youngest cricketer holding the fastest century in just 37 balls. Shahid Khan Afridi currently holds the record for the most number of sixes in the history of ODI cricket. Apart from cricket, Afridi runs his own charity, the Shahid Afridi Foundation which aims to provide education and healthcare facilities. Shahid Khan Afridi was also nominated among the top 20 most charitable athletes of 2015.

Chairman AAA Associates Sheikh Fawad Bashir said, "Lala" is a living



legend in Pakistan, not only for his work in cricket, but also for his humanitarian and patriotic efforts. AAA Associates is dedicated not just to Pakistan's developmental growth, but also towards raising the country's living standards. We welcome Mr. Shahid Khan Afridi to the team and look forward to working with him to bring about long-term change for the development of real estate sector."

While addressing the ceremony, the sportsman turned celebrity Mr. Shahid Khan Afridi expressed his delight on joining AAA Associates. He said, "AAA

Associates has been offering exceptional services in the real estate sector, and I am honoured to be connected with one of the most reputable company in Pakistan whose profiles range from media to real estate to construction. It gives me great pleasure to be a member of AAA Associates since I am from Karachi and I have special fondness for the people of Karachi."

Managing Director AAA Associates Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r) also expressed his sentiments by saying, "We are so excited to have Shahid Khan Afridi as our Brand Ambassador for our upcoming project AAA Octa Karachi. Shahid Khan Afridi embodies the honesty and dedication to excellence that we appreciate. His eccentric personality resonates with our ideas, making him an excellent fit for our upcoming Project, AAA Octa Karachi."

AAA Associates, an award-winning conglomerate, is the true pioneer of the concept of professional real estate development in Pakistan. It is redefining the real estate sector of Pakistan by providing unprecedented services, covering all property aspects and providing a complete legal cover to its customers. AAA Associates is one of Pakistan's most reputable and rapidly growing and developing conglomerates in the real estate sector. Recently, they have launched one of their mega projects at Bahria Town Karachi.

# PBCC shortlists 21 probables for Blind Cricket WC

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Blind cricket Council (PBCC) has shortlisted 21 probables for the third World Cup Cricket for the Blind to be held in India in December this year.

According to PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah, these players were shortlisted after viewing their performances in the recent tournaments.

Out of these 21 players, the final team of 17 will be shortlisted in November 2022. The PBCC has also approached the government of Pakistan for the 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) to participate in the event.

The 21 probables include B1 category: Riasat Khan, Zafar Iqbal, Sajid Nawaz, Muhammad Shah Zaib, Muhammad Asif, Fakhar Abbas, Muhammad Salman B2 category: Badar Munir, Nisar Ali, Moain Aslam, Anees Javed, Shahzeb Haider, Kamran Akhter, Niamat Ullah; B3 category: Muhammad Rashid, Mati Ullah, Faisal Mehmood, Mohsin Khan, Muhammad Safdar, Akmal Hayat Nasir and Sana Ullah Khan

# Kerber withdraws from US Open



PARIS: Former women's world number one Angelique Kerber announced on Wednesday that she is pregnant and has withdrawn from next week's US Open joking that "two against one just isn't a fair competition."

The 34-year-old German added that Flushing Meadow holds great memories for her. She won the title there in 2016 and, as a result, became world number one.

"I really wanted to play the @usopen but eventually I decided that two against one just isn't a fair competition," tweeted Kerber, who is ranked 52. "For the next months, I will take a break from traveling the globe as a tennis player but then again, I believe it's for the best possible reason!"

"New York has often been a turning point in my career and it feels like this year will be no different in some way!" "From restarting my career in 2011 (ranked 92 she reached the semi-finals) to winning the title in 2016 and becoming #1 in the world."

Kerber — who won 2016 Australian Open and Wimbledon in 2018 — said she was excited about her new chapter.

# Sports for All's services to archery valued: Indonesian Consul General

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Consul General of Indonesia Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat has said that Archery is the most popular sports in Islamic history and the best in terms of skill. He expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of Sports for All and QAA Archery, led by Chairman of Sports for All, Shahid Hashmi, on this occasion Consul for Information and Social Affairs Ari Polizi.

Vice Chairman Sports for All Farhan Khan, QAA Archery founder Hassan Abdullah, Secretary Kanwal Hassan, National Archery Quaratul-Ain, Rashid



Masood and Anwar-ul-Hasan were also present. Consul General Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat further said that Archery teaches us to set our goals and achieve them, from which we learn many lessons for our daily life, as well as determining the paths to success. He said that the sport of archery is also played

with passion in Indonesia.

