



**فرمان رسول**  
ہم سے عبد العزیز بن عبد اللہ نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہا کہ مجھ سے ابراہیم بن سعد نے بیان کیا، ان سے ان کے والد نے اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن جعفر بن ابی طالب رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ میں نے نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو تازہ بخور گلوی کے ساتھ حکایت دیکھا ہے۔  
(بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5440)  
**Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited**

**PM securing Pakistan's rightful place in comity of nations: Marriyum**

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is securing Pakistan's rightful place in the comity of nations. In a tweet, she said the Prime Minister held talks with different world leaders on the sidelines of the SCO Heads of State summit in Samarkand. She also shared the pictures of Prime Minister's meetings with Turkish and Russian Presidents.



**Bloodshed in IIOJK poses existential threat for Kashmiris: Mushaal**

Mushaal Hussain Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, made it clear that the supremacists Narendra Modi government crossed all limits of barbarity and state terrorism, however she added that these brutal and inhuman acts would serve no purpose but would further augment the thirst of undeterred Kashmiris for independence. News on Page 3

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**Floods, surge in int'l prices caused high inflation: Ayesha**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha said that the current inflation in the country was linked with multiple factors including higher international prices and recent flood situation.

While briefing the National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue here on Friday, she said that the recent floods disturbed the supply chain mechanism and the government has imported onion and tomatoes to fulfill the domestic need.

The Committee was met under the chairmanship of Qasir Ahmed Sheikh, Member National Assembly (MNA) to discuss the various issues pertaining to ministry and its attached departments. The state minister said that the higher prices of international commodities were inter-linked with exchange rate and due to floods, the government has to make more imports to meet the domestic production, which resulted in depreciation of exchange rate. She highlighted that the current situation was very painful but we all have to accept it as the government recently took hard decision to for the betterment of the country.

She said that the country needed structural reform and made long terms policies. The government should revise the policy and there should be no compromise on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), she expressed.

The Chairman of the Committee said, as the price of Dollar increases, the financial deficit is likely to increase further.

**Seeking cooperation**

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing at the council of Heads of States Shanghai Cooperation Organization at Congress Centre in Samarkand, Uzbekistan on Friday.



Photo: PID

**Amid flood disaster**

**PM asks SCO for urgent climate action plans**

Shehbaz Sharif reaffirms Pakistan's firm commitment to achieving goals of SCO

Spokesman Report

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday called upon the member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to come up with Pakistan-specific programmes on climate change as the country faced devastating impact of the global natural phenomenon.

"This climatic injustice has befallen us despite the fact that our carbon emission is less than one percent," the prime minister said in his address at the Heads of State meeting of the eight-member SCO, held here in the historic city of Samarkand.

The prime minister's call to the

**SCO summit creates awareness against threat of climate change**

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says the SCO summit created a renewed awareness about the potent threat of climate change. He said this in a tweet while departing from Samarkand after attending the summit on Friday. The Prime Minister said the SCO countries have understood that the climate threat is capable of reversing all material development and pushing the mankind backward by decades. He said the threat has provided a reason for a united front.

SCO members came in the wake of the recent flash floods in Pakistan that wreaked havoc with the livelihood and infrastructure across the country.

He mentioned that Pakistan was braving the disaster of floods, where hill torrents and massive rains killed 1,400 people including

400 children while million of houses were damaged partially or completely. "I earnestly appeal to all of you that let the SCO stand up and take steps against this devastation through sustainable programmes," he said.

PM Sharif said the country never faced such level of

climate-induced catastrophe in its history that inflicted disaster upon human lives, infrastructure, livestock and crops.

He stressed the dire need of assistance by the international community to help Pakistan overcome the problems in the wake of floods, including relief, rehabilitation and control of water-borne diseases.

PM Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's firm and unwavering commitment to achieving the goals of the SCO.

"In view of the massive disaster, I would be very honest to urge this forum to extend assistance to Pakistan and chalk out plans regarding climate change for our future generations," he said.

**Imran Khan strongly criticizes govt**

As the govt failed to prevent economy going into tailspin

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said on Friday that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank reports show that this imported govt has failed to prevent economy going into tailspin despite inheriting a stabilized economy moving on an upward trajectory.

Taking a dig at the coalition government in a series of tweets, he said that this was reflected in the Economic Survey which identified our economic performance as the best in past 70 years in terms of growth rate (6%), industry, agriculture, employment, construction, exports, remittances & tax collection - at an all-time high.

"Now Pakistan faces unprecedented inflation hitting everyone, unemployment, food insecurity and rupee in free-fall," Imran Khan said and added imported government is completely directionless.



The PTI chairman also wrote, "The only achievement of this cabal of crooks has been to get another NRO for the billions they looted from Pakistan. The question the whole nation is asking is: Who is responsible for this conspiracy against Pakistan?"

**Efforts afoot to restore railway services: Saad**

QUETTA: Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Friday said that efforts were afoot to restore railway services in order to provide maximum facilities to masses in the country, especially flood-hit Balochistan.

The said views were expressed by the minister while inspecting the damaged Hirok Railway Bridge.

On this occasion, Railway, NLC and FC officials were also present as the minister lauded the hard work of Pakistan railways' staff which was working day and night to repair and restore the system.

Besides, the concerned officials briefed the minister about

the affected sections of railway and the progress being made in the repairs of damaged tracks. Khawaja Saad Rafique said the Hirok Bridge, built in British era, was washed away in recent flash floods which caused suspension in railway services.

It is pertinent to mention, here, the collapsed bridge is located between Kolpur and Mach at Hirak in Bolan valley. Meanwhile, the minister asserted that the relevant staff and engineers must ensure to work in double shifts for the reconstruction of the damaged bridge as the suspension of the bridge had brought railway operations of the province to a point of standstill. APP

**Weekly inflation falls by 0.19%**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on September 15 for the combined consumption group, witnessed a decrease of 0.19 percent as compared to the previous week.

The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 221.14 points against 221.55 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released here Friday. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 40.58 percent.

The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16=100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs.17,732-



22,888; Rs.22,889-29,517; Rs.29,518-44,175 and above Rs.44,175 decreased by 0.22 percent, 0.16 percent, 0.15 percent and 0.19 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 30 (58.82%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 11 (21.57%) items remained stable.

The items, which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis included onions (16.24%), tomatoes (9.84%), bananas (2.50%), chicken (1.88%), sugar (0.95%), vegetable ghee 1kg (0.39%), potatoes (0.33%), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (0.23%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.10%) and LPG (2.62%).

The commodities, which recorded increase in their average prices included tea packet (6.30%), pulse

moong (3.46%), eggs (2.54%), cooked beef & pulse gram (2.53%) each, wheat flour (1.96%), rice irri 6/9 (1.73%), cooked daal (1.71%), pulse mash (1.68%) and bread (1.45%).

On year-on-year basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices included chillies powder (43.05%), sugar (19.83%) and gur (2.50%).

The commodities that witnessed increase in prices on YoY basis included tomatoes (170.51%), diesel (105.12%), petrol (90.73%), pulse masoor (76.65%), pulse gram (67.11%), mustard oil (65.75%), cooking oil 5 litre (65.45%), washing soap (61.05%), vegetable ghee 2.5 kg (60.68%), LPG (56.61%), vegetable ghee 1 kg (56.46%), pulse mash (53.41%) and electricity for q1 (52.04%).

