



**Pakistan seeks UNICEF's help in reopening schools**

Pakistan has urged the United Nations Children Fund, UNICEF, for help in re-opening schools in old and new temporary locations in flood-devastated areas, as the UN agency's executive board adopted a \$900 million, 4-year (2023 to 2027) country programme aimed at the uplift of the country's 80 million children.



**AJK President seeks equitable disbursement of Zakat**

Terming Zakat as one of the important component of Islamic society AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said it was enjoined upon the Zakat Department to ensure equitable disbursement of Zakat to the deserving people. The President said that besides spiritual benefits Zakat helps to maintain a balance in the society.

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Exports to be increased by \$100b soon: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday said the incumbent government is committed to exceed Pakistan's exports by \$100b dollars soon and urged the country's chambers of commerce industries to play their role in expanding exports.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting for the promotion of a conducive business environment and improvement in exports.

The meeting was attended by the President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

The government will support the business community while urging the country's chamber of commerce to play their role while expanding the country's exports, said the Minister, adding that the solution of Pakistan's economic problems was lying in the promotion of private sector investment and exports.

He further said that there was dire need to hour to connect business with global chairs while urging the business community to adopt a market-driven approach in order to get space in the global market. The improvement of the economy is essential for the survival and security of the nation and the country's economy should depend on earning dollars instead of spending dollars, said the Minister.

The Minister further added that due to the recent floods, the country's economy had badly affected but the government was committed to expedite the rehabilitation process of the flood-affected areas while stressing the business community to play their role in relief operations. Agencies

**Redefining relations**

Mr. Derek Chollet, Senior Policy Advisor to the US Secretary of State called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Thursday.



Photo: PID

**Devastating Floods**

**US solidarity, assistance crucial for flood rehab: PM**

Shehbaz Sharif emphasizes need for constructive, sustained engagement between Pak, US

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday while calling the rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood-hit areas formidable challenges, said that the continued support, solidarity and assistance from the United States was crucial for the purpose.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Senior Policy Advisor to the US Secretary of State Derek Chollet, who called on him, said the government was fully engaged in the rescue and relief efforts.

Derek Chollet expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the government and people of Pakistan at the precious lives,

**PM lauds PN for safeguarding sea frontiers**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday paid tribute to the professionalism of the personnel of the Pakistan Navy for thwarting the designs of the enemy in the 1965 war. "Today on Pakistan Navy Day, the nation salutes the immense sacrifices of the force for defending the country's sea frontiers," he said in a tweet. The prime minister mentioned that from the capture of India's Dwarka coast to the supremacy of Ghazi submarine on the seas, the Pakistan navy marines demonstrated exemplary bravery and valour against the enemy.

resulting from the riverine floods in Pakistan.

On behalf of the Biden Administration, he affirmed that the U.S. would stand by Pakistan in the wake of this immense challenge, extend vital support, and help affected people rebuild their lives and communities.

Speaking on the occasion, PM Shehbaz Sharif thanked Derek Chollet for visiting Pakistan at a critical moment when the country had been adversely affected by the most devastating flood in its history, with millions affected and displaced.

The prime minister told

the foreign dignitary that over 33 million had been affected; more than 1,300 lives lost; and immeasurable damage was caused to agriculture, livestock, property, and critical infrastructure.

He also cautioned about the likely outbreak of water-borne diseases. Prime Minister Sharif underlined that Pakistan was committed to deepen and widen its ties, especially in the areas of security, health, climate change, trade and investment.

He emphasized the need for a constructive and sustained engagement between the two countries, based on the principles of mutual trust, respect and understanding.

**Solidarity Visit**

**UN chief due in Pakistan today**

ISLAMABAD: UN Secretary General António Guterres will pay a two-day visit to Pakistan from Friday to express solidarity with the country braving a colossal climate induced natural disaster caused by unprecedented rains and floods.

During the visit, Secretary General Guterres will have meetings with the Pakistani leadership and senior officials to exchange views on the national and global response to this catastrophe caused by climate change.

The Secretary-General will travel to areas most impacted by the climate catastrophe. He will interact with displaced families and first responders in the field, and oversee UN's humanitarian response work in support of the Government's rescue and relief efforts for millions of affected people.

In a statement, Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said the Secretary-General's visit will further raise global awareness about the massive scale of this calamity and the resulting loss of life and widespread devastation. It will contribute towards enhancing commensurate and coordinated international response to the humanitar-



ian and other needs of the 33 million affected Pakistanis.

The spokesperson said the Secretary General actively supported the 160 million dollars UN Flash Appeal to fund Pakistan's Flood Response Plan.

Asim Iftikhar said the UN Secretary General has been consistently stressing the linkage of such disasters with the impacts of climate change and warning the international community about the existential threat to our planet in case climate change was not addressed in a timely and effective manner.

The spokesperson said the Secretary General's visit will also spotlight the importance of sustained international support for Pakistan through the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, and for building resilience against future climate shocks. APP

**Tax exemption given on flood relief items**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday released the details of the federal cabinet's decision to grant tax exemption on flood relief items.

Sharing details in this regard, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, in a statement on Thursday, said that on the directions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the federal cabinet had approved

tax exemption on 30th August.

The Information Minister said all relief items including boats and mosquito nets are exempted from tax for the assistance of flood victims.

She said the cabinet's decision was implemented forthwith. The Ministry of Finance and the FBR had also issued an SRO in this regard.

Under the rules and regulation, the welfare organizations and philanthropists will have to acquire a certificate from the NDMA.

**Flood damages**

**WB to support Pakistan**

**Spokesman Report**

WASHINGTON: World Bank says it will support Pakistan in dealing with massive flood devastation by reprogramming its existing activities and future programs.

This was conveyed by Vice President of World Bank Martin Raiser during a meeting with Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Masood Khan in Washington. The Bank would also repurpose three hundred million dollars to help flood victims and support flood relief.

The World Bank Vice President said he would soon be visiting the country to make an informed assessment about



Ambassador of Pakistan to the United States, Masood Khan held discussions with World Bank Vice President Martin Raiser at Washington DC.

the cumulative damages and how best to help the government. Ambassador Masood Khan, in his remarks, said the recent catastrophe has reinforced the need to review our strategy from mitigation and adaptation to preparedness and resilience.

Masood Khan said the damage caused by floods is way beyond what the government could alone tackle. He said Pakistan looks forward to its friends, international community and development partners to assist the country in meeting this challenge.

**Saudi Defence Ministry official lauds Pakistan's assistance**

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer, Transformation Management Office of Ministry of Defence, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr Samir Abdulaziz Ali Tubayyab along with a delegation called on Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif and appreciated Pakistan's support and assistance.

The Defence Minister highlighted that

Pakistan attached great importance to its special and brotherly relations with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which were based on mutual trust and wishes to expand cooperation in all fields, a news release said.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif appreciated successful conduct of World Defence Show by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. APP

**UAE minister announces \$10m aid for flood-hit people**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, a minister of the United Arab Emirates has announced a relief assistance of \$10 million for relief and rehabilitation of the flood-stricken people of Pakistan.

This is the biggest ever donation made so far at the individual level made for the flood survivors of the country, a PM Office press release said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked the UAE minister for the generous donation for relief and rehabilitation of the flood-hit population.

"This manifests your deep love for the people of Pakistan and sympathy for the suffering humanity," the prime minister said in his message to Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

He said that the people of Pakistan would never forget this brotherhood as it would greatly help the country in relief and rehabilitation of the affected people.

**Contempt Case**

**IHC rejects Imran's reply, decides to indict him on Sept 22**

The respect of judiciary bigger than ego of someone, Cj of IHC observed

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday rejected the reply of PTI Chief Imran Khan and decided to indict him on September 22, in contempt of court case with regard to his threatening remarks about Additional District and Session Judge Zeba Chaudhry.

Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked the reply submitted by the PTI chief was unsatisfactory. A very serious offense had been committed but it seemed that he (Imran Khan) didn't understand the seriousness of the situation, the court said. The respect of the judiciary was bigger than the ego of someone, he observed, adding that it was a criminal contempt case.

A five member bench headed by Chief Justice Athar Minallah and comprising Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani, Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Justice Baber Sattar heard the contempt of court case against Imran Khan who appeared before the court amid foolproof security arrangements in place.

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice remarked that there was a legal procedure if someone was affected by a judge's decision. Addressing Imran's lawyer, the chief justice said the court had told you last time that District Judi-



ciary was a red line for us.

The decisions of the Supreme Court related to contempt of court were a binding on us and we had to obey law, Justice Minallah observed and asked whether you had tried to justify the objectionable remarks in the answer. Imran Khan's lawyer Hamid Khan said he had tried not to justify but to explain it.

The chief justice said place and time of the insulting statement were very

important. Whether your reply was as per the directives of the top court, he asked the lawyer.

Justice Minallah asked that whether a former prime minister could give justification of not knowing the law. There was so much division in the society that followers of political parties used to insult opponents in public places, he said, adding that the female judge could also face the situation somewhere. APP

## Energy crisis response

Islamabad: Minister for Power Engr Khurram Dastgir Khan at unveiling of report titled 'Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook' on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Talks with proscribed outfits within constitution: Sanaullah

ISLAMABAD: Federal Law Minister Rana Sanaullah on Thursday said that the government will talk to banned organizations while staying within the constitution.

While holding a press conference with members of the Quetta Cabinet Committee on Missing Persons, Rana Sanaullah said that the government is trying all its effort to solve the problem of missing persons.

He said that on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he met the families of the missing persons who have been staging a sit-in for the past two months. Rana added that he listened to the families and assured them that the government would solve the problem, after which they called off the sit-in. Sanaullah added that the issue of missing persons has become a major problem for the country, but the government is working seriously to solve it.

In response to a question, Rana said that the action of the commission for the recovery of missing persons has saved many people, but it has not met the expectations.

While Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Shazia Marri said that the government is trying to solve the problem of missing persons. "This problem, which has been going on for 50 years, should be solved now", she stressed.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudous Bizenjo said that judicial commissions were formed several times to resolve the issue of missing persons and other problems, but no one appeared before the commission. Agencies

### To reduce confrontation

# President terms political dialogue essential

*Says the issue of holding election should be resolved by evolving a consensus among political forces*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that dialogue among the political forces was essential to address the prevailing crises and reduce confrontation, expressing the hope for a positive development in this regard.

The president, in an interview with a private television channel (Geo News), said he had always been a "good proponent" of dialogue among the political forces and had been keeping contacts behind the scene with an aim to reduce the confrontation.

"I will not make any prediction. I can say I am hopeful. Allah will bring the positive efforts to fruition," he told Hamid Mir, the host of Capital Talk.

Regarding the controversy on holding early elections, the president said the issue should be resolved by evolving a consensus

among the political forces. Discussing the pervading challenge of floods, the president said all the institutions, including the National Disaster Management Authority and provincial

The matter of appointment of next army chief should be resolved through "constructive conversation"

disaster management authorities had been playing a positive role for rescue and relief of the flood-stricken people.

He said the national economy was under stress caused by the COVID-19, floods, change of government and Ukraine war

affecting the sustainability in the country.

To a question about the appointment of next army chief, the president said the matter should be resolved through a "constructive conversation".

Asked about the relationship with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he said he had good relations as both had unanimity of views on most of the legislative matters.

