



**Education fundamental to country's growth: Baligh**  
Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman has said that education is fundamental to development and growth of a nation. Governor Baligh-ur-Rehman said that attention should be paid to moral training of students besides teaching them different skills at universities.



**Pak envoy lauds China for flood relief goods**  
Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque appreciated the Xinjiang government for supplies relief goods for flood-hit people to Pakistan. Chinese flood relief support for Pakistan continues. The first batch of flood relief goods through Khunjerab was delivered to GB. The ambassador thanked the leadership of Xinjiang for this generous and timely support.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Flood relief efforts**

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Secretary General United Nations António Guterres are being briefed at NFRCC on the massive havoc caused by recent flood and ongoing relief activities across the country.



Photo: PID

**Devastating floods**

**UNSG's visit to help flood victims: Marriyum**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed the hope that the visit of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will help in further mobilising international support for Pakistani flood victims.

In a tweet, she said that UN Secretary General during his Pakistan visit will be briefed on the havoc wreaked by the floods.

The minister said he will also visit flood affected areas. She said she would like to extend a warm welcome to UN Secretary General.

"These devastating floods are a direct result of climate stress", she said adding "We hope the UN SG's visit will help highlight to the world how Pakistan is one of the top 10-vulnerable countries globally despite contributing less than 1 per cent of global emissions".

The minister said that Pakistan greatly appreciated all international support in communicating this message to the world to work together with development partners to help reduce Pakistan's climate vulnerability, enhance adaptation capacity and rehabilitate the "Climate Refugees".

**Humanitarian assistance**

**USAID announces \$20m more for Pakistan**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/RAWALPINDI: US Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power on Friday announced that the United States, through the USAID, extended an additional US\$20 million in humanitarian assistance to support the people affected by severe flooding in Pakistan.

Pakistan was ravaged by heavy monsoon rains, as well as landslides and glacial lake outburst floods that have been ongoing since June, the USAID Administrator said.

"The impact of these floods has been felt widely across Pakistan. An estimated 33 million people have been affected, nearly 1,400 have died, and more than 12,700 have been injured. Infrastructure in the flooding's path has been decimated, with more than 1.7 million homes, an estimated 13.8 million acres of cropland, thousands of miles of road and hundreds of bridges damaged or destroyed," she said here in a press briefing.

Power said this support was

built on an announcement last week of US\$30 million in humanitarian assistance to help the people of Pakistan affected by these devastating floods. Since August 12, the United States has provided over US\$50.1 million in disaster assistance to help the people of Pakistan.

"With these additional funds, USAID partners will continue to provide emergency relief supplies, multi-purpose cash and shelter assistance, support for livelihoods, logistics, and humanitarian response coordination systems. USAID will also prioritize water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance as a preventative measure to mitigate the anticipated spread of waterborne diseases."

USAID has also deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the US government's humanitarian response efforts in Pakistan. This elite team, composed of disaster experts from USAID, is assessing the damage, identifying priority needs, and coordinating with the Government of Pakistan and humanitarian partners.

**Huge investment opportunities exist in Balochistan: CM**

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Friday said that there were immense investment opportunities in Balochistan for local and foreign investors.

"The provincial government is also providing suitable and favorable environment for investment", he said this while talking to Chairman Coastal Development Commission of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Pakistan Shehryar Khan Niazi who called on him here. Senior Member board of Revenue Roshan Ali Sheikh was also present in the meeting. In the meeting, promotion of commercial activities in the province, international crossing at Taftan and Chaman Border transit trade at Gwadar Port, Karachi Chaman Highway, public-private partnership and urban transport, including renewable energy were discussed. Agencies

**Flood relief efforts**

**Pakistan needs massive financial support: UN chief**

*Antonio Guterres says mobilizing resources for Pakistan is a matter of justice*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday urged the international community to extend massive support to Pakistan as the country battled immense floods.

The UN Secretary-General flanked by PM Shehbaz Sharif at a joint presser held here at the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC), said the world needed to amplify its assistance to Pakistan in the wake of the natural disaster.

PM Sharif and Secretary-General Guterres visited the NFRCC where they were given a briefing

about the situation of floods across the country.

The UN Secretary-General

**World needed to amplify its assistance to Pakistan in wake of natural disaster**

besides urging support for flood relief assistance also emphasized debt support for Pakistan to help the country overcome numerous challenges including economic stability. Guterres, who had earlier launched a global appeal to raise

\$160 million for the flood-affected people of Pakistan, said joint efforts were required to help the country overcome the consequences of climate change.

Pakistan, he said, despite its little contribution to climate change was bearing the negative effects of the phenomenon of natural disasters.

He said it was absolutely essential for other countries, particularly those contributing to carbon emissions, to mobilize resources for Pakistan following the devastating monsoon.

"Today, it is Pakistan and tomorrow it could be any other country. Mobilizing resources for Pakistan is a matter of justice," he said.

The Secretary-General said

Pakistan was witnessing an "unprecedented natural disaster" and lauded the government, army, and NGOs for working together in a "remarkable way".

Guterres said he would continue to raise his voice for the Pakistani government and people who were grappling with difficult situations amid floods.

"Pakistan is in my heart as I have worked with this country for 17 years while the nation extended enormous generosity to Afghan refugees for decades," he said.

PM Sharif expressed gratitude to the UN Secretary-General for his "extremely kind and generous gesture" of visiting Pakistan to get first-hand information and express solidarity with the people.

**At UN, Pakistan stresses for defeating terrorism**

*"Pakistan has been principle victim of terrorism," says Ambassador Munir Akram*

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called for countering terrorism by addressing its underlying root causes at a U.N. meeting aimed at advancing the rights and needs of people whose lives have been upended by the scourge.

"Pakistan has been principle victim of terrorism," Ambassador Munir Akram, permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN, said at a Thursday's session on "Terrorist attacks based on xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance, or in the name of religion of belief", which was part of the first UN Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism.

"We have lost more than 80,000 precious lives and suffered over \$120 billion in economic losses," he said, adding no country has sacrificed more than Pakistan for achieving peace.

"The 'core' of the international terrorist groups - Al-Qaeda and ISIS have been decimated, in case of Al-Qaeda largely due to

Pakistan's contribution, the Pakistani envoy added.

Pointing out that the threat from terrorism continues - and it has spread geographically, he called for adopting appropriate strategies to eliminate the terrorist threats.

In this regard, Ambassador Akram observed that "we have not addressed the root causes of terrorism - conflicts, oppression, foreign occupation and injustice. There is a need to have a comprehensive approach towards the issue of terrorism that takes into account all factors in the global counter terrorism strategy (GCTS) architecture."

He also stressed the need to distinguish between terrorism and legal struggles for freedom and self-determination, saying in situations of foreign occupation, it is the oppressor who defines the nature of the struggle.

"In occupied Jammu & Kashmir, the occupying forces has initiated a vicious campaign of state terrorism to prevent the Kashmir

people from exercising their recognized right to self-determination," the Pakistani envoy told the gathering.

State-sponsored terrorism against adversaries also remains to be effectively addressed, he said, adding that Pakistan continues to suffer from cross-border terrorism "sponsored and financed by the one South Asian nation which has fomented terrorism in all its neighbouring countries."

Ambassador Akram also called for addressing the new forms of terrorism, including violent acts by white supremacist; far right extreme right wing, violent nationalist, xenophobic, Islamophobic, anti-Muslim and Hindutva groups and ideologies in various parts of the world.

He also underscored the need for countering disinformation campaigns aimed at spreading hate speech, conspiracy theories and other such harmful content by terrorist groups, individuals and entities, including on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Insta-

**No threat to PTI govt in AzK**

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALAKOT: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the Tehreek-e-Insaf government would fulfill all the promises it had made to the people during the general elections.

While addressing a dinner hosted in his honour by Sardar Zubair Khan of Jandala, the PM said that during the PTI's rule people would witness a record development all across the state.

Terming the PTI chairman Imran Khan as a national hero and world-class leader said that the people of Azad Kashmir love him and stand shoulder to shoulder with Imran Khan. "There is no threat to the PTI government in Azad Kashmir," he said, adding that the PTI would return to power by winning the next general elections.

Referring to the PTI's growing popularity and the massive support of the masses, he said, the historic rally at Bagh was just a trailer. The PM further said that the opposition parties feel threatened after witnessing his successful rally at Bagh.

**IK to announce critical phase of Haqiqi Azadi today**

*PTI chief says govt wants to announce elections after disqualifying him*

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said he would announce the next critical phase of Haqiqi Azadi Movement at today's jalsa in Gujranwala.

In his Tweet, the PTI chairman wrote, "Tomorrow our Gujranwala jalsa will be last of our present phase of Haqiqi Azadi Movement. I will announce the next critical phase at the jalsa."

Imported govt & its handlers are so petrified that nation is standing firmly behind PTI they are desperately moving on Minus 1 formula," he wrote.

Earlier, a meeting of the PTI's political committee presided over by Imran Khan agreed that the rallies in different cities will be held as per the schedule and mass contact campaign will be intensified.

During the meeting chaired by the former prime minister, political situation and the cases against Imran Khan were discussed.

According to the media reports, it was agreed in the meeting to accelerate the ongoing mass contact campaign while the party's provincial presidents have been instructed to protest against inflation and the party chairman will continue to address the scheduled rallies in different cities.

On this occasion, Imran Khan said that public support is our greatest



strength, adding that they were fighting against the government's tactics. Fearing PTI, Imran Khan said 13 parties have run away from the election but the aim of his movement is to defeat the mafias of this country.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday claimed that the government wants to announce elections after disqualifying him [Imran].

While giving an interview to private TV channel, the PTI chairman said that he wanted to tell the decision-makers that the situation would become uncontrollable if the situation remains like this. He further said that disqualifying him is not the solution to the

problem, but free and transparent elections is the only solution to problems. He further said that looters have been made to rule the country.

Slamming the coalition government, Imran termed the government as 'weak' and said that the PDM government has been exposed. The PTI chairman further said that the coalition government actually came to control inflation but today the country is experiencing record inflation. Imran Khan said that Shehbaz Sharif's performance has also come before everyone.

The PTI Chairman said that he will announce the future plan of action regarding the PTI's movement in the rally to be held in Gujranwala tomorrow (Saturday).



## Support and cooperation

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail in a group photo with delegation of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank led by Supee Teravaninthom, DG Investment at Finance Division on Friday.



Photo: PID

## AIIB appreciates govt's economic policies

ISLAMABAD: The Asia Infrastructure and Investment Bank (AIIB) Friday appreciated the economic policies and reforms of the present government for social uplift of the masses.

Director General Investment, AIIB, Ms. Supee Teravaninthom during a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Miftah Ismail highlighted the role of the bank in infrastructure development projects and investment and extended AIIB's financial support and cooperation to Pakistan.

She was heading AIIB delegation that met the finance minister here, said a press statement issued by

finance ministry adding that senior officers from finance division also participated in the meeting.

On the occasion, the finance minister shared with the delegation the currently undertaken budgetary and fiscal measures. He apprised them about the targeted revenue and development goals for growing and sustaining the economic infrastructure.

The Finance Minister also apprised the delegation about the devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan and its impact on the economy of Pakistan. The minister expressed gratitude to AIIB delegation for their support, the statement added. Agencies

*Imran will understand everything after going to jail: Sanaullah*

*Pakistan committed to regional peace, stability: Asif*



ISLAMABAD: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday said that if Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan goes to jail, he will understand everything.

Addressing the media, Rana said that with the efforts made by the government on the issue of missing persons, relief has been given to the people. He said that with the way the Chief Justice has emphasized the issue of missing persons, people had already got relief.

He said that there are some facts that cannot be explained in open court. If the Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court conducts an in-camera hearing, it can help to solve the problem.

Expressing his views on Imran Khan's statement of being 'dangerous', the federal minister said that such things can only be said, adding that he [Imran] will go to jail, he will understand everything. The 'jail season' is also passing so fast, adding that he could have been sent to jail in July or August. Agencies



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said Pakistan is committed to stability and peace in the region with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan and India.

He said this while talking to French Ambassador Nicolas Galey, who called on him in Islamabad on Friday.