**Zardari to stay in Lahore amid rumors of govt change in Punjab**



LAHORE: Former President and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari has decided to camp in Lahore, a private TV channel reported.

The move by Zardari - known as the 'guru of reconciliation' - has come amid rumors of another change of government in Punjab. Zardari will reach Lahore next week, and he is likely to camp in there for a long period.

The ex-president will meet important political players during his stay in the provincial capital. Along with it, he will also meet officials of PPP organizations to revive the party in the province. Agencies

**SC issues notice to govt in Gill's torture plea**

PTI levelled allegations of torture, sexual abuse meted out to Gill during his physical remand at Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) on Friday issued a notice to the federal government in a case pertaining to the physical remand of senior PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in a sedition case and allegation of torture.

The PTI had levelled allegations of torture and sexual abuse meted out to Gill during his physical remand at Adiala jail, Rawalpindi. The party claimed that Gill was tortured and abused during custody, demanding that the matter be probed.

Gill was in police custody since his arrest in the sedition case on August 9 for allegedly inciting mutiny within the military's ranks. However, he was granted bail just yesterday (Thursday) by the Islamabad High Court following his multiple attempts to get released on bail.

At the outset of the hearing of PTI's plea by a three-member bench headed by Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Gill's lawyer Salman Safdar contended that the court trying his client exceeded its authority.

"There is no example of torture meted out to Shahbaz Gill," he said. Justice Mazahir Akbar Naqvi inquired what the basis was of the case against Gill and what did he say.

Responding to the query, Safdar said that Gill made a speech for which



he was charged under 13 sections. At this, Justice Naqvi corrected him by saying that it wasn't a speech but Gill made remarks during an interview on a private TV channel. He also rebuked the lawyer for being unaware of the procedure and purpose of a physical remand.

The justice inquired if PTI has approached a relevant forum against the alleged torture on Gill. "You have to approach the relevant forum. What has restrained you from doing that?" the justice asked. "Shahbaz Gill's remand into police custody was the most controversial remand in the country's history," Safdar

maintained, adding that a judge even stated in the order that torture marks were found on Gill's body.

At this, Justice Naqvi asked if the judge would appear before the court as a witness.

"Does the criminal code apply to the Supreme Court?" Justice Naqvi asked. At this, Gill's lawyer responded in the positive. "Masha'Allah lawyer sahib, the Criminal Code doesn't apply to the apex court," Justice Naqvi said sarcastically.

Later, the court directed the investigation officer to appear in the court with a case record and adjourned the hearing for an indefinite period. Agencies

## Strategic partners

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of China, H.E Xi Jinping on the sidelines of SCO-CHS Summit in Samarqand, Uzbekistan on Friday.



Photo: PID

President for measures to improve PIFD students' learning

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Friday advised the management of the Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design (PIFD) to approach eminent persons in the field of art and design for sharing their knowledge, experiences and learning with students of the institute to add value to their learning trajectory.

He expressed these views while addressing the 12th meeting of the Senate of PIFD, Lahore held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President said that the institute should make its rules and regulations, by-laws and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on a timeline basis by factoring in relevant government rules and regulations, besides benchmarking the best practices of similar reputed institutions.

He said that it would help further strengthen and expedite decision-making about academic, administrative and human resource matters, besides attracting and retaining highly qualified and experienced faculty, which would further improve good governance and add value to the institute.

The President further advised the institute to create close linkages with relevant stakeholders of the private sector in Fashion Designing, Textile, Jewellery, Gemological Sciences, Furniture, Leather & Ceramic Design, and Marketing to give first-hand exposure to its students about the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the relevant industry.

# Pak, China vow to further cement bilateral ties

PM meets Xi; lauds CPEC's transformational impact; assures high quality development

Spokesman Report

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese President Xi Jinping here wherein he appreciated the transformational impact of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on Pakistan's socio-economic development.

During the bilateral meeting took place on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the prime minister reaffirmed his government's commitment to the high quality development of CPEC

Both the leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and international issues of mutual interest.

This was the prime minister's first meeting with the Chinese president since assuming office in April 2022. The interaction between the two leaders was marked by traditional warmth as well as exceptional mutual trust and understanding.

In his welcoming remarks, the Chinese president described Prime Minister Sharif as "a person of pragmatism and efficiency". He also added that the prime minister was a leader with "a longstanding commitment to China-Pakistan friendship".

Noting the enduring nature of China-Pakistan bilateral ties, the prime minister underlined that our 'All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership' and Iron-brotherhood had withstood the test of time.

He reaffirmed his personal resolve to take their bilateral relations to greater heights. Prime Minister Sharif extended his best wishes to President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China for the forthcoming 20th CPC National Congress.

He underscored that the SCO provided an excellent forum to further their shared vision and mutual values into concrete plans for regional cooperation and integration.

The prime minister thanked President Xi, the government and the people of

China for the generous and timely support to the flood affected people in Pakistan.

He said that the outpouring of sympathy and support from all quarters across China was touching and a true reflection of the "unique" friendship between China and Pakistan. He condoled with President Xi over the tragic loss of life and devastation caused by the earthquake in Sichuan Province on September 5, 2022, emphasizing that the Government and people of Pakistan stood with China in the face of this natural calamity.

The prime minister briefed President Xi on his government's policies for Pakistan's sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization, and regional connectivity.

Both leaders welcomed the signing of a Protocol to the Framework Agreement on ML-1 Railway Project. Prime Minister Sharif reiterated Pakistan's consistent and unwavering support to China on all issues of its core interest including Taiwan, Tibet, Xinjiang and Hong Kong.

## MoFA holds briefings on CPEC for diplomatic missions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the world to strengthen investment and trade linkages and consider opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZs).

This was stated by Additional Secretary for Asia-Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while chairing a briefing in Islamabad on Friday regarding the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor for resident diplomatic missions of several countries from East and Central Asia and the Middle East.



The Additional Secretary emphasized that CPEC had added a new dimension in the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect.

Thanking the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant Government departments for the briefing, participating diplomatic missions underscored abiding mutual interest in enhancing economic cooperation.

## BISP on forefront to support for poor: Shazia Marri

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri Friday said BISP was on the forefront in extending optimum support to poor and vulnerable segments in the country.

Expressing views in a meeting with delegation of World Bank at BISP Headquarters, she said BISP had disbursed Rs. 27,645 million to 946,967 flood affected families in recent floods across the country.

The delegation was briefed on the multi-component social protection strategy and widespread operations of BISP.

Since the launch of Benazir Kafaalat Programme, Rs. 1.309 trillion had been disbursed to 7.9 million beneficiaries,

she said and added Rs. 40 billion had been disbursed to 8.04 million children under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif.

She pointed out Rs. 20.5 billion had been disbursed for 92003 Benazir Undergraduate Scholarships and Rs. 833 million had been disbursed to 196,989 beneficiaries under Benazir Nushonuma Programme.

Currently Benazir Nushonuma Programme is operational in 29 districts and more Facilitation Centers are being established in other districts of the country to address the issue of stunting growth among pregnant, lactating women and their children of under 2-year of age.