He said he had refused to assent the bills on overseas voting, electronic voting machine and the National Accountability Bureau as instead of addressing the shortcomings, one should not abolish the whole institution.

The president said he was glad over the success of IMF (International Monetary Fund) deal as it would pave a way for funding from other international financial institutions and friendly countries.

He said the consistency of the policies was essential for the economic stability.

## Pakistan is investment friendly country: Amin

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecom Syed Amin-Ul-Haque on Thursday said the government was providing maximum support to the telecom sector for its growth as Pakistan was an investment friendly country.

"Jazz's investment in Pakistan has crossed \$10.3 billion mark including around \$1 billion in the last four years alone on network expansion and upgrade," he said in a meeting with Chief Executive Officer of VEON Group Kaan Terzioglu.

EXOR representative and CEO of Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim was also present in the meeting which discussed matters related to the telecom sector, import of essential telecom equipment and investment opportunities. The IT minister was also briefed on connectivity status in flood affected areas, said a news release.

Amin told the delegation that there

were vast investment opportunities in the fields of e-health, e-education, e-agriculture and e-commerce.

"Healthy competition in the Telecom Sector is essential for providing better connectivity to consumers," he said vowing to resolve the issues of the sector on priority.

He said the telecom committee had made recommendations regarding the problems it was facing and submitted them to Prime Minister Advisory Council on IT & Telecom.

VEON Group CEO Kaan Terzioglu and Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim apprised the minister about Jazz's investment in Pakistan.

They also reiterated that a healthy and stable telecom sector, the foundation of a country's digital ecosystem, fueled virtually all sectors of the economy, and was a prerequisite for consistent improvement in service quality for users. APP

### Contempt Case

#### PTI's leadership supports Imran

ISLAMABAD: The PTI's top-tier leadership backed its chairman Imran Khan after the Islamabad High Court (IHC) decided to indict the former prime minister after two weeks in a contempt of court case.

The court had taken notice of the former prime minister's speech at a public rally, where he allegedly threatened Islamabad additional sessions judge Zeba Chaudhry for extending PTI leader Shahbaz Gill's remand.

In response, PTI's leaders started a Twitter trend #IStandWithImranKhan and stated that their party would fight the case as the former prime minister had struggled for the rule of law.

PTI Secretary-General Asad Umar said that in Khan's 26-year political career, an important aspect was that he always wanted an independent judiciary.

"InshaAllah, a decision based on justice will ensure Khan's victory," he said.

PTI's spokesperson on legal matters, Maleeka Bokhari, said that Hamid Khan — who was the ex-PM's lawyer in the case — represented the PTI chairman "in a very apt manner".

She also lauded amici curiae Munir Malik Makhdoom Ali Khan and Munir Malik for "ably" assisting the high court during the contempt hearing.

"Imran Khan remains the only leader who has consistently struggled for rules of law. We will fight this case and hope justice will prevail," the PTI leader said. Agencies

### UK's Queen Elizabeth II dies at age 96



LONDON: Queen Elizabeth, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and the nation's figurehead for seven decades, has died aged 96, Buckingham Palace said on Thursday.

"The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," Buckingham Palace said in a statement. "The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London on Friday."

Her eldest son Charles, 73, automatically becomes king of the United Kingdom and the head of state of 14 other realms including Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

Her family had rushed to be by her side at her Scottish home, Balmoral Castle, after doctors expressed concern about her health. She had been suffering from what Buckingham Palace has called "episodic mobility problems" since the end of last year, forcing her to withdraw from nearly all her public engagements.

Queen Elizabeth II, who was also the world's oldest and longest-serving head of state, came to the throne following the death of her father King George VI on February 6, 1952. Agencies

## FM thanks US for \$31.1m in flood relief assistance

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Thursday thanked the U.S. government for US \$31.1 million in humanitarian relief assistance.

He also underscored the need for the international community to step up their ambition in climate financing towards mitigation, adaptation, and resilience especially towards the developing countries.

The Foreign Minister expressed these views during a meeting with Counselor Derek Chollet of the U.S. Department of State who called on him here.

Counselor Chollet offered

heartfelt condolences to the people of Pakistan over the loss of life and devastation caused by the super floods in Pakistan, a press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The Foreign Minister while thanking the Counselor for his visit at this difficult hour appreciated the strong expression of support and solidarity by the U.S. government.

He sensitized them that almost a third of Pakistan's territory was under water. Over 1,300 had lost their lives; more than 33 million were affected; critical infrastructure had been destroyed; over 4 million

acres of crops had been washed away; and close to a million livestock had already perished, he added.

The Foreign Minister said that, at present, the government was fully engaged in the immediate rescue and relief efforts to save lives.

At the same time, the long-term impacts on food security, health, and the economy were a matter of serious concern, he said, adding, rehabilitation of the millions impacted, reconstruction, rebuilding communities and addressing the economic repercussions would require enormous resources. APP

## ECC okays flood-relief funds

### Gives go ahead for fertilizer import

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Thursday approved funds for relief and rescue of flood-affected people and also gave go ahead to Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) for Urea fertilizer imports.

According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail presided over the meeting.

The ECC approved funds amounting to Rs. 3 billion for National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to meet its growing expenditure on account of procurement of rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the calamity-stricken population across Pakistan.

NDMA briefed the meeting that in the aftermath of devastation caused by floods across the country, millions of people have suffered in terms of loss

of life, property, livestock and standing crops.

NDMA was tasked by the prime minister to coordinate with PDMA and to proactively undertake rescue and relief operation in the affected areas, the statement added.

The committee while considering emergency situation, approved Supplementary/ Technical Supplementary Grant of Rs.540 million in favour of Utility Stores Corporation (USC) for provision of essential commodities in flood affected areas.

The meeting was apprised that the Utility Stores Corporation, in collaboration with provincial governments, is actively participating in relief operation for supply of essential food items in flood affected areas across Pakistan.

Due to emergency situation and based on the preliminary need assess-

ment, 113,700 ration bags amounting to Rs. 540 million were disbursed.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of National Food Security and Research tabled a summary for allocation of PASSCO's local and imported wheat sock among recipient agencies.

It was briefed that PASSCO serves as a strategic organization to procure wheat from Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan to build strategic reserves and to supply wheat to recipient agencies in case of emergency.

Every year, on the request of recipient agencies, PASSCO makes allocation of wheat from its stocks. PASSCO held wheat stock of 2,499 MMT, including 1,232 MMT carry forward stocks.

In view of above, the ECC allowed to supply PASSCO's wheat among all recipients@ 50% local and 50% imported. APP

# Floods in Pakistan: \$350,000 from UNESCO for heritage recovery

UNESCO is deeply concerned by severe and unprecedented monsoon rainfall

### Spokesman Report

PARIS/ISLAMABAD: As UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres started a three-day visit to Pakistan, UNESCO announced the mobilization of an emergency amount of 350,000 USD to help recovering flood-damaged cultural heritage sites. The Organization is also working in the field of education, to quickly provide distance learning solutions.

UNESCO is deeply concerned by severe and unprecedented monsoon rainfall, which has caused widespread flooding and landslides in 72 districts across Pakistan since June 2022. Around 33 million people have been impacted, and some 6.4 million people are currently in need of assistance. The floods have resulted in a significant loss of life, as well as loss of livelihoods, shelter and social and cultural life.

"First of all, our thoughts are with the families who have lost a loved one, the injured, all those who have been forced to leave their homes and with the authorities. UNESCO stands with them," said Audrey Azoulay, Director-General.

Cultural heritage has also been damaged by the floods, including the UNESCO World Heritage sites 'Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro' and 'Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta'. Karez in Balochistan, a traditional irrigation system on Pakistan's World Heritage Tentative List, the Amri site museum and the Sehwan folk and craft museum, both in the Jamshoro District, have also been reported as damaged by the recent floods.

Supporting national recovery plans and local cultural practices

"As part of its mandate, UNESCO will provide assistance to restore this heritage,"



announced Audrey Azoulay. "Based on needs analysis conducted by our office in Islamabad, we decided to mobilize right now 350,000 dollars from our heritage and emergency funds."

150,000 USD from the World Heritage Fund to support recovery and prevention measures at Moenjodaro and Thatta World Heritage sites, including long-term mitigation of the impact of natural disasters.

200,000 USD from the Heritage Emergency Fund for cultural heritage, cultural practices and intangible heritage elements at risk in the Balochistan, Swat and Larkana districts.

Cultural practices, such as crafts and music, which are often an important source of income, have also been severely disrupted. The UNESCO foreseen activities will aim to support not only the national response plans but also the knowledge bearers, artisans, crafts people and artists who have lost their livelihoods due to the floods on the other.

The UNESCO office in Islamabad is also working with the authorities of Pakistan to rapidly provide distance learning solutions to ensure continuity of education. UNESCO headquarters has already mobilized 50,000 USD to finance the actions will be implemented, in particular in the province of Sindh.

# IUCN launches Climate Change Gender Action Plan in GB

*Action Plan is developed around six priority sectors to ensure gender mainstreaming*

**Spokesman Report**

GILGIT: IUCN Pakistan has launched the Climate Change Gender Action Plan in Gilgit Baltistan today as part of its commitment to build gender responsive readiness, capacities and innovative approaches.

The launch ceremony was held at Chief Secretary's office; while the guest list includes senior government officials, members of civil society, local community based organizations, academia and media.

The event opened with welcome remarks from Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan who provided an overview of IUCN Pakistan's work in Gilgit-Baltistan and its key role in introduction of sustainable trophy hunting initia-

tive which is still continued by the local communities and the wild life department. Gilgit Baltistan's conservation strategy and the State of Environment Report was also developed by IUCN in Past and it is currently involved in a major biodiversity related initiative under which over 10,000 youth were involved in research and field activities.

Fauzia Bilqis Malik, Programme Coordinator, IUCN Pakistan during her presentation apprised the audience that "the ccGAP is developed around the six priority sectors including: agriculture and food security, forest and biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, water and sanitation, integrated coastal management and mitigation: energy and transport." Primarily a multi-stakeholder, cross-sector capacity building process was led by Ministry of

Climate Change and IUCN to develop national capacities and focal groups and a cross-sector national action plan, fostering innovative project design to strengthen national and provincial climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience through gender-responsive strategies and activities, she added. She also mentioned that the action plan will further lead towards a gender-responsive project pipeline of Pakistan.

The presentation was followed by a Questions and Answers session which was facilitated by Dr. Ghulam Rasul, Head of Climate Change Programme, IUCN Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Aziz Ahmed Jamali, Additional Chief Secretary/ Secretary Planning and Development Department, Government of Gilgit-Baltistan, said that "This

is a great achievement of IUCN and Government of Pakistan in multiple ways, particularly because it is the first ever Climate Change Gender Action Plan of Pakistan lead by Ministry of Climate Change and also because it is the first such initiative by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to ensure gender mainstreaming in the upcoming GCF funded projects".

Faisal Ahsan Pirzada, Secretary Forests, Wildlife and Environment added that the process has engaged representatives and practitioners from all the six priority sectors and across the country which is one of a kind provincial initiative in Pakistan hence this step is an example for the rest of the world. He appreciated IUCN's significant role in conservation initiatives at Gilgit Baltistan.