The Minister reiterated that Kashmir dispute resolution is necessary for lasting peace in the region.

He highlighted that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with France both bilaterally and in the context of European Union. He expressed that Pak-France bilateral relations are based on principles of mutual respect.

Khawaja Muhammad Asif said Pakistan will continue to work closely with France on all matters of bilateral interest. He also called for collaboration in addressing global challenges, such as terrorism, extremism is the important part of our bilateral relations. He said Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability and ensured to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

## Empowerment

# President for conducive workplace for women

*Dr Alvi says no country can make socio-economic progress without the full participation of women*

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday called for economic and financial empowerment, property rights, health and nutrition, coupled with quality education and skills and a harassment-free workplace to motivate women, who make up almost 50% of the population, to play their due and active role in business, trade and services sectors of the country.

He expressed these views while addressing the launching ceremony of the Federal Ombudsman Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAH)'s Annual Report, launched in coordination with UN Women here at the Aivan-e-Sadr.

The President expressed his solidarity with flood victims around the country and expressed his condolences and offered prayers for those who had

lost their lives during the devastating floods. The participants also observed one-minute silence in solidarity with the flood victims.

Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment Ms Kashmala Khan, UN Women's Country Representative in Pakistan, Ms Sharmila Rasool, and Country Director of United Institute of Peace (USIP), Pakistan, Adnan Rafiq, also spoke on the occasion.

Members of the diplomatic community, media persons and women from different walks of life attended the ceremony.

The President, along with Ms Kashmala Khan, and other speakers launched the Annual Report of FOSPAH.

Addressing the ceremony, the President said that their social and cultural attitudes and intellectual biases

towards women's rights, their economic and financial empowerment and gainful employment, and the country's moral and ethical values needed correction on the basis of Islamic teachings which called for equal education opportunities for both men and women and allowed women to seek gainful employment by following Hazrat Khadija (RA) as a role model who was a successful businesswoman.

He said that women's inclusion in the economy could be enhanced by improving their mobility and providing them equal opportunities in the business, trade and services sectors and creating a safe and secure work environment to enable them to realizing their fullest potential and by taking affirmative action wherever necessary.

The President said that in Pakistan, only 24% of women were working in the formal and informal sectors of the

economy which was very low compared to men whose economic participation was around 90%.

He said that no country can make meaningful socio-economic progress without the full participation of women in the economy.

The President further said that women should be treated as equal citizens as ordained in Islam and in the Constitution of Pakistan.

He said that the practice of women voluntarily resigning from their property rights in favour of their male family members should be discouraged to stop the exploitation of women's rights on inherited properties.

The President said that over 80% of the admissions taken in professional colleges were by women but their retention in gainful employment was very low due to social and domestic constraints.

## Ahsan vows to facilitate business community

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal on Friday assured his full support to the business community and urged them to point out the bottleneck as the government will remove it without any delay.

The minister gave the assurance while speaking at the expo titled 'Pakistan Property Housing & Construction', organized by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). The minister appreciated the ICCI for organizing the expo, while terming the private sector as the backbone of economic development of the country.

"I assure you the full support of the government and will remove all the obstacles facing the business community," said the minister, while stressing the business community to increase exports.

"There will be no growth if we fail to produce anything, therefore, time has come to increase our growth," he remarked.

The minister said that the private sector had the potential to increase growth and the government will finish all the red-tape to support the private sector.

"There is a dire need of hour to adopt the export-led growth policy," said the minister, while stressing the business community to adopt a market-driven approach in order to get space in the global market.

## President seeks US's role to end bloodshed in IIOJK

### Abdul Majeed Tahir.

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the United States should support the Kashmiris' right to self-determination so that they could decide their future in line with their wishes and aspirations.

He expressed these views while talking to the Political Consul Bradley Parker and Political Officer Robert Keane of the American Embassy who called him here on Friday. The AJK president while briefing the delegation about



the worsening political and human rights situation in the held territory said that there has been immense increase in the incidents of state sponsored terrorism and human rights violations in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Stressing the need for early resolution of the Kash-

mir dispute, he said that the US has an important role to settle the lingering dispute that has been a major cause and consequence of rights violations in the region.

He said that the US should use its influence to stop the ongoing atrocities against India in Occupied Kashmir and resolve the Kashmir issue.

## Support Pakistan to prepare for future: Guterres tells world

*FM Bilawal, UN chief discuss grave humanitarian situation in flood-hit areas of country*

### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres on Friday while calling for bringing the climate change issue on the international agenda, urged the world to support Pakistan not just to respond to present day challenge rather prepare itself for the future.

"It is very emotional for me to see the people of Pakistan suffering at the hands of climate change... 'Helping the people of Pakistan is not a matter of solidarity but a matter of justice,' the UN Secretary General said addressing a joint press stakeout

with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Earlier, both the leaders held a meeting to discuss the grave humanitarian situation in the flood-hit areas of the country. They also exchanged views on dealing with climate crisis, mobilization of climate finance and funds for reconstruction, rehabilitation and adaptation in the wake of floods in Pakistan.

The foreign minister, calling it a climate catastrophe, said considering the magnitude of the destruction, Pakistan was unable to get funds required to meet shelter, clothing and food for the 35 million flood-strick-

en people.

He said the flood survivors were also at the risk of waterborne disease besides viruses and bacteria.

He said as the country was yet going through the rescue and relief phase, a gigantic challenge of rebuilding the people's houses, schools and infrastructure was ahead.

"When we have a 100km lake that has developed in the middle of Pakistan, tell me how big of a drain can I build to manage this? Where do I build a dam which can withhold & drain a 100km wide lake? There is no man made structure that can evacuate this water," he remarked.

## IHC orders to set up cell in ministry for missing persons' cases

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed the Ministry of Interior to establish a cell for addressing the missing persons' cases and adjourned the hearing till November 14.

Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case pertaining to the missing journalist Mudasar Naro and other persons.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appeared in the court. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah accompanied him.

The prime minister assured the court that he would make all-out effort to resolve the missing persons issue. He was answerable to Allah Almighty and the people of Pakistan.

During the course of proceedings, the chief justice remarked that it was the state's responsibility to remove the sufferings of victim families. The court had summoned the prime minister because it was a very serious issue and being heard by the bench for several months.

He observed that the state's response regarding the matter had not been upto the mark. A chief executive, who had ruled the country for nine years, proudly admitted in his book that he had "sold the citizens" to a foreign country.

As per constitution, there could not be "a state within a state", he added.

Justice Minallah said the matter was referred to the Federal Cabinet, which also formed a committee. It was not the matter of forming a committee only, but the court wanted to know what was the actual issue, he added.

He said the commission on missing persons was set up, but its performance was disappointing.

The CJ said the disappearance of people was the biggest form of torture and the court had no other option but to ask the chief executive.

Addressing the prime minister, he said he (PM) was working for the flood victims, but considering the importance of missing persons' issue appeared before the court. The "forced disappearances" were a deviation from the constitution, he added.

He said there were many issues of governance and problems, which could only be resolved by acting upon the constitution in to. The civilians were under the executive control and the court had confidence in him (PM) to address their issues.

The chief justice said whom the court could hold accountable for the recovery of the father of a little boy, who approached it. The same child had also met the then prime minister. He (PM Shehbaz) should tell the court about the solution, he added.

Responding to the CJ's queries, Shehbaz Sharif said it was his duty to appear before the court. The United Nations secretary general was in Pakistan and he had a meeting with him, but he had come to the court in compliance of its order.

The PM said the missing journalist's had desired to meet his father and that had disturbed him (Shehbaz). He would not leave any stone unturned to make the missing persons meet with their families, he assured.

He had gone to the jail twice in last four years and his family also suffered

the pain, he added

The PM said the committee formed on the issue had met six times, and he would submit its report to the court, which would be based on facts.

He said implementation of the court orders was his prime responsibility. He visited flood-affected areas and met the victim people. It was his duty to listen to them and try to resolve their issues.

He said the missing persons issue had been persisting for almost last 20 years, and assured the court that he would fulfill his duty. He formed a cabinet committee in that regard soon after taking charge of the office.

He said the committee members had met the families of missing persons in different areas, and he would submit their report to the court every month. APP



# UNDP, USAID award scholarships to women lawyers in K-P

*Scholarships and stipends will help recipients to complete their legal studies*

**Spokesman Report**

PESHAWAR: UNDP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) awarded scholarships to ten women law students and stipends to ten women lawyers in a ceremony on Friday.

The event was organized by UNDP and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Bar Council. The scholarships and stipends will help the recipients to complete their legal studies and post-graduation apprenticeships.

At the ceremony, UNDP also handed over 824 law books and 64 sets of law criminal and civil law journals to the libraries of district bar associations in Orakzai, Kurram, North Waziristan, and South



Waziristan. These will generate new knowledge and skills among lawyers to deliver quality legal counsel and advice to litigants in the Merged Districts of KP province.

Since 2012, UNDP has supported women lawyers and

law students across 18 District and Tehsil Bar Associations in KP and Merged Areas. UNDP has also trained more than 800 legal professionals who are members of the KP Bar Council including 75 women lawyers on gender justice and gender-re-

sponsive justice delivery. UNDP undertakes this work to encourage and empower more women to enter the legal profession in this region, where women are significantly under-represented in the justice sector.

The event was also attended by Mr. Muhammad Ali Jadoon, Vice Chairperson, KP Bar Council and Ms. Chamila Hemmathagama, Programme Manager, Rule of Law Programme, UNDP, and representatives from the District Bar Associations.

In his address, Muhammad Ali Jadoon, Chairperson, KP Bar Council, extended his gratitude to UNDP and USAID for their efforts to strengthen District Bar Associations to improve access to justice for all. He also congratulated the

scholarship and stipend recipients and assured them that the, "KP Bar Council and Bar Associations will do their very best to ensure a gender-responsive and safer working environment for the women lawyers."

Chamila Hemmathagama, Programme Manager, UNDP Rule of Law Programme, also appreciated and thanked the KP Bar Council and USAID for their long-term partnership and support in this important work to empower women lawyers in the region. "I hope the scholarships and stipends awarded today will allow the recipient women lawyers and law students to succeed in their chosen careers as legal professionals and inspire more women to join this noble profession in years to come.

# YAP Pakistan partners with Bank Alfalah to launch B2B financial services

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: YAP Pakistan, the first regional financial super app providing consumers and businesses with a one-stop shop of innovative financial products, has partnered with Bank Alfalah, one of Pakistan's largest commercial banks, to offer customized digital financial products and services for small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country.

The collaboration paves the way to create a more financially inclusive ecosystem for customers and businesses by enabling users to access a comprehensive array of digital financial services, including a fully operational business bank account, payroll, reporting, analytics and expense management.



YAP customers will also be able to access over-the-counter services at Bank Alfalah's vast network of branches across Pakistan.

YAP Pakistan secured the In-Principle Approval from the State Bank of Pakistan for an Electronic Money Institute (EMI) license, which will equip users with a digital account and an

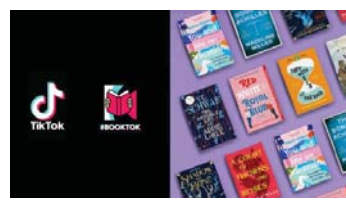
app that will enable users to perform various financial tasks at the touch of a button.

"SMEs have unique needs and are looking for a more seamless approach to banking and we are pleased to partner with Bank Alfalah to create a suite of products and services to support them," said YAP Pakistan CEO Mehryab Niazi. "SMEs

contribute to 40% of Pakistan's GDP and 25% in overall exports, which emphasizes the demand for an easier way to manage finances when in the early stages of growing a business."

Bank Alfalah has been on the mission to collaborate with various partners in a bid to increase the adoption of digital payments in the industry. The bank's online acceptance business is clearly the market leader with more than 50% market share. Bank Alfalah's Cash Management enables Corporate, Middle Market and SME clients to securely prepare their payment and transfer instructions to the bank in real-time. Bank Alfalah was also awarded the Best Transaction Banking Award in 2021.

