



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
ہم سے آدم بن ابی ایاس نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا ہم سے شعیب نے بیان کیا، ان سے عبد العزیز بن صہیب نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے اس بن مالک سے سنا کہ انہوں نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ کو دو میٹھوں کی قربانی کرتے تھے اور میں بھی دو میٹھوں کی قربانی کرتا تھا۔  
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5553)  
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

## Bilawal pays rich tribute to founder of Pakistan

Pakistan People's Party Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that once again, our motherland is facing a challenge in the form of devastating floods, but for the country to overcome every difficult test, one has to follow the father of the nation, who always remained strong in the face of difficulty.



## King Charles vows to follow queen's example as he is proclaimed monarch

King Charles pledged on Saturday to follow the example of his late mother as he was officially proclaimed as Britain's new monarch on Saturday at a historic ceremony in St James's Palace. The death of 96-year-old Queen Elizabeth on Thursday after 70 years on the throne set in train long-established and highly choreographed plans for days of national mourning and a state funeral that will be held in just over a week. News on Page 5

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 14, Sunday, September 11, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 158 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

### UAE launches initiative to assist Pak flood victims



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation UAE, Ministry of Community Development UAE and Emirates Red Crescent in coordination with the Embassy of Pakistan in Abu Dhabi and Consulate General of Pakistan in Dubai have launched a volunteering initiative to collect donations for the flood affectees in Pakistan. This volunteering initiative was launched today simultaneously at following locations across the UAE. 1. Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center (ADNEC), Abu Dhabi. 2. Dubai Exhibition Center, Expo City Dubai. 3. Expo Center, Sharjah

Charge d' Affaires, Imtiaz Feroz Gondal along with Dr. Hamdan Mussallam Al Mazrouei, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Emirates Red Crescent and Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation participated in the launch of this campaign in Abu Dhabi.

More than 30,000 boxes were donated today. Each box consists of food and hygiene kits to support a family of 5 for a whole month.

CdA thanked the people and Government of the UAE for their continuous support in this difficult time. He also appreciated the work being done by the Emirates Red Crescent for the flood affectees in Pakistan.

## Showing affection

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and UN Secretary General H.E Antonio Guterres loving and infant born in the Tent City Osta Muhammad, Jaffarabad on Saturday.



Photo: PID

## Devastating Floods

# UN chief renews fund appeal for Pakistan

### Pakistan needs massive financial support to overcome post-flood challenges, says Antonio Guterres

Spokesman Report

SUKKUR: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday urged the international community to support flood-hit Pakistan as the country needed massive financial help to overcome post-flood crises.

"It is not a matter of generosity, but a matter of justice," he said reiterating the UN's commitment, strong support and solidarity with the flood-affected populace of Pakistan.

Guterres said that huge damages and losses were caused to human lives and properties.

The UN absolutely supported

## Govt fully cognizant of flood victims' sufferings: PM

LARKANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday said that the federal government was fully cognizant of the sufferings and problems of the flood affectees and reassured that the federal and provincial governments would fully assist and support them in this hour of distress. Talking to flood affectees along with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the prime minister said that an amount of Rs70 billion allocated by the federal government was being disbursed among each flood-affected family under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP).

the Pakistani nation and requested the well-resourced nations to support the country massively, so that it could face the future challenges of climatic changes and save its nation.

He stressed that the international community must realize the serious impacts of greenhouse emissions as nature was striking back in the form of natural calamities.

The issue of greenhouse gases had accelerated the climatic changes and the nations having larger greenhouse emissions footprints must understand these issues, he added.

According to the scientific estimates, the UN secretary-general emphasized that now, it was a time to reduce greenhouse emissions.

He said it was also a fact that they were living in a climatic changing era and have to make efforts to rebuild communities and to enable the countries to resist and face the future disasters that could be wrought by the natural calamities.

## Pakistan needs to be prepared for heavy rains cycles: COAS

### General Qamar Javed Bajwa spends time with flood victims in flung areas of interior Sindh

DADU: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited far flung areas of interior Sindh in Dadu district.

According to the ISPR, the Army Chief spent time with flood affected people in relief and medical camps.

COAS directed the formation for providing 5000 tents to flood affected people of Dadu and surrounding areas. He also interacted with troops busy in rescue and relief activities.

Later, COAS was flown for aerial reconnaissance of flood affected areas of Dadu, Khairpur Nathan Shah, Johi, Meher and Manchar Lake.

Later, talking to media in Dadu, General Qamar Javed Bajwa said Dadu is the most affected area. He said Manchar

lake and Hamal lake, which have around hundred kilometre distance between them, have been merged.

The Army Chief said rescue work in other parts of the country has ended except Dadu. He expressed hope that people from Sindh will also come forward their brothers and sisters.

He said international community is also helping Pakistan generously.

General Qamar Javed Bajwa said Pakistan needs to be prepared for heavy rains cycles. He said army engineering corps has been assigned the task to prepare a plan to cope with such situation in future. He stressed on the need to develop drainage system. APP

## IHC restores 11 suspended PTI members

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has restored the parliamentary membership of 11 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members.

On July 19, National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf had accepted the resignations of 11 PTI MNAs, including former human rights minister Shireen Mazari, ex-interior minister Ijaz Ahmed Shah, ex-state minister for parliamentary affairs Ali Muhammad Khan and ex-state minister for information and broadcasting Farrukh Habib under Article 64 (1) of the Constitution.

The other PTI lawmakers whose resignations were accepted included Fazal Muhammad Khan, Shaukat

Ali, Fakhar Zaman Khan, Jamil Ahmed Khan, Muhammad Akram Cheema, Abdul Shakoor Shad and Shandana Gulzar Khan.

Mazari and Shandana were elected on the reserved seats for women from Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, respectively. Later on July 29, the ECP issued notifications regarding the acceptance of the resignations of these eleven MPs and announced by-elections on the vacant seats.

The PTI had subsequently challenged before the Islamabad High Court the ECP's decision and announced by-elections against nine general seats from which incumbents had resigned. APP

## Defamation case

# Court fines on IK for seeking adjournment

### Court accepted Khan's counsel's request; adjourned hearing till Sept 24

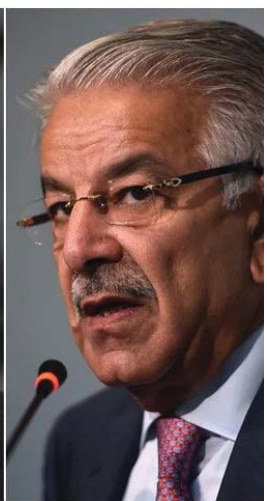
ISLAMABAD: A session court Saturday fined former prime minister and PTI chief Imran Khan for seeking an adjournment of the hearing in the Rs10 billion defamation case filed against Defence Minister Khawaja Asif.

Additional Sessions Judge Adnan Khan imposed a fine of Rs5,000 on the PTI chief for seeking an adjournment in the hearing due to his involvement in the ongoing relief operation for the flood victims in Sindh.

The PML-N leader's lawyer Advocate Ali Shah Geelani appeared before the court during the hearing, but his cross-examination of Khan's statement had to be postponed.

The court accepted Khan's counsel's request to adjourn the hearing, after which the hearing was adjourned till September 24.

Khan had filed the defamation suit against Khawaja Asif in 2012 for recovery of Rs10 billion as the latter had



at a press conference levelled allegations about misappropriation of and money laundering through the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust (SKMT) funds.