ISLAMABAD: Social, political activist and Senior Vice President PTI, Islamabad, Muhammad Amir Sheikh attended the inaugural ceremony of Axis Academy. Speaking on the occasion, he assured Sardar Yasir, Muhammad Usman and their whole team of extending full cooperation and appreciated their new initiative.

## Prism Town Gujjar Khan organizes event

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: The grand housing scheme in Potohar Prism Town Gujjar Khan received Lop from Punjab Housing and Town Planning Agency for housing scheme making the first and only housing scheme to be honoured in Gujjar Khan.

A grand function was held to celebrate the occasion. Real Estate businessmen, associate members Journalists and notables of Potohar Participated in the function. Chief Executive Prism Town Mr. Masood ul Hasan Alvi announced remarkable discount for the prices of 5 marla, 10 marla and 01 kanal plots. He further Said that within a couple of years a new city of international standard will be erected in Gujjar Khan.

Situated at GT Road, the Prism Town falls 5 km ahead of Gujjar Khan from Islamabad, 28 Km from T-Chowk 17 Km from Ring Road and 13 km from Mandra Toll Plaza.

The master plan of Prism Town has gated community, latest security system, 24/7 rescue service, wide green area, grand jamia mosque, state-of-the-art medical complex, shopping malls, Luxury Restaurant, Mini Golf Club, Wide Roads, Modern Sewerage System, underground electricity cable and water supply system, sports grounds and Singapore model of Park.

## Motivational speaker Niaz Malik meets DG Rangers Punjab



**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Famous motivational speaker Niaz Malik met with DG Rangers Punjab Major General Syed Asif Hussain at the Rangers Headquarters.

During the meeting discussed a host of issues which included creating access for specially enabled individuals, the state of road traffic and accidents, the flood situation, and the initiatives being taken by the corporate world.

The scheduled meeting was for thirty minutes but lasted two hours. DG Rangers talked about how hospital management can be made more friendly with regard to patients and how as a nation we can collaborate and create policies that assist the people of determination to carry on a life which they desire and help in creating ecosystems that allow them to attain their dreams.

## 437 kanal land of Rs.419 mln retrieved

**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: As a result of action taken by the concerned administration on the orders of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab to redress public complaints, a total of 437.7 kanal state lands have been retrieved from squatters in Mianwali, Toba Tek Singh, Jhang, Sardogha, Rajanpur, Rahim Yar Khan, Nankana Sahib and Sahiwal districts, having a total market value of over 419 million rupees.

The spokesman of the Office of the Ombudsman Punjab disclosed this in a statement issued on Thursday.

The spokesman explained that 87.2 kanal of government land of 27.42 million rupees has been recovered from occupants in the Mianwali district after five complainants approached the ombudsman office for the same. The ombudsman's office intervened in response to three different applications to retrieve a total of 96 kanals, worth 200 million rupees, from illegal dwellers in Toba Tek Singh. A degree of 3.71 million rupees has also been issued in favour of one Nasir Ahmad of Pirmahal with regard to crops produced after the involvement of the ombudsman office, the spokesman added.

# Descon, WWF-Pakistan to remove plastic-garbage from channels

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Descon Engineering Limited and World Wide Fund for Nature-Pakistan (WWF-Pakistan) will collaborate to clean the plastic-garbage from the Waste-Water Channels all over the city of Lahore.

During the initial phase, a prototype solution is being designed, including the construction and installation of this recovery system, to ensure effective cleansing of all these drains. For this purpose, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the two

companies at the WWF-Pakistan Head office.

As per the MoU, Descon Engineering will work to provide a simple, cost-effective and scalable solution, which will be easy to operate and replicate all over the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Taimur Saeed CEO Descon Engineering stated, "As Pakistan's leading engineering and infrastructure-development company, we are pleased to enter in to this collaboration with a resourceful global agency like the World Wildlife Fund, and ensure a sustainable environment for the future.



This initiative promises long-term ecological benefits by making our cities free of plastic-waste. We take pride in this first-of-its-kind solution

in Pakistan and are committed to playing our part to contribute positively towards the well-being of the country." Hammad Naqi Khan Direc-

tor General WWF-Pakistan said, "As Pakistan is already suffering the negative impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, we must come together to restore the ecological balance for a healthier, progressive and sustainable future. We are pleased to get the operational and technical support of a company like Descon Engineering for this valuable project. We believe that Descon has extensive experience in building mega projects and will prove to be an effective partner for this infrastructure maintenance and restoration project."

# Techaccess holds Cyber Incident Management Handling workshop

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Techaccess Pakistan this week conducted a Cyber Incident Management Handling Workshop at "The Institute of Bankers Pakistan" in Karachi, carrying out best practice exercises for the in-depth study of the methods of management, immediate containment and detailed analysis of the acts of

recent cyber-attacks, some taken from recorded events. Over thirteen local banks participated in the workshop, much appreciated by the esteemed Participants.

Syed Aun Abbas Bokhari, CISO at Bank Al Habib, said the seminar was very interesting, as it was addressed to the current issues affecting our security mission and topics were nicely covered,

well treated, and professionally clarified. I would recommend more Workshops with advanced levels.

Ali Imran, CISO Bank Islami, expressed his appreciation and compliments on the organization of the Workshop and about its results. He emphasized the need to extend the educational approach to the analysts engaged in sensitive depart-

ment such as security operation center and incident response teams to continuously update their knowledge on security procedures, new emerging threats way to detect and appropriate updating of new IT architectures to improve the resilience of the whole IT Platform of sensitive institutes such as the Financial Domain.

## Defamatory statements against army condemned

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said it condemns defamatory statements against the army. Those who target national institutions for their own interests and divide the nation do not deserve any leniency.

If such elements were not punished, they would get emboldened, which will have a very negative impact on society and the economy, it said. Some failed politicians are busy trying to make the senior leadership of the Pakistan Army controversial by issuing misleading remarks which are unfortunate, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that the patriotism of the Pakistan Army and its leadership is clear from their services while involving them in politics and poisonous propaganda against them is intolerable.

## PBG for strict action to curb rising street crimes in Karachi



**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Deploing rising street crimes in city, Pakistan Business Group has urged Sindh government to take strict and effective measures to curb it.

In a statement, acting president Nasir Ali Sheikh has said that citizen are feeling insecure on public places and at homes. "This is an alarming situation which warrants immediate action by law enforcement agencies and Sindh government," he stressed.

Other members of PBG core committee general secretary Ali Arsh Khan, finance secretary Abdul Wahab Edhi, secretary information Akhtar Shaheen Rind, Waheed Punjwani, Mohammad Sajid, Fawad Sheikh, Khurram Anis, Shoaib Anna, Saadi Khalid, Asif Ali sheikh, Ch. Mohd Natiq, Imran Khan, Capt Tarana Saleem, and Ayaz Saeed have also expressed their concerns on the worsening law and order situation.

# BOP inducts first batch of differently-abled persons

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Diversity and inclusion are the essential pillars of BOP's vision and strategy. The bank marked 2021 as the year of "Our People" and 2022 as the year of "Empathy". Remaining true to its commitment as an equal opportunity financial institution, the Bank of Punjab has inducted its first batch of differently-abled persons and launched model branches for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Zafar Masud (President & CEO - The Bank of Punjab) and the senior management



welcomed the new joiners to the Bank and inaugurated model branches for PWDs in BACHS, Lahore, and Madina Town, Faisal-

abad. Onboarding certificates were also presented to the first batch of differently-abled persons by the senior management.

In his message, the President & CEO of BOP reassured BOP's commitment to supporting the financial inclusion of differently-abled persons and reiterated that the DNA of diversity is firmly embedded in 'our veins' at the Bank of Punjab. He further stated that "We celebrate the diversity of thought, diversity of our people, and diversity in all its dimensions which is the baseline upon which we grow as an organization and as a country. Our tagline #HarFardKaKhayal - encompasses an inclusive society caring for what is valuable to us all."

# High CO2-producing companies to face challenges

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Current corporate reporting by a majority of companies producing the highest levels of greenhouse gas emissions would not comply with proposed new requirements from the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB).

This is the key finding of research carried out by ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and the Adam Smith Business School at Glasgow University, aiming to find out how prepared companies are for new climate-related report-

ing rules being developed by the International Sustainability Standards Board, formed last November.

The research analysed the most recent reports published by companies in the construction material and chemical industries which had the highest greenhouse gas emissions over the last three years, comparing current disclosures against the disclosure requirements of the proposed climate-related disclosure standard (IFRS S2, Climate-related Disclosures).

This analysis found that most companies fall short of the type and level of disclo-

sure that the ISSB is proposing. Further, the research found that disclosures were often scattered and duplicated across different company sources, often with no cross-reference, and with little connection to financial information published in the financial statements.

Those companies (77% of the sample) that have adopted the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) Recommendations are significantly better prepared to comply with the proposed new disclosure requirements. However, even these companies will need to significant-

ly increase their climate-related reporting to meet the new requirements of the proposed standard, which the ISSB aims to finalise by the end of this year.

Commenting on the research, ACCA's head of Pakistan, Assad Hameed Khan says: "The colossal impact of recent floods in Pakistan is a reminder on the national climate action urgency. Thus, it is imperative for companies to adopt ESG focused (sustainable) practices and initiate substantive action related to climate change and strengthen reporting through robust climate-related disclosures."

# RCCI elects executive body for 2022-23 unopposed



**Staff Reporter**

RAWALPINDI: The election of corporate and associate class has been completed in the first phase of the annual election of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) for the year 2022-23. All ten unopposed elected members of the Executive Committee belong to the Mian Parvez Aslam Group. Now Ch. Mohd Natiq, Imran Khan, Capt Tarana Saleem, and Ayaz Saeed have also expressed their concerns on the worsening law and order situation.

three withdrew while 22 candidates filed papers for five associate class seats, 17 withdrew their nomination papers and the remaining five candidates were declared uncontested.

On this occasion, the group leader of Rawalpindi Chamber, Sohail Altaf, while congratulating the newly elected executive members, said that the unparalleled success of all the members is a manifestation of the strong confidence of the businessmen and industrialists community of the region on the policies of Mian Parvez Islam Group.



IS Helping Flood Victims

# Mosque to Mosque Movement-unique example to support flood affectees

*Jamia Masjid Rehmatul lil Alameen located in sector F-8/4 launches initiative "2kg Rice Movement" for restoration, rehabilitation of flood victims*

Kishwer Ali Sarfaraz

The disastrous flood of July 2022 in Pakistan will ever remember in the history of the country. This flood has beaten all the records of previous floods like 1992, 2001, 2010, and so on. Although the history of our country is full of natural calamities, especially the earthquake of October 2005, it is still fresh in the minds of the people despite the passing of more than one decade.

The relief, rescue, and rehabilitation operation for the affectees of these natural calamities carried out by the public and private sector of the country, local and international NGOs, and social and religious welfare organizations is still continuing with full determination.

The initiatives taken by the government of Pakistan, and national and international donor organizations have set a unique example of sympathy, brotherhood, and humanity. They have not only provided them relief items like food items, pure drinking water, cloths, blankets, tents, medicines, and construction items for building the damaged houses but also launched movements to reconstruct the fully or partially damaged educational institutions and holy mosques in flood-hit areas of the country. These are the unique examples set by these donors.