Shazia Marri appreciated the role of the World Bank, as a major development partner in providing continuous and valuable support to BISP for strengthening the social protection system in

Pakistan.

"We have to take the provinces and federating units on-board to ensure that we are not leaving anyone behind in providing assistance to flood affected families across the country," she added.

The WB representatives lauded the efforts of BISP in flood affected areas and ensured full support from WB in future development of the programmes like Benazir Nushonuma.

The delegation also congratulated BISP on updating the national socio-economic registry.

The delegation comprised of Ms. Lynne Sherburne-Benz, Regional Director, Human Development South Asia Region, Stefano Paternostro, Practice Manager, Social Protection and Jobs, Lire Ersado, Practice Leader Human Development and Amjad Zafar Khan, Senior Social Protection Specialist.

## Mere criticism not in national interest: CM Bizenjo

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo on Friday said that the nations which had been respecting their institutions and directed constructive criticism at them were now standing among the developed countries of the world.

He expressed these view while addressing a reception held upon his arrival in Awaran district.

The CM said he not only was a servant of Awaran but also of the entire Balochistan. He also thanked the people of Awaran for arranging a lovely reception for him. "Love, and trust of the people is my greatest strength."

Awaran had become the cradle of peace today due to the sacrifices of Pakistan Army and security forces. "Insurgency has set us back many years, especially our youths have been left behind," he said, adding that "we have to repair this loss together now so that future generations would remember us

in good words.

"The CM said be it flood or earthquake or any other problem, Pakistan Army had always helped us in every difficult hour. Shaheed Lieutenant General Sarfraz Ali had a dream to build a girls cadet college in Quetta, and "we will fulfill his dream and honour the martyrs families by getting the girls cadet college inaugurated by them."

He said that the flood was a tough test for not Balochistan but the entire country that caused heavy losses, and "we would not sit idle until the rehabilitation of every flood victim. I am personally monitoring all the relief activities." Bizenjo said he did not care about negative and mere criticism, people with a negative mindset had always been criticizing.

He said provision of education and health facilities in Awaran was on top of his priorities. He also announced several development projects in health, education, energy, communication, and other sectors for Awaran.

## KS Relief sends more relief items for flood-hit people



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KS Relief) has dispatched two more air cargo planes carrying tents, blankets, food and non-food items and dates to provide urgent and immediate relief to the flood-affected people.

Nawaf Saeed Almalkiy, Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan along with Dr. Khalid M. Al-othmani, Director of King Salman Relief Pakistan office visits flood-hit areas at Shewan Shareef and distributed relief among

affecteds.

These items will help to provide immediate relief to the flood-affected people living in all the provinces of Pakistan. The package will be beneficial for quick and early relief for the victims and will be distributed in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

King Salman Relief Centre has launched the campaign "The Saudi People's Campaign for the Relief of Flood Victims in Pakistan" by establishing the Air Bridge to carry out relief operations.

# Floods in Pakistan claim lives of over 500 children: UNICEF

Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, issued statement by following his visit to Sindh

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "The catastrophic floods in Pakistan have now claimed the lives of at least 528 children, according to the latest Government figures. Each and every one of these deaths is a tragedy that could have been averted.

"The sad reality is that without a massive increase in support, many more children will lose their lives.

"I have been in flood-affected areas for the past two days. The situation for families is beyond bleak, and the stories I heard paint a desperate picture. All of us on the ground see malnourished children, battling diarrhoea and malaria, dengue fever, and many with painful skin conditions. A lot of the mothers are anaemic and malnourished themselves and have very low-weight babies. Mothers are exhaust-

ed or ill and are unable to breastfeed. Millions of families have been forced from their homes, now living with little more than rags to protect themselves from the scorching sun as temperatures in some areas pass 40 degrees Celsius.

"Many families have been forced to seek shelter on slivers of higher ground, often alongside roads putting children at risk, as lower land is covered by huge expanses of stagnant water, extending as far as the eye can see. The additional threats of snakes, scorpions and mosquitoes are ever-present.

"An estimated 16 million children have been impacted by these 'super floods' and at least 3.4 million girls and boys remain in need of immediate, lifesaving support. Young children are living out in the open with their families, with no drinking water, no food, and no livelihood, exposed to a wide range of new flood-related

risks and hazards - including from damaged buildings, drowning in flood waters and snakes. The vital infrastructure that children so rely on has been destroyed and damaged, including thousands of schools, water systems and health facilities

"Whilst the numbers of children lost in these floods continues to grow, UNICEF is doing everything we can to support children and families affected and protect them from the ongoing dangers of water-borne diseases, malnutrition and protection risks.

"Relief and rescue operations are still extremely hard to carry out - many communities are still cut off by floodwater - still I was proud to see UNICEF, working closely with the Government and other partners, ensuring that children affected get the critical support they need as soon as possible. Yet it is clear that the



needs are huge, and the response must rise to this challenge. A third round of UNICEF's critical medical and humanitarian supplies - an additional 36 metric tons - are en route to Pakistan and expected to arrive in the coming days. "Many children will have already experienced

shock and distress from having lost their loved ones, their homes and their cherished possessions. UNICEF is already providing psychosocial services to traumatized children and women. Children displaced in the floods told us that they are scared, and they are sad, but also that they are bored, left with little to occupy their days. We have set up temporary learning spaces to help bring back a sense of normalcy in children's lives, help them cope with trauma and help them resume learning.

"Girls and boys in Pakistan are paying the price for a climate disaster not of their making. As we respond to their urgent needs today, we must also begin looking at the months ahead and the need to rebuild the lives of these millions of vulnerable boys and girls - to ensure they are safe, healthy, well nourished, learning and preparing for their futures."

# PTI to hold grand rally in Muzaffarabad on Sep. 29

Parliamentary party decides to participate in local body elections with full strength



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Azad Kashmir chapter has decided to hold a historic gathering at Muzaffarabad on September 29, 2022 in which the PTI chairman Imran Khan, as the chief guest, will deliver a keynote address.

The decision to this effect was taken during the party's parliamentary party meeting, which was chaired by the AJK premier Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan here on Friday. Government Ministers including Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Sardar Mir Akbar Khan, Chaudhry Muhammad Rashid, Abdul Majid

Khan, Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali, Diwan Ali Khan Chaghtai, Sardar Fahim Akhtar Rabbani, Chaudhry Arshad Hussain, Chaudhry Muhammad Akmal Sargala, Chaudhry Yasir Sultan, Chaudhry Maqbool were present in the meeting. Gujjar, Azhar Sadiq, Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Special Assistants Chaudhry Muhammad Faiq Nair and Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal, Advisor to the Government Hafiz Hamid Raza, Parliamentary Secretary Imtiaz Naseem and others were present on the occasion.

During the meeting the parliamentary party decided to participate in the local body elections with full strength. On the proposal of the Prime Minister,

the meeting also decided to provide tax exemptions to investors for the promotion of industry in Azad Kashmir.

A committee under the chairmanship of Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan has been constituted to determine the tax exemptions. The committee has been tasked to submit the report to the Prime Minister within 15 days.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that on September 29, people of Azad Kashmir would accord a historic welcome their beloved Quaid Imran Khan.