# TikTok launches #BookTok



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: To celebrate International Literacy Day, TikTok has launched its #BookTok campaign in Pakistan to reignite the love of reading and encourage its Pakistani users to engage with the growing community of book lovers across the world.

#BookTok is the go-to hashtag on TikTok for all content pertaining to books, reading, writing and everything in between. With book reviews, writing tips, plot reenactments of popular novels, and more, this corner of TikTok encourages and inspires others to enjoy literature in all of its forms.

The #BookTok community has been on TikTok since early 2020, but saw an initial boost in content during March of 2020 with the beginning of stay-at-home orders. Users turned to TikTok for entertainment and discovering #BookTok recommendations, helping reignite a passion for reading that has grown through the app, inspiring over 12 million videos and reaching over 75 billion views globally to date.

With this campaign now going live in Pakistan, reading enthusiasts here can join the growing global #BookTok community and engage with them to share their love for books and literature. #BookTok will also serve as a hub to celebrate Pakistan's rich literature and to share poetry, landmark novels, and classic tales from prominent writers and poets in Urdu and other regional languages with TikTok communities across the world.

Books have been entertaining the masses for longer than TikTok, but with the launch of the #BookTok campaign, users in Pakistan will be able to combine the classic pleasure of reading with the engaging content found on TikTok.

TikTok creators frequently share their love for unique or popular topics, inspiring others to pick up a new hobby or dive deeper into one that was already a part of their lives. Through these shared connections, users elevate and highlight products they love and encourage community growth both on and off TikTok. This will be on full display at the platform launches #BookTok, a TikTok community that's full of creative individuals that share a common passion for literature.

# QAU inaugurates series of workshops



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Psychology, Quaid-i-Azam University inaugurated its series of workshops.

This three-day workshop is particularly tailored for developing soft skills in students to counter with violence in public universities. Fifty students from various departments of Quaid-i-Azam University, National University for Modern Languages, COMSATS University, and International Islamic University were recruited for the workshop. The inauguration ceremony started with the welcome note of Director Prof. Dr. Rubina Hanif where she introduced the project and its various modules.

# IIUI Rector urges academia to be relevant to needs of society



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A two-day National Conference on Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Pakistan concluded here at the Faisal Masjid Campus of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

The conference was organized by the Department of History & Pakistan Studies in collaboration with Higher Education Commission Islamabad. More than 50 eminent scholars, historians and researchers from across the country presented their papers in the Conference.

Speaking to the concluding ceremony of the conference, Rector IIU, Professor Dr. Masoom Yasinzai called upon academia to serve the society according to its needs. He said the country needs committed and sincere efforts through academia to address the issues of hour. Dr. Masoom said education and youth must be the top priorities. Stressing the need of preparing skilled youth, he said government and educational institutions must work together for this cause.

# China's Yunnan joins hands for a greener Pakistan

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: As Pakistan increasingly confronts the challenges of Climate Change, Yunnan province of China comes forward to help Pakistan get better prepared for the same. Yunnan, the province known for its balanced, green development with focus on ecological uplift, is sponsoring sizeable tree plantation drives on National Highway-5 (N-5).

# Standard Chartered announces winners of #SCWomenInTech Cohort 4

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Standard Chartered Bank (SCBPL), in partnership with INNOVentures Global (Private) Limited, announced winners of #SCWomenInTech Cohort 4, 2022. SCWomenInTech is a global programme aimed at supporting gender-representation within technology-based entrepreneurship.

Shortlisted from over 1400 applicants, seven winners have received upto PKR 1,500,000, in seed-grant funding for their businesses to grow through technology. These businesses were selected from a pool of the top 22 teams that have been through the #SCWomenInTech incubator for three months. During this time, they were offered coaching and mentoring in business-management skills, to accelerate their business-growth to the next level. Sania Nishter, member of the senate along with Claire Dixon, Global Head Corporate Affairs and Brand and Marketing graced the graduation ceremony.



Rehan Shaikh, CEO, Standard Chartered Pakistan commented, "Four years ago, Standard Chartered Pakistan committed to lift participation through our #SCWomenInTech programme which focuses on greater financial inclusion and gender equality for female entrepreneurs across Pakistan.

The programme was curated with a simple objective of removing barriers, providing opportunities and furthering financial inclusion for women in Pakistan, which is a key

priority of the Government and State Bank of Pakistan as well. Over the years this programme has surfaced to be a great platform for aspiring female entrepreneurs in Pakistan by helping them realise their true potential.

This initiative further builds upon Standard Chartered's focus on increasing access to entrepreneurial finance and lifts participation of women in the economy through capacity building. It encapsulates the essence of the Bank's sustainability strategy of Futuremakers, enabling

the next generation to learn, earn and grow.

With the most diverse portfolio to date, the #SCWomenInTech 2022 had start-ups representing 14 Business Verticals. This year the programme attracted entrepreneurs and founders who are focused on many social issues focused on sustainable development goes including tackling issues of 'Female Reproductive Health', 'Access to Feminine Hygiene products' through Fem-Tech, improving 'Air-Quality through a locally built product' which are focused on SDG Goal-3 - ensuring good health and wellbeing.

The main verticals also included Agri-Tech, Health-Tech, Ed-Tech, Mental-Health, Fin-Tech, Prop-Tech, as well as Art & Design, along with start-ups working to put together an aggregate market-place and Web 3.0. The winners will be supported with extended mentoring and milestone-based disbursement of the winnings, for a period of 9 months.

# AAA Associates' organizes Property Seminar in Karachi

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: AAA Associates, a rising leader in Pakistan's real estate sector, recently hosted a property seminar at the Pearl Continental Hotel in Karachi.

The event drew a huge number of realtors and investors. The Executive Members of the Defence & Clifton Association of Real Estate Agents (DEFCLAREA).

The seminar was conducted to brief guests about ready and up-coming projects of AAA Associates. Having on boarded various luxury brands and famous restaurants on their projects, AAA Associates has a legacy of timely delivery of top-notch quality projects. It is one of the most trusted



and rapidly expanding conglomerates in the Real Estate Sector of Pakistan. Recently, they have launched one of their mega projects in Karachi Bahria Town as well.

President DEFCLAREA, Mr. Zubair Baig and SVP DEFCLAREA, Mr. Ahmed Raza Hashmi also graced the occasion with their presence. AAA Associates was represented by Manag-

ing Director Lt. Col. Shahzad Ali Kiani (r), Country Head Mr. Kashif Iqbal and the Karachi Branch Head, Mr. Kashif Naeem.

While addressing the media, Country Head AAA Associates, Mr. Kashif Iqbal expressed his views on the importance of real estate sector for the economy of Pakistan. "Since it is a leading indicator, growth in real estate

stimulates the entire economy. Many industries are linked directly or indirectly with real estate which works as a propeller for the economy. After carving our niche in real estate in Rawalpindi and Islamabad, AAA Associates, is here to provide investment opportunities in the City of Lights".

Established in 2015, AAA Associates, a leading group of Companies, has announced completion of 8 out of 12 construction projects within a record period of 7 years. AAA Associates with a competitive edge in the market exceeds clients' expectations. Recently, they have announced their latest grand project, AAA Oeta Karachi which is located in Bahria Town Karachi, right on the Hyderabad-Karachi highway.

# Expensive electricity promotes theft and corruption

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Friday said the burden on electricity consumers is being continuously increased fanning poverty and compromising the growth rate which is already dismally low.

Costly power is promoting corruption and theft while it is eroding the purchasing power of the masses pushing many below the poverty line, he said.

Talking to businessmen, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that power companies are breaking the back of the people that should be stopped.

Sheikh said that Nepra has been increasing the price of electricity and this unstoppable cycle is increasing the cost of private and public projects, affecting industrial and agricultural production, while the quality of life of the people is at stake.

Reforms are being avoided for decades and a shortcut of tariff hike is being favoured which has not helped improve the power sector or reduce the mounting circular debt, however it has deteriorated everything.

He demanded that the government should immediately try to close the old power plants, reduce the price of electricity, resolve issues with IPPs, improve the recovery and distribution



system and eliminate theft, otherwise the economy will sink due to its disastrous effects.

He said that the power sector is paying the way for social chaos in the country. Instead of increasing the price of electricity on the orders of the IMF, seven hundred billion rupees can be saved annually by improving the recovery and eliminating corruption, but no attention is paid to this, he lamented.

Atif Ikram said that 26% of Pakistan's population does not have access to grid electricity due to a lack of investment in transmission and distribution despite capacity additions in generation. On the other hand, 100% population of Turkey and Sri Lanka has access to grid electricity whereas India, Nepal and Bangladesh have 82%, 77% and 75% electrification rates.





Edward VIII (afterward duke of Windsor), abdicated in her father's favour on December 11, 1936, at which time her father became King George VI and she became heir presumptive. The princess's education was supervised by her mother, who entrusted her daughters to a governess, Marion Crawford; the princess was also grounded in history by C.H.K. Marten, afterward provost of Eton College, and had instruction

February 6, 1952. Elizabeth, now queen, at once flew back to England. The first three months of her reign, the period of full mourning for her father, were passed in comparative seclusion. But in the summer, after she had moved from Clarence House to Buckingham Palace, she undertook the routine duties of the sovereign and carried out her first state opening of Parliament on November 4, 1952. Her coronation was held at Westminster Abbey on June 2, 1953.

Beginning in November 1953 the queen and the duke of Edinburgh made a six-month round-the-world tour of the Commonwealth, which included the first visit to Australia and New Zealand by a reigning British monarch. In 1957, after state visits to various European nations, she and the duke visited Canada and the United States. In 1961 she made the first royal British tour of the Indian subcontinent in 50 years, and she was also the first reigning British monarch to visit South America (in 1968) and the Persian Gulf countries (in 1979). During her "Silver Jubilee" in 1977, she presided at a London banquet attended by the leaders of the 36 members of the Commonwealth, traveled all over Britain and Northern Ireland, and toured overseas in the South Pacific and Australia, in Canada, and in the United States.

On the accession of Queen Elizabeth, her son Prince Charles became heir apparent; he was named prince of Wales on July 26, 1958, and was so invested on July 1, 1969. The queen's other children were Princess Anne (Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise), born August 15, 1950, and created princess royal in 1987; Prince Andrew (Andrew Albert Christian Edward), born February 19, 1960, and created duke of York in 1986; and Prince Edward (Edward Anthony Richard Louis), born March 10, 1964, and created earl of Wessex and Viscount Severn in 1999. All these children have the surname "of Windsor," but in 1960 Elizabeth decided

## World pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

Condolences have been pouring in from all over the world after Queen Elizabeth II died on Thursday. She was the country's longest-ruling monarch and met with many world leaders during her decades on the throne. She was aged 96 when she died. Following the Queen's death, her eldest son replaced her as monarch, taking the title King Charles III. US President Joe Biden and his wife Jill Biden released a joint statement describing Elizabeth as "a stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy who deepened the bedrock alliance between the United Kingdom and the United States," with the White House saying she had met with 14 US presidents. The Bidens later went to the British Embassy to pay their respects. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "deeply saddened" and offered his "condolences to her bereaved family, the government and people of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the wider Commonwealth Nations." Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a Tweet that he learned of the queen's death with "deep sadness." Even Russian President Vladimir Putin wrote a telegram to King Charles, wishing him "courage and perseverance in the face of this heavy, irreparable loss." Chinese President Xi Jinping said the late queen's death "is a great loss to the British people" and pledged to work with the new king to strengthen relations between Beijing and London. Meanwhile, following the death of Her Majesty The Queen, it is His Majesty The King's wish that a period of Royal Mourning be observed from now until seven days after The Queen's Funeral.

is 'A servant queen'

# After 70 years, the reign of Queen Elizabeth II is over

The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe

Elizabeth II became queen when Britain was only seven years removed from World War II, and she went on to have the longest recorded reign of any monarch in world history other than Louis XIV.

That 70-year reign ended on Thursday (8 September, 2022), when Queen Elizabeth II died at 96 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, her country estate. Her oldest son, Charles, immediately became king and will be formally crowned in coming months. In the meantime, Britain has begun a scripted 10-day ritual that only a tiny share of living people can recall having witnessed before.