Jamia Masjid Rehmatul lil Alameen located in sector F-8/4 of federal capital Islamabad's Khateeb Dr Ubaid Ur Rahman Bashir has announced to launch a movement named "Two Kg rice movement" objects for the restoration and rehabilitation of flood affectees. The decision of launching this movement was taken after witnessing the video clips of flood-hit areas and their miserable condition. The worshippers (Nimazis) of this mosque have announced to donate Two Kg of rice per person in the Jamia Masjid Rehmat lil Alameen to provide food to flood affectees. So far 70 thousand Kg rice was donated by the prayer of this mosque and other people of the area. With this donation, the mosque is providing cooked food to various flood-hit villages at different 40 locations and approximately 10 thousand affectees are being supplied cooked food to these people.

When this announcement was made by Dr. Ubaid-ur-Rehman, a prominent religious scholar, the Khateeb of mosque, the residents of the twin cities (Rawalpindi and Islamabad) donated 30 tons of new and used clothes for flood affectees. They are still donating clothes and edible items including rice, dry ration like ghee, cooking oil, sugar, flour, pulses, and even toys for their children.

As the news of looting the trucks of relief items for flood-hit areas were highlighted by the print and electronic media, the management of Jamia Masjid Rehmatul lil Alameen has decided to launch "Mosque to Mosque movement" which is a unique idea in the history of the country because mosques have a huge network in the country.

Through Jamia Masjid Rehmatul lil Alameen some forty mosques located in various parts of the country including Dera Ghazi Khan, Rajanpur, Khuzdar, Taunsa Sharif, Larkana and some mosques of Sind and Baluchistan provinces have been installed traditional Islamic "Dastarkhawan" where cooked food is being served to flood affectees with honor, respect and dignity. The affectees instead of standing in long queues waiting for food, respectfully sit on these "Dastarkhawan" and food is served to them with respect which is the traditional way of Islamic hospitality.

It is the best example for other mosques in the country to adopt this method or way to maintain the relief activities for flood-hit people. The Jamia Masjid Rehmatul lil Alameen has borne the responsibility of mosques in forty villages in flood-hit areas and if the two percent mosques of in the country would be active in this regard, the food issue of the flood-hit people would be resolved on a permanent basis respectfully.

Distribution of food items to flood affectees through mosques would not only overcome the incidents of looting the relief items trucks but it will also ensure the fair and just distribution of food aid. So it is the need of hour to distribute this aid through clerics of the mosques to remove the



Photos by Ghulam Farid

**Distribution of food items to flood affectees through mosques would not only overcome incidents of looting the relief item trucks but it also ensure the fair and just distribution of aid**

fake flood victims from the scene.

The Jamia Masjid Rehmat lil Alameen is being presented as a role model for other mosques in the country. More than seventy mosques in the flood-hit areas have been drowned in flood water and Jamia Masjid Rehmat lil Alameen is providing food to them on a daily basis. The data of the widows and orphans are being collected through the clerics of the mosques and financial assistance. Some people have donated unstitched ladies' clothes for flood affectees. It is also decided to distribute these unstitched women clothes to young girls whose marriage is being held in near future.

So the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif and Chief Ministers of provinces is humbly requested to provide data on mosques of the respective provinces. All the mosques can easily overcome the crises of floods. Only mosques can fulfill the three basic requirements of flood affectees which include food, medicines, and tents.

So, it is humbly requested that the Government of Pakistan launch a relief and rehabilitation movement for flood affectees through mosques. It is the best time to prove ourselves as a self-restraint nation before the international

community. The clerics of the mosques, and religious scholars should play their due role in this regard.

It is worth mentioning here that Jamia Masjid Rehmatul lil Alameen has dispatched 13 trucks loaded with relief items which include cloths, tents, blankets, food items like rice, pulses, cooking oil, flour bags, and medicines to flood-hit areas. Approximately eight thousand families in flood-hit areas have been provided clothes so far. Besides this, cooked food is being provided to some 35 thousand people every three days. The flood aid is being provided to flood affectees without discrimination of creed, gender, color, caste and faith. Even the minorities of the Sind and Baluchistan provinces which include Christian, Hindu, Sikhs and Parsis and others can contact Jamia Masjid Rehmat lil Alameen administration to get relief items. This mosque would certainly provide food to their worship places of minorities including Churches, Mindars and Gurdawaras.

It is humbly suggested that the network of mosques in the country be organized on the scientific basis and all the flood aid and donations received from local and international donors should be distributed through mosques in the flood-hit areas without discrimination of color, creed, caste and faith. It is the prime responsibility of religious scholars, and prayer leaders of the mosques to promote this ideology

through their speeches, Friday sermons and other writings.

We should distribute this aid to actual flood affectees in a transparent way as this aid is a deposit of Allah Almighty. Mosques can distribute this aid in a transparent, sophisticated, and civilized way where self-respect of the receivers will never be hurt and only the righteous will receive it without any botheration or inconvenience.

It is also requested of the authorities concerned of the Ministries of Interior and Religious Affairs to provide data of mosques on the internet so that relief activities could be continued without any hurdle.

There is a dire need for five items for flood affectees immediately which include food, medicine, tents, house building and restoration of infrastructure in flood-hit areas. Out of these five items mosques can provide three items namely food, mosques and tents and the remaining two items would be provided by the government on a priority basis. The affectees are provided construction items for the building of their damaged houses and measures should be taken immediately for the restoration of infrastructure in those areas. The government should start a movement for the building of damaged houses and restoration of infrastructure to improve their condition. It is the best solution to problems being faced by the affectees.

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# Social research key to designing impactful policies

Sara Al-Mulla

Social research is playing an increasingly central role in crafting impactful public policies. Societies are at the heart of policymaking, so intertwining public interest with policy design is a powerful way to unveil many advantageous opportunities for fine-tuning solutions. As such, there are plenty of strategic advantages for establishing dedicated social research units within governmental agencies.

Engaging in social research revolves around understanding the interplay of the needs, attitudes, motivations and behaviors of constituents on a variety of issues, which could later translate into actionable strategies and solutions. For instance, many strategies are concerned with promoting specific desirable behaviors that would prove optimal for all parties involved, such as healthy lifestyles or financial planning. Deep-diving into common obstacles or motivations will help policymakers design ways to facilitate the adoption of such practices.

To illustrate a point in practice, social researchers in many

economies were engaged to measure attitudes toward parenting and its relation to fertility rates in order to craft suitable work-life balance policies and care services that could help elevate both employment and fertility rates. Social research was also critical during the COVID-19 pandemic to understand factors related to vaccine hesitancy, hygiene practices and infection causes in order to design effective outbreak responses.

Interestingly, a salient theme imprinting much social research recently is understanding the multifaceted ways in which the pandemic has disrupted and remodeled society. Within the plentitude of social research are stories of individuals and communities who have permanently changed the way they work, have a renewed appreciation for social connections and have increased their reliance on digital platforms to access education, e-commerce or get medical advice. Such implications are transforming how economies and societies function, necessitating agile governmental interventions in order to remain competitive.

The UK government's experience with social research is worth

mentioning in this context. Currently, more than 2,400 social researchers are employed across various departments with the aim of publishing insightful research and advice that can be translated into support for policy solutions and interventions. For example, a recent survey by the Department for Work and Pensions examined how separated parents were able to agree on child maintenance arrangements, what their common challenges were and how government interventions could ensure children receive essential services while their parents are in high conflict or facing complex circumstances and financial constraints.

In another example, the US-based Pew Research Center regularly publishes demographic research, social science research and public opinion polling in order to inform policymaking and public dialogue on key issues. The center's work covers an extensive list of topics, including demographic trends, the economy and employment, immigration attitudes, education, health policy, science and technology, and family and relationships. To illustrate, recent interesting publications discussed the top factors that

contributed to finding meaning in one's life, how populations are reacting to climate-related news stories, and consumer attitudes toward purchasing electric vehicles.

In another example, the center last month published survey results revealing the shifting priorities of Americans around health and social activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than a quarter of Americans stated that adopting a healthy lifestyle became more important to them, citing exercise, healthy eating and mental health as some key trends. About 21 percent of respondents revealed a newfound enjoyment for social activities, with many taking more time to engage in social gatherings with family and friends than before the pandemic. Interestingly, 9 percent of respondents showed a decreased valuation of their jobs, perhaps hinting at the many reasons the job market faced an exodus of competent employees seeking fulfillment elsewhere. Such insights could offer policymakers a plethora of policy roadmaps to explore in the future.

In a similar vein, the annual Australian Survey of Social Attitudes offers policymakers an understanding of the social

attitudes, beliefs and opinions of Australians on a variety of salient issues. Past surveys have explored topics such as the role of government, social networks and social resources, health and healthcare, the environment, and work orientations. This year's survey is focused on "Family and Changing Gender Roles," which will pose questions around the evolving structures of families, perceptions of parenthood, income insecurity and attitudes toward marriage, happiness and life satisfaction. By exploring this topic in greater depth, policymakers can also design preemptive policies addressing related issues, such as urban planning, housing needs, family-friendly employment policies, care services and immigration rules.

By delving into an illuminating collection of data-driven social research, policymakers can unravel a wealth of insights that can inspire practical policy solutions and opportunities.

Sara Al-Mulla is an Emirati civil servant with an interest in human development policy and children's literature. She can be contacted at [www.amorelicious.com](mailto:www.amorelicious.com).

Courtesy: Arab News

## Redefining US, Pakistan ties

It is a satisfactory statement from the United States and a positive gesture that the United States is extending its full support and solidarity with Pakistan during the difficult time of devastating floods. It means that Pak-US relations are heading in the positive direction. The United States also expressed willingness to support the current regime in power in Pakistan. The United States is the sole superpower and can support Pakistan in revival of its economy and transfer of technology in many fields. It is a great development that the United States announced aid in millions as humanitarian assistance to support people and communities affected by flooding in Pakistan. There is no doubt that Pakistan needed sustainable relations with the United States based on mutual respect and trust.

Senior Policy Adviser to the US Secretary of State Derek Chollet held meeting with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. The PM said Pakistan is committed to deepen and widen its ties, especially in the areas of security, health, climate change, trade and investment. On behalf of the Biden Administration, Derek Chollet affirmed that the U.S. would stand by Pakistan in the wake of this immense challenge, extend vital support, and help affected people rebuild their lives and communities. He expressed heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the Government and people of Pakistan at the precious lives, resulting from the riverine floods.

The international community is coming forward to support Pakistan in provision of relief to flood-affected people in the country. Pak-US relations were on the low level in the past few years but the need of the hour is to bring the bilateral relations towards normalcy. The strong bilateral relations between both the countries are in the national interests of Pakistan and the United States as well. At this point of time, the United States is a big market for Pakistani exports. During the visit of foreign minister to the United States the superpower reiterated the commitment that it will continue to work bilaterally on ways to grow investment and trade opportunities to build a prosperous and stable Pakistan.

On the other hand, the U.S. administration has announced the approval of the potential sale of F-16 aircraft sustainment and related equipment to Pakistan in a deal valued at up to \$450 million. "The State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to the Government of Pakistan of F-16 Case for Sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$450 million," the department said. The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale on Wednesday. This is a positive development between the two countries and this should be a new beginning to reinforce closer, broad-based relations between Pakistan and the US. The proposed sale will continue the sustainment of Pakistan's F-16 fleet, which greatly improves Pakistan's ability to support counterterrorism operations through its robust air-to-ground capability," the State Department said, adding that Pakistan will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

There is a dire need for a constructive and sustained engagement between the two countries, based on the principles of mutual trust, respect and understanding.



