



Pak-China ties runs in hearts of two people of two countries: Haque

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that Pakistan-China was not only a state-to-state relationship but it ran in the hearts of the people of the two countries. This sentiment is once again clearly evident in case of the recent floods in Pakistan, in the response of which we have seen a continuous outpouring of sympathy and support from the Chinese side - leadership and people, he said while chairing a meeting here at Pakistan Embassy.

A Leading National Daily



Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI

فرمان رسول ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ تم جب سونے کو توچیں اور چھانڈو۔ دروازے بند کر دو، منگولوں کے منہ باندھ دو اور کھانے پینے کے برتنوں کو ڈھاپ دو۔ جاہل نے کہا کہ میرا خیال ہے کہ یہ بھی کہا تو لوگ لڑی ہی کے ذریعے سے ذبح سکوتوں کی پوزائی میں۔ ہم اللہ کی برکت کو کھدی جائے۔ (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 6624)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



Pakistan, Australia enjoy excellent ties: Shazia Marri

Federal Minister, Shazia Marri expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Government as well as people of Pakistan for the announcement of 2 million USD humanitarian assistance by the Government of Australia for the flood affected areas in Pakistan.

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Solace to flood victims

GAHKUCH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets the flood affectees of District Ghizer on Friday.



Photo: PID

Imran criticizes govt for bowing down before IMF



GUJRAT: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman Imran Khan said on Friday that those who used to criticize his government for bowing down before the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have now themselves kowtowed before the international lender. Addressing a rally in Gujrat on Friday, he said that we have to respect ourselves if we want the world to respect us. "Today's rally has broken all previous records of rallies held in Gujrat," he said and also mentioned the increasing diesel price. When my govern-

Relief Operation

Rs3b announced for reconstruction in flood hit GB

Dozens of bridges, 100s of water pipelines, water channels were damaged in Gilgit-Baltistan

Spokesman Report

GHIZAR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday announced Rs three billion for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood-affected areas of Gilgit Baltistan. He was on a visit to the flood-affected areas of Gilgit Baltistan.

Advisor for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira and Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Public Policy and Strategic Communication Fahd Hussain accompanied the prime minister.

The government of Gilgit Baltistan and the district administration of Ghizar briefed the prime minister that 1000 kanals

PM thanks Turkiye for timely support to flood-hit people

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday thanked the government and people of Turkiye for extending timely support to the flood-stricken people of Pakistan, manifesting the fraternal ties and brotherhood between the two countries. Headed by Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soyulu the delegation is visiting Pakistan to express strong feelings of condolence and solidarity of the govern-

ment and people of Turkiye with the flood-affected people of Pakistan. Besides the Turkish interior minister, the delegation comprised Turkish Minister for Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change Murat Kurum, Chairman of Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD), Director General for Turkish Low-Cost Housing Agency (TOKI) and others.

Dozens of bridges, hundreds of water pipelines and water channels were damaged besides damage to the basic infrastruc-

ture of hundreds of kilometers of roads.

After the briefing and review of the situation, the PM announced that every affected family in the ten union councils would be given Rs 25000 each.

He also announced Rs one million each for a family whose loved ones lost lives in the floods. Shehbaz Sharif met the flood affectees in the village Bobar where 17 people lost their lives in floods. Among the affectees a differently abled girl was also present. Most of her family in the village died in the floods.

The PM expressed condolence with the girl and instructed that all efforts should be made for her medical treatment and

announced aid of Rs five million for her and the establishment of an endowment fund in her name.

He also announced Rs 100 million fund for the village of Bobar which was the most affected in the floods in the Ghizar district. A five-kilometer metalled road for the village would also be constructed.

He directed National Highway Authority to build the six bridges destroyed in the natural disaster in the Ghizar district.

He asked the Chairman National Disaster Management Authority and Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan to immediately assess the losses caused by the floods.

UNICEF's response

Impact of Pakistan floods on children, families briefed

Spokesman Report

GENEVA/ISLAMABAD: "Over the past few weeks, torrential monsoon rains have broken a century-long record and dumped more than five times the 30-year average for rainfall in some provinces, killing more than 1200 people, including about 400 children, while washing away or damaging over 1.1 million houses and destroying vital infrastructure children rely on to access essential services, such as schools and hospitals. At least 18,000 schools have been damaged or destroyed across the country due to the floods. We estimate that 16 million children are impacted and 3.4 million of these children are in need of humanitarian support.

"Exacerbating this horrendous situation, many of the 72 hardest-hit districts were already amongst the most vulnerable ones in Pakistan. 40 per cent of children were already suffering from stunting before the floods hit. Many children are now at heightened risk, without a home, school, or even safe drinking water.

"There is therefore a risk of many more child deaths. And the situation will only continue to deteriorate as winter is just 8 weeks away



in some parts of the country.

"There is now a high risk of water-borne, deadly diseases spreading rapidly - diarrhoea, cholera, dengue, malaria. Without adequate sanitation, communities are increasingly having to resort to open defecation, putting them at high risk of contracting diseases.

"Relief and rescue operations are still extremely hard to carry-out-around 160 bridges and 5,000 kilometres (3,200 miles) of roads have been destroyed or damaged, 3.5 million acres of crops affected and about 800,000 livestock lost. Yet lifesaving rescue and relief efforts are indispensable, and UNICEF is distributing humanitarian supplies in all affected provinces.

"In terms of UNICEF's response,

we have already delivered immediate emergency services and supplies worth over USD \$2 million, including drinking water, water purification tablets, hygiene kits, medicines, vaccines, therapeutic food for children, pregnant and lactating women, and mosquito nets.

"In the coming days and weeks, we aim to reach children and families first with lifesaving medical equipment, essential medicines, vaccines and safe delivery kits, safe drinking water and water-treating tablets, and sanitation supplies, nutrition supplies, mosquito nets. We also want to help children resume learning and will support the Government to reestablish critical services for children as soon as possible.

"Additional life-saving emergency medical and WASH supplies are expected to reach Pakistan from our hub in Copenhagen within days. But many more airlifts will be needed.

"In order to be able to achieve this, as part of the UN flash appeal of \$160 million to support the flood response led by the Government of Pakistan, UNICEF is appealing for US\$37 million to reach approximately 3.4 million children in need of life-saving support. UNICEF has launched flash appeals globally and members of the public and the private sector can make donations via the Pakistan appeals page of the UNICEF global https://www.unicef.org/appeals/pakistan.

"We urgently need these funds and resources to allow us to continue to provide lifesaving medical equipment, essential medicines, vaccines, safe drinking water, hygiene kits, mosquito nets and delivery kits, as well as funds to ensure service outreach for delivery.

"We know that any emergency like this runs the risk of increasing protection risks for children, undermining the resilience and psychosocial wellbeing of children and their parents, leaving many experiencing distress.

IK responsible for current economic crisis: Marriyum



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday regretted Imran Khan's "politics of polarisation and anarchy" amid flash floods which had wreaked havoc in different parts of the country.

"Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are under water, but Imran Khan is bent on creating anarchy and division in the country," she said in a news statement while reacting to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman's address to a public gathering in Gujrat.

She said people knew reality of Imran Khan who was a "foreign agent, liar, thief and plotter".

It were the people who ousted Imran Khan from the Prime Minister's Office, and the "cartels and mafias" from the Parliament, she added.

Exports up by 3.75% to \$4.7b

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country witnessed an increase of 3.75 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported Friday.

According to PBS data, the exports from the country were recorded at \$4.759 billion during July-August (2022-23) against the exports of \$4.587 billion recorded during July-August (2021-22), showing growth of 3.75 percent.

On the other hand, the imports into the country decreased by 9.25 percent by declining from \$12.152 billion last year to \$11.028 billion in July-August (2022-23).

Based on the data, the trade deficit during the period under review was recorded at \$6.269 billion, showing a decrease of 17.13 percent over the deficit of \$7.565 billion recorded during last year, the

PBS data revealed.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the exports of the country increased by 11.44 percent during August 2022 as compared to the exports of the same month of last year. The exports during the month under review were recorded at \$2.504 billion against the exports of \$2.247 billion during the same month of last year.

However, the imports into the country decreased from \$6.577 billion in August 2021 to \$6.034 billion in August 2022, showing negative growth of 8.26 percent.

On month-on-month basis, the exports from the country went up by 11.07 percent during August 2022 as compared to the exports of \$2.254 billion recorded during July 2022.

On the other hand, the imports into the country during July 2022 witnessed increase of 20.84 percent as compared to the imports of \$4.993 billion in July 2022, according to the PBS data.

Economy heading towards right direction: Miftah



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Friday said the country's economy was moving in the right direction due to prudent policies of the incumbent government.

Addressing a discussion on "Current State of Pakistan's Economy" at IBA Karachi, he said revival of the IMF programme was top most priority of the government after coming into power.

Miftah Ismail said going to IMF was a hard political decision, but it was the last resort.

He justified the IMF programme by stressing that it was only to save the country that harsh measures were undertaken. The agreement with IMF

was violated which caused difficulties in revival of its program.

He also criticized the measures taken by previous government which created challenges for the economy, pushing the country towards the brink of bankruptcy.

Loans of about Rs. 20,000 billion were taken during the tenure of Imran Khan's government.

He said the government imposed ban on the import of luxury items for three months. "We need to understand that we have cut down our expenses. The previous government spent more than the loan it borrowed," said Miftah Ismail.

The minister said the government by adopting prudent policies had saved the country from default. He informed the audiences that government was well aware of the issues being faced by common man and was making all out efforts to provide relief to the citizens.

He said the PML-N government had doubled the electricity production in the country. He expressed the hope that electricity prices would decline in the coming months.

Pak-Saudi security cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Saudi delegation led by Commander Border Guard Major General Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Shehri meeting with Pakistan delegation led by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah here on Friday.



Deliberation

President calls for focusing on flood-relief efforts

Dr Arif Alvi emphasizes need for launching nationwide drive for increasing forest cover

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Friday called upon all stakeholders to launch a nationwide drive to mobilize the people of Pakistan, businesses, civil society and humanitarian organizations to assist civil and military administrations in their rescue and relief efforts to rehabilitate the flood victims and for the reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

The President made these remarks during a meeting with senior media-persons, who called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. Mujeeb-ur-Rehman Shami, Suhail Warraich, Gauhar Zahid Malik, Awaiz Rauf and Nawab Kaifee attended the meeting, a press release issued by the President's Media Wing here said.

Talking to the senior journal-

Climate catastrophe had affected more than 33 million people



ists about his visit to the flood-hit areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Southern Punjab, and the low-lying areas of Sindh and Balochistan, the President said that this unprecedented catastrophe had been induced due to global warming and climate change whereas Pakistan contributed less than 1% to the global carbon emissions. He further said that the developed world, being the

major contributor to global warming and climate change, should proportionally bear the burden of rescue and relief operations, reconstruction of damaged communication infrastructure, rebuilding the destroyed houses and compensating the people for lost property, livestock and standing crops. The President highlighted that the climate catastrophe had

affected more than 33 million people; 1,100 people including over 350 children had lost their lives; more than 1,600 people had been injured; over 1 million houses had been partially or completely destroyed; entire villages had been wiped out; over 735,000 livestock had perished; 2 million acres of crops had been inundated, and the communications infrastruc-

ture had been severely damaged. He also emphasized the need for launching a nationwide drive for increasing the forest cover in the country, shifting from fossil fuels to alternative means of energy and building delay-action and large dams to minimize the effects of climate change.

Replying to a question, he said that although as the President he did not have a constitutional obligation to play a role to defuse the current political polarization, however, if all the stakeholders agreed, he would volunteer in his personal capacity to mediate among the stakeholders on major questions faced by the country, including the date of next elections, consensus-based economic charter, and the way forward on making key appointments.

Pak-Saudi security coop to be enhanced further: Sanaullah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah says security cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will be enhanced further.

Talking to a Saudi delegation led by Commander Border Guard Major General Mohammad Bin Abdullah Al-Shehri in Islamabad on Friday, he stressed on improving communication between the Interior Ministries of the two countries.

The Minister said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will jointly fight all internal and regional security challenges.

Flood-affected people need 'healing': Musadik

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Friday said some provinces had been drowned under flood waters and their people were in dire need of 'healing', but PTI chairman Imran Khan was busy doing dirty politics in the testing times.