Khan, he said not only presented the Kashmiris' case vociferously at international level but also provided plenty of

funds for the development and prosperity of Azad Kashmir in difficult financial conditions.

The PTI government, he said would fulfill the promises it had made with the people. The government is committed transfer the power to the lower level by conducting local government elections in line with the vision of the party chairman Imran Khan.

He said that the PTI would achieve a landslide victory in the municipal elections as well as the next general elections. The Prime Minister said that measures were being taken to promote investment in Azad Kashmir and create a favourable environment for investors.

# Dastgir Khan visits tent village setup for flood victims

**Spokesman Report**

DADU: On the direction of Minister for Energy (Power Division) Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Secretary Power Division, Rashid Mahmood Langrial, the National Transmission and Despatch Company Ltd (NTDC), Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SEPCO) and District Administration Dadu have set up a tent village for flood victims of surrounding areas at 500 kV grid station NTDC, Dadu.

Minister for Energy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan accompanied by local MNAs, MPAs and MD



NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan visited the relief camp and checked the flood relief activities arranged for flood-hit people.

The dedicated team of NTDC, SEPCO and Civil Administration, apprised Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan that 100 tents are

being installed in the flood relief camp which is inside the premises of residential colony 500 kV grid station Dadu. Food, medicines, clean drinking water and other basic necessities are being provided to the people living in the relief camp. While talking with media Engr. Khurram

Dastgir Khan said that the govt is fully cognizant the problems of homeless people and arrangement of education for children of flood-hit people will be started soon. The tent village can also be extended as per recommendation of civil administration.

Minister for Energy (Power Division), Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan also reviewed the embankments, dykes and other protective measures to save the 500 kV grid station Dadu from flood. He applauded the efforts of the Pak Army, Civil Administration and NTDC for their relentless efforts in this regard.

# Aga Khan University's signs MoU with Roche & Sysmex

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Outreach Health Network, Roche Diagnostics, and Sysmex signed an agreement to install a New Fully Automated Laboratory system in the main lab and 14 outreach centers of the Aga Khan University Hospital across Pakistan.

Connected with Roche's cobas IT infinity solutions, these latest, state-of-the-art high throughput automated systems are designed to give laboratories full and transparent control over their operational processes, at single and multi-site operations.

Through this strategic collaboration between the Aga Khan University Hospital, Roche Diagnostics, and Sysmex, AKUH will be able to cater to the needs and



enhance the capacity of its labs, not just in the main cities, but also in the remote areas of the country.

This agreement builds on the Aga Khan University Hospital's historic collaboration with Roche Diagnostics Pakistan. It also marks a significant milestone in evolving laboratory diagnostic workflows by increasing automation and minimizing operation intervention in

clinical laboratories to reduce errors, improve efficiency and enable faster test results to the patients.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President AKU, congratulated and lauded the efforts of all the teams involved in achieving this milestone agreement. "All of us are playing an integral part in shaping the national health system," said Dr. Shahabuddin, adding that

cross-collaboration between different stakeholders is key in scaling up and reshaping lives through the provision of quality healthcare.

Welcoming this new partnership with Roche and Sysmex, Shagufta Hassan, CFO and VP of Finance, AKU, expressed her gratitude and thanked all the stakeholders involved for all their hard work. Highlighting the high-quality standards of the university hospital and its Outreach Health Network, she said, "AKU is Pakistan's first academic medical center to receive the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) and College of American Pathologists CAP accreditation. I am thankful to our teams working on the front lines, and providing access to quality healthcare to millions across Pakistan."

# Canada to match donations up to \$3m to help flood victims



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Canadian government has announced to match individual donations up to a total of CAD 3 million through the Humanitarian Coalition of 12 charitable organisations collecting funds and donations in Canada in response to the flooding in Pakistan.

This was stated by High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Zaheer Janjua while speaking to a webinar on 'Exploring Shariah-compliant Investment & Charitable Opportunities through Roshan Digital Account' as well as a fundraising dinner held in the Canadian capital under the auspices of Pakistani Canadian charitable organisation 'Dil Canada' for Pakistan flood relief.

The High Commissioner said Pakistan had been hit by floods of biblical proportions and he was glad the Pakistani diaspora in Canada had come forward in a big way to raise funds to help their fellow brethren in Pakistan. He also appreciated the Canadian government and the people for initially committing an aid of CAD 5 million and then backing it up with another \$25 million of funding in response to the impact of flooding in Pakistan, and to support development projects in the country.

Zaheer Janjua lauded the Pakistani diaspora spread across Canada for working hard to raise funds for the flood victims in Pakistan. He was it was a difficult time for Pakistan, and it was imperative for every Pakistani at home and abroad to rise above their individual and political preferences, likes and dislikes, and respond to the call of motherland for reaching out to millions of people displaced by the devastating rains and floods in Pakistan.

# SMEDA establishes energy desk in collaboration with UNIDO

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has established an Energy Desk at its head office to promote Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy (RE) systems in the SMEs of Pakistan.

Hashim Raza, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA informed here that the Desk had been set up in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under its project titled as "Sustainable Energy Initiative for Industries in Pakistan"

Energy Desk is a ONE STOP service for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country to be provided through Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding of UNIDO, CEO SMEDA said adding that it serves as a knowledge data center to promote the Energy Efficiency (EE) and Renewable Energy (RE) technologies and systems. It aims to provide EE and RE solutions to SMEs and to enhance their capacities through an online Data management System through a Portal for providing seamless access to information including technical guidelines, manuals, links to Energy Experts and technology suppliers along with a regular update on training programs and events.

It is notable that the formal announcement of the Energy Desk was made at the first-ever Energy Performance Awards 2022 held earlier at Islamabad in the presence of Syed Murtaza Mahmud, Federal Minister Industries and Production as Chief Guest. The project is working closely with the Government of Pakistan to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development in line with its key thematic areas, one being energy & environment



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan Khazar Farhadov met with Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives of Pakistan.

# Mubasher Ahmed meets Liz Truss

KHARIAN: Chaudhry Mubasher Ahmed, a young politician of Pakistani origin, met with the newly elected British Prime Minister, Liz Truss, executive member of the Conservative Party from Silow London and a young activist of the Pakistani community, Chaudhry Mubasher Ahmed, had a special meeting with Miss Truss yesterday.

Congratulating him on assuming the office of the Prime Minister of Great Britain and discussing with him various issues regarding the overseas community, Prime Minister Liz Truss said that improving the immigration issues of the overseas community and utility bills etc.

Controlling the prices of essential commodities is one of our priorities, Chaudhry Mubasher Ahmed thanked Prime Minister Liz Truss. Chaudhry Mubasher Ahmed belonging to old Mehta Tehsil Dina is the son of social personality Chaudhry Mushtaq Ahmed.

# Zong 4G, Sehat Kahani collaborate to provide relief to flood-affected

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The recent floods have been one of the worst calamities to hit Pakistan in recent years. With over 33 million people impacted, immediate support is required to help the affected people. As a socially responsible organization Zong was first to step forward and collaborate with Sehat Kahani to set up Medical Camps in Sindh, which is one most-impacted provinces of the country.