Elizabeth II, in full Elizabeth Alexandra Mary, officially Elizabeth II, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of her other realms and territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, (born April 21, 1926, London, England—died September 8, 2022, Balmoral Castle, Aberdeenshire, Scotland), queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from February 6, 1952, to September 8, 2022. In 2015 she surpassed Victoria to become the longest-reigning monarch in British history.

### EARLY LIFE

Elizabeth was the elder daughter of Prince Albert, duke of York, and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon. As the child of a younger son of King George V, the young Elizabeth had little prospect of ascending to the throne until her uncle,

from visiting teachers in music and languages. During World War II she and her sister, Princess Margaret Rose, perforce spent much of their time safely away from the London blitz and separated from their parents, living mostly at Balmoral Castle in Scotland and at the Royal Lodge, Windsor, and Windsor Castle.

Early in 1947 Princess Elizabeth went with the king and queen to South Africa. After her return there was an announcement of her betrothal to her distant cousin Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten of the Royal Navy, formerly Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark. The marriage took place in Westminster Abbey on November 20, 1947. On the eve of the wedding her father, the king, conferred upon the bridegroom the titles of duke of Edinburgh, earl of Merioneth, and Baron Greenwich. They took residence at Clarence House in London. Their first child, Prince Charles (Charles Philip Arthur George), was born November 14, 1948, at Buckingham Palace.

### ACCESSION TO THE THRONE

In the summer of 1951 the health of King George VI entered into a serious decline, and Princess Elizabeth represented him at the Trooping the Colour and on various other state occasions. On October 7 she and her husband set out on a highly successful tour of Canada and Washington, D.C. After Christmas in England she and the duke set out in January 1952 for a tour of Australia and New Zealand, but en route, at Sagana, Kenya, news reached them of the king's death on

to create the hyphenated name Mountbatten-Windsor for other descendants not styled prince or princess and royal highness. Elizabeth's first grandchild (Princess Anne's son) was born on November 15, 1977.

The queen seemed increasingly aware of the modern role of the monarchy, allowing, for example, the televising of the royal family's domestic life in 1970 and condoning the formal dissolution of her sister's marriage in 1978. In the 1990s, however, the royal family faced a number of challenges. In 1992, a year that Elizabeth referred to as the royal family's annus horribilis, Prince Charles and his wife, Diana, princess of Wales, separated, as did Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, duchess of York. Moreover, Anne divorced, and a fire gutted the royal residence of Windsor Castle. In addition, as the country struggled with a recession, resentment over the royals' lifestyle mounted, and in 1992 Elizabeth, although personally exempt, agreed to pay taxes on her private income. The separation and later divorce (1996) of Charles and the immensely popular Diana further eroded support for the royal family, which was viewed by some as antiquated and unfeeling. The criticism intensified following Diana's death in 1997, especially after Elizabeth initially refused to allow the national flag to fly at half-staff over Buckingham Palace. In line with her earlier attempts at modernizing the monarchy, the queen subsequently sought to present a less-stuffy and less-traditional image of the monarchy. These attempts were met with mixed success.

In 2002 Elizabeth celebrated her 50th year on the throne.

## Pakistan top leadership condoles over sad demise of Queen Elizabeth II

"The late Queen had a special place for Pakistan"  
British High Commissioner, Christian Turner



Waseem Khokhar

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday wrote a condolatory letter to British Prime Minister Liz Truss conveying grief to the Royal family over the passing of Queen Elizabeth-II.

The prime minister said that while being British queen, she was not only the longest reigning monarch but also played a key role for positive developments in the United Kingdom and the world. He said the under her leadership, the Commonwealth became the biggest association of the sovereign states. The prime minister said besides her services for the public interest, the presence of Queen Elizabeth remained a symbol of unity and brotherhood. He said being head of the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom, the people of Pakistan always showed reverence to the Queen Elizabeth. During her reign spanning over decades, the relationship between the people of

Pakistan and the Queen got strength. The prime minister said that he along with the whole Pakistani nation shared the grief of the British Royal Family, the UK government as well as the people. President Dr Arif Alvi visited the British High Commission to offer his condolences on the sad demise of Queen Elizabeth-II, on Friday. He was received by the British High Commissioner, Christian Turner, on his arrival at the High Commission.

Later, talking to the British High Commissioner, the President shared his fond memories of the Late Queen Elizabeth-II visit to Pakistan and said that she was a visionary stateswoman of unmatched dignity and grace.

Speaking on the occasion, the British High Commissioner said that the late Queen had a special place for Pakistan and in one of her last messages; she expressed her solidarity with the flood victims of Pakistan.

## Reminisces of Queen's wandering in Pakistan

By Khizar Manzoor

Finally, the era of Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor known as Queen Elizabeth II is over due to her sad demise. She celebrated her 96th birthday months before leaving for eternal abode. Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne in 1952 (Just after five years of India's partition) and at the June 1953 coronation, no one could have guessed Queen Elizabeth's reign would last a record-breaking 70 years. Queen Elizabeth was gracious, determined, curious, and confident. The world mourns the death of Queen Elizabeth II, with tributes pouring in from people of every walk of life as the queen was famous for her "Kind heart" among the international political elite.

Pakistanis have a special respect for the Princess because she visited the country twice in the 20th century.

She accompanied by her husband, Prince Philip visited Pakistan in 1961 and 1997 respectively. The Queen toured Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Lahore, and the northern areas of Pakistan during her February 1-16, 1961 tour. When the royal couple landed in Karachi on February 1, the then President of Pakistan, Mohammad Ayub Khan personally went to receive them.

A fabulous ceremony was arranged by the President in honor of the guests and they were given a 21-gun royal salute. A 100-man royal salute was given to the royal couple and the band of the Pakistan navy played the national anthems of both countries. Joyous crowds were



gathered alongside the road waving, cheering, and showering petals on the monarchs. The Queen smiled gracefully and waved back to the crowds with utmost love.

Queen and her husband visited Quaid's mausoleum during their visit also. In Lahore, the Royal couple enjoyed a weekend of festivities, paid a visit to Lahore Cathedral; took part in a fair; and visited the tomb of Allama Iqbal, the Lahore Fort, the Shalimar Gardens as well as the Badshahi Mosque. A grand dinner by the army was also held in their honor. Prince and the princess also took part in a national horse show and Prince Philip was treated to a game of Polo.

Queen planted a pine sapling at the same place where her grandfather King George V had planted a chinar sapling, 56 years before her visit to Quetta. During their visit to Quetta, the Queen and the Duke were presented with two sheep each by Sardar Mohammad Khan Jozezai, a senior Pathan leader, and Sardar Khair Bux Khan Marri, a senior Baloch leader. Governor of west Pakistan, Malik Amir Mohammad Khan arranged a banquet for the Queen and the Duke in Peshawar. The royal couple also attended a church service at St John's Church, the oldest in the region. The Queen visited Peshawar University, Khyber Pass, Pak-Afghan border point Torkham, and Landi Kotal area. 36 years after the first visit, the Queen again embarked upon a visit to Pakistan in October 1997 on the occasion of the country's Golden Jubilee. The royal couple was given a 21-gun salute as soon as they emerged from the plane at Chaklala, Islamabad. The then foreign minister, Gohar Ayub Khan received the dignitaries on their arrival. She along with her husband taken to the Aivan-i-Sadar where President Farooq Ahmad Khan

Leghari welcomed the guests and they inspected a guard of honor. She addressed the parliament in Islamabad this time and appealed to both Pakistan and India to settle their differences amicably. The British monarch had visited the Faisal Mosque on the same day. In keeping with Islamic traditions, she draped a scarf over her head and took off her shoes before entering the white marble building of Faisal Mosque. This time, she lauded her late daughter-in-law Princess Diana's humanitarian work in Pakistan and expressed her gratitude to Pakistanis for sharing Britain's grief on the tragic death of Lady Diana. The Queen was conferred the highest civil award, Nishan-i-Pakistan, and the Duke was awarded the Nishan-i-Imtiaz. Queen Elizabeth II also met the late Benazir Bhutto who was ousted by President Farooq Leghari.

She visited the streets of Lahore this time in a car owned by the Ex-Punjab Governor, Makhdoom Syed Ahmad Mahmood. The Queen visited the National College of Arts (NCA) in Lahore and paid a visit to the Kim's Gun monument (The Zamzama Gun also known as Kim's Gun or Bhangianwali Toap is a large bore cannon located in Lahore) after which the Bishop of Raiwind received her at Christ Church School of Pakistan. During the tour, she also visited Karachi, paid a visit to Quaid's mausoleum, and laid a floral wreath. She was quoted as saying, "I feel at home in Karachi as we share the same culture and understand each other well".

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# Queen's death deprives Britain of its rock of stability

**Andrew Hammond**

The death of Queen Elizabeth on Thursday after a record-breaking reign shines a spotlight on the uncertain future of not just the monarchy, but also of the UK itself.

Her passing will remind audiences there and abroad, including her beloved Commonwealth, of the unifying role she has played in recent decades. The queen was widely admired internationally, fueled by her visits to well over 100 countries during the longest reign in British history.

Part of the reason for this is that she represents a figure of significant continuity during a seven-decade period when the world has been transformed. When she ascended the throne, Winston Churchill was UK prime minister, Joseph Stalin was leader of the Soviet Union, Harry Truman was US president, and Mao Zedong was the Chinese Communist leader. The Korean War was still underway, the People's Republic of China was only two years old, and the UK was just about to join the US and Soviet Union as a nuclear

weapons power.

Today China is an emerging superpower, with the largest economy in the world on purchasing power parity terms; the Soviet Union has long ago disappeared from the geopolitical landscape (although Russia continues to challenge the world, as shown most recently in Ukraine); and the UK has transitioned to what some term as a "middle power" with its empire dismantled, although some of these former colonial states and dominions remain in the 54-member 2.4 billion population Commonwealth that Elizabeth did much to champion.

The stability she has provided has been important for many institutions, including the monarchy and Commonwealth, but also the UK itself. The continued union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland could suffer from a less popular head of state in the future.

As much as Elizabeth was a stabilizing force for many people, the UK appears to be increasingly divided on geographic lines. This is especially given increased pressure since Brexit for independence in Scotland, plus also the growing signs of political change in Northern Ireland with



the nationalist Sinn Féin party, which favors unification of the island of Ireland, becoming the largest single party in last May's elections.

Beyond the debates about the Commonwealth and UK, there is also significant uncertainty over the future of the monarchy itself. Amid the high esteem in which the queen and some other royals are currently held, what is sometimes forgotten is that she has enjoyed bouts of significantly lower popularity.

The 1990s were particularly troubled, with 1992 becoming her self-described "annus horribilis" when the marriages of three of her children, including

her heir Prince Charles, disintegrated, and Windsor Castle was nearly destroyed by fire. Meanwhile her response to the 1997 death of Charles's first wife, Princess Diana, was widely criticized at the time by the UK public.

Nonetheless, the royal family appears to have largely recovered from this period, and the media focus on Elizabeth's remarkable, long life is highlighting the continuing fascination much of the population has with the monarchy. This is a key driver of the fact that less than a quarter of the UK population today wants a republic, and many believe that it is better to have a non-divisive, non-political head

of state.

That said, the personal popularity of Charles is neither as high as his mother's nor that of his own son William. Moreover, at almost 74, Charles is already at an age when many people are retired, and is the longest-waiting and oldest heir to the throne in UK history.

Indeed, some polls show that a significant body of the UK public would now prefer the monarchy to skip a generation from Elizabeth to William. This leaves open the significant possibility that the royal family could become less popular under Charles's rule.

The skill Charles now shows as Elizabeth's successor could therefore have implications not just for the monarchy, but also the wider union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. He will do well to learn the astuteness his mother has shown of being a reformer, while being widely seen as a force for stability, evolving to meet the changing social, political and economic contours of the 21st century.

*Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics*  
 Courtesy: Arab News

## Improved US, Pakistan Relations

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 recently 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.



## Enthusiasm abounds as GCC, Central Asia launch strategic dialogue

**Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg**

The Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers on Wednesday met in Riyadh with their counterparts from Central Asia — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. After centuries of isolation and estrangement, the Arabian Peninsula and Central Asia are seeking to revive ancient ties and explore new opportunities, economically, politically and culturally.