Our effort will be to organize such programs in the future in collaboration with Sports for All, which will facilitate coaching programs between the two countries. In this regard, we will use all our efforts at the official level to give opportunities to the players to play. On this occasion,

Chairman of Sports for All Shahid Hashmi informed the Consul General about the performance of Sports for All so far. Briefed and also presented the document while Vice Chairman Farhan Khan put the Sports for All badge on the Consul General's coat.

And has been continuing its activities for the last several years, many archery events in public and private schools have been organized and many programs are being organized for the future. On this occasion, the coaches and players of QAA Archery also presented a practical expression of their skills, which was fully appreciated.

# Serena prepares for final curtain call

NEW YORK: After a glittering 27-year professional career in which she became one of the greatest players of all time, Serena Williams is preparing to bid farewell to tennis at the major where it all began.

The 40-year-old sporting icon ended the guessing game surrounding her future earlier this month by revealing that the "countdown" to her retirement had started, with her final Grand Slam appearance coming at next week's US Open in New York. "There comes a time in life when we have to decide to move in a different direction," Williams wrote. "That time is always hard when you love something so much."

"But now, the countdown has begun. I have to focus on being a mom, my spiritual goals and finally discovering a different, but just (as) exciting Serena. I'm gonna relish these next few weeks."

That announcement set the stage for what will be an emotional farewell for Williams, who won the first of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles as a 17-year-old at the 1999 US Open, beating Martina Hingis in the final.

That breakthrough victory confirmed what had become apparent ever since her professional debut four years earlier: that Williams, alongside sister Venus, was a rising force in women's tennis. While 1999 marked her first singles Slam, by then Williams had already won mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon and the US Open in 1998.

Her win in the 1999 singles final would light the touchpaper for the most dominant career of any female player in the Open era, her 23 Grand Slam titles second only to Margaret Court's 24. While a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles title is likely to remain

beyond her next week, Williams has nevertheless produced a collection of records that in all probability will never be broken.

With seven Australian Open singles titles, seven Wimbledon titles and six US Open titles, Williams is the only player, male or female to win three different Grand Slams six times or more.

In total, she has won 39 Grand Slam titles—with 14 women's doubles crowns and two mixed doubles titles to go alongside her 23 singles victories.

Her longevity is also unmatched. She was first ranked world number one in 2002, and last held the position in 2017—an interval of just under 15 years. Williams also holds the record for the longest gap between her first and last Grand Slam wins: 17 years and 139 days between her 1999 US Open win and the 2017 Australian Open in Melbourne,



when she was pregnant with daughter Olympia.

Williams has also collected four Olympic gold medals—three as a doubles partner with sister Venus in 2000, 2008 and 2012, and one singles gold at the 2012 London games, staged at Wimbledon.

Only three other players—Steffi Graf, Andre Agassi and Rafael Nadal—have completed the career 'Golden Slam' of all four major championships with an Olympic gold. Williams' farewell

to tennis in New York has become the hottest ticket in town.

Her retirement announcement triggered a stampede among fans, with the first three nights of the tournament sold out. Secondary ticket markets have reported a surge in ticket prices, up 34% since early August. Whether or not Williams is able to extend her Grand Slam career beyond the first round of next week's tournament is doubtful. Williams herself has called a 24th Grand Slam title "fan fantasy."

"I get that," she said this month. "It's a good fantasy. But I'm not looking for some ceremonial, final on-court moment. I'm terrible at goodbyes, the world's worst."

Williams' recent results indicate the pessimism is well-founded. In her first match after her retirement announcement, Williams lost 6-2, 6-4 to Belinda

Bencic in Toronto.

In her next outing, in Cincinnati, she was routed 6-4, 6-0 by reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu, the British teenager who was born three years after Williams' first Grand Slam victory in 1999. With Williams not expected to mount a sustained challenge, all eyes will be on Poland's world number one Iga Swiatek in the women's draw.

The 21-year-old was the form player in women's tennis earlier this year, reeling off victories at the Qatar Open, Indian Wells and Miami Open before claiming wins on clay in Stuttgart and Rome en route to her second Slam singles title at the French Open.

However, Swiatek has struggled to recapture that dominance during the North American hardcourt season, making early exits at both the Cincinnati Masters and Canadian Open.

**PSF-Combaxx**

# Six Pak players move to quarterfinals of Int'l Squash Tournament

ISLAMABAD: Six Pakistan players managed to book berths in the quarterfinals of the PSF-Combaxx Men International Squash Tournament after registering emphatic wins in the second round fixtures at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad on Thursday.