"The flood-affected people are in dire need of remedial measures as their lives and integrity is in danger. But Imran Khan disappointed us by doing politics at this critical juncture and hurling threatening statements in public meetings such as 'he will not spare' and 'he will reveal names,' he regretted while addressing a news conference here.

The minister said Imran Khan should have the courage to name the people whom he would not spare and reveal the



names instead of mere hurling threats.

Will Imran Khan reveal the names of Finance Ministers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab who tried to sabotage the IMF deal on the instructions of Shaukat Tareen, he questioned.

Musadik Malik said that it was unfortunate that PTI leadership and the workers

had run a negative campaign against Pakistan armed forces' jawans and officers martyred in the helicopter crash in Balochistan.

He criticized the PTI chairman for hiring the services of lobbyist David Fenton in the US, who was known as the founder of the denuclearization programme besides getting money and land from Malik Riaz to protect his money-laundering and receiving millions of pounds from Arif Naqvi, Chief Executive of the Abraj Capital and Investment Company, indicted by the US courts in a range of cases and could get up to 290-year jail.

He underlined that two mega economic scandals were made in the history of the country.

The first was of \$250 million

by Malik Riaz in Bahria Town, which was as per the Cabinet signed the paper and as per Pakistani representative in the UK who signed the document in the British court; the amount was gifted to Malik Riaz which was one-fourth of the IMF bailout and were deposited in his account.

"It was given in lieu of 400 kanals land which was registered in the name of Imran Khan and his wife," he added.

The second case, he said was related to Arif Masood Naqvi who was likely to be charged with 290 years imprisonment in the UK against money laundering.

Imran Khan during his regime waived off Rs 250 billion investment to be made by K-Electric in Dattang Coal Project which would have benefited Karachiites. Agencies

Safety of passengers top priority: PR Minister

LAHORE: Railways and Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday directed the Pakistan Railways (PR) administration to ensure safety of the passengers before resuming train operation for Karachi.

Presiding over different meetings held at the PR Headquarters here, he directed to work in three shifts for track restoration after floodwater became dry from the track.

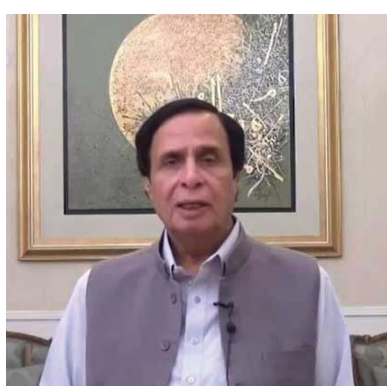
He directed to improve management of Green-line train.

Kalabagh dam to be constructed after Imran's election as PM: Elahi

GUJRAT: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Friday said that the Kalabagh dam will be constructed after Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan will become the prime minister with a two-thirds majority.

Addressing a rally, Punjab CM Elahi expressed his gratitude to PTI Chairman and party workers. He said that no one but Imran Khan can build the Kalabagh dam. Assuring the PTI Chairman that Gujrat is 'land of loyalty', CM Elahi said that there is no war in the country in which the sons of Gujrat have not embraced martyrdom, adding that they are also the recipients of Nishan-i-Haider.

Saying that education has changed environment of Gujrat, Pervaiz Elahi lashed out at former Punjab CM Hamza Shahbaz, said that he [Hamza] distrib-



ed laptop in Gujrat and asked the university students to remember the PML-N, but the students straightaway said that they will remember those who built the

university.

He said that another huge university is being built in Gujrat because education is the only way that can bring change in the country, adding that industries are also being built in Gujrat. Claiming that Shehbaz Sharif has scrapped the Wazirabad Institute of Cardiology, CM Elahi vowed to increase the number of beds in cardiology to 500, adding that now there will be no need to go to India and Europe for treatment and the patients will be treated through modern machines.

Punjab CM said that he and the PTI Chairman went to flood-stricken areas. "We are giving all the relief goods to Imran Khan," he added. Commenting the overseas Pakistanis, CM Elahi further said that they gave a lot of money to Imran Khan. Agencies

On flood relief work

Pakistan rejects Indian media story

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Friday categorically rejected the contents of the story carried by an Indian news outlet alleging flood relief work by a banned organization.

In response to media queries on the story, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "It only betrays India's bias and prejudice towards Pakistan, and is part of India's regular and continuing attempts to mislead the international audience."

He said, "It is not the first time that the Indian media have shown their proclivity to carry baseless and motivated stories to further a political agenda."

"It is also unfortunate that while the international community is single-mindedly focused on helping Pakistan in the wake of an unprecedented natural calamity, some elements in the Indian media are attempting to cast doubts on the relief efforts."

Pakistan had put in place strong and robust regulatory and oversight mechanisms to monitor flood relief activity by non-profit and non-governmental organizations, he said

adding all relevant agencies were vigilant in ensuring that no illicit activity was carried out under the garb of relief efforts. APP

FM thanks KSA for flood victims' assistance

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had a telephone call with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and briefed him on magnitude of devastation caused by floods and torrential

monsoon rains in Pakistan. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also thanked Saudi Arabia for strong expression of solidarity and continued assistance for flood affected people. Agencies

British HC lauds Pakistan's efforts for regional stability

Assistance from global partners vital in relief, rehabilitation of flood victims: COAS



RAWALPINDI: British High Commissioner Christian Turner called on Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Friday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and regional security situation including bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed.

The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by unprecedented floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to

the families of the victims. He also offered UK's support to the people of Pakistan at this hour of need.

The British High Commissioner appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability and also pledged to play his role enhancing cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

General Bajwa thanked for UK's support and reiterated that assistance from our global partners shall be vital in relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims. Agencies

Sedition case

Gill approaches IHC for bail

ISLAMABAD: Senior PTI leader Shahbaz Gill on Friday approached Islamabad High Court (IHC) after continuous efforts to get bail from a trial court in a sedition case filed against him.

PTI Chairman Imran Khan's chief of staff Gill has been in detention since last month when he was arrested after a treason case was filed against him for inciting mutiny within the Pakistan Army through his remarks during a private TV channel show.

The politician has nominated Kohsar Police Station SHO, City Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza and

others as parties in the plea, stating that he was arrested by Kohsar police on August 9.

He requested the court that he be released on bail, stating that senior doctors at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) performed a medical examination on August 17 and the medical board found "evidence of physical torture".

The court fixed September 5 as the date it will hear the plea. The PTI has repeatedly demanded the party leader's bail, alleging that he is facing humiliation, torture and sexual abuse in police custody. Agencies

No compromise on basic health facilities: AJK President



MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President, Barrister Sultan Mehmoond Chaudhry Friday stressed the need for provision of basic amenities of life to the common masses on priority basis.

"There would be no compromise on basic health of people," said the AJK President while speaking at a briefing session arranged by the health department in the State metropolis.

AJK Health Minister Ansar Abdali, Public Health Secretary Major General Ahsan Altaf, Director General Health Sardar Aftab and other senior officials of the department were also present on the occasion.

The AJK President directed the

health authorities to pay special attention to improve health sector in AJK, harmonious to the need of the modern age.

Barrister Sultan said a cancer and cardiology hospital have been approved in the State and work on the project was underway. "Work on the construction of a cancer hospital at a cost of three and a half billion rupees is in progress", the president said, adding establishment of a medical university in Azad Kashmir would also be instrumental in improving the health sector.

During the briefing the president inquired about the issues relating to the state-owned health facilities and new hospitals being built at Haveli, Bandi, Lipa and Keil.

The officials of the health department on the occasion said that 50-bed hospital was being built at Keil, whereas land has been acquired for a hospital in Lipa. The president told that the shortage of doctors and nursing staff in various hospitals of Azad Kashmir would also be met soon. Agencies

Floods affected 9.716 mln in Sindh, death tally at 522

101,901 cattle also perished throughout the province during rains, flash flooding

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, on Friday, informed that 670,602 people from torrential rains and flood hit areas were shifted to 1975 relief camps set up by government.



camps were being provided with food, water, medicine and other relief items.

The minister while informing about details of the losses caused by the flood and rains in the province and rescue measures carried out in affected areas said that victims accommodated in relief

Over 9.716 million people in Sindh were directly affected by the torrential downpour and flash flooding, he informed and maintained that Sindh government was striving for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims and rescuing the flood victims was its top priority.

He informed that death tally due to disaster has reached at 522 while 21,885 people have been injured. More-

over, 101,901 cattle have also perished throughout the province during the unprecedented rains and flash flooding, he added.

As many as 235 talukas and 1051 union councils have been affected by the rains, Memon said adding that 1.45 million houses have been damaged, completely or partially, while crops cultivated over 3.173 million acres have been destroyed. APP

CPHGC donates tents, ration bags to people of Balochistan

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: China Power Hub Generation Company (Pvt.) Ltd. donated 100 waterproof tents and 100 ration bags with ready-to-cook food to the local administration of Hub town in aid of the people of Balochistan who are suffering the calamitous consequences of unusually heavy monsoon rains that has devastated the local communities. Each ration bag included 10 kgs of flour, ghee, sugar, rice, lentil and tea.



offices. In his note of appreciation Assistant Commissioner, Hub, graciously accepted the timely donation and thanked CPHGC for its continued support in times of need.

The donation was handed over by a CPHGC delegation to Syed Samiullah, Assistant Commissioner Hub, at his

Following the distribution, Mr. Ren Lihui, CEO,

CPHGC said, "In this time of need CPHGC has stepped forward to assist the local administration in its ongoing relief operations in order to ensure provision of better facilities are provided to the people in need. As part of CPHGC's CSR initiatives,

we have been at the forefront of working with the local administration during times of crises and providing relief to the people of Balochistan."

CPHGC's active CSR program has contributed to a number of sustainable CSR initiatives that have helped better the lives of the people benefiting from them. These include the Floating Fishermen Jetty at Allana Goth; solar water pumps in Chaghi, the Clean Hub City program; training of local students and provided them with employment at the Plant; providing relief supplies during times of Covid.

Redressal Cell set up to resolve students' issues

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: On the order of the Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan, the higher education department has set up a redressal cell in the office of the Director Public Instruction to resolve the problems of the students applying through the online admission system.

The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab reported this in a statement issued on Friday.

The spokesman mentioned that the intervention of the ombudsman office resulted in the necessary repair and handing over of the building of the Government Elementary School, Sarai Alamgir, Gujrat with a cost of 7.6 million rupees. The ombudsman office also moderated for laying the sewerage line with 3.5 lakh rupees in a Khushab street after one Atiqur Rehman approached it for the provision of clean drinking water to the residents, the spokesman added.

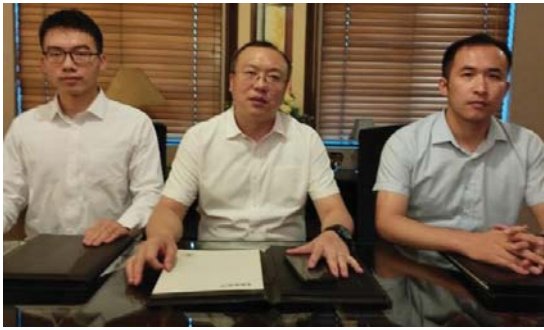
As a result of departmental proceedings initiated on a separate request made by Muhammad Shahzad of Bahawalpur, three employees of the school education department in Hasilpur tehsil have been found guilty in the preliminary departmental inquiry. Now, a formal departmental inquiry has been recommended against them under PEEDA Act, 2006 to the district education authority Bahawalpur, the spokesman said.

In another development, the spokesman noted that the irrigation department has repaired the canal bridge at the cost of 13 lakh rupees in the Vehari district to provide locals with the facility to cross it. As a result of the involvement of the ombudsman office at the request of Mubashir Iqbal, a Sahiwal-based plaintiff, the protective grille of a public passage has also been repaired at Rs.73,800, concluded the spokesman.

Chinese investors offer to produce pre-fabricated houses

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: After the loss of billions of dollars due to flood disasters in Pakistan, investors from the neighboring country, China, have also come to the field for rehabilitation of the victims and offered to produce pre-fabricated houses in their existing plant which initiated its production at Faisalabad Free-Zone M3IC one year ago.



China's Hanan DR Group's country-head in Pakistan, Mr. Zhang, providing the details, said that a few years ago, we invested USD 150 million in Faisalabad Industrial Estate, M3IC, in Pakistan after which now on an emergency basis we are now focusing on helping the flood victims by building low-cost houses costing

approx. PKR 1.8 million,

while the actual value of a single unit is approx. PKR 2.6 to 2.8 million, however, the management has decided not to make any profit from the rehabilitation of flood victims.