At the meeting, the ministers inaugurated the GCC-Central Asia Strategic Dialogue, a new arrangement to launch cooperation in all areas of mutual interest, including political and security dialogues, trade and investment cooperation, and cultural engagement. Although the project has been in the making for some time, recent developments have made that reconnection urgent. Supply chain disruptions as a result of COVID-19, the war in Ukraine and the US withdrawal from Afghanistan have made it imperative to speed up the process of reengagement between the two regions.

As part of the new strategic dialogue, the ministers exchanged views on a wide range of regional and international developments, including Afghanistan and combating terrorism, two issues in which the two regions are keenly interested. They agreed to regularly coordinate their positions on existing and emerging issues.

As a landlocked region, Central Asia is in need of secure transportation links, which have frayed recently as a result of COVID-19. As such, the ministers emphasized their commitment to working together to ensure the resiliency of supply chains and

to "bolster global economic recovery efforts, address economic repercussions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic." They expressed interest in transport-transit connectivity as it relates to food, energy and water security. They also called for the development of green energy sources and technologies and for environmental challenges and climate change to be addressed.

To map out the way forward, the ministers endorsed an indicative Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue and Cooperation for the period 2023-2027, including political and security dialogue, economic and investment cooperation, enhancing people-to-people contacts, and developing effective partnerships between business sectors. It was agreed to fast-track the plan and take all necessary measures for its proper implementation at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

While the new plan is quite ambitious, several countries expressed a desire to augment it by adding new areas of cooperation. That desire reflected the palpable enthusiasm that has prevailed during all the meetings between the two groups since they started discussing the establishment of a regular dialogue. It was agreed to explore those additions over the coming weeks and months and update the plan accordingly.

At Wednesday's meeting, the ministers welcomed Kazakhstan's invitation to host the first GCC-Central Asian Economic Forum, to be held in 2023. They also accepted Uzbekistan's invitation to host the second ministerial meeting of the GCC-Central Asian Strategic Dialogue in Samarkand in 2023.

The aspirations are quite high for the new engagement between the GCC region and Central Asia. There is an obvious political commitment. There also appears to be clear determination for this effort to move on a

fast track. The economic and security challenges the two regions are facing need collaborative efforts.

At the same time, the potential benefits of such cooperation could be immense. Combined, the two regions are home to a young population of about 130 million, who are in search of quality education and training. In the two regions, there are countries that are among the world's most resource-rich in conventional energy, especially oil and gas. They also aspire to be leaders in renewable energies.

The GCC and Central Asia could contribute significantly to energy security globally. Their energy cooperation could be one of the quick wins in their new strategic dialogue, starting with policy coordination and the sharing of knowledge and best practices.

The challenges facing such long-distance strategic engagement are, however, equally huge, especially in terms of infrastructure and energy projects. First, there is a need to energize investors in both regions, which requires educating them about the new opportunities and business environment. Second, it is important to explore the possibility of investment triangulation, by bringing third-party investors with the capital and expertise needed for large energy and infrastructure projects, both conventional and renewable. Third, public-private partnership is needed to sustain these efforts. One of the most formidable challenges is addressing Central Asia's need for transport-transit connectivity to other regions, such as the GCC countries.

*Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg is the GCC assistant secretary-general for political affairs and negotiation, and a columnist for Arab News. The views expressed in this piece are personal and do not necessarily represent GCC views. Courtesy: Arab News*

## UK and the world mourn the end of a life of service

**Dr. Azeem Ibrahim**

The death of Queen Elizabeth II of the UK and 14 other Commonwealth realms was not unexpected, but it was still a shock. Few of her subjects can remember a time without her. She reigned for 70 years, longer than any other British monarch. No living prime minister — from John Major, who took office in 1990, to Liz Truss, who did so only this week — has known anything in adulthood except her reign.

When Queen Victoria was dying, in 1901, a young Winston Churchill was on a lecture tour in Winnipeg, in frozen central Canada. Far from the heart of England, the effect of the queen's death, when announced, was immediate and immense. Churchill wrote that the Canadians felt that they had loved her, and they mourned her loss. When Victoria died, an era died with her — and everyone knew that this was true as it was happening.

The same must be said of Elizabeth, whose reign began with Churchill as prime minister and spanned a period of immense change. At 96, ever dutiful, her last official act was to appoint her 15th prime minister, Liz Truss, on Tuesday. It fell to Truss to announce the queen's death to the nation and the world.

The queen was the last ruler to have known Churchill and Eisenhower. She met a host of other monarchs. She toured the Middle East and Asia extensively — sometimes as queen of countries that would later abolish their monarchies, at other times as a visitor and friend. When Elizabeth hosted Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia in 2018, he was only the youngest and latest of the royal family she had known well.

In Lady Bagehot's seminal 1867 work "The English Constitution," the author summarized the monarch's political role as including the rights to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn. But this does not do justice to the dutiful way Elizabeth carried out her role.

The monarchy is a lonely business. It is isolating, if allowed to be. But Elizabeth held true to the tradition of the "public service monarchy." It meant touring the country and the world, meeting people with power and those without it, always being prepared to engage with anyone, to talk with animation, or to know when not to talk.

Bagehot called the monarchy a "magic" part of the British constitution, and the queen's dignity and poise in carrying out her duties maintained that magic — deep into an age where politicians and rulers in the Western world are supposed to carry themselves no differently from the ordinary people they meet.

The queen was deeply loved by many in the countries she ruled, and she was respected by leaders and citizens across the world. This was not merely a product of her title and the length of time she wore the crown. Rather, it was the result of seven decades' dutiful work — to be visible and available, to be of help to leaders but apart from politics. As she herself once observed, with a typical flash of humor: "I must be seen to be believed."

When the COVID pandemic struck the world, and isolated so many across the planet in their homes, the queen made a rare broadcast on a specific issue. When she — a nonagenarian great-grandmother — spoke of being apart from those she loved, she spoke to and for so many.

And when she, a living link to the past, said: "I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. ... And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any," she summoned the spirit of another age as no one else could.

That broadcast was watched by over a billion around the world. She spoke to the sense of duty in everyone, as only she could have done.

*Dr. Azeem Ibrahim is the director of special initiatives at the Newlines Institute for Strategy and Policy in Washington D.C. and author of "The Rohingya: Inside Myanmar's Genocide" (Hurst, 2017). Courtesy: Arab News*



# US, NATO note Ukraine army gains but see war dragging on

NATO says invasion launched by Putin in February is "entering a critical phase"

BRUSSELS: Ukraine's armed forces have made significant early gains in their counter-offensive against Russian troops in southern and eastern Ukraine but fighting appears set to drag on for months, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the head of NATO said Friday.



Blinken, who was at NATO headquarters to brief the 29 U.S. allies after a trip to Kyiv on Thursday, said the six-month war in Ukraine is entering a critical period. He urged the conflict-torn country's Western backers to maintain their support through the winter.

"The initial signs are positive, and we see Ukraine making real, demonstrable progress in a deliberate way," Blinken said, referring to the Ukrainian military's recent push into Russian-occupied areas in southern Ukraine and the eastern Donbas region.

"But this is likely to go on for some significant period of time," he said. "There are a huge number of Russian forces that are in Ukraine, and unfortunately, tragically, horrifically, President (Vladimir) Putin has demonstrated that he will throw a lot of people into this at huge cost to Russia."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the invasion launched by Putin in February is "entering a critical phase." "Ukrainian forces have been able to stall Moscow's offensive in Donbas, strike back behind Russian lines and retake territory," he said.

But Stoltenberg warned that allied unity will be tested in coming months, "with pressure on energy supplies and the soaring cost of living caused by Russia's war." He renewed calls for allies

to supply special uniforms, generators, tents and equipment to help Ukraine's army weather the winter.

Blinken appeared moved by his visit to Ukraine as he railed against what he said were Russian war crimes and the price of "indiscriminate violence" inflicted on civilians.

"I saw the costs in my visit to a children's hospital in Kyiv, where I met kids who will spend the rest of their lives without limbs, or with enduring brain

injuries, or with other trauma that may be invisible to the eye, because of atrocities committed by Russian forces," he said.

The one-day visit was Blinken's second to Ukraine's capital since the war began, and his fifth into Ukraine since becoming secretary of state. On his last trip, in April, he traveled on the same overnight train with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin but did not have the opportunity to see much of the damage in and around the city caused by Russian shelling.

At the hospital, Blinken met with, among other children wounded in aerial and artillery attacks, a six-year old girl named Maryna who lost a leg after a rocket struck her house in the city of Kherson. He also toured the town of Irpin, much of it devastated by repeated Russian air strikes.

"You see just miles from downtown Kyiv these bombed-out buildings, civilian dwellings," he said after his return. "The only thing you can say when you see it is, at best - at best, these were indiscriminate attacks on civilian buildings, and at worst, intentional, deliberate, designed to terrorize the population."

## Significance of congress of world leaders in interreligious dialogue

Dianna Yessenova

Over centuries, the people of Kazakhstan have accumulated the priceless qualities of tolerance, harmony, and mutual respect, enriched by the spiritual legacy of various nations and beliefs.

This has also been possible to achieve because since the first days of our independence, Kazakhstan has devoted significant efforts to protecting and strengthening interethnic and interreligious harmony, expanding opportunities for citizens to use their creativity, abilities, and talents, to comprehensively develop personal character.

In the years of independence, Kazakhstan has adopted key government decisions and implemented large-scale initiatives to develop culture, spirituality, and enlightenment.

In the precarious conditions of the development of the sovereignty of the country, the transition to a market economy and democratic norms, we were able to substantiate the idea of interethnic and interfaith harmony, promote it and develop it in accordance with the requirements of the time and the needs of the people of Kazakhstan. This process is known in the world today as the "Kazakhstan Way".

Fundamental elements, such as peace, and dialogue of confessions and cultures, are our invaluable wealth. The paradigm of interethnic and interfaith harmony has been recognised by the global community, while the "Kazakhstan Way" has become an inspiration not only for our close neighbors, but also for many countries across the world, as well as the subject of scientific study by experts, analysts, and politicians.

Kazakhstan's achievements in this area are rooted in the peculiarities of our country's history and its people, while the development of interfaith and interreligious cooperation is directly related to the centuries-old interaction of various types of civilizations and cultures in the heart of the Eurasian continent.

In turn, the tolerance of the people of Kazakhstan, their benevolent attitude towards representatives of other ethnic groups, cultures, and religions has led to the establishment of a strong and reliable foundation for the creative and comprehensive development and prosperity of the secular state.

Kazakhstan's unique experience in maintaining interfaith harmony and religious tolerance has proved to be relevant on the global level. In this regard, one of Kazakhstan's significant achievements is the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which is held in Nur-Sultan every three years.

Between 2003 and 2021, six Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions have been held on relevant issues of cooperation between representatives of various religions in order to facilitate a peaceful and decent life for people all over the planet.

The congress has become a significant contribution by Kazakhstan to the development of a global interreligious dialogue in the name of peace and stability. Combining this approach with other crucial principles of the country's foreign policy, such as multi-vectorism, and a commitment to a peaceful and collective resolution of international disputes, Kazakhstan is actively contributing to the development of mutual understanding between Eastern and Western civilizations.

In September, our country will open its doors to participants of the Seventh Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, which will be attended by more than 100 participants from 50 countries.

The topics of the plenary and panel sessions of the congress will provide an opportunity to comprehensively discuss issues of the modern era, such as threats of infectious diseases, international conflicts that concern every citizen regardless of his religious and ethnic affiliation, and to develop appropriate recommendations for their solution.

Evaluating the significance of the achievements that have been reached over the 19 years since the first congress, we are confident the future event will be based on the spiritual union of the leaders of world and traditional religions, united in Kazakhstan as a sign of cooperation in the name of the well-being and security of all nations, as well as spiritual revival and improvement of humankind.

Deputy Chairwoman of the Board of the N. Nazarbayev Center for Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilizational Dialogue

## Indian SC grants bail to journalist Siddique Kappan

NEW DELHI: The Indian Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Kerala Muslim journalist, Siddique Kappan, who has been under detention since October 2020.