In his lawsuit, the former prime minister had referred to the defence minister's press conference from August 1, 2012, in which he alleged that the PTI supremo had lost a massive amount of funds donated

to his cancer hospital in "real estate gambling". Khan termed the allegations "false and defamatory".

Earlier this year, the Islamabad High Court accepted Khawaja Asif's petition challenging the decision to disallow the right to cross-examine then prime minister Imran Khan with reference to the defamation case against him. Agencies

## IT exports to be enhanced: Minister

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Minister for Information Technology (MoIT), Syed Amin Ul Haq said the IT exports of the country had grown during his tenure and the target had also been set to increase its exports in next few years.

He was addressing the Launching Ceremony of International IT Project "Begin IT" here at local hotel on Saturday.

A target of \$5 billion IT exports has been set for the next year, while the same will be increased to \$15 billion in the next few years besides, a plan had been devised to increase IT exports, he said.

The minister said MoIT made efforts to improve the connectivity and ensure broadband facility in far flung areas.

The smart phone manufacturing has been started in Pakistan and development of cheap smart phones was being ensured, he added.

The government will extend any kind of support to IT sector for its development and promotion, he maintained.

## If economy to decline

# Nation will hold establishment responsible: Imran

### PTI chief tells nation to wait for his call

GUJRANWALA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo and former Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said that the nation will hold the establishment responsible if the country's economy continues to decline.

Addressing a public rally in Gujranwala, the former PM said that the Secretary General of the United Nations (UNSG) has come to visit the flood-affected areas, and Shehbaz Sharif assured him that he would spend money honestly while the majority of his federal cabinet members are on bail. They keep money outside the country and beg from others, Imran added.

"80,000 Pakistanis were sacrificed in American war which was imposed on us. Such rulers bow before foreign countries, and they will do whatever orders they get from outside. That is why Pakistan is independent in its decision," the former PM said.

While reacting to the contempt of court case, Imran Khan said Shahbaz Gill was not a terrorist but he was treated and tortured like a terrorist that is why he reacted.

"The court of Chief Justice Athar Minallah has made very good decisions, I will accept whatever decision the court makes," the PTI chairman said.



"The imported government is rapidly taking the country down, I know you are neutral, but if the country's economy continues to decline like this, the nation will hold you responsible. If nothing is done, the economy will be destroyed, and the national security will be directly affected if this happens," Imran said.

The PTI chairman addressed his party's Insaf Student Federation (ISF) and the youth in general, and said he would need them both in the light of "things I am going to say ahead".

"The thing I am preparing this nation for ... I would need the youth of this nation a lot for Haqeeqi Azadi (actual freedom)," he said.

Imran Khan directed his party leaders to mobilise workers at the local level and urged his supporters to await his call to steer the country out of the quagmire. "Mobilise party workers in every district and wait for my final call. We have to free Pakistan from these thieves," he said while issuing directives to district organisations and added that the only way out of this crisis was to conduct clean and transparent general elections.

The former prime minister once again warned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that his government would not be able to stop the sea of people when they will gather in Islamabad from all four provinces. Agencies

## World Heritage Site

UN Secretary General H.E Antonio Guterres visiting Mohenjo Daro, Larkana on Saturday.



Photo: Online

## FTO briefs businessmen about 'Instant Justice' initiative

PESHAWAR: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO), Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah has said that due to confidence of general masses and tax payers, the performance of FTO is improving with each passing day.

He expressed these views while speaking to a delegation of businessmen led by Vice President Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) and Media Coordinator FTO, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi.

The meeting was arranged regarding awareness of business community about the FTO's initiative of 'Instant Justice at Your Doorstep'.

FTO Dr. Asif Mehmood apprised businessmen that they did not wait for 60 days time period of responding to application, but take forthwith action with focus of resolving the issues in days or weeks. APP

## Unprecedented floods

## Floods caused damages worth \$18b says Miftah

Finance Minister urges business community to donate in PM Relief Fund for flood-victims

## Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Finance Minister Miftah Ismail could not hold his tears while talking about the devastations caused by heavy rainfall and floods in the country. The floods have caused over \$18 billion damages, he said.

Miftah Ismail has urged the business community to come forward and donate in Prime Minister Relief Fund for the rehabilitation of flood victims. He said every single penny of donations will be spent directly for the flood affectees in a transparent manner. The Finance Minister said the country has witnessed unprecedented destruction due to floods in every sector including agriculture, livestock and infrastructure and everyone has to play his role for the noble cause.

Addressing a press conference on Satur-

day the Finance Minister said that Pakistan staring in the face of a default when the PML-N government took charge. But, rather than running away like the

Pakistan needs at least 10 cities like Sialkot to increase its exports and curb trade deficit

PTI government, they took the challenge heads on, he added.

Miftah said that Pakistan needs at least 10 cities like Sialkot to increase its exports and curb the trade deficit. The circular debt has been increasing since 2010, there

is a circular debt of Rs2500 billion on electric authorities while Rs1500 billion on Gas companies, he added.

The Finance Minister admitted that electricity bills have skyrocketed but they are selling units cheaper than Germany and France. Per unit cost of electricity in the country was Rs69, and the demand of electricity rises by 1000 MW with 1 degree rise in temperature, he added.

He said that 10 percent of total electricity is lost in line losses as bill collection from Punjab is 80%. The government has given a subsidy of Rs660 billion on Petrol and diesel, he added.

Miftah said that their government just abolished subsidies on petroleum products, the previous government was selling Rs80 cheaper diesel than its buying price, he added.

## Food security

## Masood forewarns world about perils of climate change

## Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan has alerted international community about the serious perils of erratic climate change that were threatening the nations across the globe.

He was briefing American and international media persons about the flood situation in Pakistan at the National Press Club in Washington DC.

He said that the recent flood and the massive devastation in Pakistan is an exhibit for the devastations of climate change. He said this phenomenon is going to grow whether it is Pakistan or any other countries in South Asia or the world.

The Ambassador said that though international media was extensively showing heart-wrenching visuals of the affected areas yet it has only captured "a fraction of the calamity what we are facing in Pakistan."

He said that while it was a collective responsibility to reduce emissions, the international community must think of ways and means for compensation to those bearing the brunt of climate change despite making negligible contribution towards global warming.

Masood Khan suggested that we should make quick transition from

mitigation and adaptation to preparedness and resilience.

While sharing harrowing details of the devastation caused by the flood that has submerged one third of the country, he informed the participants that over 1400 lives have been lost in Pakistan. More than 13,000 have been injured. A population of 33 million has been affected by flooding. He said around 6.6 million people needed immediate assistance. Nearly 800,000 farm cattle have perished.

Crops have been destroyed in an area as big as 5.5 million acres that includes all sorts of crops including rice, wheat, corn and sugarcane. Over 7000 kilometers long roads have been washed away with 246 bridges destroyed.

The Ambassador said that as large as 5.5 million acres of cropland has been destroyed resulting in a looming food security crisis. He said "WFP and other international organizations must come forward and give necessary support to the people of Pakistan so that we can maintain our food security."

The Ambassador thanked the US government, Congress, US philanthropic and charity organizations and most importantly Pak-American community for their generous contributions towards relief and rescue activities.