Thereby, we request the Government of Pakistan to exempt all types of taxes and duties on the import of raw materials for this project from

our head office in China.

The country head said that we can prepare two hundred houses every month and more than two thousand houses in a year. Each house will consist of two rooms, a kitchen, and a toilet. Moreover, we will also provide electricity to the residents through solar panels. These houses shall be soundproof, earthquake-resistant,

shall be able to withstand fire and shall have a 50-year structural guarantee. These houses shall be constructed as a single story with a covered area of approx. 550sqft each.

He further said that clean drinking water and playgrounds will also be provided to the residents of every one hundred homes and these homes will be state of art in which all facilities will be available to the residents

Mr. Zhang said that the flood has caused havoc in Pakistan, which has left millions of people homeless, and on this occasion, the immediate rehabilitation of the flood victims is very necessary, for which the Hanan DR Group of China has come forward to help of our brotherly country, Pakistan.

Transition towards renewable energy stressed

In the First Annual State of Renewable Energy Conference

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In view of the growing scarcity of energy produced from fossil fuels and its unfriendly effects on the environment, the First Annual State of Renewable Energy Conference (ASREC) was held in Karachi to shed light on the increasing need of sustainable sources of energy in the country and the transition towards it. The conference was organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute's (SDPI) Network for Clean Energy Transition (NCET) in collaboration with GIZ, Unilever Pakistan, Energy Update, Stimulus, and Renewables First.



The senior officials from the government and its partner institutions, German Embassy, renewable energy companies, as well as country's private sector attended the conference. The participants of the event appreciated the efforts of SDPI and its partner organizations for organizing the conference. In order to shed light on the topics related to the renewable energy, various panel discussions were also held in the conference.

While speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abid Q. Suleri, Executive Director - Sustainable Development Policy Institute said that, "The war in Russia-Ukraine is a message for us and the policy makers that we need to become energy sufficient. We have to assess policy trade offs and come up with a win-win

solution. We have our international commitments like the NDCs in which we committed that the share of renewables will keep on increasing in Pakistan. Fossil fuels were mentioned as the key drivers for climate change during the COP 26 and we have witnessed the impacts in the form of heatwaves & floods in the country. In COP 27, Pakistan would be taking its case for the loss and damage & its actions on renewable share."

Committed to catalyze sustainable energy transition in Pakistan, ASREC will be organized once annually, and would further act as a platform for government, private sector, and civil society leaders to address uptake of renewable energy and knowledge sharing to advance renewables at the national and sub-national levels.

Makran Coastal Highway

Munaza Kazmi

A dramatic, dusty and daring drive that unnerved a traveler with its marvelous encounters, winding its way through some of the untouched parts of Pakistan, from the deserted regions where windseep erosion has created an unusual natural wonder, "Princess of Hope"; a princess standing in the hope of finding her love of life, to the enchanting golden beaches overlooking the blue shores of the Arabian Sea, to the Spinix of Pakistan watching every travelers and guarding the glory.



running transversely by the coastal line of Arabian Sea. With diverse landscapes it has a strategic meaning for Pakistan, since it links the Gwadar port to the entire of Baluchistan, then to Karachi passing through the towns of Ormara and Pasni.

Am talking about Makran Coastal Highway, the 653 km N10 highway

While driving on the highway, you would be watching over to most dramatically diverse, magical and

mysterious landscapes. Once passing through vast stretches of deserts, greeting dust cyclones in the distance, the highway silks away casually around the deep blue waters with clean white foam, sparkling peals and golden beaches. It is home to the charming sunrises on the horizon and sunsets that bask everything in gold in the frame of wild Siberian birds.

In a moment from the dusty sandstorms you would be flying with pelicans and racing with dolphins, such a diversity here and again. Moving forward, slowly distancing from the seashore, the highway takes you into the territory of Hingol National Park, the largest of Pakistan, housing the precious and rare wild life including

leopards, gazelles, ibexes and crocodiles etc to the 'Princess of Hope' and Spinix.

Meanwhile, you might observe the Hindu pilgrims who travel miles to the Shrine of "Hinglaj Mata", which is guarded by ibexes and crocodiles in its mountain seat on the banks of the Hingol River. Wandering further through the mysterious hills, trying to endorse the possibility of possessing South Asia's largest and highest active mud volcano, the road takes you to say hello to camels and the distinctive Makranis of African descent.

Makran Coastal Highway provokes the mind to probe deeper and search for the hidden secrets that the mountains echo, the winds whisper and the sands so gracefully obscure.

UoG utilizing all resources to facilitate students: VC

Spokesman Report

GUJRAT: Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Shabbar Atiq has said that the University of Gujrat has been utilizing all its resources to facilitate students in their academic journey.

He expressed these views as he chaired the 21st meeting of the Academic Council of the varsity here at Hafiz Campus on Thursday.

The proceeding of the meeting began with the unanimous approval of the agenda of the previous meeting. Later, the council reviewed the Autumn-2022 admission policy for various graduate and doctoral degree programs. It discussed various educational, teaching and research activities going on in the varsity.

The august house granted permission for the acceptance of the delayed result, after registration, for the semesters Fall-2020 and Spring-2021 (UoG Sub-Campus, Lahore, PPP), its compilation and entry in the UOGIS as well as the announcement by the Office of Controller of Examinations.

The result could not be compiled due to the financial liabilities on part of the sub-campus and the ensuing litigation.

Approval was given for conducting the 'bridging semester' for the BS 5th semester induction students (after 14-year education) in various degree programs as per HEC policy and guidelines. A proposal to nominate teachers in the Faculty Board to be delegated to the vice chancellor was presented and unanimously approved by the council. The meeting was attended by Pro Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Faheem Malik, deans of various faculties, chairpersons and head of various departments including controller examinations, directors of colleges and sub-campuses.

Arrangements for delivering the goods, medicines and donations collected voluntarily by the students and teachers to the flood-hit areas were also discussed.

WHO sets up medical health camps in Balochistan

Spokesman Report

QUETTA: WHO Pakistan Representative Dr. Palitha Mahipala is on a monitoring visit to the Medical Relief Camps in flood-affected areas of district Lasbela, as a part of a 3-day visit to hard-hit flood-affected districts in Balochistan.



He visited district Lasbela to kickstart WHO Health Emergency Response through the establishment of 2 medical camps (mobile and fixed). One mobile medical camp is started in Goth Ilyas Oba 2 in Tehsil Lakhrha. The area is the first place that is accessible to health teams. The Mobile camp will run for 2 weeks. The fixed camp is established in BHU Sukan.

The medical camps are fully equipped with basic diagnostic and treatment facilities. During Dr. Mahipala's visit on August 29, 2022, a high number of malaria, skin disease and diarrheal cases were observed in the OPDs. The suspected patients get screened for malaria through Rapid Diagnostic Testing and treatment. The people in the area welcomed the camps and highlighted the need for clean water, shelter and cooked food.

The Health camps will provide general OPD services catering to diarrheal, ARI, malaria and skin diseases. They will also ensure primary healthcare services including maternal and child healthcare services, nutrition, routine immunization and health education.

"The magnitude of physical and human cost is colossal. Our hearts are with people affected by this calamity. We have enhanced efforts to scale up emergency health service delivery to meet the immediate health needs of the affected population," remarked WHO Pakistan Representative

As part of initial health response efforts, WHO has donated emergency relief medicines worth over USD 250,000 to flood-affected areas in Sindh and Balochistan.

WHO is coordinating with the Government of Pakistan to strengthen national flood health response efforts to prevent and control disease outbreaks as part of health emergency response through the provision of effective health relief and recovery to flood-affected populations.

IUB is symbol of national unity: VC



Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob has said that Jamia Islamia is a beautiful bouquet of students from all provinces and regions of the country and a symbol of national unity.

The Vice Chancellor expressed these views in a meeting with a delegation of teachers from different colleges of Balochistan.

The Vice Chancellor said that hundreds of students from Balochistan come to study in Islamia University Bahawalpur. During university education, they are well hosted and special scholarships and bursaries are arranged for them. For this purpose, the special support of Governor Secretariat Lahore, Government of Punjab and Balochistan Education Endowment Fund, Government of Balochistan is also included.

More than 1200 teachers are engaged in teaching in more than 300 disciplines of 16 faculties. He further said that the university is also an example in research activities and projects like cotton, corn and soybean intercropping reflect the aspirations and priorities of the country. The members visited Abbasia Campus, Ghulam Muhammad Ghotvi Hall, Hakra Art Gallery, Solar Park, Central Library and Main Auditorium.

HFP begins food distribution in flood-hit areas

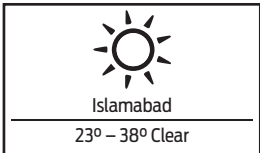
Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Hamdard Foundation Pakistan (HFP) on Friday announced it has begun food distributions to thousands of people affected by monsoon floods in Sindh and other provinces, adding that it plans to expand assistance to the other parts of the country during the month of September.



Thousands of affected families in Karachi, Mathli, Thar District, Madinat al-Hikmah and its surroundings, Pasheen, Quetta, and its nearby villages and towns, and the Hyderabad district have received food ration bags, consisting of a large blanket, necessary medicinal kit, and dietary staples such as wheat flour, pulses, rice, vegetable oil, and a large tea pack, biscuits and specialized ready-to-use supplementary food, as well as powder milk for children. The ration bag is sufficient for a family of six for 15 days.

With road access limited due to the flood waters in some areas of Balochistan, thousands of flood-relief bags have been shipped via helicopter with the assistance of Senator Samina Mumtaz Zahri to reach some of the worst-affected communities, especially in Lasbela.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:16 am
Zohr	12:08 pm
Asr	4:43 pm
Maghrib	6:32 pm
Isha	7:58 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Canadian HC hosts panel discussion on advancing gender equality

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The High Commission of Canada hosted a panel discussion on Advancing Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls at the High Commissioner's Official Residence.

The all-female panel of experts comprised Roshaneh Zafar, Founder, Kashf Foundation; Rabiya Javeri Agha, Chairperson, National Commission for Human Rights; Zeba Sathar, Country Director, Population Council Pakistan; and Nighat Siddique, Additional Director General, Gender Affairs, Election Commission of Pakistan. Hina Jilani, Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, also delivered keynote remarks.

Addressing an audience composed of civil society representatives, Canada's development partners in Pakistan, and members of the diplomatic community, the panellists addressed key crosscutting issues including women's economic empowerment, violence against women and access to justice, health and family planning, and women's political participation.

Pakistan, Australia enjoy excellent ties: Shazia Marri

Says BISP rolled out its operations in flood-affected areas within no time

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins called on Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri at Benazir Income Support Program Headquarters, Islamabad.

Federal Minister, Shazia Marri expressed her gratitude on behalf of the Government as well as people of Pakistan for the announcement of 2 million USD humanitarian assistance by the Government of Australia for the flood affected areas in Pakistan. Keeping in view the current devastating situation, Pakistan needs help from global community, she added.

Benazir Income Support Program rolled out its operations in the flood affected areas within no time and presently the flood relief activities are operational in 69 districts by establishing more than 400 payment sites, Federal Minister Shazia Marri said.

Shazia Marri congratulated the Neil Hawkins for his appointment as the



Australian High Commissioner for Pakistan. I am confident that the bilateral relations between the two countries will further be strengthened during your tenure, she said.

Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Australia which is rooted in commonality of interests, close people to people contacts and shared passion for cricket and there is enormous scope for enhancement of mutually beneficial economic, trade and investment opportunities, she added.

Shazia Marri appreciated Australian's support during the recent Plenary Meeting of FATF held in Berlin in June 2022.

As Pakistan offers a large pool of highly skilled human resource, therefore, Pakistan would like to develop a comprehensive partnership with Australia in economic, trade, education and defense, agriculture, climate and science and technology.

Preparations

ISLAMABAD: A view of banner installed on a bridge in Federal Capital, ahead of upcoming Defence Day.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Malaysian High Commission organises flag raising ceremony

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of 65th National Day of Malaysia, the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad led by Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh organised a flag raising ceremony.