Siddique Kappan along with three other persons including activist, Atiq-ur-Rahman, was arrested by police in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on October, 05, 2020, when on his way to Hathras area to report on the brutal rape and murder of a teenage Dalit girl.

The authorities claimed that Kappan was being held on the charges of "sedition," "promoting enmity between groups", "outraging religious feelings" and "knowingly holding property derived or obtained from the commission of a terrorist act."

They were arrested on the apprehension of causing a breach of peace but were later slapped with stringent charges of sedition and various sections of Indian Penal Code, draconian law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Information Technology Act.

## Austria's Turk proposed to be next UN human rights chief

GENEVA: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will propose Austria's Volker Turk to be the next High Commissioner for Human Rights, a UN document showed.

Turk, who now works in Guterres' office as Under Secretary-General for Policy, will succeed Chile's Michelle Bachelet, whose term ended on Aug. 31. The appointment still needs to be approved by the UN General Assembly in New York.

The 193-member UN General Assembly is likely to approve Turk's appointment later on Thursday, diplomats said.

## Priceless Wealth

Many people in the world think money is everything. But there is something that cannot be bought or exchanged with money. It is noble ideology and spirit. President Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) regarded noble ideology and spirit as the most precious wealth of revolutionaries. For him, money and material wealth are meaningful only for the people's welfare. He never linked money or wealth with his life. Although he devoted his all to the victory of the Korean revolution and the cause of global independence shouldering the heavy burden of state affairs, he refused all the proposals of the officials to raise his salary. The following story is a good example.



In November 1993, a meeting for accounting and income distribution was held at the Wonhwa Cooperative Farm, Phyongwon County, South Phyongan Province. The meeting adopted a resolution on presenting 102 485 won to Kim Il Sung who was an honorary member of the farm. It was the sum of the savings of the share of Kim Il Sung who had worked for the farm since the time of the cooperativization of socialist agriculture after the Korean war (1950-1953). He had

striven to boost the farm since the day when he had sowed seeds together with the farmers during the war. It was an expression of their gratitude for his devoted efforts. But Kim Il Sung ensured that tractors, trucks and farming machines were purchased with the money for the farm. There is the International Friendship Exhibition House in Mt Myohyang, which is famous for its superb scenic beauty. Displayed there are numerous precious gifts

presented to President Kim Il Sung by party leaders, personages, organizations and institutes of various countries of the world. President Kim Il Sung never thought that the gifts were for him alone. He said that all the gifts for him belonged to the country, not to him and so they must be displayed in the exhibition house. In general, politicians do not make public the gifts they received.

Regarding them as an expression of their personalities and dignity, they keep and use them for themselves. It is common that they make them a source of pride in their personalities even when they show them to others. But President Kim Il Sung turned all the gifts presented to him into the wealth of the country and the people which will be handed down generation after generation.

## Poland, Baltics agree EU visa ban plan for Russians

VILNIUS: Poland and the three Baltic states said they would temporarily restrict access for Russian citizens holding EU visas by September 19 to address "public policy and security threats."

The prime ministers of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland said in a statement they were concerned "about the substantial and growing influx of Russian citizens" into the EU.

"We believe that this is becoming a serious threat to our public security and to the overall shared Schengen area," they said.

The statement said the four "agreed on a common regional approach and hereby express their political will and firm intention to introduce national temporary measures for Russian citizens holding visas."

The measures would "restrict the entry into the Schengen area for Russian citizens traveling for tourism, culture, sport and business purposes."

Exceptions will be made for various categories, including "dissidents," "humanitarian cases," family members and holders of residence permits in EU countries.

"We fully uphold the need to continue to support opponents of the Putin regime and provide them with opportunities to leave Russia," the four leaders said.

But they added that it was "unacceptable that citizens of the aggressor-state are able to freely travel in the EU, whilst at the same time people in Ukraine are being tortured and murdered."

The prime ministers said they would "continue to seek a common approach on the EU level."

EU foreign ministers meeting in Prague last month agreed to suspend a 2007 visa facilitation deal with Russia, stopping short of a wider visa ban.

But EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that countries bordering Russia could "take measures at a national level to restrict entry into the European Union."

## Yemeni Govt condemns Houthis for obstructing fuel entry

SANAA: Yemeni Government has condemned Houthis for obstructing fuel entry into Port of Al-Hudaydah.

"The Houthi militias have been forcing companies and traders of oil derivatives to violate the established laws and mechanisms put in place to regulate the import of oil derivatives through the ports of Hudaydah and have been in effect since the announcement of the truce on 02 April 2022. This led to obstructing the entry of oil derivatives' ships on a regular basis in accordance with the terms of the ongoing truce and created a manufactured fuel crisis."

The Government of Yemen has informed the

Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen and the countries sponsoring the political process of the danger of the militias' attempt to bypass the established mechanism in an effort to facilitate the import of smuggled oil and prohibited materials, and to enable the private companies affiliated with Houthi leaders to directly import fuel, as well as to revitalize the black market from which the Houthis profit substantially.

The Government of Yemen affirms to the international community and all Yemeni citizens, especially those in areas under control of the Houthi militias, that there are no changes or special

restrictions, neither old nor new, imposed by the Government of Yemen on the import of oil derivatives through the ports of Hudaydah. The Government of Yemen further affirms that the laws and regulations governing the import of fuel remain the same since the announcement of the truce and that they are applied across all ports of Yemen.

The Houthi militias are seeking to manufacture an artificial fuel crisis with the aim of pumping the stored quantities of oil derivatives that were imported during the truce, into the black market with the aim of profiteering and doubling its profits. During the truce,

35 fuel ships offloaded its cargo in the Hudaydah port, representing all the companies that applied for entry permits during the truce and contained a total of 963,492 MT.

Despite the Houthi militias collecting all the revenues from Hudaydah ports, including taxes, customs fees and other revenues, they are creating this crisis to deprive the citizens of oil derivatives the same way they are depriving civil servants from their salaries as stipulated in the Stockholm agreement, violating the provisions of the ongoing truce, and paying no regard to the humanitarian consequences on the people of Yemen.



## Executive Director talks about results of Kazakhstan's chairmanship

CICA is a multilateral platform for pan-Asian dialogue and cooperation

NUR-SULTAN: As the sixth Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Summit draws near, Kairat Sarybay, executive director of CICA shared the details on the preparation for the summit and the results of Kazakhstan's chairmanship of CICA from 2020 to 2022 during his meeting with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Sept. 7, reported the Akorda press service.

In an exclusive interview with The Astana Times, Sarybay spoke about major milestones over the 30 years since the establishment of CICA, the importance of CICA for the cause of international security and cooperation, major achievements during Kazakhstan's chairmanship and the plans ahead of the sixth CICA Summit in October 2022.

Back in 1992, during the 47th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev announced an initiative to create a mechanism for interaction and cooperation to promote peace, security, stability and prosperity in Asia in light of the emergence of newly independent states in Central Asia and Eurasia. This served as a foundation for the establishment of CICA, which will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Oct. 5, 2022.

Today, CICA is a multilateral platform for pan-Asian dialogue and cooperation, uniting 27 member states, nine observer states, five observer international organizations and five partner organizations.

"Before becoming such a recognizable and reputable forum, the conference went through several stages of its institutional evolution," said Sarybay, outlining major milestones in the history of the conference over the last 30 years.

One of the first important milestones in the institutional transformation was the adoption of the foundational documents of CICA - the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations of 1999 and the Almaty Act of 2002.

"These two documents explicitly declared the determination of the CICA member states to create a common and indivisible security area in Asia and commitment to take necessary steps towards institutional development of CICA," said Sarybay.

Approval of the CICA catalog

of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in 2004 and the establishment of the CICA secretariat in 2006 were also important stages that formed the basis for the operational activities of CICA.

According to Sarybay, the successful institutional development of CICA would not have been possible without the valuable contribution of its rotating chairpersons, held consecutively by Kazakhstan, Türkiye, China and Tajikistan, which were "driving forces behind the CICA process."

Kazakhstan's latest chairmanship in 2020-2022 was recognized as a period where several important milestones were reached.

"At Kazakhstan's initiative two new institutions of CICA have been created in 2021 - the



renewed and institutionalized CICA Think Tank Forum (ITF) and CICA Council of Eminent Persons (CEP)," said Sarybay.

CEP is meant to become a high-level advisory body of CICA on interaction and development, on the promotion of peace and

security and on the implementation of CBMs.

The ITF has been transformed into a permanent platform for dialogue with the objective to provide informational and analytical support to CICA and to develop interaction between the member

states' think tanks and research institutions. The ITF is currently chaired by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies.

Another major accomplishment of CICA during Kazakhstan's chairmanship was updating the CICA catalog of CBMs in 2021, which is the key document of CICA for practical implementation and the adoption of the general guidelines for conducting events related to CBM implementation.

Sarybay said that the updated catalog has been adapted to new realities which include 18 priority areas within five dimensions of interaction. New priority areas of cooperation include epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals, security of and in the use of information, and communication technologies.



## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,948.16	41,824.79
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,099.54	41,815.49
Index Value	Change
6,235,378,172	+123.37
Percentage	Time
+0.29%	9 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,375.05	+112.99
Percentage	Time
+1.55%	9 Sept, 3:55 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
32,140.38	+365.86
Percentage	Time
+1.15%	9 Sept, 10:55 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
28,214.75	+149.47
Percentage	Time
+0.53%	9 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	231	234

# Rupee weakening instead of stabilizing despite deal with IMF: Mian Zahid

*Says weakness of rupee reflects political and economic conditions of country*

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the rupee is weakening instead of stabilizing despite a deal with the IMF.

The weakness of the rupee reflects the political and economic conditions of the country and the pressure on the local currency continues to increase, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the dollar is recovering at a rapid pace



after falling from two hundred and forty rupees to two hundred and thirteen rupees and now one dollar is being sold for two hundred and

twenty-four rupees.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the promise by some friendly countries to deposit a few billion dollars in Pakistan has not been fulfilled yet.

He said that to prevent the shortage of dollars in the country, the government banned some unnecessary imports, but some essential imports were also banned, which reduced the imports by three billion dollars in August, but it is not possible to stop the imports for a long time.

The benefits of such measures are temporary and if the rupee is to stabilize on real terms, a fundamental change in policies will be required

which is not possible without political stability, he observed.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that before the flood, the growth rate was estimated to be three and a half percent, which may decrease further now. While the financial situation in America and Europe is unsatisfactory, which will affect the exports and GDP.

After the destruction of crops in Pakistan, vegetables and fruits are being imported on a large scale from Iran and Afghanistan, while four million tons of wheat are also estimated to be imported which will be affecting the rupee while political instability has caused the biggest

damage to the rupee.

The business leader said that the solution to this whole situation lies in better governance, change of priorities, closure or sale of failed government institutions, elimination of electricity theft and losses in transmission and improvement of the tax system, as a result of these reforms, 20 billion dollars can be saved annually.

Another 15 billion dollars can be saved through basic reforms in alternative energy and agriculture. How long can a country that has the honour of paying the lowest taxes in the world and which spends more than its income can survive, he questioned?

# TVET provides fashion designing toolkits to promote entrepreneurship

## Spokesman Report

LAHORE: A toolkits handover ceremony was organized at a hotel in Lahore by TVET Sector Support Programme (TVET SSP) under its component, 'Reintegration of Returnees in Pakistan', which is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in order to provide fashion designing toolkits to returning migrants and locals, who received training in a workshop on entrepreneurship.

Raja Saad Khan, Deputy Head of TVET Sector Support Programme also expressed his views while addressing the beneficiaries. He informed that the TVET Sector Support Programme is funded by the European Union, Germany and Norway, and being implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in partnership with the National Vocational and



Technical Training Commission (NAVTC) and in close collaboration with the provincial Technical Education and Vocational Training Authorities (TEVTAs) and several not-for-profit, public and private sector organisations. "The German Development Cooperation considers upskilling in the informal labour market of Pakistan to be pivotal for the economic growth of the country and financial independ-

ence of individuals.