## Death Anniversary

## President pays rich tribute to Quaid-e-Azam

For his vision, unwavering commitment, untiring hardwork and charismatic leadership to win separate homeland for Muslims

## Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: On the 74th Death Anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, President Dr Arif Alvi paid rich tribute to our founding father for his vision, unwavering commitment, untiring hardwork and charismatic leadership to win a separate homeland for the Muslims of sub-continent.

In his message on this occasion, he said on this day, we also remember Quaid for his struggle, for giving us a country, and pledge to focus on his advice for infusing Unity, Faith and

Discipline in our ranks and files. Allama Iqbal, the poet and philosopher of the East, dreamt a separate homeland for Muslims of India and Quaid-e-Azam turned the dream into reality. Our Quaid, in one of his address, outlined the purpose of making Pakistan.

He said that brotherhood, equality and fraternity of man—these are all the basic points of our religion, culture and civilization. And we fought for Pakistan because there was a danger of denial of these human rights in this sub-continent. How can we get into one nation was also spelled out by Quaid-e-Azam.

## China airlifts over 5k tents for flood victims in Pakistan: Haque

BELJING: China has pledged to provide urgently-needed supplies including 25,000 tents to assist Pakistan government in its flood relief efforts and dispatched around 5,000 tents for flood-stricken people, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said.

China has so far airlifted urgently-need flood relief supplies consisting 5,000 tents by its military cargo planes, he said during an interaction with members of Pakistan community at Pakistan Embassy, Beijing.

He informed that soon after floods in Pakistan, the Chinese government

announced a relief package of RMB 400 million while the Chinese provincial governments and institutions also announced donations for badly affected people in Pakistan.

Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan embassy Beijing and Pakistani Consulates in different cities of China launched fund raising campaign. The Chinese and Pakistani people had deposited over RMB 12 million in the relief fund in first eight days of the campaign.

He said that to help overcome any shortage of food items, China would soon dispatch 200 tons of vegetables

especially tomato, onion to Pakistan via Karakorum Highway.

"We will enhance our flood management capacity with the cooperation of China to minimize human and material losses during floods," he added.

Terming China an all-weather friend and true brother, he said, "We will seek long-term support from China for rehabilitation of our people after the end of rescue and relief phase."

He also called upon the community to assist in the government relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood-stricken brethren and sisters in Pakistan. APP

## CM Elahi vows to continue steps for flood affectees

Pakistani US business delegation meets Chief Minister Punjab

## Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi Saturday said that the provincial government would continue taking every possible step for rehabilitation of the flood victims.

During a meeting with Provincial Minister Munib Sultan Cheema and Parliamentary Amir Sultan Cheema at CMO, the chief minister said that Pakistan got severely affected due to climate change as heavy rains played

havoc at a massive scale.

He highlighted that unusual steps will have to be taken in order to cope up with the unexpected climatic conditions. He apprised that whatever humanly possible was done to carry out the rescue and relief operation in the flood-affected areas.

The financial aid amount for the heirs of the deceased due to floods had been increased from Rs8lac to Rs10lac adding that financial aid will also be given to the owners of the destroyed houses and a significant increase had

been made in the financial aid for them as well. The CM resolved to ensure early settlement of the flood affectees from the amount being collected in the 'CM Relief Fund'. He also vowed to launch the construction and repair work of the roads on a priority basis in the flood-hit areas. Meanwhile, a delegation, led by Pakistani American businessman and leader of the Democratic Party Tahir Javed met Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and discussed a plan for the rehabilitation of the flood affectees and their settlement.

## UN chief visits Pakistan

## UNSG applauds efforts of GoP for addressing post flood issues

Antonio Guterres calls for substantial support from world to overcome challenges posed by climate-induced floods in Pakistan

## Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres visited Pakistan on 9-10 September 2022 to show solidarity with the people of Pakistan, braving a colossal climate-induced natural disaster caused by unprecedented rains and floods across the country. The two-day visit comprised high-level meetings, briefings, interactions with displaced people, first responders, UN country representatives, civil society and media.

The UNSG called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. Several members of the Federal Cabinet joined the meeting. The PM expressed his gratitude for the Secretary-General's personal attention to the situation arising from the floods and greatly appreciated his visit and concern for the affected people. The PM informed the UNSG about the efforts of the Government of Pakistan in addressing the daunting chal-

lenges posed by the flash floods, including the provision of Rs.35 billion cash relief through Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), rescue and relief operations, and delivery of humanitarian assistance in coordination with all national stakeholders and with support of international partners. While appreciating the UNSG's video message for the UN Flash Appeal, the PM highlighted that with less than 1% of global carbon emission Pakistan is facing brunt of natural calamities in the form of heat waves, glacial outbursts, droughts, torrential rains and unprecedented monsoons. The PM called for urgent mitigation and adaptation efforts in addition to mobilizing support for recovering and rebuilding from such extreme climate events.

The UNSG said that countries like Pakistan, who have done almost nothing to contribute to global warming, do not deserve this. He added, "I know how volunteers, civil servants, army, NGOs have been working together in



a remarkable way to mitigate the suffering of Pakistani people". The UNSG stated, "My voice is at the service of the Government and people

of Pakistan. I have seen the enormous generosity of Pakistanis in protecting and assisting more than 6 million Afghan refugees and helping each other in previous calamities such as during the earthquake and floods. My admiration for this country is limitless". He assured that the UN would do everything in its capacity to help the people of Pakistan. The UNSG appealed to the international community to provide massive support to Pakistan for not only relief assistance but also for rehabilitation and climate resilient reconstruction. He emphasized that it was not just a matter of solidarity but a matter of justice, as countries like Pakistan who have not contributed to climate change are amongst the frontline countries impacted by climate change.

The UNSG was briefed on the overall ground situation, humanitarian activities and coordination amongst national and international stakeholders at the National Flood Response and Coordination Centre

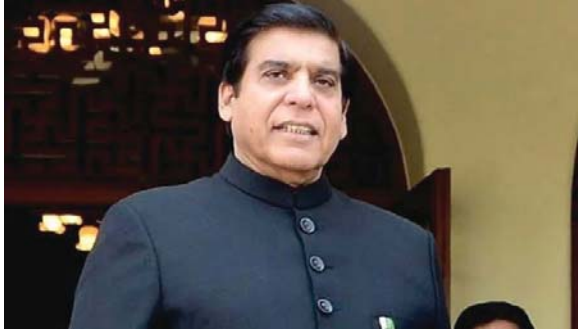
(NFRCC). The PM and the UNSG also had a joint presser.

The UNSG held delegation level talks with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, followed by a joint press stakeout. A broad range of issues related to the recent floods and climate change came under discussion. The FM noted that one-third of the country was inundated, around 33 million people affected across the country, over 1300 lives lost including more than 400 children, nearly 800,000 livestock perished, more than 1.7 million houses and 6000 km of roads have been destroyed or damaged. The Foreign Minister said that though the people impacted by the floods have made no contribution to the climate change, they were suffering the most due to it, and therefore, it was the shared responsibility of the international community to do its utmost to assist the millions of affectees to return to normal lives and livelihoods in a sustainable manner.

# NA Speaker urges nation to follow teachings of Quaid-e-Azam

All political parties urged to work collectively for betterment of country

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf and Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durani while paying homage to the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, have said that Muhammad Ali Jinnah remained steadfast in all difficulties, and his tireless efforts resulted in to the creation of this beautiful homeland.