It was attended by all Home Based Staff of the High Commission and Malaysian citizens residing in Islamabad. The ceremony began with the singing of Malaysian national anthem 'Negaraku' and the raising of Jalur Gemilang—the name given to the Malaysian flag followed by the recitation of Rukun Negara by Immigration Attaché Mr Sharmariz bin Rustam. First Secretary Mr Nor Hazwan bin Mohd Hish-



am then led the recitation of the doa.

In his speech, Acting High Commissioner Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh remarked that the bilateral relations

between Malaysia and Pakistan have been established since the first moment of our independence in 1957. The former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy

was among the distinguished guests who were present during the Proclamation of Independence at the Merdeka Stadium on 31 August 1957.

A member of the Reid Commission who drafted the Malaysian Constitution is Justice Abdul Hamid, who was then the Judge of the High Court of Pakistan. Pakistan is also one of the earliest countries to recognize our independence. This strong relationship will continue to remain close and brotherly as we will always need each other at all times.

The simple but meaningful ceremony concluded with all guests joining the singing of patriotic song 'Warisan' led by Third Secretary Mr Nor Azuan bin Haji Ayub.

COMSTECH and CILSS enter into MoU to enhance cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation signed between OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

The purpose of the MoU is to define the framework as well as the modalities of scientific and technological cooperation between CILSS and COMSTECH in areas of mutual interest, with particular focus on food and nutritional security, natural resource and water management, population, gender, climate change, and conservation and restoration of ecosystems.

Both organizations will cooperate to implement joint programs of scientific and technical nature to promote and strengthen cooperation to provide a platform for collaborative activities



in the fields of mutual interest and encourage mobility and cooperation. It will include sharing experiences and best practices, development of methodologies, and mobility of experts.

The cooperation between the both

organizations includes combating desertification and mitigating the effects of climate change against land degradation and improvement of land productivity, preventive management of the impact of climate change and

natural disasters. Both organizations will cooperate on water management, population development, capacity building on data management, artificial intelligence and machine learning, food and nutrition security, and resilient capacity building to combat poverty.

Cooperative activities between the organizations may include joint organization of events such as sessions, side events, seminars, research activities, and exchange of information, conducting prospective studies on topics of common interest, capacity building and support for the implementation of environmental programs, and joint mobilization of resources for the implementation of projects and programs at the regional level.

The MoU was signed by the Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, and the Executive Secretary CILSS, Dr. Abdoulaye Mohamadolt.

Health Corner

Genes can affect our nutrient tolerance

ISLAMABAD: Carbohydrates, proteins and fats are essential nutrients to all animals. Yet dietary variation between species, populations and individuals can vary dramatically.

In an international collaborative study, researchers from Australia, Denmark and Finland investigated how individuals of a same population differ in their ability to survive on various diets.

The researchers utilised a genetic reference panel consisting of roughly 200 closely related fruit fly strains (*Drosophila melanogaster*). The flies were fed six different diets containing high concentrations respectively of protein, sugar, starch, coconut oil or lard, or a combination of sugar and lard. The strains used in the study have had their genomes fully mapped, which made it possible to link the differences seen in the experiments to specific genetic variation.

The study found that small genetic differences affected the flies' ability to use the energy of various nutrients.

"Unexpectedly we found that the fruit fly strains differed considerably, for example, in their ability to survive on a high-sugar diet. What makes this particularly surprising is the fact that the food consumed by fruit flies in nature contains a lot of sugars," says Essi Havula, now a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Helsinki and the lead author of the study.

"The genes that regulate metabolism have been conserved well in evolution, which is why we can learn a lot about human metabolism through studies carried out with fruit flies," Havula adds.

In genetic analyses, the researchers identified a number of genes that contributed to the ability of flies to tolerate sugar. Most of these genes are found also in humans and have been suggested in previous genome-wide association studies to play a role in obesity and type 2 diabetes.

"Fly studies enable fast and cost-effective functional studies to investigate the genes in depth. Among other things, we demonstrated that the tailless gene (TLX), previously investigated primarily from the perspective of the function and development of the nervous system, is necessary for the normal function of sugar metabolism in flies," Havula says.

In addition, the researchers demonstrated that the JNK pathway, one of the most important stress-signalling pathways, regulated sugar metabolism and storage-fat synthesis in the case of high-sugar diets in the study.

"It appears that dietary sugar causes stress to the cells, giving the JNK pathway an important role in how effectively flies tolerate and process sugar," Havula says.

According to the researchers, most of the findings can be applied to humans as well, even though further research is still needed. Havula points out that the study provides concrete evidence on how the same dietary recommendations do not necessarily suit everyone.

"Research-based knowledge increasingly shows how metabolic responses to diets differ between animal populations and individuals. Traditional dietary recommendations are not necessarily suited to everyone, which explains the continued lack of consensus on a 'healthy diet'."

One option is to develop nutrition in a more personalised direction with the help of nutrigenomics.

"Hopefully, in the future type 2 diabetes and many other metabolic diseases can be treated with nutritional planning based on knowledge of individual genomes. This would be considerably less expensive than drug therapies as well as better for the health of individuals in the long run," says Havula.

The potential of nutrigenomics is not limited to the treatment of traditional metabolic diseases. Science Daily



ISLAMABAD: Paulo Neves Pocinho, Ambassador of Portugal in Pakistan called on Grand Mufti Of Islamabad Dr. Mufti Akeel-ur-Rehman Pirzada, President Dar Al-Ifta Islamabad & Chairman Ulama Peace Committee Pakistan. He remained with them for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest.

ICCI sets up Flood Relief Camp to collect donations



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has set up a Flood Relief Camp to collect donations in cash and kind from the members of the business community that would be delivered to the flood affectees. ICCI has opened a new bank Account No. PK86ALFH0403001004080135 in Bank Al Falah, G-8 Branch, Islamabad in which the members of business community can deposit their cash donations for the flood affectees. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Tariq Sadiq, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Baser Daud, Sheikh Amir Waheed former Presidents, Ejaz Mussarat Khan Chairman Federation of Realtors Association, Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Akhtar Hussain, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Hafiz Bilal Munir, Ch. Ashraf Farzand, Khalid Mehmood and others were present at the occasion. The participants announced cash donations for the flood affectees and assured that they would continue to cooperate with ICCI Flood Relief Camp.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that it is a noble cause to provide maximum relief to the flood affectees and everyone fully support such efforts. He said that a Committee has been constituted under the supervision of Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI to form teams that would identify the areas in cooperation with organizations already working in the field and would go to the identified areas to deliver the relief goods in person to the deserving persons in a transparent manner. He said that the recent flash floods have caused massive destruction in Pakistan as according to official data 110 districts in the country have been badly affected. He said that around 1200 people have lost their lives in floods, 45 percent of the cropland area of the country has been washed away and the country has suffered an economic loss of around USD 10 billion as per early estimates, which showed the devastating impact of these flash floods. He appealed to the business community to come forward and extend maximum support in cash and kind to ICCI Flood Relief Camp so that relief could be provided to the flood affectees.

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Preventing future food security crises in Arab world

Turki Faisal Al-Rasheed

History repeats itself and, after more than a decade, food security is again at the top of the agenda of governments worldwide, calling to mind the food crisis of 2007-08. Agriculture, food systems and supply chains are facing multiple challenges: The COVID-19 pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, natural calamities caused by climate change, supply chain disruption and inflation have all exacerbated global food insecurity.

Many countries have been affected by the current food security crisis, and the increase in food prices threatens to destabilize political and social order. A good example of this is the collapse of the Sri Lankan government.

Potato production reached nearly 403,000 tons, making the Kingdom 92 percent self-sufficient in this sector. Fruit and citrus production stood at 650,000 tons, a 35 percent rate of self-sufficiency; this marked a

significant increase compared to 2016, when production reached 266,000 tons (a 15 percent rate of self-sufficiency), according to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture.

Saudi Arabia achieved a high rate of table egg production in 2019, with a production level of 315,000 tons and a self-sufficiency level of 116 percent, compared with 102 percent in 2016. The production of fresh milk and its derivatives stood at 2.4 million tons, achieving a self-sufficiency rate of 109 percent.

The most recent government food security initiative is its program to support the poultry industry in order to boost the self-sufficiency rate for poultry meat to 80 percent by 2025. The Kingdom's rate of self-sufficiency in poultry meat production has already jumped from 45 percent in 2016 to 68 percent in 2022. A government investment of SR17 billion (\$4.52 billion) between now and 2025 is intended to achieve a production capacity estimated at 1.3 million tons of broiler chickens annually. This will support national food security and provide jobs.

The war between Russia and Ukraine has affected many

countries, including Saudi Arabia. World food prices are increasing, but Saudi Arabia's reserves of strategic food crops are enabling it to weather the associated threat to food security.

Food security is of critical importance for any country and is vital for its sustainable development. Currently, the majority of the world's wheat is produced in only a few countries, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

China, the world's largest wheat producer, has begun to allocate more of the wheat it produces to domestic consumption to help meet its rising food demand. China is the world's largest consumer of wheat — in 2020/2021, the country accounted for approximately 19 percent of global wheat consumption.

The second-largest wheat producer is India. Like China, India allocates most of its wheat to domestic consumption because of significant food demand across the country.

Russia, the world's third-largest wheat producer, is also the largest global exporter of wheat. It exported more than \$7.3 billion-worth of wheat in 2021, accounting for about

13.1 percent of total wheat exports that year. Ukraine is the 10th-largest exporter of wheat.

The agreement between Russia and Ukraine to resume the export of grain despite the war between the two parties — under the auspices and guarantees of the UN and Turkey — represents a lifeline for many countries, including Arab nations, and for millions of poor people around the world. This is a crucial element in ending the current global food crisis: Russia and Ukraine currently form the backbone of the global systems for the production of grains, oils and fertilizers. It is sufficient to know that the agreement enables Ukraine to export 22 million tons of grain and other necessary agricultural products that were previously stuck in its Black Sea ports due to the war.

Proving the importance of this agreement are Europe's statements welcoming it, despite Russia's apparent hostility to Russia, its supply of weapons to the Ukrainians and even its demand for the agreement to be implemented faster.

What preoccupies Arabs now, with optimism increasing that the food security crisis is easing, is the importance of learning

lessons from this crisis and the need to ensure Arab food security in the future.

I suggest the formation of an Arab committee of senior specialists officially charged with studying food supply factors and taking steps that would ensure Arab food security, especially in times of crisis. Everyone involved must realize that there is no Arab food security without the cooperation of all stakeholders.

A further recommendation is to invest in publicly listed companies (headquartered in the host countries) that own freehold agricultural land. The purchase of shares in Egypt's Misr Fertilizers Production Company by the Saudi Public Investment Fund is a good example of an investment that provides a win-win situation for the host country and the investing country.

Turki Faisal Al-Rasheed is adjunct professor at the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, part of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at the University of Arizona. He is the author of "Agricultural Development Strategies: The Saudi Experience."

Courtesy: Arab News

Country's Economic Situation

Finance Minister Miftah Ismail said that the national economy is moving in the right direction due to prudent policies of the government. In his remarks, Miftah said revival of the IMF programme was top most priority of the government after taking reins of power. The scope of tax net is being increased and business class is being brought under tax net. He said that the government by adopting prudent policies has saved the country from default. The Finance Minister said that flood-affected people will not be left alone in this testing time and they will be compensated by utilizing all available resources, even diverting PSDP funds for their rehabilitation.

It is worth mentioning here that flash floods have caused devastation on a large scale in the country. An amount of 28 billion rupees has been disbursed through Benazir Income Support Programme in order to provide relief to the affected people. Initially an amount of 25 thousand rupees is being transferred to affected families so that they can meet ration needs.

After IMF package, economy is moving in right direction due to prudent economic policies of the present government. The government inherited a weaker economy and had to take difficult decisions to improve the situation. Pakistan has to mobilize its industry to flourish its economy and ensure that we are able to meet our domestic and international financial obligations. We also need to work on our import policies and heavy duties should be levied on luxury items to discourage their use. Pakistan is now facing devastating floods which will impact the economy as human lives, properties, crops and livestock have suffered huge damages. The incumbent government and stakeholders are working ceaselessly to provide as much relief to the affected people as possible.

In this regard, the agreement signed between the government and the IMF is adequate and they have also promised additional aid. The country's economy is going in the right direction. There are several ways in which the aid could be used, but it is different because this amount will be used as foreign exchange reserve. The investment of around \$12 billion from friendly countries will help boost the economic situation of the country and will help in generating employment in different sectors.