The economic stability of a country's workers, specifically those belonging to the informal sector is directly proportionate to a stable economy. GIZ Pakistan aims to support small businesses and self-employment through the provision of in-kind support. Our approach is beneficiaries-centred and the Career & Entrepreneurship Advisory Services, and

Employment Promotion interventions encourage and motivate the Pakistani beneficiaries to become self-sustainable in the long run", he also added. Prior to the handover ceremony of the toolkits, a workshop on Career & Entrepreneurship Advisory was held to provide training to the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries from Punjab and KP, who participated in the workshop, will now be able to become entrepreneurs and initiate their own start-up upon their return to their homes.

Zulaikha Khan, a returnee from Saudi Arabia, while collecting his fashion designing toolkit at the event said, "When I returned to Pakistan, I struggled a lot. I could not find any support or any opportunity that would support us - the returning migrants. This is a revolutionary step and the toolkits we are receiving today will enable us to run our own businesses and become financially stable.

# TPL Trakker & Krave Mart to transform online shopping via DMS

## Spokesman Report

KARACHI: TPL Trakker-Pakistan's leading IoT, Tracking and Location Technology Company, has partnered with Krave Mart, one of the up and coming, most promising brands in the country, to enable their Q-commerce platform through robust location-based mapping services for delivery. TPL Trakker through its multiple Map's APIs that are powered by more than 6 million location points, will facilitate in providing a seamless delivery experience to both Krave Mart customers as well as Krave Mart Riders.

In recent times Pakistan is experiencing an accelerated shift towards online shopping with customers expecting instant gratification with their online purchases. Krave Mart is an online grocery store disrupt-



ing the Q-commerce space with faster deliveries, authentic products, and constant innovation. In less than a year, Krave Mart has seen exponential growth by providing services to 90% of Karachi, 75% of Lahore, and 70% of Rawalpindi. This prolific partnership with TPL Trakker will enhance the delivery management system of Krave Mart and provide important data-driven

insights that they can utilize to satisfy all the 'kravings' of their customers.

Commenting on the occasion, Sarwar Ali Khan, CEO of TPL Trakker, stated: "At TPL Trakker we aim to revolutionize the digital eco-sphere by working with partners who have the same goal. By utilizing TPL Trakker's digital location services Krave Mart gains an innovative edge in Pakistan's

Q-commerce industry. Q-commerce has recently seen amazing traction in the market and TPL Trakker is committed to supporting local start-ups to further energize this sector."

Sharing his thoughts on the partnership with TPL Trakker, Kassim Shroff, Founder and CEO of Krave Mart, said: "Our aim is to give people back some of their valuable time that they would otherwise spend by going to neighborhood grocery stores. This is only possible by not just providing the best experience, but also having the best systems in place, and I believe partnering with TPL Trakker will add great value to our service. We see a huge potential and opportunity in this market, and we have put our heads down to ensure we execute properly and deliver on what we have promised."

# Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Trade House announced

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan trade house has been announced to establish and increase the strong trade linkages between the two countries. The trade house, a first of its kind, was announced by H.E Ulanbek Totuaev, Ambassador of Kyrgyz Republic, during a seminar on "30 Years of Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Relations: Progress and Prospects" organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, Embassy of Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan and Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University, Global Business Alliance, a growing network of traders, has initiated this unique concept in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

While speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic said that strong bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan reflect that both nations are ready to build the next decades of future coop-



eration. He further highlighted the important ongoing projects between the states and the region where both countries collaborate, especially building on the connectivity projects.

Ambassador highlighted that a large number of Pakistani students studying in various educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan. Both countries are also exploring the possibilities of opening direct flights from both sides. Farhat Asif, President, the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies, shared the historical ties between the two states and the background of

hosting this seminar. Prof. Dr. H. Sohail Naqvi, Rector, University of Central Asia, Bishkek, highlighted about the growing bilateral ties on education, training and collaboration on student exchange between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan. Dr. Manzoor Somoro, Former President of ECO Science Foundation, highlighted the significance of science and technology and especially about the early year education and prospects for collaboration between the two brotherly countries.

Dr. Somoro emphasized the importance of practical learn-

ing at the foundation level which provides a strong foundation for higher studies. In the concluding remarks, Dr. Rashid Aftab, Director of Riphah Institute of Public Policy, congratulated the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic on the 30th anniversary of bilateral ties. While commenting on the current monsoon disaster in Pakistan, he stated that Pakistan is bestowed with glacial mountain ranges, which gives Pakistan abundant freshwater sources, there is an issue of water management rather than water deficiency.

He emphasized establishing stronger trade ties and mutual collaboration in the Agricultural Sector and Education sectors between both countries for the region's sustainable development. The seminar ended with a "Kyrgyzstan Pakistan Dosti Zindabad" by the Kyrgyzstan Ambassador. The guests were then invited to the Photo Exhibition, where the past ties of Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan were beautifully exhibited.

# Atlas Group and Honda announce Rs220m for flood relief efforts

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Atlas Group and Honda group of companies have together announced a support of Rs. 220 million (approx. USD 1 million) as initial contribution to the flood relief effort in Pakistan.

Atlas Honda Limited, Honda Atlas Cars (Pakistan) Limited, Honda Atlas Power Products (Private) Ltd., in Pakistan and Asian Honda Motor Co., Ltd. in Thailand are contributing to the efforts for flood relief

work that has already started.

Flood victims are being provided food boxes, shelters, tents and water filtration units through 10,000 touch points of Atlas Honda motorcycle dealers and community networks developed over 60 years of presence in the country.

In these testing times, Atlas Group, Honda and its nationwide associates and partners extend heartfelt sympathies and good wishes to the Nation and People of Pakistan.

# IRM, Ignite launches Google Career Certification program



## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Google, Institute of Rural Management (IRM) and Ignite have announced Google Career Certification program in Pakistan. IRM and Ignite have signed an MoU here in Islamabad to achieve the Google Career Certification targets. At the signing ceremony CEO Ignite Asim Shahryar Hussain said "This agreement shall provide both Ignite and IRM with a framework to achieve Google Career Certification goals in the best possible way."

CEO IRM Dr. Roomi S. Hayat said that "Youth are the destiny driver of the nation Google Career Certification program would func-

tion as a catalyst to open a new paradigm of opportunities for them".

If you are Exploring a new career in google career certification, gain in-demand skills that can lead to jobs in high-growth fields of project management, UX design, data analytics, and much more.

Enroll and Complete Google career certificate online designed by Google. The program starting this month September 22 is taught by Google. The certification offers less than 10 hours study each week in six month at your own place and time to help accelerate your career to enhance the skills needed to thrive in the digital workforce.

# Karandaaz joins hands with FINCA Microfinance Bank



## Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Karandaaz and FINCA Microfinance Bank signed an agreement to undertake joint efforts to advance women's financial inclusion in Pakistan.

The MOU signing ceremony took place at FINCA Pakistan's Head Office in Lahore and was chaired by CEO FINCA Microfinance Bank, Mr. Jahanzeb Khan, CEO Karandaaz, Mr. Waqas ul Hasan. The ceremony was also attended by senior management members from both organizations.

Under this agreement, Karandaaz has committed

a grant to FINCA Microfinance Bank Pakistan for initiating and running an exploration program that will help FINCA design gender-sensitive products and communication strategy with the aim of reducing the gender gap.

Waqas ul Hasan, CEO Karandaaz, expressed his views on the collaboration, stating that, "Financial inclusion of small savers and underserved segments is at the core of Karandaaz's overall push for greater financial inclusion in the country. As per the latest Global Findex 2021, top line financial inclusion in Pakistan is estimated at 21%.

## FFC wins prestigious 'Company of the Year Award'

### Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFCL) has been conferred 'Company of the Year Award' by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (RCCI) in recognition of Company's dedication, devotion, commitment and exemplary business performance during Year 2021. RCCI held its 34th RCCI International Achievement Awards Ceremony and Business Opportunity Conference in Thailand where the prestigious award was conferred to FFC.

Company Secretary FFC, Brig Asrat Mahmood (Retd), SI (M) received the award.

## Ufone 4G launches climate update service 'WeatherWalay'

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G has launched an accurate weather update service 'WeatherWalay' to facilitate customers, especially with regard to the monsoon season and extensive flooding that has affected every province across the country.

The service has been introduced as an Interactive Voice Response (IVR), where customers can call 3392 and obtain precise details of the weather and any changes in it over periods of 24 hours, 72 hours and even a week within the city or other areas in Pakistan. Curated by a team of expert meteorologists led by Dr. Muhammad Hanif, WeatherWalay is being offered free of cost until the 30th of September to assist customers and ensure safer commutes.



# Sri Lanka beat Pakistan by 5 wickets in Asia Cup fixture

Both teams have already booked their place in Sunday's title clash

DUBAI: Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by five wickets in the Asia Cup Super Four match at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Friday.

Leg spinner Usman Qadir dismissed Bhanuka Rajapaksa to break a 51-run partnership between him and Nissanka in the 12th over, however the latter kept the scoreboard ticking with boundaries and singles.

Earlier in the first innings, leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga claimed three wickets as Sri Lanka bundled out Pakistan for 121 in their dress rehearsal for the Asia Cup final.

Both teams have already booked their place in Sunday's title clash and are playing the last Super Four match of the tournament, which serves as a warm-up to the T20 World Cup in October-November. Sri Lanka bowlers kept the Pakistan batters in check after they elected to field first.

Hasaranga soon took charge to return figures of 3-21 including the key wicket of skipper Babar Azam for 30. Openers Mohammad Rizwan and Babar found it tough to score and debutant fast bowler



er Pramod Madushan struck in his first over. He sent the in-form Rizwan, who is second to Virat Kohli in the tournament's run-scoring charts, back to the pavilion for 14.

Chamika Karunaratne ended Fakhar Zaman's stay on 13 and Pakistan slipped further when Hasaranga bowled Babar. Babar, who has struggled in the tournament with scores of 10, 9, 14 and

nought in his previous innings, began with a delightful straight drive for four but could not produce a match-defining score. Pakistan kept losing wickets and Hasaranga finished his spell with two successive wickets to flatten the Pakistan batting, which survived only 19.1 overs despite a late cameo of 26 by Mohammad Nawaz.

Spinner Maheesh Theekshana and Madushan took two wickets each. Pre-tournament favourites India, who lost two of their three Super Four matches, crashed out after Afghanistan lost to Pakistan on Wednesday.

Pakistan: Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Babar Azam (capt), Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Khushdil Shah, Asif Ali, Mohammad Nawaz, Usman Qadir, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Hasan Ali

Sri Lanka: Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis (wk), Dhananjaya de Silva, Danushka Gunathilaka, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Dasun Shanaka (capt), Wanindu Hasaranga, Chamika Karunaratne, Pramod Madushan, Maheesh Theekshana, Dilshan Madushanka

# Matthew Hayden returns as team mentor for T20 World Cup

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Australia great Matthew Hayden will be the Pakistan team mentor for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Friday.

The decision is a continuation of Hayden's involvement with the national men's side after he inspired them to the semifinals of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, defeating India, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Scotland and Namibia in the league matches.

Hayden will join the side in Brisbane on 15 October, the day Pakistan arrive from Christchurch after competing in the T20I series also involving Bangladesh and hosts New Zealand.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "I welcome Matthew Hayden back in Pakistan colours. He is a proven performer with his credentials acknowledged and recognised world-



over. He brings with him wealth of knowledge about Australia conditions and I am confident his involvement will significantly benefit our extremely talented cricketers for the World Cup and future tours Down Under. "I would like to offer my gratitude to Bank Alfalah who have once again

partnered with us on this appointment and hope they will remain connected with the PCB." Matthew Hayden: "I am extremely excited to be reuniting with the Pakistan team as their mentor for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia and can't wait to join the culture again and feel the spirit of One Nation One Passion.

"I have seen how Pakistan have been performing in the ACC T20 Asia Cup and Sunday's win over India was brilliant. "I think this Pakistan side has got what it takes to excel in Australia and the conditions will really suit them, both from a batting and bowling perspective. This team has all of its bases covered and I am sure it will light up the World Cup as it did in the UAE last year.