In collaboration with Sehat Kahani, the company established three medical camps in the worst-affected areas of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar, Bhit Shah, Dadu & Khairpur. These medical camps offered free medical consultations, gave awareness about the prevalent diseases and also prescribed and provided medications for viral diseases along with nutritional support. "Our country is in dire need of relief, amid the flooding and in wake of this humanitarian crisis, Zong 4G is standing by Pakistan."



# Infrastructure Business Forum

# Ahsan for enhancing trade volume with Korea

Korean envoy Suh Sangpyo says Korean firms intending to invest \$10m in solar energy generation projects

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning Development and Special initiative Ahsan Iqbal on Thursday called upon the Korean investors to explore the vast investment opportunities existing in various sectors of the economy to enhance bilateral trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Addressing 'Pak-ROK 2022 Infrastructure Business Forum', the minister said that bilateral trade volume among both the countries was quite low and stressed the need to enhance it to its existing potential in order to further strengthen economic relations in future.

He said that Pakistan had a deep relationship with Korea as both the countries were enjoying cordial trade and economic ties, adding that the forum would help in further cementing these existing bonds. He said that the construction of Lahore-Islamabad Motorway was a flagship project and shining example of



bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The minister said that the 2022 century was the century of trade and economics, adding that Korean companies must harness all these existing investment opportunities in different sectors of the national economy, besides taking measures for the technology transfer.

He asked the Korean companies for initiating joint ventures and developing projects on

public-private partnership in various local sectors of the national economy including energy generation, education, healthcare and other sectors.

Ahsan Iqbal said that a majority of the local population consisted of young people and leading Koran technologies companies were invited to establish their research laboratories here to get the dividend from this as the cost of labor in Pakistan was lower as compared to the other countries.

Besides other sectors, the minister said that tourism was another sector which was offering grand opportunities for Korean investors, particularly in Taxila as the city was the origin of Buddhist civilization and Gandharan art.

He urged the need for establishing a university in Taxila jointly by both the governments in order to preserve the history and oldest civilization as well as educating the coming generations about that old civilization.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Board of Investment Chaudhry Salik Hussain said that road infrastructure in the country was damaged due to recent floods and reconstruction of these roads offers special opportunities for Korean investors and companies.

He said that the local logistic sector and port and shipping were other sectors which offer tremendous investment opportunities, adding that wind and solar energy generation were also open for investment in order to produce renewable energy.

He informed the forum that



the government was taking steps for ease of doing business and introduced investment friendly policies, besides providing all possible support for local as well as foreign investors for investing in all sectors of the national economy.

Addressing the forum, Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan said that Lahore-Islamabad Motorway was the first project that was started by a Korean company which was bright

example of joint venture, adding that due to technology transfer, other motorways were also constructed, which were providing facilities and connecting among different cities.

He said that a solar energy research laboratory was being established with collaboration of Korea, adding that it would be another milestone to develop and promote solar energy projects to produce cheap energy and fulfill the local energy requirements.

He said that the government had launched solar initiatives and laid the foundation for energy transactions from fossil fuel to renewable energy and called upon the Korean investors to invest in renewable energy projects.

Addressing the forum, the Ambassador of Korea said that it was the second edition of the forum and many companies were operating in Pakistan and this cooperation would further intensified as many companies were keen to invest in solar energy sector projects in Pakistan. He said that Korean companies were intending to invest \$10 million in solar energy generation projects, which would add in local energy generation capacity and fulfill the domestic requirements.

He said that Pakistan was affected due recent floods as crops standing over large areas were destroyed and communication networks were badly affected. Korea will also provide assistance for the rehabilitation of flood affected people in the country, he expressed.



Islamabad  
23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 4:28 am  
Zohr ..... 12:03 pm  
Asr ..... 4:28 pm  
Maghrib ..... 6:13 pm  
Isha ..... 7:37 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886

**Huge funds needed to rebuild schools destroyed in floods**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Educationists and experts stressed on rehabilitating and rebuilding the education infrastructure destroyed in the recent floods to minimize the learning losses during a cross-sectoral conversation on "Defending Education Against Climate Change." The conversation was organized virtually by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training's STEAM Policy Unit.

Strong public-private partnership models, development and implementation of a comprehensive remedial and accelerated learning program, and international commitment to rebuild the destroyed educational infrastructure on war footing were some of the solutions put forward by the experts to ensure nimble access to education for the displaced children.

"From our conversations with the Punjab Education Department, we know that it takes around Rs. 12 million to rebuild one school. This means we need a whopping Rs. 216 billion to rebuild 18,000 schools destroyed in the recent floods." This sobering reality was shared by senior education expert and author of "Teachers, Bureaucracy, and Politicians," Javed Ahmed Malik.

**Sherry apprises Japanese envoy about flood devastation**

*Minister says we are thankful to people of Japan for their support*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman met with the Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada, apprising him of the current relief efforts, the devastation wreaked by the floods throughout the country and the situation of assistance required for recovery, reconstruction for the flood affected areas and population.

Mitsuhiro Wada expressed sincerest condolences and deepest regret from the government and people of Japan on the loss of precious lives and the severe devastation caused by the monstrous flood disaster. Speaking to the Ambassador, Minister Rehman said, "We are still receiving new data as the assessments keep coming in of 1,508 people losing their lives and more than 12,000 are injured."

Over 300 bridges have been torn apart and nearly 13,000 km of roads have been severely damaged, cutting off access to the areas drowned in floodwaters. Instant rescue and humanitarian relief has become an urgent task, as those who have survived cannot find dry land to pitch their tents. We had cascading climate events occur-



ring one after the other since the start to the year, with temperatures reaching 53 degrees in Sindh followed by heatwaves and 8 times the normal amount of GLOFs. Spread of diseases like cholera, dengue and others will exacerbate the health crisis amongst the affected population as 33 million people have been impacted severely."

The Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan briefed Minister Rehman on the humanitarian assistance and conveyed the extension of Emergency Grant Aid of USD 7 million to Pakistan by the Government of

Japan in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster that have occurred in Pakistan.

Thanking the Japanese Ambassador for the support, Minister Rehman remarked, "We are extremely thankful to the people of Japan for extending their support and looking to support Pakistan in rebuilding as resilience will require more funds. Our aim is to build back better with climate resilient infrastructure and to address the looming food, livelihood and water insecurities that will arise once the waters recede."

**Procession**

ISLAMABAD: People take part in a procession of Chelum Imam Hussain (R.A) outside Markazi Asna Ashri Imambargah G-6/2, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**Bloodshed in IIOJK poses existential threat for Kashmiris: Mushaal**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, made it clear that the supremacists Narendra Modi government crossed all limits of barbarity and state terrorism, however she added that these brutal and inhuman acts would serve no purpose but would further augment the thirst of under-terred Kashmiris for independence.

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, in a statement on Friday vowed that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would not give up their freedom struggle come what may.

She said that they could not be deterred from their ultimate goal, which was freedom, and they would take the freedom fight to logical ends despite all odds.

She said that despite the continued inci-



dents of Indian state terrorism and granting of voting rights to Indian citizens in the internationally recognised disputed territory, the world powers observed criminal silence. The world community ignored the horrors committed against Kashmiri people, while the relevant human rights organizations remained silent, she lamented.