The government now has to devise new policies to attract more foreign direct investment into the country. The revenue coming in should be capitalized for the betterment of the people.



Access to monkeypox vaccines in Africa: A sense of déjà vu?

Sharmila Shetty

The current multi-country monkeypox outbreak, which started in Europe in early May 2022 and spread to more than 90 countries by August, has garnered worldwide attention and concern. Monkeypox is endemic to Africa, and the widespread transmission to so many non-endemic countries in such a short time is unprecedented.

In response to this, on July 23, 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared monkeypox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The declaration should allow for more resources to be made available to control the outbreak and require a more coordinated international response, including encouraging nations to share vaccines to protect people against the disease.

However, will we learn the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, another PHEIC, and address the vast inequities in global vaccine distribution that left much of the Global South waiting for COVID-19 vaccines? Or will there be a terrible sense of déjà vu with people in endemic African countries left at the back of the queue once more?

While most people in the world had never heard of monkeypox until a few months ago, Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) has experience treating people with this neglected disease in our projects, most recently in the Central African Republic in 2018. So, while it's not a new disease for MSF medical teams, the current scramble to get vaccines for monkeypox is

Before this outbreak, wealthy nations had committed to share 31 million doses of vaccine if requested by the WHO as part of the Smallpox Vaccine Emergency Stockpile in a time of international need; the status of this agreement and what is happening with those doses are unclear. The WHO has said it is developing a vaccine-sharing mechanism, but details have been sparse, and as of the time of writing, no countries have yet shared any doses.

Despite the existence of these stockpiles, the recent issues with COVID-19 vaccine access in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) provide some valuable lessons. Meanwhile, the COVAX Facility, a mechanism set up to provide an equitable allocation of limited vaccines to all countries, including LMICs, was put at the back of the line. This resulted in HICs purchasing excessive amounts of COVID-19 vaccines, such that many were able to fully vaccinate and boost much of their populations before governments in LMICs could vaccinate even their high-risk populations. We are already seeing HICs putting in large orders for the MVA-BN vaccine.

We must not let this situation be repeated with monkeypox.

What's needed now is an affordable supply of vaccines to be made available to endemic African countries if and when they need them. While pricing information is hard to come by, according to some senior health officials, the MVA-BN monkeypox vaccine is priced at \$100 a dose, which is unaffordable for people in LMICs and would make them (once again) dependent upon vaccine donations from HICs. However, lower prices are not guaranteed: Even though the U.S.

government heavily funded the development of the vaccine to the tune of \$2 billion, control over the cost and availability of this vaccine remains with the company, Bavarian Nordic, which holds a patent monopoly on the vaccine.

This dependence on a single manufacturer for the vaccine is already proving potentially disastrous. Bavarian Nordic has recently stated that they are uncertain they can meet the current demand and are now considering a technology transfer to a U.S. manufacturer.

But what is really needed to address equity is technology transfer to a company on the African continent so that African nations do not have to depend solely on donations from HICs. South Africa's Aspen Pharmacare has offered to support the fill and finish of monkeypox vaccines. However, receiving a full technology transfer could further enable African self-sufficiency over the longer term. Additionally, endemic countries will also need programmatic support to administer the vaccines while not drawing resources away from already strained health-care systems.

With the current manufacturing monopoly and dependence on vaccine dose donations, we cannot expect people in West and Central Africa to get equitable access to vaccines. As COVID-19 recedes and the numbers of monkeypox cases potentially rise, the sense of déjà vu will become ever more pronounced. Without action now, the gap between people who have access to vaccines, and those who do not, will widen once more.

Dr. Sharmila Shetty is vaccines medical advisor with MSF Access Campaign. Courtesy: China.org.cn

Time to readjust global supply chains

Jong Woo Kang

Trade conflicts, the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions have all had an impact on the global supply chains, necessitating a rethink on how these crucial production links are established and how they can be made more resilient.

One key lesson of the pandemic and subsequent supply and demand mismatches is that global supply chains are fragile. They have been struggling amid uneven economic recovery and trade conflicts between global heavyweights, and face geopolitical risks that are critically weighing on food and energy supplies.

Businesses, particularly those in manufacturing, are finding it difficult to source inputs and engage in seamless, multistep logistics and delivery management systems across borders. At the national level, this has resulted in shortages in key medical products and equipment during the pandemic, shipping and transportation costs going through the roof, and security concerns over the heavy reliance of critical goods and commodities from countries that could turn less supportive or even antagonistic in a volatile geopolitical environment.

As such, the time is right to rejigger global supply chains. According to one school of thought, there is a need to diversify those far away from places prone to disruptions due to economic, health, climate change and geopolitical issues. The other is to bring the production capacity back to the home country ("onshoring") or to countries nearby ("nearshoring"). The benefits of diversification transcend sheer cost minimization. They also involve gains from risk mitigation and securing back-up sourcing plans in case of a threat to existing supply chain security.

Second, reshoring strategy ought not to solely target outsourced production capacities of domestic companies. Attracting foreign investment could also be a part of the strategy to cope with short-term domestic

constraints in human and physical capital mobilization. Domestically incorporated foreign invested enterprises will make no less contribution to expanding production capacity and job creation than local companies, let alone the expected technology spillovers.

Third, diversification motives should not be based solely on cost efficiency. Instead, they should consider risk management perspectives. For this, the offshoring of production to multiple sites with lower correlation of various supply chain disruption risks will help. This also corroborates the rationale that free trade agreements should be explored not only with geographical neighbors but with trade partners further afield, too, to expand the scope for such opportunities.

And fourth, while government incentives to rejigger supply chains could be effective in jumpstarting businesses' motivation to reshore or diversify, this may not ensure the long-term sustainability of such approaches, given that subsidies tend to ameliorate fixed costs, not operational costs, for investment or tax payment.

Incentives for export competitiveness could also have some implications on compliance with World Trade Organization rules and stoke retaliatory reactions from trading partners. So the success of such strategies will hinge on how well an eco-system can be nurtured to facilitate a virtuous cycle of outputs from newly expanded production or sourcing capacity being linked to robust demand base domestically and abroad.

Legitimate economic rationale and political motives for rejiggering global supply chains may not always ensure its success unless pursued with strategic thinking and practical implementation plans, which also need to be well aligned with business incentives. Rhetoric is one thing, but implementation is another. Only those that can wisely strategize its implementation will be able to reap the benefits.

The author is principal economist at Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, Asian Development Bank. Courtesy: China Daily

Russia launches war games with China amid tensions with US

Drills showcase increasing defense ties between Moscow and Beijing

MOSCOW: Russia has launched week-long war games involving forces from China and other nations in a show of growing defense cooperation between Moscow and Beijing, as they both face tensions with the United States.

The maneuvers are also intended to demonstrate that Moscow has sufficient military might for massive drills even as its troops are engaged in military action in Ukraine.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that the Vostok 2022 (East 2022) exercise will be held until Sept. 7 at seven firing ranges in Russia's Far East and the Sea of Japan and involve more than 50,000 troops and over 5,000 weapons units, including 140 aircraft and 60 warships.

Russian General Staff chief, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, will personally oversee the drills involving troops from several ex-Soviet nations, China, India, Laos, Mongolia, Nicaragua and Syria.

The Defense Ministry noted that as part of the maneuvers, the Russian and Chinese navies in the Sea of Japan will "practice joint action to protect sea communications, areas of marine



economic activity and support for ground troops in littoral areas."

China's Global Times newspaper noted that the maneuvers marked the first time that China has sent forces from three branches of its military to take part in a single Russian drill, in what it described as a show of the breadth and depth of China-Russia

military cooperation and mutual trust.

The drills showcase increasing defense ties between Moscow and Beijing, which have grown stronger since Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24. China has pointedly refused to criticize Russia's actions, blaming the U.S. and NATO for provoking Moscow, and

has blasted the punishing sanctions imposed on Moscow.

Russia, in turn, has strongly backed China amid the tensions with the U.S. that followed a recent visit to Taiwan by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Putin has drawn parallels between U.S. support for Ukraine and Pelosi's trip, describing them both as part of alleged efforts by Washington to foment global instability. Alexander Gabuyev, a political analyst who closely follows Russia-China ties, noted that "it's very important for Beijing to show to the U.S. that it has levers to pressure America and its global interests."

"The joint maneuvers with Moscow, including the naval drills, are intended to signal that if the pressure on Beijing continues it will have no other choice but to strengthen the military partnership with Russia," Gabuyev said. "It will have a direct impact on the interests of the U.S. and its allies, including Japan." He noted that the Kremlin, for its part, wants to show that the country's military is powerful enough to flex its muscle elsewhere despite the campaign in Ukraine.

Pakistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences joins South and Southeast Asia Mango Network

KUNMING: Recently, at the first annual meeting of the South and Southeast Asia Mango Network, Pakistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences officially joined the South and Southeast Asia Mango Network. Now, the total number of members of the South and Southeast Asia Mango Network has reached 20.

From August 27th to 28th, the first annual meeting of the South and Southeast Asia Mango Network held in Huaping county China. More than 70 people from 11 national research institutes, universities and one international organization attended the meeting.

During this meeting, Pakistan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Malaysia Institute of Agricultural Research and Development, Nepal Madesh University of Agri-



culture and Guangxi University joined Mango Network as new members.

The South Asia and Southeast Asia Mango Collaboration Network was established in 2021, and has been joined by China, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Iran and other countries and members of the Agricultural Center of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Since its establishment,

the network has achieved remarkable results, promoting the exchange and understanding among mango researchers from different countries, strengthening the exchange of scientific and technological achievements and personnel, and jointly promoting the healthy development of the mango industry.

Mango is the world's second largest tropical fruit, mango has become

an important cash crop in China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other countries.

The Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences has been working closely with its Pakistani counterparts. Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council signed the first strategic cooperation agreement in 2014 to cooperate in food crops, cash crops, horticultural crops and plant protection.

In June, Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Pakistan Embassy in China (on behalf of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council) signed a new round of strategic cooperation agreement between Yunnan Academy of Agricultural Sciences and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council online.

Repression of human rights by India in IIOJK increased in last 3 years: AI

ISLAMABAD: World rights watchdog, Amnesty International, has said that Narendra Modi-led Indian government intensified the repression of human rights in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years since it revoked the special status of the territory on August 05, 2019.

The Amnesty International released, today (Friday), a new briefing titled 'We are being punished by the law': Three years since abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu Kashmir. The briefing documents "how civil society at large and journalists, lawyers, human rights defenders in particular have faced relentless interrogations, arbitrary travel bans, revolving door detentions and repressive media policies while blocking access to appeals or justice in courts and human rights bodies."

The Amnesty International in the briefing said that journalists, lawyers and human rights defenders in IIOJK were facing increasingly harsh and repressive measures of the Indian government.

Fighting goes on near Ukraine nuclear plant; IAEA on site

ZAPORIZHZHIA: Heavy fighting continued Friday near Europe's largest nuclear power plant in a Russian-controlled area of eastern Ukraine, a day after experts from the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog agency voiced concerns about structural damage to the sprawling Zaporizhzhia site.

Britain's Defense Ministry says shelling continued in the district where the Zaporizhzhia power plant sits. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said Russian shelling damaged houses, gas pipelines and other infrastructure in the Nikopol region on the other bank of the Dnie-

per River, part of fighting in several areas of eastern and southern Ukraine overnight.

The team of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency, braving gunfire and artillery blasts along their route, crossed the frontlines to reach the Zaporizhzhia plant on Thursday in a mission to help safeguard the plant against catastrophe. Fighting Thursday prompted the shutdown of one reactor — underscoring the urgency of their task.

Russia and Ukraine traded accusations that the other side was trying to impede the work of the IAEA experts,

or control the message.

Zelenskyy, in his nightly address on Thursday, had tough words for the IAEA delegation. While applauding its arrival at the plant, he said independent journalists were kept from covering the visit, allowing Russians to present a one-sided, "futile tour."

In a conference call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow considered "positively" the arrival of the mission, "despite all problems and difficulties caused by the Ukrainian side's provocative actions."

The 14-member delegation arrived in a convoy of SUVs and vans after

months of negotiations to enable the experts to pass through the front lines. Speaking to reporters after leaving colleagues inside, IAEA director Rafael Grossi, said the agency was "not moving" from the plant from now on, and vowed Thursday a "continued presence" of agency experts.