## UK heading for costly storm unless Truss adapts quickly

Mohamed Chebaro

If the new UK Prime Minister Liz Truss's history is anything to go by, the country must brace for more uncertainties during her premiership. Her beginnings were on the left in the footsteps of her left-wing parents, then she joined the centrist Liberal Democrats and even called for the abolition of the monarchy. Next she jumped ship to the Conservative Party, firstly as a pro-European, before she metamorphosed into a Brexiter, right-wing populist, who was elevated to the role of foreign secretary under Boris Johnson.

I would say that the UK must brace for what could be a costly storm unless the new PM, who is known for her pragmatism, changes and adopts a form of leadership that can put the country and its citizens first, with the Conservative Party and its right-wing, populist tribe behind her.

The UK as a nation has been standing at a crossroads since Brexit — not that anyone from the ruling Conservative party wants to admit it. Unless the new leader is ready to acknowledge the scale of the damage the divorce from the EU has dealt to the nation, its unity, its finances and its dented prosperity outlook, then her tenure as only the third woman to lead the country, after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, might be cut short.

Since the start of her campaign, Truss has been trying to emulate Thatcher's way of talking tough, adopting her doctrine of keeping the state small and the citizens responsible.

Does Truss have what it takes to be the

strong leader the country is craving? In her acceptance speech, she praised her predecessor Johnson as "someone admired from Kyiv to Carlisle." But now that she is in the driving seat, her attention must be turned to healing the country's divisions. A YouGov poll in late August found that 52 percent of Britons thought Truss would make a "poor" or "terrible" prime minister, while 43 percent said they did not trust her "at all" to remedy the cost-of-living crisis.

Truss has a unique opportunity to refrain from being a Johnson continuity PM and to work to re-instill a sense of decency in the Cabinet, which was lost under Johnson, and restore trust. She must present a functioning government that is able to get things done efficiently.

The next big thing Truss must do is abandon boosterism and sloganizing in her approach to mending relations with the French first and the rest of the EU later. Her dig at Emmanuel Macron that "the jury is out" on whether he is a friend or a foe showed her to be less of a statesperson than the leader of the UK should be. Aligning British interests with those of its European neighbors could serve to mend the fences that have fallen since the Brexit withdrawal agreement storm. If anything, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has shown that Europe's liberal democracy and its peace and prosperity are at stake, and this applies not only to mainland Europe. The Russian leadership has singled out London as a target for retaliatory nuclear attacks by the Kremlin if the West continues to arm the Ukrainians — it did not mention Brussels or Paris in its threat.

Relations with the US are equally important, regardless of whether it is a Democrat or a Republican who is in office. This high-

lights the need to settle the problem of the Northern Ireland protocol amicably, rather than unilaterally abolish it and risk alienating President Joe Biden's administration, which has often warned London about its duty to do everything possible to uphold the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to the province.

Solid relationships with Europe and the US, as the UK's true allies, will give more weight to Truss's leadership and words when she talks tough on Russia or China, or when she reaches out to revive old partnerships or create new ones in pursuit of the post-Brexit brand of "Global Britain."

After 12 years in power, many in Britain could be right when they write off the Conservatives, claiming that they have reached the end of the road. This is Truss's chance. Her track record has shown her to be adaptable, in addition to having a sharp political instinct, as some who have worked with her have claimed. Some have even described her as a canny operator. All bets are currently stacked against her lasting long at the head of a divided Tory party and a divided if not totally broken Britain. Truss, unlike her idol Thatcher, who famously said she was "not for turning," actually needs to U-turn on her campaign promises and confirm a massive support package, including hand-outs, and rule out tax cuts if she is to have a chance at leading her party to victory at the next general election.

Mohamed Chebaro is a British-Lebanese journalist, media consultant, and trainer with more than 25 years' experience covering war, terrorism, defense, current affairs, and diplomacy. Courtesy: Arab News

## Politics of hate prevent the discussion of big issues

Ray Hanania

America is polarized and divided and the world must wonder whether or not it can fulfill its supposed role as "leader of the free world." What exactly that phrase is supposed to mean, I just do not know any more, given the internal fighting that dominates this country. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, last week gave a partisan speech that effectively blamed all of America's ills on the Republicans, further widening that divide. He said: "Too much of what's happening in our country today is not normal. Donald Trump and the MAGA (Make America Great Again) Republicans represent an extremism that threatens the very foundations of our republic."

The deep divides in the country have drawn in every voting constituency — and Arab Americans are no exception. Although they are concerned by Biden's failure to live up to his campaign promises, they have joined in the stamped to pillory Trump, attacking him personally and not addressing the issues. Rep. Rashida Tlaib, the daughter of Palestinian immigrants, has used hate politics in an attempt to energize the Arab American, Muslim and progressive communities, including unleashing a profanity-laced speech attacking Trump hours after she was sworn into office.

Some think the politics of hate started when Trump appeared on the political scene. But the truth is that this divisive political phase began when a former Georgia history professor, Newt Gingrich, entered Congress in 1979 after transforming a Democratic district into a Republican one.

Prior to Gingrich's rise, former President Ronald Reagan — who won the support of both Republicans and Democrats, creating what we now refer to as "Reagan Democrats" — expressed how politics should never besmirch personalities. Speaking in 1985 at the presidential library named for one of his predecessors, John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963, Reagan praised Kennedy, but then added this impor-

tant comment, which reflects the old manner of American politics that today is lost in the mire: "Which is not to say I supported John Kennedy when he ran for president. I didn't. I was for the other fellow. But you know it is true, when the battle's over and the ground is cooled, well it's then that you see the opposing general's valor."

That kind of political brilliance is no longer here in America. Gingrich set the tone, but many Republicans and Democrats have since fueled the growth of hate politics.

President George W. Bush used anger to bring people together in the days after Al-Qaeda's 2001 terrorist attack that took the lives of nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington and in a field in Pennsylvania. Bush declared in no uncertain terms to the leaders of foreign nations, and to the American people themselves: "Over time it's going to be important for nations to know they will be held accountable for inactivity. You're either with us or against us in the fight against terror."

And in her 2016 presidential election campaign against Trump, Hillary Clinton, the former first lady and New York senator, vowed to run a "positive campaign." But her campaign rhetoric fueled anger and was symbolized by her comment attacking those who supported her opponent as "deplorable."

Candidates use the politics of hate to rally their supporters, but also as a way to avoid a respectful discussion of the issues. The worst part of it is that the hatred is narrow in focus, usually against a single person, and not about the bigger issues that are more important and that might impact people's lives.

This is one reason why Arab Americans and American Muslims are powerless to change American policies — no matter if those policies are Republican or Democratic — in an attempt to bring justice and fairness not only to their communities in the US, but to change unjust policies affecting the Middle East.

Ray Hanania is an award-winning former Chicago Hall political reporter and columnist. He can be reached on his personal website at [www.Hanania.com](http://www.Hanania.com).

Courtesy: Arab News

## Meezan Bank launches POS terminals & online payment gateway

The initiative will fast-track digital payments in Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Meezan Bank, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank has launched Point of Sale (POS) payment and online payment gateway services to further enhance its digital retail offering and fast-track the country's digital ecosystem.

The Bank will act as a link between merchants, issuers and payment networks by offering them state-of-the-art POS machines and make cashless transactions available over the counters, enabling retailers to benefit from the adoption of digital payments. The POS machines support acceptance of local and international cards, card and mobile tap payments and integration with the retailer system. With the launch of POS and e-Commerce Acquiring services, Meezan Bank will now be able to digitize payments for a large number of unserved retail customers who prefer Islamic banking.

A ceremony was recently held at Meezan Bank's Head Office to acknowledge the contribution of the key individuals in this project. This ceremony was attended by Mr. Ariful Islam - Deputy CEO, Meezan Bank and other senior team members.

Commenting on this occasion Ariful Islam said, "Meezan Bank is actively working towards modernizing retail services in the country through enhanced digital offerings and documentation in the economy. We are confident that our recently launched merchant acquiring services will accelerate digital payments."



Meezan Bank is the leading Islamic bank of Pakistan and also one of the largest banks nationwide in terms of branch network as well as deposits. With a network of over 930 branches in more than 300 cities, it has the largest Islamic banking network in Pakistan.

Meezan Bank has consistently been recognized as the Best Islamic Bank in Pakistan by numerous local and international institutions including its recognition as the 'Best Bank - 2020' by Pakistan Banking Awards - the most prestigious award in the country's financial sector and by Islamic Finance News - Malaysia, Global Finance magazine

- New York, Asset AAA - Hong Kong, Asiamoney - Hong Kong, The Banker - United Kingdom, South Asian Federation of Accountants, Islamic Finance Forum of South Asian Awards, - Dawn & IBP Pakistan, Employers Federation of Pakistan and CFA Association - Pakistan.

*UAE corporates' funding base is well diversified, says Fitch*



SHARJAH: UAE corporates have a more diversified funding base compared to their regional peers, said Fitch Ratings in a new report. Debt capital market (DCM) and equity capital market (ECM) issuances represented 32% of corporates' funding structure in the first half of 2022, compared with 2% for Saudi corporates in 2021. Bank borrowings financed 68% of corporates' funding structure, raising \$24 billion in the same period.

DCM issuances for corporates dipped to \$2.3 billion in the first half, after a 43% year-on-year increase in 2021 raising \$15 billion, according to Fitch's adjusted Bloomberg data for corporates with market presence. "We expect DCM issuances to remain low for the rest of 2022 but to grow in the medium term, supported by improved economic activity," the report said.

The proportion of Islamic facilities to UAE corporates' bank funding increased to 21% in 2021, albeit far lower than the 85% for Saudi corporates, due to the kingdom's dominant Islamic financing sector. Conventional bonds accounted for most issuances, at 96% in 2021 compared to 80% in 2020. Sukuk contributions to fixed-income issuances fell significantly to 4% in 2021 from 20% in 2020, due mainly to the introduction of AAOIFI standards regarding tangibility requirements.

Small- to mid-size corporate issuers were the most affected by the Sharia standards, pushing companies to either opt for conventional notes or postpone sukuk transactions. "We expect the momentum of DCM issuances through international bond and sukuk notes to pick up after 2022. All UAE fixed-income issuances were raised on the international market and none locally. Conversely, Saudi corporates have access to a more developed local sukuk market." UAE has had a spree of IPOs mainly driven by government-related entities, raising nearly 9 billion in the first half of 2022. This is up from \$5 billion in 2021 and represents 79% of total fixed income and equity proceeds, largely due to record-low DCM issuance in the period.

*Dubai banker leaves Credit Agricole for SocGen*



DUBAI: Dubai-based banker Sohaib Ahmed is leaving Credit Agricole to become Middle East head of Islamic finance at rival French lender Societe Generale, two sources familiar with the matter said.

Ahmed has worked at Credit Agricole for more than 15 years and at its Islamic banking business since April 2014, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Societe Generale confirmed the move but declined to comment further. Credit Agricole and Ahmed both declined to comment. SocGen's Islamic banking business offers a wider offering than Credit Agricole's, including structured products like derivatives, swaps and hedging, one of the sources said.