Mushaal stated that the unabated Indian military violence and bloodshed posed a serious existential threat to the Kashmiris reeling under India's brutal suppression for

over the last seven decades. The Hurriyat leader lamented that Indian fascist government continued killing and arresting of civilians as part of its systematic and nefarious genocide campaign. Mushaal revealed that the innocent people were being harassed and humiliated during so-called cordon and search operations.

Moreover, she said that extra-judicial killings, enforced disappearances and killing of youth in fake encounters were being used by the notorious India regime as a war tactic to suppress the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for right to self-determination.

She said that the gravity of the situation could be judged from the fact that during the last three decades, around 1,22,771 people have been arrested, 7,023 killed in custody, 10,5996 home or building destroyed, 22,776 widows, 10,7466 children orphans, and 10,086 women either have been raped or subjected to other sexual assaults.

**Korean Embassy holds 2022 K-Movie Festival**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad held the 2022 K-Movie Festival at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) on Friday.

This event was held to promote the vibrant Korean arts and culture. The event was attended by high-level dignitaries including the Heads of Missions, International organizations, Pakistani officials in Islamabad.

The event is a testament to the growing enthusiasm in Korea's artistic achievements and its cultural legacy among Pakistanis and the world. The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea commented that events like this reaffirm the cultural exchanges are an effective way to enhance bilateral cultural understanding, and shared his hopes that such events would continue to become building blocks towards solidifying and strengthening cultural ties between Korea and Pakistan.

The audience both young and old enjoyed the movie Face Reader, one of the highest-grossing films in Korea in 2013, which took them back in time and drew their attention to the life and struggles of the protagonist face reader who has the skill to assess the personality, mental state and habits of a person by looking at a person's face.

The event was greatly appreciated by the diplomatic community including the Ambassadors of Sweden, Spain and Turkmenistan. On the occasion, Suh Sangpyo commented that among various relations between countries, the people-to-people and cultural relations strengthen the fundamental of the relations. He wished to bolster cultural cooperation exchanges through continuing an exchange of arts, and entertainment.



**Malaysia contributes goods worth over Rm800,000 to flood victims**



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Fo Guang Shan of Malaysia, Buddha's Light International Association and Yayasan Sin Chew with the close cooperation with Wisma Putra (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia), Pakistan High Commission in Kuala Lumpur and Malaysian High Commission in Islamabad organised a donation drive which gather more than RM800,000 worth of goods to help the flood victims in Pakistan.

These 15 tonnes cargo which was grouped into 1,144 boxes arrived on a Pakistan International Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur. Acting High Commissioner of Malaysia, Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh and Immigration Attaché Madam Norwati binti Majudi were present at the Islamabad International Airport to receive the cargo. The cargo was handed over to representative of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Deputy Director Ahsan Siddique.

Earlier in Kuala Lumpur, a ceremony entitled "Sending Love & Warmth to Pakistan" was officiated by Malaysian Minister of Transport, Datuk Seri Ir. Dr. Wee Ka Siong. He remarked that the shipment today is a selfless and generous donation gathered among people from all walks of life. It should remind us that as members of a global society, we must be ready to lend a hand to ease the pain and suffering of those that need help across borders.

**TikTok now introduces more ways to create and connect**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: As the home for creating engaging content and discovering new and exciting communities, today TikTok expands their suite of creation tools as they continue to foster authentic and spontaneous connections on the platform with TikTok Now.

TikTok Now is the newest way to be entertained and connect with others on TikTok—a daily photo and video experience where users can share their most authentic moments with the people who matter the most. TikTok Now brings the authenticity of TikTok to a whole new creative experience that connects communities with those close to them.

Making possible deeper connections and fun entertainment in an easy-to-use format, TikTok Now invites users and their friends to capture what they're doing in the moment using their device's front and back camera. Users will receive a daily prompt to capture a 10-second video or a static photo to quickly and easily share what they're up to.

The platform is experimenting with TikTok Now over the coming weeks. TikTok Now can be accessed from both TikTok and the new TikTok Now app. In some countries, TikTok Now may be available within TikTok, downloadable as a new TikTok Now app, or available in both formats. TikTok will continue to enhance the user experience as they learn more about how the TikTok community embraces this new creative format.

TikTok Now is designed with the safety and privacy of the community in mind. Creators are in control of deciding who can view or engage with their content. They can block others and choose which comments appear on their content. And if someone comes across behavior they believe may violate the Community Guidelines, they can report it for review.

TikTok carefully considers the safety of their community, and continues to take further steps to help support the safety and well-being of teens in particular: If someone under the age of 16 creates an account to use the TikTok Now app, just like TikTok, their account will be private by default.

Those under the age of 18 will not be able to share their content to the Explore feed. People aged between 13 and 15 will have commenting options limited to Friends only to help protect against unwanted interactions.

Those 18 and over have additional sharing settings. In addition to sharing with mutual friends, they can opt to share their posts with the broader TikTok Now community based on the privacy settings they have chosen. The default setting is 'Friends can view'. To change the privacy settings for TikTok Now:

Choose who you'd like to allow to view your TikTok Now posts. Friends can view: Anyone who follows you, and you follow back can view your TikTok Now.

Everyone: Anyone in your area can view your TikTok Now posts. Keep in mind, people that don't follow you or you don't follow back can't comment or interact with your TikTok Now posts.

TikTok is always looking to create seamless ways for their community to build authentic connections as they continue to be entertained on TikTok. TikTok Now is rolling out to people worldwide over the coming weeks. TikTok is excited to learn from their community and continue to improve, enrich, and expand on the TikTok experience.

**WHO, COMSTECH celebrate World Patient Safety Day**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization in collaboration with COMSTECH celebrated "World Patient Safety Day" under the slogan of "Medication without Harm" at COMSTECH Auditorium on Friday.

World Patient Safety Day is marked annually on 17 September. It aims to raise awareness on how to prevent, reduce risks, errors, and harm that occur to patients during the provision of health care.

In keynote address, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Head of Mission/WHO Representative to Pakistan said that WHO's vision is to ensure that every patient receives safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere. He said, around 134 million adverse events happen in hospitals due to unsafe healthcare practices. Out of which estimated 2.6 million patients die annually. The social cost of patient harm is estimated to be US\$ 1-2 trillion a year. He said that the theme of this year's commemoration is "Medication Safety" which addresses a critical component of safety in health care.



Dr. Mahipala said that unsafe medication practices and errors are a leading cause of injury and avoidable harm in health care systems across the world. He mentioned that globally the cost associated with medication errors has been estimated at \$42 billion annually. He informed that the most harm arises from systems failures in the way care is organized and coordinated, especially when multiple health providers are involved in a patient's care.

Dr. Mahipala said, in Pakistan, a small research study on Patient Safety & adverse events conducted in 2021 in 5 hospitals throughout the country, which found that diagnostic errors

comprise 40%, while surgical or procedure-related errors comprise 32% error, complications of childbirth-15%, adverse medication-related events 9%, and healthcare-associated infection or pneumonia 4% of all adverse effects.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH said that we are delighted to partner with the WHO not only for this event, but we plan to work together for the common mission of improved health. He said that World Patient Safety Day calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety.

Prof. Choudhary said that multidrug resistance in pathogenic agents, cancer cells, etc. are largely associated with the improper use of antibiotics and anti-virals.