They expressed these views in their separate messages on the occasion of 74th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The speaker said that the country could be set on the path of progress and prosperity only by following the guiding principles of the Quaid-e-Azam, "Unity, Faith and Discipline." He urged all political parties to set aside their differences and work collectively for the betterment of the country. On this occasion, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durani said that the establishment of a state under the leadership of Quaid-e-Azam was a unique event in the history of the world.

He further said that the Quaid-e-Azam single-handedly fought with the British and the Hindus and won the country by his strong arguments. He said that we could lead this country on the path of development only by following the guidelines of Quaid-e-Azam.

# AJK President seeks America's pro-active 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 Kashmir 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.

# Govt urged to facilitate business community



Our Correspondent

WANA: A protest was held in front of the District Press Club Wana regarding the difficulties faced by the business community at the Pak-Afghan border Angoor Adda in the tribal district of South Waziristan Wana, and a rally was also taken out to the Press Club through Wana Bazar. The business community appealed to corps commander Peshawar, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and IGFC South KP to take immediate notice regarding the difficulties faced at Angoor Adda border and to give all the powers related to tax on Pak-Afghan border to the customs authorities to be handed over.

# Scientists come up with novel biological control of Parthenium weed

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Parthenium is a highly destructive weed, crossing continents and, the weed is spreading rapidly in both rural and urban landscapes in the country. Parthenium is highly-invasive due to its prolific seed production, flower production within four weeks of germination, tolerance to varying climatic conditions, and the production of allelochemicals that affect the growth of nearby plants, said Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) at an international seminar at UAF.

Dr. Philip Weyl, Weed Biocontrol Specialist from CABI Switzerland during his talk said that Listronotus is a natural enemy of parthenium, from the weed's native range of Central America. Listronotus is a nocturnal weevil that lays its eggs primarily in the flowers of parthenium where newly hatched larvae tunnel into the stem and continue to feed, eventually exiting at the base of the stem to pupate in the soil. Several larvae feeding in the stem can kill parthenium rosettes and mature plants.



Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anas Sarwar Qureshi called for innovative approaches to address the issue of the agricultural sector. He said that excessive usage of chemicals on crops was creating health and environmental hazards. He said that adoption of latest scientific trends was the need of the hour to cope with agricultural challenges at national level. He said the agriculture sector was directly

linked to poverty alleviation. Chairman Entomology UAF Prof Dr Sohail Ahmad highlighted the importance of research needed around the biocontrol of parthenium and other invasive weeds. He said that the county faced the catastrophe due to heavy floods in which we have lost the vast range of agriculture. He said that the university had mapped out a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate the sector. Abdul Rehman from CABI highlights that keeping in view the destructive impacts of parthenium weed, CABI initiated a biological control programme in Pakistan in 2017. For this purpose, CABI's established a new quarantine laboratory at its Rawalpindi centre in Pakistan to enhance its capabilities to manage parthenium weed. The new quarantine facility allowed scientists to investigate a range of biological control options including the stem boring weevil Listronotus setosipennis. The quarantine facility compliments the comprehensive national action plan, launched in October with a focus on research, development and communication, by adding greater capacity for scientists to investigate the potential for existing and new biological controls prior to release in the field.

Dr. Ijaz Ashraf from UAF shared the updates on an awareness campaign for the control of Parthenium hysterophorus in Pakistan and updated that university students were on front foot to sensitize stakeholders and communities on negative impacts of parthenium. He vowed that such awareness-raising interventions around invasive species management and other agricultural challenges will be continued in close collaboration with CABI.

# Jirga demands shifting of offices to S Waziristan

By Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the tribal district of South Waziristan Wana, a "Loya Jirga" Grand Jirga was held regarding the transfer of all line departments from Tank District to their own district South Waziristan under the shadow of Pakistan People's Party in Wana.



Local leaders of all political parties in "Loya Jirga" Grand Jirga newly elected VC, NC chairmen, councillors, social workers and people belonging to different communities participated. People's Party President Amanullah, Imran Mukhlis, ANP Muhammad Ayaz, Malik Musa Jan, Malik Gul Muhammad, Malik Dilawar Khan and Tehsil Chairman Maulana Muhammad Saleh Wazir addressed the "Loya Jirga" Grand Jirga. District President Aman Ullah said that case number 6057\_2019 is pending in the Peshawar High Court, therefore, all the offices of South Waziristan should be shifted from District Tank to Wana. All the speakers on this occasion said that the erstwhile FATA was known as Landless Land for the past 70 years, where the black laws of the British era, the Frontier Crimes Regulation, were in force. Under which the people of erstwhile FATA did not have the right to appeal, argument and lawyer, while for the past several decades, this backward region

has become engulfed in international conspiracies and terrorism. Majority of the population of Ex FATA had to be IDPs & TDPs in 2018 expressing the aspirations of the people of erstwhile Ex FATA, their long-standing desire was merged into Pakhtunkhwa through the 25th Amendment Constitution and given not only the right to appeal, counsel, lawyer and argument. Rather, a notification was also issued to shift the offices of FATA from the planned areas to the newly merged districts But the district administration

of South Waziristan is still reluctant to implement this notification. They said that the tribal district of South Waziristan is one of the unfortunate district, whose judiciary including all the line departments is located in another district of Tank, 120 km away from the district of South Waziristan. All the offices and courts of South Waziristan district are not located in their district, not only causing financial loss to the people, but also the precious lives are exposed to hostility while going to appear in the court.

South Waziristan district contributes billions of rupees annually to the national exchequer in taxes. The tribal district of South Waziristan is spread over 6619 square kilometers, the population of Jaski consists of 674065 people, while the district has 8 tehsils and 3 sub-divisions. District South Waziristan has 97 village councils including 15 neighborhood councils and 82 village councils. Annually 8500 tons of natural fruit points apple is produced from different mountains of the district, while 64500 tons of apples are produced. South Waziristan district produces 70 thousand tons of different types of vegetables. All the political parties participating in the "Loya Jirga" Grand Jirga presented a unanimous demand that all the offices of district South Waziristan should be transferred from District Tank to South Waziristan. All the offices of Wana sub-division, Ladha sub-division and Sarvekai sub-division should be transferred to the respective divisions of District Tank. Judicial complex should be transferred from Tank district to South Waziristan district, tehsil building should be established in every tehsil. The speakers gave a deadline of two months and said that if the provincial government does not shift the district offices from Tank, we will be forced to protest strongly.

# Zeb Bangash's an Ode Saaf Hawa is out now



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Zeb Bangash announced the release of an anthem, titled SaafHawa (clean air), linked to the UN Breathe Life campaign On International Clean Air Day. The anthem is an ode to clean air and aims to reach out to South Asian audiences who live in some of the dirtiest cities in the world. The song is rendered beautifully in Zeb's melodic voice. Mir Ali Hussain has penned the poetry and award-winning music director Shantanu Moitra has composed and produced the track. Well renowned Arab violinist Layth Sidiq is also featured on the track. This song has been created to drive an effort for awareness and eradication of conditions leading to the massive environmental pollution the world is struggling with today! South Asia is home to 39 of the world's 42 most polluted cities, making it the epicentre of the global air pollution crisis. 33 of these 39 cities are in India, three in Pakistan, two in Bangladesh, and one in Nepal. The UN estimates that over 9 million lives are lost globally each year, with over 1.5 million lost in South Asia alone. According to recent research, COVID 19 mortality rates are 15-20% higher in areas with the highest levels of PM2.5 air pollution. The same air is affecting the Gulf region. Furthermore, given the devastation caused by the floods and the global challenge of climate change, ensuring collective solidarity and accountability in efforts to make our air clean and breathable is critical. Given the importance of clean air and how polluted it is, we will only face severe consequences and a world in which our children will struggle to live and breathe. "With the disastrous floods in my country, clearly climate change presents a future of consequences to be borne by our children. Saafhawa is a heartfelt ode to Clean Air written and rendered as a love song. I am extremely happy that I could be the voice for Saafhawa," stated Zeb. Air Quality Asia (AQA) commissioned an anthem featuring a human voice because of the positive response to vocal music in South Asia. With this song, AQA launched a clean air movement in collaboration with the United Nations Campaign: Breathe Life. The main goal is to inspire the South Asian public to collaborate across borders and countries to achieve clean air as they are the sole brunt bearers of pollution happening all over the world whilst contributing the lowest to carbon emissions.