In June, Ishaq Dadabhojy left Societe Generale, where he was head of Middle East Islamic finance, to join Goldman Sachs' Dubai office as executive director of Islamic finance, according to his LinkedIn page.

Ahmed's role at SocGen will be slightly different to Dadabhojy's, one of the sources said. Ahmed is expected to take up his new role imminently, the source said.

## Emirates NBD Securities accelerate DFM investor access

DUBAI: Emirates NBD Securities has become the first securities brokerage to launch an end-to-end digital onboarding process. The newly launched platform enables more than 1 million Emirates NBD customers to start trading instantly amid increased demand for stocks and a robust pipeline of initial public offerings on the Dubai Financial Market (DFM).

The end-to-end digital process offered by the platform allows Emirates NBD customers to instantly acquire a DFM investor number (NIN) and Emirates NBD Securities brokerage account. In three simple steps, users can begin their trading journey and receive their trading account details and DFM NIN within minutes, eliminating the need to print, sign, scan and e-mail documents.

The upgraded platform replaces paper-based processes with a fully digitised brokerage account opening experience, providing investors with rapid access to the DFM, whose benchmark equity gauge ranks among the best performing stock benchmarks in the world this year.

In March, Emirates NBD Group launched an end-to-end IPO subscription website for individual

investors with real time subscription payment capabilities for UAE investors and wire transfer capabilities for non-UAE investors. The new seamless onboarding process complements this initiative by providing instant access to IPO subscriptions and is part of a strategic collaboration with DFM to enhance investor base.

The improved onboarding process also provides access to other regional exchanges, advanced trading platforms and app. Investors can also maximise their returns with THARAA, an innovative Emirates NBD loyalty program that rewards every executed trade.

As members of the Emirates NBD banking Group, Emirates NBD Securities customers enjoy additional benefits such as the ability to manage the proceeds of their trades in real-time through their personal Emirates NBD bank account, a multi-purpose settlement account with an Emirates NBD debit card, and the ability to invest in Shari'ah-compliant shares through the bank's Investment Murabaha platform.

Commenting on the announcement, Hamed Ali, CEO of DFM and Nasdaq Dubai, said, "We are delighted

with the accelerating pace of innovative solutions' offering from our leading members, with Emirates NBD Securities at the forefront. Digital transformation is integral part within DFM's efforts to investors' on-boarding experience and market accessibility. We look forward for further cooperation with Emirates NBD Securities to reinforce DFM's digital transformation strategy and to further enhance our investor base of local and international investors."

Ahmed Al Qassim, Senior Executive Vice President and Group Head, Corporate & Institutional Banking at Emirates NBD Group, said, "For the first time, investors can take advantage of a seamless and fully digitised account opening process, allowing them to start trading instantaneously and track the performance of their portfolio in real-time. We are confident that efforts by our fast-growing securities brokerage arm to remove the barriers to trading will increase the flow of capital into regional markets, enhancing market liquidity and reinforcing the Emirate's position as the region's leading financial centre and hub for technological innovation."

## Egypt's FRA issues first license for Islamic microfinance activity

EGYPT: Chairperson of the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) Mohamed Farid revealed that the authority issued its first license to a financial institution to engage in financing micro enterprises according to Islamic financing formulas.

Farid explained that issuing the new license adds a new dimension to the existing financing mechanisms in the local market in terms of innovating the "agency investment formula."

The formula is a contract in which another person is authorised to invest an amount of money owned in favour of the investor in return for a specified fee or a sum or a percentage of the invested money.

He added that the authority is currently looking into the option of issuing the necessary approvals to allow using products based on other main forms of Islamic financing - including murabaha and all types of musharaka for other companies - to be applied for the first time with the non-banking micro-enterprise sector.

Farid highlighted the importance of diversifying the applications of financing formulas in general to finance micro-enterprises, adding that this would



help accelerate the pace of addressing the problem of the informal economy through integrating new segments of micro-enterprise owners into the formal sector for the first time. This would eventually help with positive rates in achieving the objectives of the state's strategy towards financial inclusion.

Activity statistics at the end of July 2022 indicate that the number of beneficiaries of microfinance services reached about 3.8m with a financing portfolio of about EGP 33.3bn, 60% of which - or 2.3 million beneficiaries - were women. Also, young people of both genders constitut-

ed 64% of the total beneficiaries.

It is worth noting that after Egyptian microfinance company Mikrosab obtained a new license to engage in microfinance activity based on the application of the agency financing by investment formula for its various financing products, the number of companies licensed by the authority to engage in microfinance activity in the country jumped to 19.

The investment agency can vary, as it can be classified as a general, private, absolute, restricted, temporary, non-temporary, paid, or unpaid agency.

*Global halal economy to reach \$5trln by 2030: Frank & Sullivan*

DUBAI: The market for the global halal economy will likely witness impressive growth, reaching \$4.96 trillion by 2030 from \$2.30 trillion in 2020, says a new report.

The halal economy is experiencing an upward trend as the demand for halal products from both Muslim and non-Muslim nations increases, a recent analysis - Global Halal Economy Growth

The main factors driving the halal industry are favourable population demographics, government policies, and private sector initiatives. Growing non-Muslim demand for halal foods will be driven by its association with safe and healthy eating, while halal fashion and tourism should also find increasing acceptance among more conservative non-Muslim consumers, the report said.

"With higher levels of halal trade and Islamic finance potentially accelerating infrastructure development, the halal economy is poised to become more integrated with global trade and supply chains," said Neha Anna Thomas, Senior Economist at Frost & Sullivan.

"Further, governments are strengthening regulatory and policy support through national masterplans and certification scope expansion, which will boost the halal industry's growth." Thomas added: "Transparency and traceability along the halal product value chain are crucial. Due to this, governments should encourage the adoption of advanced technologies such as blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT) when developing halal economy masterplans, while businesses can partner with tech start-ups."

Global governments must seek to unify halal standards and accreditation processes to help reduce the number of certification requirements and promote halal commerce. Food manufacturers should collaborate with technology companies to improve traceability and transparency while increasing consumer trust.

Global drug manufacturers and raw material suppliers should incorporate halal-certified products into their offerings, potentially through joint ventures, to tap into growing halal pharmaceutical demand from Islamic countries.

## Sukuk documentation adapts to AAOIFI standards

ABU DHABI: Changes in global sukuk documentation linked to UAE Central Bank's adoption of the Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions' (AAOIFI) sharia norms have become standardised to some extent.

Fitch Ratings says that however, it is uncertain if additional changes will be seen in the near term and issuers have exhibited varying degrees of adaptation, while the practical effect of the new documentation has yet to be tested.

A majority of Fitch-rated sukuk issued in 2021-9M22 have new clauses embedded in the documents, including defined tangibility events and the associated put options. The changes have been seen across sovereigns, financial institutions and corporate issuers. Non-compliance with AAOIFI standards and Higher Sharia Authority (HSA) guidelines could reduce sukuk demand, as a sizeable share of global sukuk investors, arrangers and issuers are based in the UAE and fall under UAE Central Bank's remit. In June 2022, Fitch updated its Sukuk Rating Criteria to take

account of these developments.

Fitch commented on the potential impact of the adoption of AAOIFI standards when new clauses and revised terms began to appear in documentation last year. These included stricter tangibility ratio requirements with new dissolution triggers. While gaps remain, some standardisation has been achieved in language relating to tangibility events, delisting events, indemnity payments and partial-loss events.

Several Fitch-rated sukuk across sectors issued in 2021-9M22 have sufficient unencumbered sharia-compliant assets to provide headroom against tangibility events. However, the risk of tangibility event is present for sukuk issuers (mainly non-sovereigns) with limited tangible assets and low headroom. This could expose issuers to rising liquidity risk upon exercise of put options by investors, which could have implications for their Issuer Default Ratings.

The amount that can be raised through sukuk issuance could also be capped by the value of an obligor's tangible assets. This built-in cap on leverage could be cred-

it positive, but may be neutral or negative for issuers with limited tangible assets, asset-light firms and highly indebted issuers, for whom it could restrict access to funding.

Sukuk investors may have an advantage over conventional bond investors in their contractual right to exercise a put option following a tangibility event and accelerate repayment prior to maturity. However, this remains untested in practice since no dissolution triggers have been hit, or puts exercised. This compounds uncertainty over potential differences in sukuk and bondholder treatment in many Islamic finance markets. Most Fitch-rated sukuk are senior unsecured obligations of the issuer and rank pari passu with other senior unsecured obligations, including bonds.

Global sukuk issuance slowed in Q121, due to complexities relating to AAOIFI, before normalising. Annual global growth in 2021 was 42.3%, driven by sizeable issuances by sovereigns, Islamic banks and large corporates.

However, the impact was greater in the UAE, where sukuk volumes fell by 54.1% in 2021,



while issuance of conventional bonds, which are simpler, more standardised and unaffected by AAOIFI standards, jumped by 239.3%. This shift from sukuk to bonds partly retraced in H122, when sukuk issued by UAE-based entities rose by 88.4% compared to 2H21, while bond issuance increased by 9.2%.

Issuance for the remainder of 2022 will depend on various factors, including how far high oil prices reduce oil-exporting govern-

ments' funding needs and global investor appetite for emerging market debt as well as sharia complexities. However, intact Islamic investor appetite, upcoming debt maturities, Islamic-finance development plans from several governments, and issuers' funding diversification strategies should support issuance over the longer term.

Secondary market liquidity remains limited for sukuk as the market is dominated by buy-and-

hold investors. UAE-based Islamic banks may face regulatory restrictions on investing in sukuk issued before 2021 that do not comply with AAOIFI sharia standards and HSA guidelines, further reducing secondary market liquidity.

A lack of standardisation is a long-standing challenge for sukuk, including in product structuring, documentation, sharia-interpretation and dispute resolution.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

### Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,824.79	41,766.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,936.93	41,676.94
Index Value	Change
3,755,391,118	+ 58.74
Percentage	Time
+ 0.14%	8 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

### Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,262.06	+24.23
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	8 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

### USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
31,676.72	+95.44
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	8 Sept, 11:49 am GMT-4

### Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,065.28	+634.98
Percentage	Time
+2.31%	8 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

### Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.15	151.41
Bahrain Dinar	591.6	596.05
Canadian Dollar	169.49	170.84
China Yuan	31.63	31.88
Danish Krone	29.29	29.64
Euro	228.1	230.6
Hong Kong Dollar	28.33	28.68
Indian Rupee	2.75	2.83
Japanese Yen	1.57	1.61
Kuwaiti Dinar	719.84	724.84
Malaysian Ringgit	49.02	49.47
New Zealand \$	134.67	135.87
Norwegians Krone	22.02	22.32
Omani Riyal	577.62	582.12
Qatari Riyal	60.25	60.75
Saudi Riyal	61.55	62.55
Singapore Dollar	158.16	159.46
Swedish Korona	20.31	20.61
Swiss Franc	225.95	227.7
Thai Bhat	6.09	6.19
U.A.E Dirham	63	65
UK Pound Sterling	265.1	268.1
US Dollar	232.1	234.6

# Present method of fixed charges suggested by NEPRA is anti-consumer: FPCCI

*Irfan Iqbal Sheikh says current practice of fixed charges based on 50% of sanctioned load defies all logic and fair practice*

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his profound concerns that National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is not looking after the interests of the people, the business community and the economy.