"I feel privileged to be given an opportunity to pass on all my experience and knowledge about all conditions in Australia and can't wait to be back in the Pakistan dressing room."

# Max Verstappen hoping to end Monza struggles at Italian GP



MILAN: Formula One champion Max Verstappen is feeling unusually optimistic about his chances to finally get a good result at the Italian Grand Prix.

Monza is the only circuit where Verstappen has never even finished on the podium, with the Red Bull driver's best result being fifth in 2018.

Verstappen did not even manage to finish the past two editions of the Italian GP at all, with his retirement last year coming after a spectacular crash with title rival Lewis Hamilton, who was also forced to abandon the race.

However, the Dutch driver will take to the track on Sunday on the back of four straight wins and with his Red Bull having had a superior straight-line speed all season, which is crucial on one of F1's fastest tracks.

"We've always been slow on the straights, so then it's normal when you get here that it's never going to be a good weekend," Verstappen said when asked about his previous problems at Monza. "And besides that, you know, a few technical issues as well around this track and we always had to take engine penalties around here as well. So naturally, it's never going to be amazing.

"But now I think with straight-line speed, it can be a completely different weekend for us."

Verstappen's dominant performances have seen the championship leader build a 109-point advantage over Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc and teammate Sergio Perez, with just seven races remaining.

Last year he led Hamilton by just three points heading into the Italian GP.

"I'm always relaxed," Verstappen said. "Even last year, you know, when the lead wasn't that big, I think we always felt good and confident. But of course, with the lead we have now, yeah it's nice and it's great, but we still want to win more races."

Verstappen won in front of his home fans at the Dutch GP on Sunday and Ferrari will be hoping its passionate red-clad tifosi equally have something to celebrate this weekend on its home track.

# Premier League games postponed

LONDON: The Premier League announced on Friday that all matches had been cancelled this weekend following the death of Queen Elizabeth II but Test cricket and golf will resume.

English top flight clubs took the decision despite guidance from the British government that cancelling sporting events was not compulsory during a period of national mourning. "At a meeting this morning, Premier League clubs paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II," the Premier League said in a statement.

"To honour her extraordinary life and contribution to the nation, and as a mark of respect, this weekend's Premier League match round will be postponed, including Monday evening's game." All games in the English Football League,

Women's Super League and Scottish professional league are also off.

The third and decisive Test between England and South Africa at the Oval will start on Saturday after Thursday's play was washed out and Friday's postponed as a mark of respect. "She loved sport, be honoured to play in her memory," England captain Ben Stokes tweeted in response to a question on whether sporting events should go ahead.

A minute's silence will be observed before the national anthem, with players and coaches from both sides wearing black armbands. The England and Wales Cricket board confirmed the match cannot be extended beyond Monday to make up for lost time due to South Africa's travel arrangements. There will also be tributes to the queen at Wentworth

when the PGA Championship resumes on Saturday.

The tournament will be reduced to 54 holes after play in the opening round was suspended on Thursday and postponed on Friday. Sporting chiefs have also been advised to avoid any clash with a state funeral, the date of which has yet to be announced.

"There is no obligation to cancel or postpone events and sporting fixtures, or close entertainment venues during the national mourning period," the government said in a guidance statement.

"This is at the discretion of individual organisations. As a mark of respect, organisations might wish to consider cancelling or postponing events or closing venues on the day of the state funeral." - Fixture crunch - With fixtures next weekend potentially impacted by the polic-

ing operation in London for the funeral, football authorities face the headache of a fixture pile-up in a season already congested by a mid-season World Cup.

The British Horseracing Authority said there would be no races on Saturday - extending cancellations into a third day. King's Lynn, the only horse owned by the queen entered to run this weekend, will not run at the Curragh on Sunday.

Racing will return on that day, with the programme featuring the St Leger, one of Britain's five Classic races, which the queen won in 1977 with her filly Dunfermline.

The start to Rugby Union's English Premiership has been pushed back just a day from Friday to Saturday. Rugby League's Super League playoff eliminators will also go ahead on Friday and Saturday.

# Battle for T20 supremacy moves to Multan

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: The city of Saints - will be in the spotlight as the best domestic T20 cricketers converge in the city for the second leg of what has been an enthralling Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23.

The picturesque Multan Cricket Stadium, beginning from tomorrow, will host the last 17 matches - including the semi-finals and the final - of the 33-match tournament, and the fans can get hold of the tickets from either www.pcb.bookme.pk or the outlets in Golf Bagh in Gulgasht Colony and Stadium Chowk on Vihari Road.

The 10 and 11 September matches will be played at the same times as Rawalpindi leg - the first match commencing at 0930 and the second at 1345.

From 12 September, the first of the two matches will start at 1500, while the second will begin at 1930.

The action-filled Rawalpindi leg ended on Wednesday and after the completion of 16 of the 30 group matches, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, who are the title defenders and winners of the last two editions, lead the points table with a good four-point distance from the second-placed Balochistan.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are having a near-perfect campaign winning all five matches. They have rolled over every opposition in the tournament and all five sides will be wary of the threat Khalid Usman's men pose when the Multan leg resumes from tomorrow.

Balochistan, who played the final of the 2019 edition, have

won three matches of the five and lost two. With each win granting two points, they have pocketed six points. Under the captaincy of Yasir Shah, Balochistan have had a white-ball resurgence of sorts winning the Pakistan Cup One-Day Tournament at the start of 2022 and they have been on song this tournament.

Sindh, led by Saud Shakeel, are third on the six-team points table due to a lesser net run rate but are locked on six points with Balochistan. They had a terrific start with wins over Southern Punjab and Northern by 42 and 10 runs, but stuttered in between - losing to Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Central Punjab. They signed off the Rawalpindi leg with a solid six-wicket win over Southern Punjab by six wickets at the

Pindi Cricket Stadium. Sindh will hope to build on the win against Southern Punjab and carry the momentum when they open the Multan leg by taking on Northern. Sindh have not made it to the final in any of the last three editions.

Fourth-placed Northern were lacklustre at their home ground losing three of their five matches. After starting their campaign with defeats to Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they won two of their last three matches in Rawalpindi. They beat Central Punjab by three runs, lost to Balochistan by 19 runs and sealed a thriller by five runs against Southern Punjab. They won the 2019 edition of the tournament but have not made it to the final in the last two editions.

Southern Punjab are fifth in the points table. They won two

TOP BATTERS			TOP BOWLERS			POINTS TABLE		
NAME	RUNS	SR	NAME	WIKETS	ECR	TEAM	P	W
ZAIN ABBAS	241	152.53	SOHAIL KHAN	10	3.15	BALUCHISTAN	5	3
SARAYUB	227	108.14	SAHAB ALI AGHA	9	5.10	SINDH	6	3
TAYYAB SHAH	214	140.79	MOHAMMAD MIRAN	8	4.28	NORTHERN	5	2
SHARON SRAJ	179	129.95	SARFARAZ	8	3.24	SOUTHERN PUNJAB	6	2
SHAN MASOOD	170	124.82	AHMED DANIAL	8	4.28	CENTRAL PUNJAB	6	1

of their first three matches, and had the match against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa curtailed to five overs per side due to weather and ground conditions, which the latter won by seven wickets. It was one of the four games in this edition thus far, in which a total has been chased down.

Central Punjab - the finalists of the last edition - have had the worst start. It is not only that

# PHF announces new selection committee for hockey team

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The newly-elected President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), Brigadier Khalid Sajjad Khokhar, announced a five-member National Hockey Selection Committee on Friday.

According to the details, the PHF President has named Olympian Kaleemullah Khan as Chairman of the National Hockey Selection Committee, with four other renowned names as members.

The selection committee members include Nasir Ali, Rahim Khan, Laiq Ahmed Lashari, and Shakeel Abbasi.

# Abdullah grabs amateur title of Tenpin Bowling Tournament

ISLAMABAD: Abdullah has clinched the amateur event title of the Azadi Cup Tenpin Bowling Tournament at Leisure City Bowling Club, Jinnah Park, Rawalpindi.

Abdullah won the amateur title with 328 scores while Hanan with 294 and Jawad Ali 290 scores bagged 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively while Abdul Hadi took 4th position with 283 scores. The deaf events of the championship had already been completed with Zahid winning the Deaf men's title while Saira won women's in the Tenpin Bowling Tournament President, Pakistan Tenpin Bowling Federation (PTBF), Ijaz ur Rehman said men and women players from all over the country, were participating in the tournament.

A total of eight competitions would be played in the tournament including men's single, men's doubles, ladies singles, Amateur, Deaf, team event, Inter-Universities and Inter Schools. The semi-finals and final of the event would be played on September 10 and 11, respectively. The trophies and certificates would be awarded to the players in the concluding ceremony to be held on September 11.

# PNF Girls Netball Cup from October 11

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Netball Federation (PNF) will organise PNF Girls Netball Cup from October 11 to 14 at Pakistan sports board (PSB) Coaching Centre, Karachi.

President of PNF Mudassar Arain in a statement on Friday said that U-13, U-15, U-17, U-19 and the university level competitions would be held during the four-day event.

He asked the interested teams to get registered for taking part in the event on email paknetball@gmail.com or contact at 03219229711 till October 1.

The managers meeting will be held on the same day in which draws of the tournament will be opened. Final matches will be played on October 14. Trophies and certificates will be awarded to the winning teams.

# Swiatek downs Sabalenka, seals US Open final showdown with Ons Jabeur

NEWYORK: World No. 1 Iga Swiatek defeated Aryna Sabalenka in three sets to set up a US Open final showdown with Ons Jabeur on Thursday.

Two-time French Open champion Swiatek came from behind to defeat sixth-seed Sabalenka 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 at Arthur Ashe Stadium and reach her maiden US Open final. Sabalenka had been chasing the first Grand Slam final of her career after just missing out with semifinal defeats at Wimbledon and the US Open last year.

But the 24-year-old from Belarus suffered a late collapse while leading in the third set as Swiatek edged victory. Polish star Swiatek said an emergency bathroom break after losing the first set had been crucial. "I kind of needed to go," Swiatek said. "For sure I felt lighter. I'm sorry - that's disgusting," the 21-year-old added.

"I tried to use that time to think about what to change because I remember when I was younger all I would do in the bathroom between sets after I lost was cry.

"But this time I could think about what to change and actually problem solve." Sabalenka looked well placed to break her final duck as she swept into an early lead against the top seed. The hard-hitting Sabalenka broke Swiatek three times in the opening set, rattling her opponent's shaky service game and stretching her with an array of powerful groundstrokes.

But Swiatek looked rejuvenated after her bathroom break following the first set and came out for the second all guns blazing. She broke Sabalenka to love in the opening game and then held twice for a 3-1 lead. She sealed a further break with a backhand cross-court return of serve to open up a 4-1 advantage as Sabalenka struggled to cope with the change in tempo.

She was broken again in the seventh game, Swiatek levelling the match after Sabalenka fluffed an easy volley at the net on set point. Nevertheless Sabalenka appeared to have stopped the bleeding in the third set.

She broke Swiatek in the opening game and then broke again for a 3-2 lead after Swiatek had broken back. She held serve for a 4-2 lead and the momentum seemed to be with her. But Sabalenka's game disintegrated from that point on. Swiatek broke her to love to make it 4-4 and then held for a 5-4 lead.

Sabalenka was overrun in the 10th game as Swiatek raced into a 0-40 lead to move to triple matchpoint. Sabalenka held off the first with a forehand volley at the net, but her 44th unforced error on the next point sealed her fate.

leg tomorrow afternoon against Balochistan.

Southern Punjab vice-captain and opener Zain Abbas has been one of the most consistent batters in the tournament with 241 runs at an average of 40.17. But, it is his strike rate of over 152 which has been extraordinary. The left-handed batter has scored two half-centuries.

He is followed by another left-hander Saim Ayub of Sindh, who has brought his 237 runs at even quicker strike rate of 160.13. Twenty-year-old Saim has also made two half-centuries and is averaging 39.50.

Central Punjab's top-order batter Tayyab Tahir is third on the list with 214 at 42.80 runs per dismissal. He is the only batter this tournament to score three half-centuries and his strike rate stands at 140.