# Chief Secretary visits Plandri Cadet College



MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Chief Secretary Usman Chachar visited Plandri Cadet College. During the visit chief secretary was briefed by principal cadet college while secretary finance, secretary Higher education and commissioner poonch division were also present on the occasion.

# India violating int'l law in IIOJK: Altaf Bhat

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a statement released here in Islamabad showed agony against Indian cruel and illegal move to shift Kashmiri political prisoners from IIOJK to far-off areas of India. Chairman Bhat added that 150 more Kashmiri detainees in IIOJK have been shifted to jails in UP, Haryana & Delhi, while Int'l laws prevent the Modi regime to shift detainees to jails that are far off their residences & families. But Modi regime is doing so to hurt the families, emotionally & financially. Altaf Ahmed Bhat added that Kashmiri political prisoners are being victimized with the sole purpose of defeating the freedom struggle, Hurriyat leadership including Massarat Alam Bhat, Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmed Shah, Zaffar Akbar Bhat, Asiya Andrabi, Dr Qasim Faktuo, Fehmeeda Sofi, Nahida Nasreen, Peer Saifullah, Ayaz Akbar, Altaf Fantosh etc are being languished in jails. Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat added that from January 2022 to June 2022, more than 140 persons, including five young boys, were martyred by Indian troops in the occupied territory. Indian troops, involved in gross human rights violations and other crimes, have arrested over 854 youth and injured 104 people during fake CASO's in IIOJK&K. While to suppress the voice, Indian occupation forces harass Media and Journalists time and again, moreover illegal detentions of five journalists including Asif Sultan, Fahad Shah, Manan Gulzar, Sajad Gul and Adil Farooq and prominent human rights defenders, including Khurram Pervaiz and Muhammad Ahsan Untoo is yet another move to stop them from exposing real face of Indian occupation administration. Chairman JKSM also welcomed United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres who has reached Pakistan on two day visit to seek the world's generous support for the country devastated by catastrophic floods and highlight the urgency to deal with the climate change crisis.

# Large area of Balochistan badly affected by rains, floods: CM

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Saturday said that a large area of Balochistan has been severely affected by the recent monsoon rains and floods, millions of people have been displaced along with loss of life and property. He said that the provincial government was utilizing all available resources to deal with the effects of this natural calamity, but the recovery and reconstruction process would require a long time and hefty funds. He expressed these views during the briefing given to Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and United Nations Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres regarding the overall flood situation on the occasion of their visit to Jafarabad district. Acting Governor Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Ministers Provincial Minister Muhammad Khan Lehri, Senator Ms. Sana Jamali and Member of National Assembly Nawabzada Khalid Khan Magsi were also present on this occasion. Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo said that educational and medical institutions, road networks, dams and drainage schemes have been severely damaged by the flood and children and women were the most affected. He said that solving the health problems faced by children and women was our first priority and we hoped that the international organizations and the United Nations would also support us for rehabilitation of flood victims.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
(mszk786@gmail.com)  
Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
(afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, 1-8 Markaz.  
Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No.11.  
Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**  
Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

## UNSG's timely visit to Pakistan

The recent flooding in Pakistan has done a great damage to the country. The livestock, crops and infrastructure have been badly affected. It is the time that the international community comes forward to help Pakistan as it struggles to cope with the aftermath of torrential rains that triggered massive floods. The UN Secretary General is on a visit to Pakistan and has appealed for massive global support for Pakistan. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday urged the international community to support flood-hit Pakistan as the country needed massive financial help to overcome post-flood crises.

The UN chief said during his visit to flood hit areas of Sindh and Balochistan, it is not a matter of generosity, but a matter of justice," he said reiterating the UN's commitment, strong support and solidarity with the flood-affected populace of Pakistan. Guterres said that huge damages and losses were caused to human lives and properties. The UN absolutely supported the Pakistani nation and requested the well-resourced nations to support the country massively, so that it could face the future challenges of climatic changes and save its nation. The UNSG stressed that the international community must realize the serious impacts of greenhouse emissions as nature was striking back in the form of natural calamities. We must be hopeful that the world will come forward to support Pakistan and help it out of this difficult time.

The UN Secretary General has rightly pointed out that despite very little contribution in global emissions Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change. Pakistan also suffered devastating floods in the past that resulted in huge human and material damages. However, international community does not seem concerned that Pakistan and other developing countries are suffering due to their industrial emissions. It is obligation of world community to compensate Pakistan in this disaster. The visit of the UN Secretary General to Pakistan will pave way in awakening the consciousness of world community. It will also help convey the message across the world as UN is the most important supra national body. So far, there is very less aid that has been received by Western countries. Rather, the brotherly Muslim countries like Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and UAE have provided many plane-loads of relief supplies for flood victims of Pakistan.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has already served as UN Commissioner for Refugees and spent a lot of time in our country. The UN Secretary General always appreciated the role of Pakistan for hosting a large number of Afghan refugees. He himself admitted that Pakistan has less than 1% contribution in global carbon emissions but unfortunately is among the 10 most vulnerable countries affected by climate change. This year we have witnessed around 587% more rains than predicted. People of Pakistan have been affected by the loss of their homes, their businesses and livelihoods. The UN Secretary General has appealed to the world to support Pakistan and it is the responsibility of the international community to come forward in this regard.

On the other hand, the government at its end must constitute certain SOPs in order to cope with the challenges of natural disasters. The construction alongside the rivers must be banned. In the era of modern technology, natural disasters like floods and heavy rains can be predicted well in time and with accuracy. PDMA and NDMA must communicate with the local administrations to deal with the floods like challenges in future.

## Tough times ahead for Britain's new PM

**Dr. John C. Hulsman**

In the spring of 1945, after towering over the American political landscape for a generation, Franklin Delano Roosevelt died suddenly at his retreat in Warm Springs, Georgia. At the time, Vice President Harry Truman was up on Capitol Hill, sharing a customary drink with the Congressional leadership at the end of a hard week (yes, opposing leaders actually socialized with one another in those faraway days). Abruptly summoned to the White House, Truman ran straight into the president's wife, Eleanor, who told him the news. Shocked into his basic Midwestern decency, Truman asked if there was anything he could do for her. She wisely replied: "No, Harry, is there anything we can do for you? For you are the one in trouble now."

I thought of this historical vignette last week as Liz Truss succeeded the shambolic Boris Johnson as prime minister of the UK. When Britain's period of official mourning for Queen Elizabeth comes to an end and the business of government resumes, rarely will a new political leader have been confronted with such a bulging and dangerous in-tray.