Grossi said it was "obvious that the plant and the physical integrity of the plant has been violated several times" — but couldn't assess whether by chance or on purpose. "I will continue to be worried about the plant until we have a situation which is more stable," he said.

G7 to implement Russian oil price cap 'urgently'

BERLIN: G7 industrialized powers on Friday said they would "urgently" move toward the implementation of a price cap on Russian oil imports, in order to stop Moscow from raking in huge profits from soaring energy prices.

Finance ministers from the Group of Seven advanced nations said in a statement they would "urgently work on the finalization and implementation" of the measure, without specifying the cap level.

"Russia is benefitting economically from the uncertainty on energy markets caused by the war and is making big profits from the export of oil and we want to counter that decisively," German Finance Minister Christian Lindner said in a press conference. G7 countries wanted to "limit Russia's revenues and reduce the economic damage for our societies," Lindner said.

The aim of the price cap on oil exports was to "stop an important source of financing for the war of aggression and contain the rise in global energy prices," he added. The G7 sought to form a "broad coalition" of support for the oil price cap to "maximize" the effectiveness of the measure, finance ministers said.

The initial price cap would be set "at a level based on a range of technical inputs" they said, adding that its effectiveness would be "closely monitored." G7 leaders agreed in late June to work toward implementing the ceiling on crude sales, to exhaust Moscow's war chest and bring down global energy prices.

A G7 official in July explained that the maximum price would remain above the cost of the production, so it would not make economic sense for Moscow to deny oil to importing countries. The push to get as many countries as possible to agree to the cap is expected to be a key topic for discussion by leaders at the G20 summit in Bali on November 15 and 16.

Myanmar court convicts Aung San Suu Kyi of vote fraud

BANGKOK: A court in Myanmar on Friday sentenced ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to three years' imprisonment with labor after finding her guilty of election fraud, adding more jail time to the 17 years she is already serving for other offenses prosecuted by the military government.

The latest verdict also carries potentially significant political consequences for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party by lending support to the government's explicit threats to dissolve it before a new election the military has promised for 2023.

Suu Kyi's party won the 2020 general election in a landslide victory, but the army seized power the following February and kept her from a second five-year term in office. The army contends it acted because of alleged widespread fraud in the polls though independent election observers did not find any major irregularities.

Some critics of Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, who led the takeover and is now Myanmar's top leader, believe he acted because the vote thwarted his own political ambitions.

The military's seizure of power prompted widespread peaceful protests that were quashed with lethal force, triggering armed resistance that some UN experts now characterize as civil war.

Suu Kyi had already been sentenced to 17 years in prison on charges of illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies, violating coronavirus restrictions, sedition and five counts of corruption. Many top members of her party and government also have been jailed, while others are in hiding or have fled abroad.

Argentine vice president escapes assassination attempt

BUENOS AIRES: A man was detained Thursday night after he aimed a handgun at point-blank range toward Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández in what President Alberto Fernández called a homicide attempt.

"A man pointed a firearm at her head and pulled the trigger," the president said in a national broadcast. He said the gun didn't fire.

The president shortly after video from the scene broadcast on local television channels showed Fernández exiting her vehicle surrounded by supporters outside her home when a man could be seen extending his hand with what looked like a pistol. The vice president ducked.

The man, who had not been identified, was detained seconds into the incident.

Supporters surrounding the person appear shocked at what is happening amid the commotion in the Recoleta neighborhood of Argentina's capital.

"A person who was identified by those who were close to him who had a gun was detained by (the vice president's) security personnel," Security Minister Anibal Fernández told local cable news channel C5N.

Biden to host Pacific Island summit

WASHINGTON: The White House announced Friday that President Joe Biden will host Pacific Island leaders in Washington later this month amid growing worries by the United States and Western allies about China's activity in the region.

Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement the meetings Sept. 28-29 "will demonstrate the United States' deep and enduring partnership with Pacific Island countries and the Pacific region."

Biden has invited Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Nauru, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga, and Fiji to take part in the summit, according to the White House.

The announcement comes days after the Solomon Islands earlier this week asked countries to not send naval vessels to the South Pacific nation until approval processes are overhauled, amid concerns over a new security pact between the Solomons and China.

Independence Day will always be greatest holiday for us: Shavkat Mirziyoyev

Spokesman Report

TASHKENT: A festive event on the occasion of the 31st Anniversary of the Independence of Uzbekistan took place in Yangi O'zbekiston (New Uzbekistan) Park.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev took part in the celebrations and congratulated Uzbekistan people on this great day.

"Thirty-one years ago, a new sovereign state appeared on the world map — the Republic of Uzbekistan. Under the leadership of the First President of Uzbekistan, respected Islam Karimov, we declared our national independence to the whole world. Years and centuries will pass, but Independence Day, which returned our national statehood and national pride, our rights and freedoms, which became a solid foundation for all our successes and achievements, will always be the greatest and dearest holiday for us and future generations", Shavkat

Mirziyoyev said.

This holiday is very dear to our people. Independence was achieved at the cost of many hardships and trials, tempered over the years in hard and patient work. Today in Uzbekistan people have become the highest value. The main requirement became the principle that "the people must not serve the Government bodies, rather the Government bodies must serve the people".

Despite the negative consequences of the pandemic and the global crisis, Uzbekistan is boldly moving forward along the path of building a free and prosperous life. Industries and regions, the social sphere are developing.

The focus is on the preservation of the continuity of traditions and values between generations, care for the elders. All conditions are being created so that young people and women could study, acquire a profession, and develop their abilities. All of us are overwhelmed with pride for our national team, which at the recent World Chess

Olympiad in India was awarded the high title of champion for the first time in history.

The authority of Uzbekistan in the international arena is also growing. Huge economic and social projects are being implemented in cooperation with foreign countries and organizations.

The Head of the state also welcomed the ambassadors of foreign countries and representatives of international organizations who took part in the ceremony.

Today, Uzbekistan is moving from a period of national revival to a period of national prosperity. The Development Strategy until 2026 is being implemented.

In his congratulatory speech, the President outlined his vision of what the New Uzbekistan should be like:

"The New Uzbekistan is a state that opens up to every citizen, to further improve his life, wide access to public services, providing all the conditions for people

to speak openly about their problems and solve them together, creating opportunities for ensuring justice, equality before the law of all citizens, regardless of their social status, which creates the necessary conditions for the development of entrepreneurship".

Analyzing the transformations taking place in the country, we can conclude that these aspects are indeed embodied in our lives. In his speech, the Head of the state outlined the following five main areas.

First, the creation of the most favorable conditions in education. For this, school curricula, teaching methods, the content of textbooks will be radically revised, schools will be built, and the stimulation of the hard work of teachers and mentors will be continued.

Second, strengthening the independence of the judiciary. Any interference in the work of judges will be severely punished, and all necessary conditions will be created for their unhindered work.



Third, the development of entrepreneurship. To do this, all barriers to private property and entrepreneurship will be removed. Public administration will be reformed, and the participation of the state in the economy will be sharply reduced.

Fourth, the population's access to qualified medical services will be expanded. In all regions, coverage of emergency medical care will be increased and brought closer to the population.

Fifth, improving the provision

of drinking water. The volume of investments in this sphere will be significantly increased. Programs will be implemented to supply clean drinking water to problematic regions and improve its quality.

Confidence was expressed that, with the support of our courageous and hardworking people, these tasks will be effectively implemented, and that the updated Constitution will become a solid legal basis on this path.

"Today we set ourselves big and

important goals in all spheres", the President said. — Our multinational people, having united even more strongly, as a single family, are confidently moving towards achieving high milestones. Indeed, this is the key to all our achievements.

The Head of the state expressed deep respect for our people, who support the reforms and selflessly implement them, and expressed his best wishes.

"Once again, I congratulate you, dear compatriots, on the 31st Anniversary of Independence of our dear Uzbekistan. I wish you all health, well-being and prosperity to your families. May all our good dreams and hopes come true! May peace and tranquility always reign in our country. May our people be happy! May our Independence be eternal!" the President finished his speech.

The event continued with a festive concert program, which was broadcast on television throughout the country and gave compatriots a festive mood.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
42,309.11	42,460.08
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,568.66	42,238.22
Index Value	Change
3,729,149,884	- 150.97
Percentage	Time
- 0.36%	2 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,281.19	+ 132.69
Percentage	Time
+ 1.86%	2 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
31,925.91	+ 269.47
Percentage	Time
+ 0.85%	2 Sept, 12:17 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,650.84	- 10.63
Percentage	Time
- 0.038%	2 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	148.4	149.65
Bahrain Dinar	582.58	587.08
Canadian Dollar	166.4	167.75
China Yuan	31.72	31.97
Danish Krone	29.29	29.64
Euro	218	220
Hong Kong Dollar	27.91	28.26
Indian Rupee	2.75	2.83
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.6
Kuwaiti Dinar	709.84	714.84
Malaysian Ringgit	48.93	49.38
New Zealand \$	132.83	134.03
Norwegians Krone	21.78	22.08
Omani Riyal	569.26	573.26
Qatari Riyal	60.18	60.68
Saudi Riyal	58.25	58.9
Singapore Dollar	156.18	157.48
Swedish Korona	20.27	20.57
Swiss Franc	222.64	224.39
Thai Bhat	6.09	6.19
U.A.E Dirham	60	61
UK Pound Sterling	252	256
US Dollar	221	223

Electricity Tariffs

Govt is incessantly forcing businesses to go on strike: FPCCI

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh says PM and Finance Minister need to immediately take action on the issue

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has categorically informed the government that the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan is contemplating to go on strike as the government is not listening to their profound concerns over the exorbitant, unbearable and unrecoverable raise in the electricity tariffs. He added that he is saying that on the basis of the feedback from 250 trade associations and chambers under the umbrella of FPCCI.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh said that Prime Minister and Finance Minister need to immediately take stock of the brewing frustration and impending bankruptcies – and, start the much needed consultative process with the business community. Else, there will be irreversible loss to the employment, revenue collection, exports and economic growth. FPCCI Chief reiterated his stance that there is no way the businesses can pay PKR. 55 – 60 / kWh or per unit of electricity; when accounted for all billing components, i.e. base tariff, sales tax, income tax, excise duty, fuel

adjustment charges (FAC) and fixed charges. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has demanded in strongest possible terms that full impact of the increase of PKR. 7.91 / kWh has taken effect as of September 1, 2022; and, now there is no justification left, whatsoever, to keep levying fuel adjustment charges and fixed charges on electricity bills. These should be reversed / waived immediately, he added. President FPCCI – the apex trade body of the country – has lamented the fact that he is under tremendous pressure from all trade bodies, associations, chambers and sectors

to negotiate with the government on their behalf. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that the business community is the most peaceful & law-abiding community of the country. They run the economy & the country through generating taxes, employment and economic growth; but, they are being incessantly forced to resort to agitation and strikes. This is the most unfortunate situation of my tenure as the President FPCCI and I request the government to listen to the collective concerns of the business community at the earliest, he added.

DG ASF for setting up Industrial Zone at M-9 Motorway

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Director General Airport Security Force (ASF) and Managing Director of ASF Foundation Major General Abid Latif Khan HI(M) has sought Karachi Chamber's input and assistance for setting up an Industrial Zone of international standards at M-9 Motorway on any available land adjacent to ASF City as the existing industrial areas of Karachi were fully chocked.



Chairman Businessmen Group Zubair Motiwala and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Muhammad Idrees presenting crest to Director General Airport Security Force (ASF) Major General Abid Latif Khan HI(M) during his visit to KCCI.

"As our future generation's next preferred destination for living is going to be M-9 Motorway where ASF City, DHA City and Bahria Town were rapidly developing, it is an ideal place for setting up an industrial zone and we can partner with KCCI to turn the proposed industrial zone into reality", he added while exchanging views during his visit to Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala, President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, Former President Majyd Aziz and KCCI Managing Committee Members were also present on the occasion.