Pakistan's Noor Zaman, Farhan Zaman, Muhammad Ashab Irfan, Nasir Iqbal, Hamaz Khan and Ahsan Ayaz pulled off the wins.

Noor Zaman defeated compatriot Farhan Mehboob 11-4, 11-8 (Retd) in 19 minutes, while Farhan Zaman trounced compatriot Muhammad Ahammad in a well-fought contest 11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4 in 39 minutes.

Similarly, Muhammad Ashab Irfan edged passed compatriot Naveed Rehman 10-12, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9 in a 45-minute interesting competition. Hafiz Zafri of Malaysia overcame Ireland's Alireza Shameeli 12-10, 11-6, 11-8 in 32 minutes.

Nasir Iqbal beat compatriot Salman Saleem 11-4, 12-10, 11-6 in 29 minutes, while Hamaz Khan outwitted Sepehr Etemadpoor of Ireland 5-11, 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8 in a 42 minutes' seesaw battle.

Ahsan Ayaz saw off compatriot Zahir Shah 11-8, 11-4, 11-3 in 24 minutes. Egypt's Abdallah Elmasry warded off challenge from his compatriot Khaled Labib 11-7, 11-8, 11-5 in 28 minutes to advance to quarterfinals.

The quarterfinals will be played on Friday. The five-day tournament that will conclude on August 28 carries a prize purse of \$12,000.

# Nishan-e-Haider Hockey Tournament from Aug 29

BAHAWALPUR: All Pakistan Nishan-e-Haider Hockey Tournament will be held in Daring Stadium Bahawalpur from August 29 to September 6.

In this event, hockey teams from all over the country will participate. A meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Zahid Parvez Waraich to review the arrangements in this regard.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Headquarters Sumera Rabbani, Assistant Commissioner General Liaqat Gilani, Assistant Commissioner City Naeem Sadiq Cheema, Divisional sports Officer Maqsoodul Hasan Javed, Chief Officer Municipal Corporation Asif Iqbal, Chief Officer District Council Mian Azhar Javed, District Emergency Officer Rescue 1122 Baqir Hussain, Manager Operation Bahawalpur Waste Management Company Imtiaz Ahmed and officers of other relevant departments were present in the meeting.

Deputy Commissioner said that all the arrangements for the All Pakistan Nishan-e-Haider Hockey Cup should be completed properly. He said that officers of other departments should perform their duties with dedication to ensure the successful organizing of the event.

# Venues Confirmed For FIH Hockey Pro League

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation (FIH) and FIH Hockey Pro League participating nations have confirmed venues to be used for the fourth season of FIH's global league for national teams 'Hockey at its Best' which would run from October 28 to July 5.

The participating nations venues include Australia: Newcastle, Hobart; Argentina: Mendoza, Santiago del Estero; Belgium: Antwerp; England: London; India: Bhubaneswar, Rourkela; Netherlands: Eindhoven, Amsterdam; New Zealand: Christchurch, Wellington.

A new schedule—based on a series of "mini-tournaments" where several teams would gather in one venue to play two matches against each other—will come into force for this new Pro League season, said a press release.

This format would have a major positive impact on players' welfare and the environment, thanks to a substantial reduction in the amount of travel needed for each team and the officials. Another great advantage of this revised format was that it increases the number of dates available for athletes to compete in their domestic leagues and club competitions.

Furthermore, this season would see the implementation of a promotion-relegation principle for the very first time, with the team finishing last being relegated, while the team winning the 2022 FIH Hockey Nations Cup a new event being promoted for the 2023-2024 Pro League season.

FIH CEO Thierry Weil said, "The integration of the promotion-relegation principle will substantially add to the excitement around Pro League. Also, the new format is beneficial to everyone, athletes, National Associations, clubs and fans in particular."

# Eintracht keeper Trapp rejects offer from Man Utd

BERLIN: Eintracht Frankfurt keeper Kevin Trapp said on Thursday he had received and rejected an offer to join Manchester United, instead opting to remain at the Europa League champions who are competing in this season's Champions League group stage.

"There was a lot of talk in the past days about an interest from Manchester United," Trapp said on social media. "It is correct that I have a written offer." "Manchester United are a world class team and that I consider it and think about is something, I am sure, everyone can understand. Yesterday, however, I informed both clubs that I decided for Eintracht."

United coach Eric Ten Haag is eager to bring in another goalkeeper to add pressure on first choice David de Gea, who was a liability in their 4-0 loss to Brentford this month.