Following the semi-criminal failure of Europe and the UK to worry much about their energy policies for the past few decades (indeed, just days before the Ukraine war began, Berlin was still pushing to get the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline operational, which would have preposterously increased its energy dependence on Moscow), knock-on inflation marching in tune with stratospheric energy price rises has been the doleful result — both on the continent and in the UK.

The beast of inflation, now fully loosed from its cage in Britain, sits at an unhealthy 10.1 percent. The specter of stagflation, and a permanent cost-of-living crisis, beckons. Indeed, in political risk terms, if both Europe and the UK do not master (and quickly) the current economic crisis, the grim reality of overall absolute decline awaits them.

Calmly (a blessed relief from Johnson's rollercoaster tenure), Truss has set out a four-pronged strategy for dealing with the calamity. First, her administration intends to freeze average annual household energy prices

for the next two years at £2,100 (\$2,400), including an already agreed-upon energy rebate, with equivalent support for businesses for at least six months. The cost will be a monumental £150 billion. This unprecedented bailout dwarfs the COVID-19 furlough bailout of £69 billion, and will be paid for entirely through new borrowing.

Unlike her Labour Party opponents, Truss refuses to implement a windfall tax on energy companies, on the ground that it would discourage their future investment in further energy projects. This massive spending gamble is designed to allow the Bank of England to more slowly raise interest rates (mitigating the coming recession) and to cap overall inflationary pressures themselves. On her very first day, Truss has wagered the overall success of her premiership on this one, overwhelming economic bet. She is all in.

Second, Truss wants to make sure the UK never again finds itself the prisoner of its energy supply. Fracking, outlawed under the Johnson premiership, will be allowed, in an effort to increase domestic energy production, as will further drilling for oil and natural gas in the

waning but still profitable North Sea fields.

Third, the new prime minister is betting on aggressive growth as the ultimate way out of the crisis. Despite the mammoth new borrowing, Truss is pressing for large tax cuts amounting to £30 billion to free up the animal spirits of British business and extricate the UK from its parlous economic state. She has called upon Jacob Rees-Mogg, the new business and energy secretary, to drastically cut government regulation and further unshackle the British commercial sector.

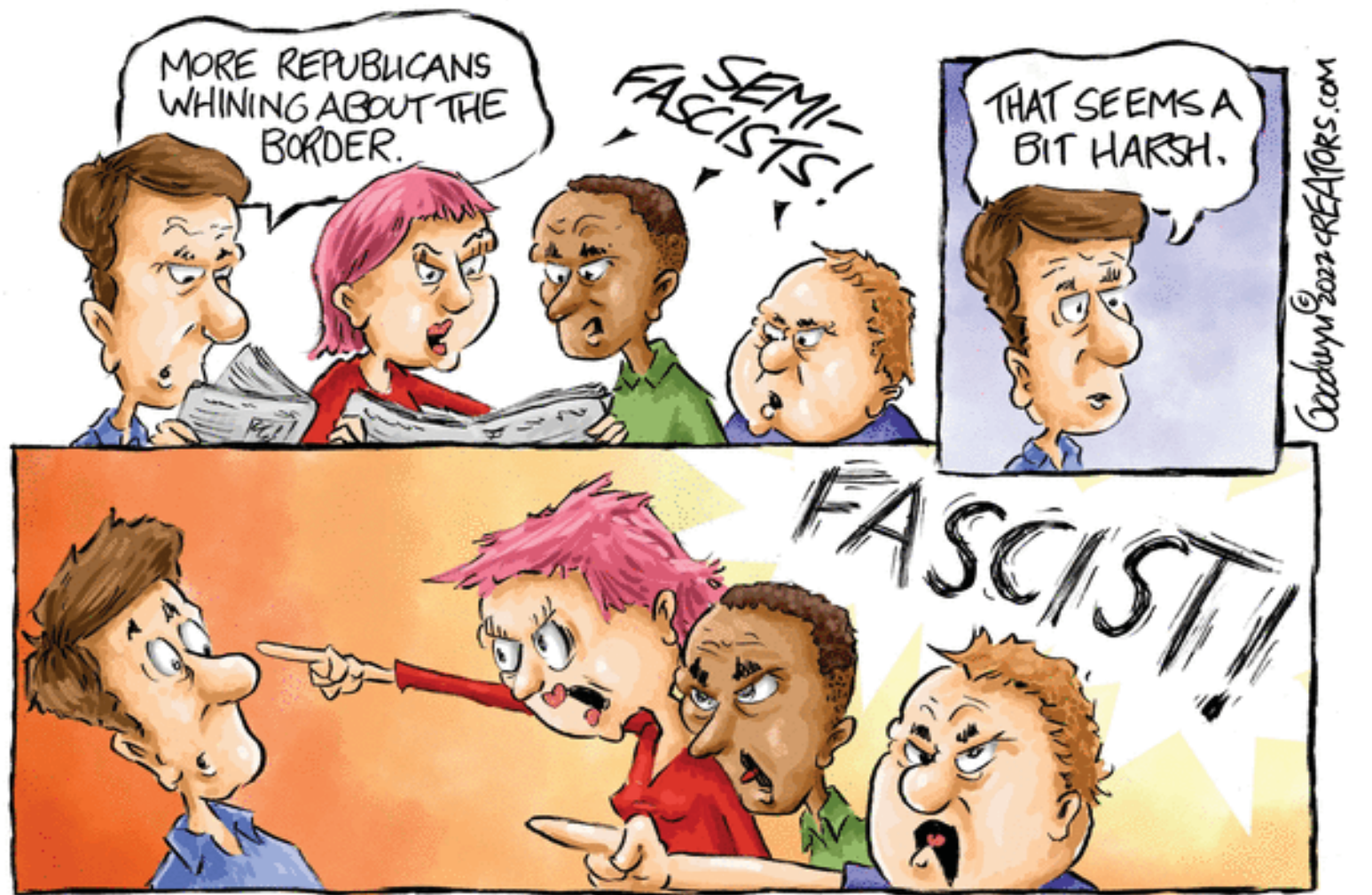
Fourth, with rising Conservative Party star Kemi Badenoch the new trade secretary, Truss will try to bank the winnings from Brexit. I have long been exasperated by both sides of the Brexit debate, locked as they are in their deafening self-regarding theologies. In policy terms, the issue is simple. If, in the medium term, Britain manages to secure free trade deals with the parts of the world that are actually economically growing (India, the US, the Anglosphere countries), then Brexit will have been worth it as the UK looks beyond an economically sclerotic Europe for its economic future. If it does not manage to do so, then Brexit will have

failed, and all Britain will have done is alienate its largest trading partner.

On these monumental policy issues, the Truss leadership will rise or fall. During her inaugural session at Prime Minister's Question Time in the House of Commons, Truss's tone was strikingly different from Johnson's. Gone was the bombast, the showmanship, the sly humor, and the loose relationship to the facts. In their place were sobriety, a low-key confidence, a reassuring calmness. In both cases, the style of the two leaders belies reality. For all his gaudiness, Johnson's actual policy agenda was incredibly boring; he was a vanilla, garden-variety Macmillanite. On the other hand, beneath Truss's dullness lies a radical, updated, Thatcherite policy agenda that will either actually work or obviously fail. In terms of substance, as was true for Truman, stirring days lie ahead.