DG ASF, who was on his first ever visit to a Chamber of Commerce, mentioned that ASF Foundation recently signed an important MoU with NUTECH University where-in ASF will provide 50 acres land to NUTECH at M-9 for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus. "The availability of proposed industrial zone near NUTECH Karachi Campus will prove favorable not only for the industries but also

for the economy by creating abundant employment opportunities for the trained youth coming out from NUTECH Karachi Campus." He also pointed out that there was a time when all the airports were facing security threats which was a big challenge but now the situation was much better and only airports in western areas were still under threat hence ASF adopts stringent security measures at these airports. "We

try our best to improve our services within the available budget but we are facing resource constraints that's why ASF was unable to provide ideal security environment as being provided at the airports abroad", he added. Chairman BMG Zubair Motiwala, while highly appreciating the measures adopted by ASF to ensure fool-proof security at the airports, said that the housing and commercial schemes undertaken by ASF Foundation were also a big contribution to the society as Karachi's population has been rising sharply and the city faces dire shortage of trustworthy housing schemes, therefore, KCCI strongly believes that ASF Foundation's projects have to be fully promoted and the Chamber was ready to extend full support and cooperation in this regard. Keeping in view the world's focus on Information Technology (IT) and Pakistan's improved IT-related exports from a mere US\$0.8 billion to US\$2.6 billion, Zubair Motiwala advised DG ASF to also look into the possibility of setting up an IT Training Institute at ASF City so that the

people looking forward to inhabiting either in ASF City, DHA City or any other nearby housing scheme could be provided IT Training at a state-of-the-art institution close to their homes. While warmly welcoming ASF Foundation's move to provide 50 acres land for establishing NUTECH University, he said that ASF Foundation has done a wonderful job by giving land for setting up the desperately needed NUTECH University which was undoubtedly a very big service to the province of Sindh and the people inhabiting in Karachi and Hyderabad. "The aim and vision for setting up NUTECH Karachi Campus in collaboration with KCCI is to improve the exports and make exports competitive. The target is to fetch more foreign exchange, enhance revenue, promote value-addition and import substitution, manufacture spare parts and machineries currently being imported in addition to carrying out extensive research to bring down the cost of production by making the industries energy-efficient.

Flood damage ten times more than IMF loan

Abolition of FAC up to 300 units is welcome, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the flood damage is ten times more than the IMF loan, but this time IMF is not ready to make any kind of concession. IMF is not in a mood to extend any help but it is determined to get its strict conditions imposed due to the trust deficit, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that adherence to the IMF conditions will be a challenge for the government, while the non-cooperation of the two provinces may increase the difficulties. Talking to the business



community, the veteran business leader said that despite difficulties, Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif has announced the abolition of fuel adjustment charges on those who consume up to 300 units of electricity per month, which is welcome. The government should also consider increasing the direct subsidy of Rs2,000 per month to Rs3,000 per month, he said. The business leader said

that there will be an enormous drop in demand because of floods, which will have the biggest impact on automakers, the tractor industry and steel manufacturers. The impact will also be felt gradually by the other sectors as well. Initially, the construction industry will suffer a lot, but with the start of reconstruction, this industry will start to recover. According to the IMF, Pakistan's growth rate is expected to be three and a half percent this year, while inflation is expected to remain at twenty percent. The flood has swept away over five thousand kilometres of roads, bridges, small dams and railway lines, the restoration of which is impossible without foreign investment in the current economic conditions, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that because of the destruction of the roads, companies are facing great difficulties in transporting their products from one place to another, which is affecting the overall situation. Agriculture is the first sector to be affected by the floods, after which big industries, general businesses and services will not be spared. Mian Zahid Hussain added that during the outbreak of the Coronavirus, developed countries and international institutions gave trillions of dollars in aid to large multinational companies, which increased the capital in the market resulting in inflation. The whole world is suffering for years due to inflation therefore, these institutions have become cautious.

Cigarettes manufacturers to pay advance excise duty, not farmers

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Newly imposed advance excise duty on tobacco purchase will not impact farmers but manufacturers and would dent the massive tax theft in the tobacco sector. Tax evaders are pressurizing the FBR through farmers for withdrawal of this major documentation measure and creating a false impression of farmers being taxed. Recently, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Farmers Rights Protection Association (KPFPA) has opposed the advance excise duty and wrongly associated it with farmers. Spokesperson of FBR clarifies that, "FED on un-manufactured Tobacco has been enhanced from Rs 10/per kg to Rs 390/per kg w.e.f 23.08.2022, through promulgation of Tax Laws (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2022, in

terms of S.No 7 of Table 1 of First Schedule to the Federal Excise Act 2005." He added that the FED is chargeable on unmanufactured Tobacco for manufacturers of cigarettes by the Green LEAF Threshing Units (GLT Units) after processing and conversion of tobacco green leaf as defined under sub-section (2A) of section 2 of the Federal Excise Act 2005. He said that the amount of FED is adjustable in terms of section 6 of the Federal Excise Act 2005, from the amount of duty collected. Therefore, the main purpose of imposition of FED on unmanufactured tobacco is the documentation dormant undocumented segments of Tobacco industry. Furthermore, he added that no FED is imposed or chargeable on raw tobacco leaf supplied by the tobacco growers/farmers to the GLT Units.

JS Global appointed Financial Advisor

For listing of eight IT/ITeS companies by Pakistan Software Export Board

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: JS Global has been appointed Financial Advisor for listing of eight IT/ITeS companies on GEM Board of PSX by Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB). Picture shows Mr. Farrukh Khan, MD PSX, Mr. Kamran Nasir, CEO JS Global and Mr. Talib Hussain Baloch, Project Director PSEB along with senior members of their respective teams. JS Global Capital Limited, one of Pakistan's leading equity brokerage and investment banking firms, has been appointed as Financial Advisor for listing of eight IT/ITeS companies on GEM Board of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX). JS Global was awarded the mandate by Pakistan Software Export Board (PSEB) which functions under the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT). PSEB aspires to list 40 IT/ITeS companies on the GEM Board as this will provide critical funding to technology companies and help them expand their businesses. The signing ceremony was held on August 26th, 2022, at JS Group's Head Office in Karachi. JS Global was represented by CEO Mr. Kamran Nasir and Mr. Imtiaz Gadar (Deputy CEO) while key officials from PSEB included Mr. Talib Hussain Baloch (Project Director) and Mr. Osman Nasir (Former MD PSEB) and senior management. The event was also graced by PSX management led by



CEO/MD Mr. Farrukh Khan. MD PSX, Mr. Farrukh Khan, stated, "It is commendable that PSEB has onboarded JS Global as Advisor. This development augurs well for IT/ITeS sector. For economic growth, it is important that the IT/ITeS sector grows and that can be possible with companies focused on IT exports enlisting on PSX. The MOU signed between PSX and PSEB in 2021 to facilitate 40 IT companies to list on the GEM Board caters to the challenge of access to affordable capital, faced by IT companies in their efforts towards growth and expansion". CEO JS Global Kamran Nasir commended PSEB and said, "We are honored to play our part in uplifting Pakistan's future which lies in IT. IT exports have grown tremendously over last 2-3 years and we hope this trend continues. JS Global's track record in such

FFC Goth Machhi initiates relief campaign for flood affectees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC) Goth Machhi has started its relief campaign for the flood victims. The company strongly believes that in this hour of hardship and distress it is very important for the entire nation, FFC and all industrial and business organizations to come together. In this respect, a ration distribution was conducted where the Admin Officers of Goth Machhi distributed ration and goods amongst the victims. FFC Management pledged their commitment towards the noble cause of community uplift in these distraught times and ensured that FFC stands shoulder to shoulder with flood affected brethren. Col Muhammad Yasin while talking to the journalists said that FFC Goth Machhi is well aware of its responsi-



bilities and will extend all possible support to help the flood victims in Sadiqabad, Rojhan, Kandhkot. The management was of the view that FFC had greatly helped flood victims of 2010, and will still continue the efforts and service to make food and other items (including camps, medicines etc) to the flood victims. Lt. Col. Ehtisham Gul Deputy Manager Admin, Mahmood Iqbal Waraich Deputy Manager CSR, Lt. Col. Ejaz Hussain Deputy Manager HR, Lt. Col. Pervez Anwar Deputy Manager Management Club and other officers were also present at the flood relief camp.

Xiaomi Foundation donates \$100,000 to aid flood victims



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Xiaomi Foundation, Friday, announced donation of USD 100,000 to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, to support UNHCR's operation in Pakistan including this most recent emergency response to the flooding and other situations affecting refugees and host communities in Pakistan. Since June, Pakistan's landscape has been altered by torrential rain, which has submerged approximately one-third of the country under water, taken the lives of thousands, and forced millions to flee their homes. According to the National Disaster Management Authority, more than 33,046,329 individuals have been displaced, and over 1,051,570 houses are damaged because of these devastating floods. UNHCR is on the ground already distributing life-saving support to affected communities, including many of the 1.3 million Afghan refugees who have been generously hosted in Pakistan for over 40 years. In the worst hit areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces, UNHCR has already provided refugee villages as well as host communities with more than 71,000 emergency relief items, including tents, plastic tarpaulins, sanitary products, cooking stoves, blankets, solar lamps and sleeping mats. In addition, UNHCR delivered 10,000 sandbags to help households build up defenses around their homes.

Pakistan give cricket lesson to Hong Kong ahead of rematch with India

This was Pakistan's biggest victory in terms of runs

Spokesman Report

SHARJAH: Pakistan thumped Hong Kong by 155 runs in the Group A fixture of the ACC T20 Asia Cup on Friday to set up Super-4 matches against India (on Sunday in Dubai), Afghanistan (on Wednesday in Sharjah) and Sri Lanka (on Friday in Dubai). The matches will start at 7pm PKT and will be broadcast live by PTV Sports.

This was Pakistan's biggest victory in terms of runs after they had defeated the West Indies by 143 runs in Karachi in April 2018 and New Zealand by 103 runs in Christchurch in December 2010. For Hong Kong, their score of 38 was the joint-ninth lowest total in the history of T20Is behind Turkey (21), Lesotho (26), Turkey (28), Thailand (30), Turkey (32), Finland (33), Philippines (36), Panama (37) and Cameroon (38).

Power-hitter Khushdil Shah faced 15 balls and scored 35 not out, while big-hitters Asif Ali and Ifikhar Ahmed as well as Shadab Khan remained unutilised as third-ranked Pakistan collected 193 for two after being sent into bat.



Shadab took four for eight, Mohammad Nawaz bagged three for five and Naseem Shah snapped up two for seven as the three were in a hurry and wrapped up Hong Kong's innings in 10.4 overs.

Khushdil clobbered five sixes, including four in the final five balls of the innings, which helped Pakistan to add

55 runs in the last three overs after they were struggling at 138 for two in 17 overs. After a boundary-free penultimate over, Khushdil sealed the match in the last six deliveries of the innings which yielded 29 runs.

Khushdil added 64 runs for the unbroken third wicket in 23 balls with Moham-

mad Rizwan, whose contribution was 16 runs in eight balls. Rizwan failed to find a boundary off his last seven deliveries but still managed to finish as the top-scorer with a 57-ball 78 not out with six fours and a six.

After Babar Azam (nine off eight) departed earlier, Rizwan added 116 runs for the second wicket with Fakhar Zaman, who slapped three fours and two sixes in a 41-ball 53.

While Rizwan reached his 14th half-century off 42 balls with four fours and a six, Fakhar completed his eighth half-century from 38 balls with three fours and two sixes.

When India played Hong Kong last Wednesday, they scored 192 for two and then restricted the 20th ranked side for 152 for five. However, the fact that made India's victory more impressive and attractive was the performance of their power-hitter Suryakumar Yadav, who scored 68 off 26 balls with six fours and six sixes, which helped the defending champions to collect 78 runs in the last five overs, including 54 runs in the last three overs.

Balochistan ride to win on Shan's 53*

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Shan Masood continued his impressive form Friday as his 39-ball 53 not out handed Balochistan a five-wicket win over Sindh at the Pindi Cricket Stadium.

This was the first win for a chasing side in the Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23.

The second match of the day belonged to Southern Punjab captain Salman Ali Agha as his incredible bowling figures of five for 10 scripted a commanding 86-run win over Central Punjab. This was all-rounder's maiden five-fer.

That Balochistan won their second match of the tournament was due to Shan Masood's unbeaten 53 off 39 as the left-handed batter steered his side to the win in the penultimate over. As Balochistan crossed the line with seven balls spare, they also became the first team in this year's edition of the National T20 to successful-



ly chase a target.

Player of the match Shan walked in the middle with Balochistan needing 103 in 14.3 overs after the dismissal of second opener Asad Shafiq (17 off 14) and displayed some fabulous strokeplay hitting four fours and two sixes. The shot of the innings came when he reverse-swept Zahid Mehmood for a six that sailed over point.