He added that the current practice of fixed charges based on 50% of sanctioned load defies all logic and fair practice; and, the past mechanism for fixed charges based on actual maximum demand (MDX) and the units consumed should immediately be reinstated for electricity billing. The fixed charges based on 50% of the sanctioned load instead of actual Maximum Demand is totally out-of-sync with the actual



consumption and ground realities of industries; a large number of which are dysfunctional or operating at their partial capacities due to floods and rains. Furthermore, industry is forced to work under an environment of insufficient

power supply against the demand in the system.

FPCCI Chief highlighted that the business environment of Pakistan is in stagnation due to the burgeoning cost of doing business; and, the NEPRA is not listening to the legitimate concerns of the business community. NEPRA has also abruptly cancelled a public hearing recently; further adding fuel to the frustration of the consumers suffering at the hands of DISCOS and K Electric, more due to non profound decisions made by NEPRA against the consumer interests.

Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI, has emphasized that NEPRA should have a meaningful consultative process with the real stakeholders of the issue, i.e. business, industry and trade community and trade bodies as they are the

ones who can provide the most practical and sustainable solution towards reducing the cost of electricity and related anomalies in electricity bills nationwide. Engr. Jabbar further added that K-Electric should be made to decrease their dependence on obsolete and inefficient plants to offer some respite to their consumers on the back of a more efficient price matrix of K-Electric's generation sources.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has explained that thousands of SMEs are closed due to the economic conditions and floods in the country; and, there is no way that these companies can pay their unfairly generated bills based on sanctioned load, increased monthly Fuel Price Adjustment, Quarterly Tariff Adjustment and severe hike in base tariffs.

# Zameen.com to host 4th edition of PPS-2022 in Dubai

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest real estate enterprise, Zameen.com is once again holding its popular Pakistan Property Show (PPS) 2022 at the Dubai World Trade Centre this weekend (September 10 & 11). The previous iterations of the event has attracted huge numbers of overseas Pakistanis from the Gulf region who expressed a keen interest in projects on display from Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Peshawar, Faisalabad, Multan and other major cities.

The two-day event will feature over 60 exhibitors and showcase 200 plus of the best projects from around Pakistan. Impor-

tant Pakistani and Emirati dignitaries will be gracing the show, including Director General of the Dubai Land Department H.E Sultan Butti Bin Mejren, Imtiaz Feroz Gondal, Pakistan's Acting Ambassador to the UAE, President of the Pakistan Association Dubai (PAD) Dr. Faisal Ikram, and prominent journalists from Pakistan. Zameen.com CEO Zeeshan Ali Khan, Country Head Ahmad Bhatti, EMPG CEO Imran Ali Khan, Head of EMPG's MENA Region Haider Ali Khan, and members of Zameen's senior management will also be present for the occasion.

The said dignitaries and Zameen representatives will also take part in a Discussion

Panel titled 'Why Real Estate continues to be the best investment in Pakistan', providing attendees and the viewers at home with an invaluable discourse on the current state of the property sector and its future prospects.

Overseas Pakistanis are the second largest community of expatriates in the UAE, with an estimated population of over 1.2 million. They are a significant contributor to Pakistan's real estate industry, and over the past few years, their contribution has only gone up. Zameen.com has been a major reason for this increase in foreign investment, as it has provided expats with a transparent and trustworthy source for buying and investing in property.



Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah presenting shield to Naima Ansari, President IWCCI. President ICCI Shakeel Munir, Group Leader ICCI Khalid Malik, SVP IWCCI Sadaf Asim Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion.

# Telenor pledges Rs1.1b for flood relief efforts in Pakistan

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan, along with its parent company, Telenor Group, have pledged PKR 1.1 billion in cash and in-kind services to support nationwide flood relief efforts. Telenor's cash donation comprises voluntary contributions from Telenor Pakistan and Telenor Microfinance Bank employees and funds from Telenor Pakistan and the Group.

Additionally, a range of in-kind services is part of the total contribution. Earlier today, Telenor Pakistan made a cash donation of PKR 100 million to UNICEF Pakistan to support them in relief efforts by providing life-saving nutrition and



hygiene packs in affected areas on an immediate basis.

Irfan Wahab Khan, Chief Executive Officer, Telenor Pakistan and chairman, Telenor Microfinance Bank, said, "In

this moment of national tragedy and calamity, our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the floods. With the support of Telenor colleagues from around the world, we

are committed to supporting impacted families and communities through these testing times and will do all we can. The road of rehabilitation for the affected is long and treacherous, and we will continue to support to the best of our abilities."

"The torrential monsoon rains that left one-third of Pakistan under water have destroyed the vital infrastructure children rely on to access essential services. More than 20,000 schools and 1,460 public health facilities have been damaged or destroyed, and 20 to 50 per cent of water systems in the hardest-hit areas," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF's Representative in Pakistan.

# ICCI Housing, Construction Expo kicks off today

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry is organizing a national level 3-days "ICCI Pakistan Property, Housing and Construction Expo 22", which is starting today (Sep: 9) at Pak-China Friendship Centre and will continue till Sep: 11, 2022. The Ministry of Housing & Works and Naya Pakistan Housing Authority are supporting ICCI in this initiative. The main purpose of organizing the Expo is to revive the economy by boosting the housing and construction sector activities. A large number of companies from the property, housing and construction sector are participating in the Expo to exhibit their projects. All allied industries including steel, marble, cement, construction machin-



ery, sanitary ware, electrical work, paints, hardware, ceramic tiles & different items, solar systems, wood flooring, interior design products, kitchen accessories etc. and stakeholders are also participating in the Expo to increase the brand exposure of their high quality products. The Expo is expected to attract a large number of people on a daily basis. Many dignitaries including the federal ministers and diplo-

mats have been invited to visit the Expo.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in his message encouraged the people of the twin cities and surrounding areas to visit the Expo during the 3-days as it provides them an excellent opportunity to see the property, housing and construction projects of their choice at one platform. He said that the

construction industry plays a vital role in the economic development of a country as it stimulates the business of over 70 allied industries. He said that the construction industry has reportedly contributed over PKR 1400 billion to the GDP of Pakistan in 2021 and hoped that the ICCI Expo would help further boost its business activities and contribute to revive the economy.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan is facing huge shortage of housing units to meet the needs of its rising population and stressed that the government should focus on construction industry to address this key issue and revive the business and economic activities in the country.

# LCBDDA strengthens business ties with stakeholders

**Our Correspondent**

LAHORE: Lahore Central Business District Development Authority, (LCBDDA) also known as Central Business District Punjab, (CBD Punjab) hosted a meet-up in the honour of the business investors, developers and industry thought leaders in association with Ministry of Housing, Urban Development, Public Health and Engineering to strengthen the business relations and ties with existing & potential



investors at CBD Punjab. Senior Provincial Minister, Mian Aslam Iqbal graced the event as Chief Guest. The event was attended by the Chief Executive Officer of LCBDDA-Imran Amin, COO LCBDDA-Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua,

Mian Mehmood Ur Rasheed - Minister for Local Government & Community Development, Mr. Ahmed Javed Qazi - Secretary Industries, Commerce & Skill Development, Asif Jah - Chairman PBIT, senior representation of the business

community, other government officials, foreign diplomats, real estate developers & industry thought leaders along with directorate heads of LCBDDA. While addressing the event Senior Provincial Minister Punjab, Mian Aslam Iqbal

said that "The province of Punjab, has a pivotal role in the development of Pakistan. Our core focus is to provide a comprehensive business environment all across the province to attract more and more investment in Punjab. A busi-

ness hub like CBD Punjab has its own unique significance in the development of the province. The project is fully supported by the Government of Punjab and we believe that this project will take Pakistan to new heights". He further added that "the authority has achieved great milestones in a short time span which is the reason that we have expanded its jurisdiction all over Punjab". He requested the investors to come forward and start their projects in CBD Punjab.

## Carrefour supports flood victims with food donations



**Staff Reporter**

LAHORE: With relief and rescue operations underway in many parts of the country, Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Pakistan, has collaborated with Alkhidmat Foundation to support flood victims through food hamper donations. The ration-based relief packages prepared by Carrefour will provide 150,000 meals, feeding 5,000 families over 10 days.

Each donation box contains daily food items including flour, rice, ghee, sugar and other daily essentials. The hampers will be distributed by Alkhidmat Foundation to provide relief to thousands of families residing in critically affected areas. In addition to this, Carrefour has also donated food hamper boxes to the Government of Punjab and the Government of Sindh alongside the Lifeline Welfare Foundation.

Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, expressed his views by saying, "The scale and scope of the devastation caused by this flood are unprecedented in every way. We must all come together as individuals, communities, and as a nation to help our fellow brothers and sisters in dire distress. Our food hamper donation is a humble contribution towards tackling a horrific crisis of epic proportions because every effort counts when dealing with such a challenge. We remain committed to extending as much relief support as possible to help our surrounding communities and encourage our customers to donate as much as they can."

To facilitate the donation process, Carrefour is offering similar hamper boxes at cost price to individuals to purchase and donate at Carrefour stores across Pakistan. This will enable them to make a huge difference to those experiencing food insecurity due to the flooding.

## 24 players from nine cricket boards join 66 local players for PJJ

*Gordon Parsons, Ijaz Ahmed Snr, Mushtaq Ahmed, Abdul Razzaq, Abdur Rehman and Toby Radford to coach teams*

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: The six Pakistan Junior League teams selected some of the most prominent U19 stars from Pakistan and around the world at the player draft held on Thursday in Lahore.

A total of 66 Pakistan and 24 foreign cricketers were picked by the coaches of Bahawalpur Royals, Gujranwala Giants, Gwadar Sharks, Hyderabad Hunters, Mardan Warriors and Rawalpindi Raiders.

As part of the draft regulations, each of the six squads comprise 15 players, the teams picked four players in Elite, five in Premier and six in X-factor categories.

Besides Pakistan, players from a total of nine cricket boards would have representation at the PJJ which will run from 6 October to 21 October at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. Nineteen matches (including playoffs and final) will be played in the single-league format tournament.

Star performers of the national U19 circuit (2022-23); Obaid Shahid, Uzair Mumtaz, Muhammad Ismail, Saad



Baig, Abbas Ali and Habibullah were named captains of Bahawalpur, Gujranwala, Gwadar, Hyderabad, Mardan and Rawalpindi respectively.

Nathan Edwards (West Indies), Tom Aspinwall (England), Danial Ibrahim (England), Joseph Eckland (England), Isai Thorne (West Indies), Archie Lenham (England), George Thomas (England) and Hassan Eisaikhil (Afghanistan) were the foreign players picked in the Elite Category.

In the final round of the draft, the six sides picked a player each from ICC Asso-

ciate Members. These players are; Gabriel Gallman-Findlay (Scotland), Matthew Tromp (USA), Kushal Malla (Nepal), Ali Naseer (UAE), Burhan Niaz (Belgium) and Charlie Tear (Scotland).

The local players selected for the PJJ will continue their ongoing camp as part of the PCB Pathway Programme at the National High Performance Centre.