*Dr. John C. Hulsman is the president and managing partner of John C. Hulsman Enterprises, a prominent global political risk consulting firm. He is also a senior columnist for City AM, the newspaper of the City of London.*

*Courtesy: Arab News*



## 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 Asia Economic Forum, to be held in 2023. They also accepted Uzbekistan's invitation to host the second ministerial meeting of the GCC-Central Asia 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

## Digital transformation to spur growth

**He Shuquan**

In July, Shanghai released a blueprint to boost the development of its digital economy during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025), setting ambitious goals and also putting forward a series of supporting policies to promote enterprises' digital transformation.

The digital economy has seen unprecedented progress around the world in recent years, especially when it comes to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Such progress is promoting profound changes in industrial production, people's way of life, and governance.

In Shanghai, targeted policies have been adopted to boost the development of artificial intelligence, 5G technology, and industrial internet throughout the city over the past few years. Thereby, a large number of high-tech enterprises have emerged and reached new achievements. More investments have also been injected into new infrastructure projects across the city, ensuring a boon for the city's digital economy development. In 2021, the share of digital economy in Shanghai's GDP surpassed 50%, making it a prominent driving force for the city's economic growth. This has enabled the city to establish its one-stop e-governance platform to offer online public services in a more efficient manner, facilitating the development of companies and its citizens.

The rapid progress of Shanghai's digital economy benefits not only local enterprises but also international companies, providing them with more opportunities and access to China's economic hubs, as well as a chance to tap into the world's second-largest economy.

For example, German behemoth Siemens set up the first digital enabling center for intelligent infrastructure in Shanghai in June to expand cooperation in intelligent infrastructure, while Swiss conglomerate ABB Group reached a new agreement with China Telecom and Huawei in July to integrate its cutting-

edge three-party communication and automatic distribution network technologies and promote 5G smart power distribution solutions.

Furthermore, a new generation of information and communication technologies is expected to see remarkable progress as cooperation between Chinese and international companies grows. This will ensure an accelerated integration among various industries and thereby boost the digital transformation of enterprises and industries as a whole.

Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has attached great importance to the development of the digital economy. According to a report on the global digital economy released last month, the share of the digital economy in China's GDP has increased from 20.9% to 39.8% between 2012 and 2021, making it a key driving force spurring China's economic growth. Moreover, the added value of China's digital economy hit \$71 trillion last year, accounting for over 18% of the amount of 47 major countries across the world.

Now second year in its 14th Five-Year Plan period, China's development of the digital economy is expected to be a new boon, aiming to ensure that the added value of core industries accounts for 10% of GDP by 2025, which will ultimately add new impetus to the country's high-quality development.

Against this backdrop, Shanghai has made the digital transformation of industries a long-term priority in order to build the city into a "digital hub" by 2035. More efforts are expected to be made to boost innovation in terms of planning, policies, and core technologies so as to foster a favorable environment for the development of the digital economy. In turn, this will help unleash the growth potential of digital transformation and technological innovations and contribute to Shanghai's economic growth as well as the country at large.

*He Shuquan is a professor at the School of Economics, Shanghai University. He is also a member of the Fudan University-Jingquang Group Think Tank.*  
Courtesy: China.org.cn



### PPL assists devastated communities in Sindh



**Staff Reporter**

**LAHORE:** Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) has always been in the forefront to provide relief and rehabilitation to severely hit communities during national calamities. The recent monsoon rains followed by river floods has resulted in huge loss of life and displacement in Sindh province. As part of its ongoing efforts, the company has donated 4000 dry ration bags for severely hit population in four districts of Sindh, around its operational areas. 1000 ration bags, each containing flour (atta), rice, daal moong, sugar, milk and cooking oil, weighing 15 kg, were handed over to District and Assistant Commissioners in Sanghar, Matiari, Kashmore and Sujawal districts by relevant PPL Field Manager and staff for distribution amongst the severely affected communities. Moreover, 200 ration bags of edible items along with 20 tents were distributed by PPL among flood affected community in union council Ghaibi Dero, District Qambar Shahdadkot, Sindh.

### CKD/SKD import decreases 30.96 pc in July 2022



**ISLAMABAD:** The import of completely and semi-knocked down (CKD/SKD) products into the country witnessed a decrease of 30.96 percent during the first month of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan imported CKD/SKD products worth \$101.204 million during July 2022 as compared to the imports of \$146.577 million during July 2021, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Among the CKD/SKD products, the import of buses, trucks and other heavy vehicles decreased by 17.29 percent from \$33.653 million last year to \$27.835 million during the period under review while the imports of motor cars also dipped by 36.38 percent from \$106.720 million to \$67.896 million. Similarly, the import motor cycles witnessed negative growth of 11.78 percent from \$6.204 to \$5.473 million. On a monthly basis, CKD/SKD imports during July 2022 decreased by 46.30 percent when compared to the imports of \$188.464 million in June 2022. The import of buses, trucks, other heavy vehicles and motor cars also declined by 38.08 and 50.92 percent respectively. However, the import motorcycles witnessed an increase of 5.51 percent. APP

# Organizing Expos best way to revive economic activities: Senator

Senator Fawzia Arshad lauds ICCI for organizing such a mega Exhibitions

**ISLAMABAD:** Senator Fawzia Arshad on Saturday said that organizing Expos are the best ways to revive the business and economic activities. She expressed these views during her visit to the 3-day "ICCI Pakistan Property, Housing and Construction Expo 22", being held at Pak-China Friendship Centre, said a press release. She visited various stalls put up for display in the Expo and lauded Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for organizing such a mega Exhibitions. She hoped that the Expo would contribute



to stimulating business activities in the housing and construction sector.

Senior Vice President Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Faheem Khan and others were also present at the occasion. Speaking at the occasion, President, ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that the main purpose of organizing the Expo was to revive the economy by boosting the housing and construction sector activities. He said that the construction industry played a vital role in the economic development of a country as it promotes the business of over 70 allied industries. He hoped that the ICCI Expo would help

further boost its business activities and contribute to revive the economy. A large number of companies from the property, housing and construction sector are participating in the Expo to exhibit their projects. All allied industries including steel, marble, cement, construction machinery, sanitary ware, electrical work, paints, hardware, ceramic tiles & different items, solar systems, wood flooring, interior design products, kitchen accessories etc. and stakeholders are also participating in the Expo to increase the brand exposure of their high quality products. APP

## Eighteen showcases state of the art lifestyle in Dubai



**Spokesman Report**

**DUBAI:** Eighteen, a luxurious state of the art lifestyle destination housing development showcased its project at Zameen Expo 2022 in Dubai to exhibitors and visitors from around the world. A joint venture of Ora Developers, a leading Egyptian developer in partnership with Saif Group and Kohistan Builders (KBD) in Pakistan, Eighteen exhibited its complete product line, including luxurious villas, beautiful apartment complexes, a retail hub, an exclusive Clubhouse, business complex and provided insights into the master plan of the project. Eighteen aims to innovate and revolve

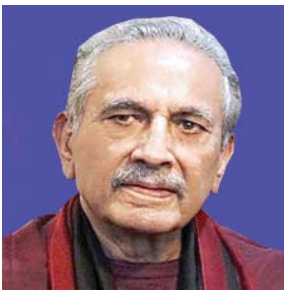
the real estate industry of Pakistan, by introducing destination living and bringing high-end, international standards to the local market. CEO Eighteen, Tarek Hamdy stated "Eighteen has set out to provide state of the art luxurious lifestyle centered around an 18-hole golf course, offering excellent landscapes interlaced with lush green spaces that combine scenic views with world-class comfort and luxury. Despite the global pandemic that ravaged the corporate world, slowing down processes worldwide – Eighteen persevered and focused on delivering on its promise to its clients." Through dedication, devotion and

unwavering passion, the team of Eighteen marched towards fulfilling their goals and the end of 2022 will be marked with a celebration of achieving excellence and delivering on quality. The new year will be welcomed with the lifestyle that EIGHTEEN has promised, as people start living in their dream houses. Zameen expo 2022 in Dubai was very successful for EIGHTEEN as the housing project received an overwhelming response. Visitors were engaged by the promise of the ultimate lifestyle destination and the way EIGHTEEN is thriving the vision to life.