Following the quick wickets of Haris Sohail (10 off 15) and Hussain Talat (two off three) in the 15th and 16th overs, Shan got the desired support from Amad Butt, who spanked three fours and a six in his quickfire 12-ball 25 not out.

Sindh, following their captain Saud Shakeel's decision to bat, made 142 for seven with Saad Khan (31 off 27) and Sarfaraz Ahmed (29 off 23) being the notable performers with the bat.

Balochistan put up a disciplined bowling performance with captain Yasir Shah, left-arm orthodox Kashif Bhatti and pacer Khuram Shahzad picking up two wickets each.

Opener Zain Abbas smashed 65 off 44 (10 fours) as Southern Punjab set 166 for Central Punjab. They were skittled out for mere 79 in 14.3 overs thanks to a terrific show with the ball by Salman Ali Agha.

Southern Punjab made

165-8 after Salman elected to bat. Sharoon Siraj continued to add crucial runs in the middle order as in this match, he scored 35 off 24. In the last two matches, he made 57 not out against Balochistan, and 36 against Sindh.

Central Punjab's openers Abdullah Shafiq and Ahmed Shehzad once again could not provide a solid start as the latter was run out at the start of the third over, but it was the seventh over that settled the match for Southern Punjab when Salman dismissed his opposite number Qasim Akram and Abdullah in a space of three balls. The scorecard, at the time, read 34 for five.

Salman, in his next over, sent Irfan Niaz and Junaid Ali back to the pavilion on back to back deliveries, and dismissed Wahab Riaz in the 11th over as Central Punjab were reduced to 51 for eight. There was no notable resistance from any Central Punjab batter as Usama Mir, a leg-spinner, top scored with 17 off 13.

Carapaz climbs to Vuelta stage win as Evenepoel survives scare



PENAS BLANCAS: Richard Carapaz of Ineos Grenadiers won stage 12 of the Vuelta a Espana on Thursday after attacking from a small group of riders on a long-range escape.

Race leader Remco Evenepoel was forced wide by a motorbike at a corner 45km from home, causing him to suffer a painful fall.

"I'm okay, it's nothing serious, I've been through far worse before," said Evenepoel, who missed a year after falling into a ravine during the Tour of Lombardy in August 2020. His slip came a day after Evenepoel lost teammate Julian Alaphilippe to a fall, with team boss Patrick Lefevere saying the Frenchman may now miss the world championships.

"He'll be back on a bike in two weeks, which might be a bit too fine a margin for the worlds," said Lefevere, with the championships to start in Wollongong, Australia on Sept. 18. But the 22-year-old Belgian Evenepoel picked himself up and eventually led a group containing the top five in the overall standings to the summit finish near the Costa del Sol.

That maintained his 2min 41sec advantage over defending champion Primoz Roglic. Three Spaniards round out the top five, with Enrie Mas of Movistar at 3min 03sec, local man Carlos Rodriguez at 4min 06sec and Juan Ayuso at 4min 53sec.

The stage covered 192.7km from the coast near Almunecar, where Rodriguez grew up. Australian Jay Vine leads the mountain points standings and wore a polka dot shirt and socks on Thursday and even had a polka dot trim on his shorts and helmet.

Denmark's Mads Pedersen leads the sprint points race and will have a chance to rack up points on Friday during a flat run from Ronda to Montilla. A COVID-19 clampdown was imposed on the Vuelta, with just 147 riders finishing Thursday from the original 184.

Riders will now be afforded better protection from contact with fans and the media.

Only 135 riders finished this year's Tour de France, with 17 Covid cases of the 41 riders who failed to complete the course.

Real Madrid tackle in-form Betis

MADRID: Real Madrid put their perfect start to the season on the line this weekend against Real Betis, the only other La Liga team with a 100% record, before kicking off their Champions League defence. Carlo Ancelotti's side top the table on goal difference above Copa del Rey holders Betis, who like Madrid have won their first three matches of the campaign.

Madrid will play at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first time this season on Saturday as renovation work continues on their iconic ground. Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who was nominated for the UEFA player of the year prize won last week by teammate Karim Benzema, expects Betis to give them a difficult afternoon.

"Betis play really well. Last season we had some tough games against them. They



play good football, they've got loads of experience and we'll have to press them well, while being careful," said Courtois. "It's going to be a good match. Then we've got the Champions League, so I hope we can keep winning with another victory in our first home game. It'll be tough, but we'll be ready."

Madrid, the record 14-time European champions, begin their European quest away

to Scottish champions Celtic next Tuesday, while Betis visit HJK Helsinki in the Europa League. Barcelona appear to be hitting their stride, with Robert Lewandowski striking twice in each of the past two outings following a goalless draw on the opening weekend.

Having finally been cleared to make his Barca debut in the 4-0 win over Real Valladolid, France defender Jules Kounde could line up against his

former club Sevilla on Saturday.

Both clubs will hope to fare better in this season's Champions League after failing to advance from the group phase last year. Barca's first assignment is against Viktoria Plzen, while Sevilla must find a way to stop Erling Haaland and Manchester City. Atletico Madrid, Spain's fourth representative in the Champions League, go to Real Sociedad before returning home to face Porto.

Villarreal and Athletic Bilbao, who have both yet to concede a goal, aim to remain unbeaten as they take on Elche and Espanyol respectively. The chief catalyst behind Betis' impressive start, Iglesias has four goals after scoring in each of his club's first three matches - wins over Elche, Mallorca and Osasuna.

Nadal overcomes freak injury at US Open

NEW YORK: Rafael Nadal overcame a freak injury scare when he accidentally hit himself with his own racquet to reach the US Open third round.

The Spaniard defeated Italy's Fabio Fognini 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1 but only after suffering a bizarre self-inflicted injury when leading 3-0 in the fourth set.

The four-time champion, and holder of a men's record 22 Grand Slam titles, was hurt when his racquet bounced back off the court as he stretched for a ball, hitting him squarely on the nose. The 36-year-old dropped his racquet to the Arthur Ashe Stadium floor and sprinted to the sidelines, where he lay on his back with his nose bloodied.

The Australian and French Open champion required a medical timeout to have the

wound tended before resuming the match with a bandage across the bridge of his nose. It was the third time in the match that the trainer had been summoned onto court. "I was a little bit dizzy and it was a little bit painful," admitted Nadal, who said he had suffered a similar injury in the past caused by a golf club.

He feared he had broken his nose in the incident. Nadal said that despite being a set and 4-2 down, he was happy to have recovered after coming into the tournament still worried by the abdominal injury he suffered at Wimbledon. That problem caused him to forfeit his semi-final at the All England Club against Nick Kyrgios.

It also came in a year which

has seen him suffer a fractured rib and have to play the entire French Open with pain-killing injections in his left foot. "I had to play better. It was one of the worst starts ever for me in my career," he said. Nadal also admitted his concerns over his wife Mery Perello - due to give birth to the couple's first child in the coming weeks.

Spanish media reports claimed she had been admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure. "My wife is fine, but in the end these are situations that are sometimes more difficult to manage when you are away from home," said Nadal.

Nadal goes on to face France's Richard Gasquet, against whom he boasts a 17-0 career record, after coming through Thursday's late-night scrap - which saw a total of 15 breaks of serve

and 97 unforced errors.

Fognini defeated Nadal from two sets down at the US Open in 2015. Buoyed by that memory, the 35-year-old swept through the first set with breaks in the third and seventh games against a sluggish and error-plagued Nadal.

It was the second successive match in which Nadal had dropped the first set, after he suffered the same fate in his opener against Australian wildcard Rinky Hijikata.

The first five games of the second set were all breaks, with Nadal forced to call the trainer to treat blisters on his left hand at 2-3 down. Fognini stretched to a 4-2 lead before Nadal reeled off the next four games to take the set and level the tie.

In each of the first two



sets, Nadal had managed to hit a meagre three winners. The Spaniard, however, then doubled his winners count to

England name squad for T20I tour of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

LONDON: England Men's selection panel have named a squad of 19 players for the seven-match IT20 tour of Pakistan, which gets underway later this month in Karachi.

Chris Jordan (finger) and Liam Livingstone (ankle), will continue their rehab and will not tour Pakistan ahead of the World Cup but remain on track to be fit for the tournament in Australia.

England captain Jos Buttler, recovering from a calf injury, will tour Pakistan, but he is expected to be available to play during the latter stages of the seven-match series. In Buttler's absence, Moeen Ali will captain the side.

Five uncapped players have been announced for the first tour to Pakistan since 2005. Kent batter Jordan Cox is joined alongside Middlesex seamer Tom Helm, Surrey right-handed bat Will Jacks, Warwickshire quick Olly Stone and Lancashire seamer Luke Wood.

The touring party will fly to Pakistan on 14 September. England Men's T20I Squad Tour of Pakistan (19 players): Jos Buttler (Lancashire) Captain, Moeen Ali (Worcestershire) Vice-Captain, Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Jordan Cox (Kent), Sam Curran (Surrey), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Liam Dawson (Hampshire), Richard Gleeson (Lancashire), Tom Helm (Middlesex), Will Jacks (Surrey), Dawid Malan (Yorkshire), Adil Rashid (Yorkshire), Phil Salt (Lancashire), Olly Stone (Warwickshire), Reece Topley (Surrey), David Willey (Yorkshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire), Luke Wood (Lancashire), Mark Wood (Durham).

PSL Governing Council meeting held in Lahore

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Governing Council of the HBL Pakistan Super League met at the National High Performance Centre in Lahore on Friday.

All six HBL PSL franchises were represented along with PCB officials who are members of the GC. Chairman Pakistan Cricket Board Ramiz Raja chaired the meeting.

The meeting started with the Chairman PCB congratulating the GC on a hugely successful and record-breaking HBL PSL 7 edition which was the first one ever to be staged in Pakistan uninterrupted since the start of the league in 2016. The successful organisation of the tournament was made possible despite significant external challenges and record revenue and viewership was attained through the two action-packed leagues in Karachi and Lahore.

Some important discussions around the scheduling for the next edition of the HBL PSL were made. It was decided that the HBL PSL 8 will run from 9 February to 19 March 2023. At least four venues will be used for hosting the matches, including Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Multan. Further discussions for firming up the detailed schedule will take place between the franchises and the PCB in due course.

The franchises were also given an update on the status of accounts for HBL PSL 7.

Sarfaraz Ahmed charged for code of conduct violation

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Sindh's Sarfaraz Ahmed has been fined 30 per cent of match fee for a level 1 breach of the PCB's Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel during his side's Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 match against Balochistan at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Sarfaraz was charged for violating Article 2.3 that reads as, "Use of audible obscenity". The incident took place in the first innings of the match when he was dismissed.

Since Sarfaraz pleaded guilty to the charge and accepted the sanctions proposed by match referee Nadeem Arshad, there was no need of a formal hearing.

The charge was imposed by on-field umpires Mohammad Asif and Imtiaz Iqbal, third umpire Rashid Riaz and fourth umpire Nasir Hussain. Balochistan, thanks to Shan Masood's half-century, defeat Sindh by five wickets.

Meanwhile, Central Punjab captain Faheem Ashraf has been ruled out of the Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23.

The all-rounder was hit by a ball during his side's match against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the Pindi Cricket Stadium which split his webbing. Faheem has been advised 12-day rest after which he will begin rehabilitation.

China's fab four make history

NEW YORK: Zheng Qinwen and Yuan Yue joined compatriots Wang Xiyu and Zhang Shuai in the third round of the US Open on Thursday - the first time in history four women from China have reached the last 32 of a single Grand Slam event.

Rising star Zheng held her nerve to defeat Russia's Anastasia Potapova in straight sets, winning 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/3) to set up a third round clash with Germany's Jule Niemeier.

Qualifier Yuan meanwhile matched Zheng's achievement with a hard-fought 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) defeat of Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu. Yuan will now face Jessica Pegula of the United States on Saturday for a place in the last 16.

On Wednesday, Wang produced a stunning upset to send third seed Maria Sakkari of Greece tumbling out of the tournament, winning 3-6, 7-5, 7-5. While Chinese women's tennis has enjoyed increasing success over the past decade, with Li Na famously becoming the first player from Asia to win Grand Slam singles at the French Open in 2011 and Australian Open in 2014, never before have so many women from China advanced to the third round of the same tournament.