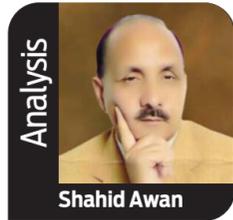
He mentioned that many of us use medications for chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, etc. In such cases, cumulative harmful effects of medication kills patients before the actual disease cause mortality.

Prof. Choudhary said in the OIC countries, population increase, lack of access to quality health care including pharmacy services, weak control on the sale of prescribed medicines, illiteracy, and poverty are major impediments in the safe use of medication as well causes of prevailing harmful effects.

Director General Health, Dr. Shabana Saleem, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination said that the Director General of WHO, Tedros Ghebreyesus, noted in a recent press conference that the 2022 world patient safety day celebrated every year and is focused on medication without harm. According to him medication errors account for half of all avoidable harm in medical care.

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# Pakistan Army's services in social sector



Analysis

Shahid Awan

Historically, the role of Pakistan's forces in establishing world peace and healing the wounds of humanity has been a proud one. Pakistan became a member of the United Nations in September 1947. For the first time in 1960, the Pakistani contingent led by Colonel Naseer performed duties in the Congo. In the last six decades, 200,000 soldiers of the Pakistan Army have participated in 46 UN missions in 28 countries and even today, 6,000 soldiers of the Pakistan Army are engaged in making the name of the motherland shine in 19 countries. As a whole, it has contributed to the restoration of public order in the troubled countries of the world, the rule of law, the provision of food and medical aid to the starving population, and the development of economic and social welfare. The positive role of the Pakistan Army can be estimated from the fact that the Pakistan Army ranks third in the world

in terms of serving in the United Nations peace-keeping missions. Pakistani troops have performed excellent services in the field of peace and reconciliation in countries surrounded by mutual conflicts like Somalia, Bosnia, Sudan, Namibia, Cambodia, Sri Leone, Yemen, Kuwait, Rwanda, and thanks to their role, they have earned respect in the United Nations. Pakistan forces have also sacrificed 156 precious lives in this war of peace and harmony and welfare of humanity on the planet. In June 1993, during the performance of duties in Somalia, General Farrukh Hadid's Malaysia ambushed and martyred 24 Pakistani soldiers, including a female fighter, despite this loss of life, the Pakistan Army continued to perform its duties and returned home after its completion in 1995. Although the US Army's "Black Hawk" helicopter was shot down during the Olympia Hotel parade, when it was dropped, the Americans thought it was safe to call back their troops. Acknowledgment and appreciation of this role of the Pakistan Army can be gauged from the words of Colonel Albert Joso, Defense Adviser of Sri Leone, "Pakistan's flag will always fly in peace that the Pakistan Army has built for our future generation so that the new generation should remember that Pakistan played a memorable and proud role in our national reconstruction".

According to the index released in January 2021 of the Global Firepower Index, Pakistan Army has become the 10th most powerful army in 138 countries of the world, surpassing Canada, Australia, Germany, Iran, Indonesia and Israel. Historically, intelligence has been the backbone of any military for preemption and timely countermeasures of enemy offensive intentions. In today's era, accurate military decision-making in the blink of an eye is of dual importance in changing the tide of war and gaining superiority. The world's leading intelligence agency has compiled a list of the best intelligence agencies in the world, Pakistan's ISI is at the top. According to this list, Australia's ASIS is at the ninth position, India's RAW is the eighth, Germany's BND is the seventh, France's DGSE is the sixth, Israel's MOSSAD is the fifth, Russia's FSB is the fourth, China's MSS is third, Britain's SIS is second, America's CIA and Pakistan's ISI are first. Superiority and ability is something that the enemy should admit. Spokesperson of Pakistan Army while acknowledging the professionalism and superiority of I.S.P.R, India's Lt. General (R) RAJESH says, "Instead of talking about rhetoric, we need to learn the war of rhetoric from ISPR, whose arguments are heard with seriousness and confidence around the world."

This overview is presented as the services of the Pakistan Army in the social sector. Be it the 2005 earthquake or the killings and riots in Karachi, the Pakistan Army has always actively participated. In the earthquake of 2005, when the earthquake struck the northern regions and Kashmir, the proud soldiers and officers of the army reached there first and played their role in evacuating the injured people buried under the buildings. Similarly, in 2010, when floods wreaked havoc across Punjab, the brave officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army came to the aid of the flood victims. The recent flood, breaking the thirty-year record, has severely affected three thirty million people in Balochistan, Sindh, KPK, GB and South Punjab. At this time, 60% of the country's population is surrounded by floodwaters, humanity is sighing. On August 1, 2022, Corps Commander Balochistan General Sarfraz Ali proved to the world by martyrdom during the relief campaign for the flood victims in Lasbela along with six of his colleagues. They also proved that every member of the Pakistan Army, whether he is a general or a common soldier, is a supporter of his country. They sacrifice their lives not only defending the country, but even if the nation suffers from a calamity on earth or in the sky, they still do not hesitate to sacrifice their lives. On the day when the top Army officers were martyred, no political figure along with the organizations belonging

to the social sector had any idea of how much destruction the floods have caused in Balochistan. Since this incident, Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has forbidden himself peace and quiet, one of his steps takes place in Balochistan, the second in Sindh, the third in KPK and the fourth in the disaster areas of South Punjab. A few days ago, a team of ours reached the counter of Artillery Center Attock with food item and other relief materials to help the flood victims where we had a detailed meeting with Major Zain of the Pakistan Army. His eyes were red, his hair was tangled, but his face was smiling. The way he welcomed our delegation was very wonderful and encouraging. He thanked the Pakistani nation and said that at this time it has become the national duty of every citizen of Pakistan to resettle millions of Pakistanis drowned in floods. It can be estimated that how much interest the Pakistani Army is taking in treating and providing relief to the sufferings of Pakistani brothers and sisters and children and the elderly. Similarly, the Pakistan Army is performing its official duties by establishing flood relief camps across the country. The Pakistani nation should give maximum supplies to the relief camps established by the Pakistan Army so that timely relief can be provided to the flood victims. Long live Pak Army, long live Pakistan.