## High inflation affects every aspect of life of people: Dr. Shahid Rasheed

**Staff Reporter**

**ISLAMABAD:** Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Saturday said high inflation rates are affecting almost every aspect of the lives of the majority, including their mental health. Many have lost hope because of the endless inflation as millions of people belonging to the middle class and thousands of small traders have become poor. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that it has become impossible to maintain an average lifestyle for the majority as the wages of the labourers and the income of the people have become insufficient.



Many people and small businesspersons are becoming mentally ill, as many necessities have become unaffordable for them. There is no increase in the wages of the common person compared to inflation, while the economic activities are stagnating after the agreement with the

IMF, which will reduce the GDP by at least two percent. He said that because of political instability the economic crisis is intensifying, which is worsening the condition of all Pakistanis except for the elite. The people are currently considering the economy as the most important problem of the country, but the politicians are considering the corruption allegations as the most important issue, he observed. The economy is weakening, the rupee is depreciating and unemployment is skyrocketing because of the wrong priorities of those who matter; he said, adding that a lack of bold and rational policy responses in a timely manner is heightening

the economic crisis. The finance minister has reiterated the government's assurance to the public that the crisis will be over in the next 2-3 months. He also contended that the rupee will stabilize against the dollar soon, a claim that was repeatedly ignored by the market. Our leaders, rather than taking economically rational and hard decisions for structural reforms and shunning populist measures, are looking up for help from development partners and the people are getting frustrated. The business leader said that if the political manoeuvring continues, even an IMF loan will not save the country from bankruptcy.

## Chairman NADRA opens facilitation center at RCCI



**Staff Reporter**

**RAWALPINDI:** Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Tariq Malik inaugurated first-ever NADRA Facilitation Desk for the business community at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). Addressing on the occasion Chairman NADRA said that digitization is being done for the convenience of the business class aiming to ensure ease of doing business. He also informed that NADRA has integrated its platform with iLink, to administer and evolve an e-payment network in the country through NADRA's e-Sahulat franchise network. The partnership will enable the more than 17,000 e-Sahulat outlets to perform fund transfers, cash-in and cash-out, and public-to-government (P2G), government-to-public (G2P), and public-to-public payments (P2P) payments. A project called Nishan

Pakistan is underway to identify the buyer and seller and bring more transparency in business transactions, he added. Smart mobile app is also being launched, he further added. He assured that his organization will work with Rawalpindi Chamber to provide more facilities for tax payers and the business community. President Nadeem Rauf briefed the Chairman NADRA on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said that the establishment of Rawalpindi Chamber NADRA facility center is a great success for the Chamber members and the public, and the NADRA passport office will also be opened soon. The Police Service Center is already functioning in the chamber. Group leader Sohail Altaf said that SMS service, mobile app and chip machine services provided by NADRA to eliminate ID card verification and photocopying in various departments are commendable and should be expanded and awareness should also be given.

## Gold price up by Rs.1300 per tola

**ISLAMABAD:** The price of 24 karat per tola gold witnessed an increase of Rs.1300 on Saturday and was sold at Rs.153,000 against its sale at Rs.151,700 the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat also increased by Rs.1,115 and was sold at Rs.131,173 against Rs.130,058 whereas that of 10 gram 22 karat went up to

Rs.120,242 against its sale at Rs.119,220, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs.1540 and Rs.1320.30 respectively. The price of gold in international market decreased by \$4 and was sold at \$1717 against its sale at \$1721, the association reported. Agencies

# CSAIL launches report on Pakistan's power industry

**ISLAMABAD:** China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL) recently launched a report titled "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" that summarizes the precious practical and theoretical achievements in the construction of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Power Projects and looks forward to the future development direction of the industry. The report also analyzes the current situation of Pakistan's Power Sector besides highlighting the achievements of CPEC Power Projects. The report was jointly prepared by CSAIL with the assistance of relevant think tanks such as Pakistan China Institute (PCI), National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and other relevant think tanks and dozens of senior experts and scholars from Pakistan's Power Sector. The report was launched in a ceremony here that was attended by local and international experts and scholars. The chief guest of the ceremony Minister for Energy (Power Division) Khuram Dastgir Khan, said that since the launch of the CPEC, the related power sector projects are progressing smoothly. In terms of energy, China has launched a series of power projects under the CPEC to help Pakistan meet its residential and industrial electricity demand.

He said Pakistan's energy shortages have been greatly alleviated. The electricity has always been one of the constraints on Pakistan's development, and China has been able to enhance Pakistan's energy supply capacity not only through the efficient use of various energy resources, but also by helping Pakistan to build various types of power projects. He said the report is beneficial to deepen the understanding of Pakistani people on the current situation and future development of Pakistan's power sector, as well as the contribution of the CPEC to Pakistan's Power Sector. "People in relevant fields in Pakistan should learn from Chinese personnel and deepen industrial cooperation between the two countries through the construction of projects like the CPEC Projects. China is an important partner of Pakistan in the energy sector, and China's development experience is worth learning for Pakistan." Chief Representative of CSAIL, Zhang Jun said that Three Gorges Group is committed to provide affordable and clean energy for Pakistan, while investing in Pakistan's power sector, and the Karot Hydropower Project, with a total installed capacity of 720 MW, is a flagship project of the Three Gorges Group in Pakistan. During the past 7 years of construction of Karot



Project, we have seen engineers, managers and workers from China and Pakistan working together to overcome very serious events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, however, they still achieved the Commercial Operation Date (COD) 54 days ahead of schedule. Karot Project has provided 1.3 billion units of

clean and cheap electricity to Pakistan's power grid, since it started generating power this summer. The power station has been operating very smoothly, providing effective power security for Pakistan through this hot summer season and playing its role in Pakistan's flood control. As a Chinese engineer, who has witnessed the whole process of

investment in this project, he is immensely proud of what the professionals of China and Pakistan have achieved through their joint efforts. Chairman of PCI, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed termed the report a 'Primer of Pakistan's Power Sector' since it aptly describes the on-ground situation of Power Projects in Pakistan and provides detailed analysis regarding opportunities and challenges in the Power Sector. The report, he said, needs to be widely circulated so that it can contribute to public-private partnerships in the power sector. Moreover, he termed Pakistan's relationship with China deep rooted and multifaceted. The relationship between Pakistan and China, he believed, cannot be seen through the lens of CPEC since this relationship extends beyond it i.e., people-to-people connectivity, economic partnership, and support to each other on their core interests. Director of the Political Information Office of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, Wang Shengjie said that the Power Sector of Pakistan is the most invested section of the CPEC and is a successful example of early harvest, making a special and irreplaceable contribution to solving the power shortages and serving the economic and social development of Pakistan, especially in such difficult times as the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and floods is ongoing. APP