These players will join their respective sides when the event's support period begins in the last week of September. The foreign players are expected to reach Lahore a week or so before the start of the tournament.

Bahawalpur Royals: Bahawalpur has a rich princely heritage and it is considered the royal jewel of Southern Punjab. The Royals will aim to carry the legacy of the city by inspirational on-field performance in the Pakistan Junior League.

Gujranwala Giants: Home to the all-time great wrestler Gama Pehlwan also known as Rustam-e-Zaman, Gujranwala has a rich sporting tradition which the Giants will embody during the Pakistan Junior League. The wrestling tradition is prevalent even today with

the present generation carrying on the baton and winning medals for the country in sporting events around the world.

Gwadar Sharks: The beautiful and scenic Gwadar beach is considered Pakistan's gateway to the world via the Arabian Sea. The Gwadar Sharks will be lurking for their sporting prey when action begins at the Gaddafi Stadium on 6 October in the 19-match tournament.

Hyderabad Hunters: The city known for its culinary delights will be game for all the flavours that cricket has to offer. The Hunters will hope to stay in the hunt for the prestigious title—the inaugural Pakistan Junior League champions.

Mardan Warriors: The Warriors will aim to continue the proud tradition of the warriors of the region renowned for their never-say-die attitude and killer instincts, two ingredients found in all sporting victors.

Rawalpindi Raiders: The Rawalpindi and Potohar regions are renowned for their rugged terrain and survivor traits. The Raiders would be ready to raid for glory at the Pakistan Junior League 2022.

## British HC meets women cricketers ahead of men's T20 tour

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: With the English men's cricket team arriving in Pakistan this month, the British High Commissioner on Thursday met women cricketers at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and hoped a tour of England's women's cricket team would follow soon.

The English men's cricket team will be touring Pakistan for the first time in 17 years to play seven T20 internationals in September followed by three international test matches in December. This year also marks 75 years of Pak-UK relations.

As the Pakistan and English cricket boards finalise arrangements, the High Commissioner met PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja and thanked him for his support for the upcoming tour. The High Commissioner also wished good luck to the Pakistan men's team in the Asia Cup. He later met a player of the women's cricket team, Nida Dar, and under-



scored UK's commitment to promote inclusivity and gender equality in sports.

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games in July-August this year saw the largest contingent of Pakistani women take part with women's cricket featured in the Games for

the first time. Fouzia Younis, Head of Communications and Public Policy at the British High Commission, later received bowling and batting tips from Nida Dar.

British High Commissioner Christian Turner said: "We are thrilled to

have the men's cricket team tour Pakistan. At the same time, the UK is committed to promoting inclusivity and gender equality in sports and would love to see the talented women I met today go head to head with the English women's team. We are Ek Saath."

## Sports Minister, DG SBP greet Pak cricket team

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood and Director General (DG) Sports Punjab Muhammad (SBP) Tariq Qureshi have congratulated Pakistan cricket team for snatching a narrow 1-wicket victory against in-form Afghanistan cricket team in a Super-4 clash of T20 Asia Cup at Sharjah, UAE.

Malik Taimoor Masood, in a felicitating message here on Thursday, said that the Pakistan cricket team demonstrated wonderful fighting spirit especially in the later stages of closely fought T20 encounter.

He highly admired the performance of fast bowler Naseem Shah, who struck two back-to-back sixes and sealed a berth in the final of Asia Cup. "Wicketkeeper M Rizwan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan and Asif Ali also contributed valuable shares in the tense T20 clash," he added.

DG Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi lauded the performance of national cricket squad in a crucial T20 match of ongoing Asia Cup. He said that tail-ender speedster Naseem Shah really deserved huge appreciation the way he controlled his nerves in the tense final stages of the nerve-wrecking T20 match against Afghanistan.

He expressed his hope that Pak cricket team will carry this match winning performance in the remaining key encounters of T20 Asia Cup cricket tournament and clinch the title of T20 Asia Cup.

## FIH Hockey Men's WC 2023 pools revealed

ISLAMABAD: The pools of the upcoming FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023 Bhubaneswar were revealed in the draw ceremony on Thursday.

Pool A was headed up by current FIH World Rankings (WR) number one Australia, who got the bronze medal at the last World Cup in 2018. They would play 2016 Olympic Champions Argentina (WR:7), France (WR:11), playing their fourth World Cup, and African Champions South Africa (WR:14).

In Pool B, reigning World Champions Belgium (WR:2) were the top seed and they are drawn to face 2002 and 2006 World Champions Germany (WR:4). Both European teams



would face two representatives from Asia, namely Korea (WR:12) and Japan (WR:17). Pool C would feature the finalists from the last edition, the Netherlands (WR:3), at

the head of the group. They would come up against the other Oceania's representative New Zealand (WR:9), Malaysia (WR:10), playing their ninth World Cup, and newcomers

Chile (WR:23), participating for the very first time in a FIH Hockey Men's World Cup.

In Pool D, hosts India were the highest ranked side (WR:5). They would face England (WR:6), which they've recently met at the Commonwealth Games Birmingham 2022 for a thrilling encounter (4-4), two-time silver medallists (1971, 1998) Spain (WR:8) and Wales (WR: 16), who, like Chile, will play their maiden World Cup. As already announced, India, Australia, Belgium and Netherlands were placed on the first row of their corresponding Pools based on the FIH World Rankings as per June 1, 2022.

FIH Acting President Seif Ahmed said, "We can't wait to

see the best teams in the world in action in the new 'jewel' of hockey, the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela, which, alongside the iconic Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar, will play host to the 2023 FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup. I wish already the very best of luck to all participating teams and officials, and invite all fans to tune in early next year—an unforgettable hockey show is awaiting you!" The world cup will be held from January 13 to 29, 2023 in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela, in the state of Odisha, India. Belgium were the current World Champions, having defeated the Netherlands in the final of the 2018 edition.

## Rodrigo Esteves joins Pakistan Men Football as physical trainer



**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Rodrigo Esteves dos Santos has joined Pakistan Men's football team as a physical trainer. After completing his education in 2015 in Brazil, he worked with different football clubs in Brazil where he trained numerous footballers with his excellent skills. Rodrigo joined the Athletic Club of Carazinho as a physical trainer for Under 17 in 2017. He had also been associated with Paulista Football Club as a physical trainer for Under 20 in 2018.

Moreover, as a physical trainer for Under 15, 20 and 23, he also shared his tactics in Ska Brasil Football Club from 2019 to 2021. Now he has taken responsibility of the Pakistan men's football team as a physical trainer and he is hopeful of training and grooming Pakistani football in the best possible manner.

Sharing his views for men in green, he said: "It is an immense pleasure for me to join the Pakistan team as a physical trainer, I appreciate the Pakistan Football Federation which trusted in my abilities and provided me with an opportunity to train them according to international standards and prepare them well for the international events and enable them to give their best against the best in the business."

"I will try my best to serve the boys in a supporting way and use all my transitions to make them one of the best sides of Asia in the first attempt. They are talented and capable of excelling at the international level and with proper guidance and training, the same lot can be made one of the best sides in South Asia," Rodrigo added.

**CA T20**

## Balochistan, Northern win their matches

FAISALABAD: Balochistan defeated Southern Punjab by nine wickets in a rain-reduced contest and Northern beat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the second match of the day in the ongoing Cricket Associations T20 at Bohranwali Ground.

The first match of the day was curtailed to five overs because of wet outfield. Balochistan, who elected to bowl, were set 49 to win and they rolled over the target in 3.2 overs.

Taj Wali took two for 14 as Southern Punjab's Umar Siddiq was the only batter to enter double figures with 31 not out in 23. Ayaz Tasawar smashed 23 not out from 11 balls (two sixes and two fours) in the run chase. Atif Khan made 56-ball 67 not out (four fours and two sixes) and Musa Khan, Farhan Shafiq and Kashif Ali took Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's eight wickets in the run chase as they fell seven runs short of 157-run target.

Northern, batting first, made 156 for five thanks to a 69-run partnership between Atif and Taimoor Sultan, who made 41 in 25. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Rehan Afridi made a half-century in the run chase with 41-ball 51 (eight fours and a six), but failed to get the support from the other end. Musa was the pick of the bowlers with three for 27. Farhan took two wickets for 23 and Kashif returned two for 35.

## Online registration for PM Youth Talent Hunt begins

PESHAWAR: Online Registration under Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Youth Talent Hunt for Men and Women Volleyball got under way wherein the youth of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa aged between 15-25-year-old can apply.

This was stated by Director General sports University of Peshawar and former international athlete Bahre Karam while talking to APP here on Thursday.

He advised the players to register their Names for the forthcoming trials. He said that earlier wrestling, weightlifting and hockey were organized by the Directorate Sports University of Peshawar and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University jointly.

## Inzamam sees Pakistan cricket moving in right direction

ISLAMABAD: Former captain Inzamam-ul-Haq feels that Pakistan cricket is heading in a positive direction as the team fights like a unit and at no point it gives up. "I congratulate the coaching staff and the team management for inculcating a fighting spirit in the players. They fight till the end and this is a very good sign," Inzamam noted in a YouTube video.

According to Inzamam, winning or losing is part of the game but it is quite encouraging to see Pakistan players fighting till the end. Referring towards Pakistan's opening match of the ongoing Asia Cup against traditional rivals India, he said that though Pakistan lost the cracking contest, the bowlers tried their best to defend 147 runs.

## Rain washes out opening session of England-South Africa Test

LONDON: Heavy rain meant no play was possible before lunch after England captain Ben Stokes opted to bowl first in the third and deciding Test against South Africa at the Oval on Thursday.

Overnight downpours delayed the toss and after it had taken place there was further rain in London.

The umpires subsequently announced lunch had been brought forward half an hour to 12:30 pm (11:30 GMT) in the hope of making a prompt start to the second session.

England had already named their side on Wednesday, giving a debut to Harry Brook after in-form batsman Jonny Bairstow was ruled out with a freak leg injury suffered playing golf. The inclusion of Brook, who has scored 967 runs for Yorkshire in the County Championship this season at an exceptional average of 107, was the

only change for England.

"It is a bit of strategy and the pitch," explained Stokes after winning the toss. "We've done well bowling first this summer." England hammered South Africa by an innings and 85 runs in the second Test at Old Trafford last month to level the three-match series at 1-1.

South Africa, who won the first Test at Lord's by an innings and 12 runs, responded to their heavy defeat in Manchester by making four changes, two of them enforced. It had already been confirmed that Ryan Rickelton would replace Rassie van der Dussen after the batsman was ruled out with a broken finger.

South Africa captain Dean Elgar said at the toss that pace-maker Lungi Ngidi had been sidelined by a hamstring niggle, with Wiaan Mulder coming in to the side.

Khaya Zondo was recalled in place of struggling batsman Aiden Markram and left-arm quick Marco Jansen returned after the Proteas decided against retaining second spinner Simon Harmer.

"It looks like a good surface but there might be something in it in the first session so we will have to knuckle down with bat in hand and start well," said Elgar. The Proteas have posted just one individual fifty so far this series.

Opener Elgar said: "Runs are key. We have the 20 wickets covered with our bowlers but we need to give them the chance to strike well and bowl to something." Victory would take South Africa back to the top of the World Test Championship table. A win for England would give them a sparkling record of six wins in seven Tests under their new leadership pairing of Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum.