## Africa must chart its own course on climate change

Ranvir S. Nayar

As the UN General Assembly begins its annual sittings in New York this week, there are several issues that deserve to take center stage, ranging from the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine to the energy and food crisis that is partly linked to the war, along with the state of global education, healthcare and climate change. The picture is dismal on many fronts, with fresh evidence of deterioration in the situation, at least for the developing nations and least-developed countries, notably in Africa, which seem to be bearing the brunt of the impact, notably in terms of hunger, health and climate disasters. With forest fires, flash floods and heat waves still prevalent in many parts of the world, the critical situation is certain to outlast the discussions in New York. And, come November, a massive global jamboree to fight climate change will once again assemble, as every year. But this year, there is a difference, as the climate summit, known as COP27, comes to Africa, where it will be hosted in the Egyptian Red Sea riviera town of Sharm El-Sheikh. As farmers abandon their lands and search for new areas to farm, conflict has arisen between various tribes, leading to the forced migration of millions of people, many of whom try to head for European shores as they do not see any future for themselves in Africa. All in all, the worst impacts of climate change in all its forms can be seen in full play here already. But these expectations are founded on thin

air. If hosting a jamboree for 15 days could do wonders for Africa's climate change problems, then imagine what benefits should have been accrued for the protection of the African environment and ecology in the 50 years since the UN Environment Programme was created and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. Unfortunately, from Nairobi to Nigeria and from Egypt to Eswatini, the African environment has been degraded extensively, seriously and perhaps even irretrievably — under the watch of the UNEP, if one can say so. Reports state that rapid and unplanned urbanization in Africa has left it poorly equipped to deal with the impacts of climate change in the near future, including how it affects biodiversity, food security, health, water access and migration. In today's world, the global community does not need to go anywhere to be able to take action. It is not a lack of awareness that is preventing global leaders from taking the tough steps that are needed to curb carbon dioxide emissions. Rather, it is a serious lack of political will and the continuous desire to kick the can down the road for another leader to take the tough calls that are needed. For more than 30 years, the world has known what needs to be done, to what extent and how urgently. The rich countries that have caused global warming by pumping hundreds of billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and that have pillaged natural resources from the world over have long since committed to cutting their own emissions and paying hundreds of billions of dollars to the poor countries, including almost all of Africa, to help them acquire technologies to curb their own emissions and to mitigate the effects of climate change. Yet, on both the counts, the Western world has failed the rest of humanity as, despite all the implications of unchecked global warming being displayed across the planet, most countries are behind their targets for cutting emissions and are likely to miss the targets set for 2025 and 2030, the cutoff dates strongly recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a global body of scientists mandated by the UN to track climate change and suggest measures. This year, with the Russia-Ukraine war leading to energy shortages, even "green and clean" Europe has moved back to relying more on coal-powered utilities. In the US, with the midterm elections looming, it is unlikely that one will see any of the several drastic cuts that the world's biggest polluter in terms of per capita emissions desperately needs to make. It is time for Africa to realize that, instead of looking to the outside world for help in dealing with climate change, it must chart its own course and protect its own environment the best it can, while keeping a close tab on the oil and mining sectors. African countries need to expand their access to energy, support green development, begin growing climate-resilient crops that can withstand summer droughts, and integrate local inputs into policy discussion and implementation. Perhaps it is also time to dust off the age-old idea of South-South cooperation, whereby developing countries come together and find their own localized solutions, instead of waiting eternally for Godot from the West. Ranvir S. Nayar is managing editor of Media India Group. Courtesy: Arab News

## Coming months critical for EU's future direction

Andrew Hammond

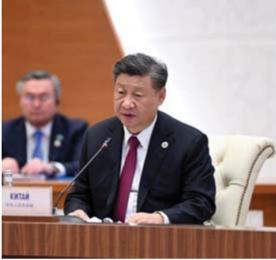
European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday gave her annual state of the union address amid a crossroads moment for the continent. Almost three years into her presidency, Brussels faces a tipping point between the possibility of a brighter new dawn versus an array of challenges both new and old, from the Ukraine conflict to the growth of euroscepticism. If fortune favors the EU and its 27 member states, there may now be a window of opportunity for the bloc to build back better. When Von der Leyen took office in December 2019, there was no way she could have foreseen how her presidency would unfold, with the pandemic being the most decisive challenge of her first two years, before being superseded by Ukraine in 2022. Since Russia's invasion in February, the EU has faced a first-order crisis that could yet worsen this autumn and winter, despite the gains that Ukraine has made on the battlefield in recent days. What began seven decades ago as a trade bloc binding former warring nations together is today an economic heavyweight with strong potential in broader foreign affairs. And it may have crossed a Rubicon in 2022, including financing, for the first time, the purchase of lethal weapons for a third-party country (Ukraine) and imposing such unprecedented sanctions on Russia. Another example of the possibly transformative context the EU now finds itself in is the breakthrough Von der Leyen helped forge last year in persuading member states to agree to give the bloc, for the first time in its history, debt-raising powers to finance a €750 billion (\$748 billion) post-coronavirus recovery plan. For some, that showed that Europe may be moving much more decisively toward fiscal federalism, not just ever closer political union. In her big speech on Wednesday — perhaps the most important of her career to date — the former

German defense minister outlined her vision for the post-pandemic EU, including energy market reform as a result of the Ukraine war. In essence, this vision builds from the manifesto for economic recovery she is championing, including through the EU's "Green New Deal." Von der Leyen believes it is critical for the bloc of more than 400 million people to be ambitious and seize the initiative in the coming years, as "standing still is falling back." This is because, as well as opportunities on the horizon, there is also a gathering storm, with the growth of domestic and external challenges that may be without precedent in the postwar era. On the domestic front, there has been a significant rise in anti-EU, nationalist sentiment across the continent, which has seen populist and far-right arguments coming to the fore, as well as the perceived erosion of the fundamental values of liberal democracy. While Brexit exemplifies this, the problem is by no means limited to the UK. Indeed, Emmanuel Macron admitted in 2018 that even France, one of the two traditional motors of EU integration alongside Germany, would probably have voted to leave the EU if presented with a similar choice to the UK's 2016 referendum. On the international front, there is also a new geopolitical reality, which features not just an increasingly assertive Russia, but also China and instability in the Middle East that has driven the migration problems impacting Europe. There is also the uncertainty in transatlantic ties, with some across the continent fearing the significant possibility that Donald Trump may again run for the US presidency in 2024. Von der Leyen's speech therefore made clear that the decisions taken in the next few months will help define the EU's longer-term political and economic character in the face of multiple challenges and opportunities. She is right to argue that now is the time for the bloc to forge a new, stronger path into the mid-2020s and beyond. Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics. Courtesy: Arab News

# Chinese President urges SCO to strengthen cooperation

SCO has succeeded in exploring a new path for development of international organizations

SAMARKAND: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to uphold the Shanghai Spirit, strengthen unity and cooperation, and promote the building of an even closer SCO community with a shared future.



Xi made the remarks while attending the 22nd meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO, during which he delivered a speech entitled "Ride on the Trend of the Times and Enhance Solidarity and Cooperation to Embrace a Better Future."

In the speech, Xi pointed out that this year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Long-Term Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Guided by the two founding documents, the SCO has succeeded in exploring a new path for the development of international organizations, and there is much to be drawn upon

from its enlightening practices, including upholding political trust, mutually beneficial cooperation, equality, openness and inclusiveness, and equity and justice. These five points fully embody the Shanghai Spirit, namely mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for diversity of civilizations and pursuit of common development, said Xi.

China-Türkiye relations have maintained a momentum of growth, with steady progress in practical cooperation and effective collaboration against the pandemic.

Currently, the international community is faced with multiple opportunities as well as challenges, Xi noted. He pointed out that China and Türkiye, both being major developing countries and emerging markets, share many common interests in defending their respective rights and interests, pursuing development and rejuvenation, and safeguarding international justice.

China is ready to work with Türkiye to elevate the strategic cooperative relations to a higher level, Xi said. Xi underscored that the two sides need to enhance political mutual trust, earnestly respect each other's core interests, and

consolidate the political foundation of China-Türkiye strategic cooperative relations. It is important to focus on development cooperation, make good use of the various bilateral cooperation mechanisms and respective strengths, work for more fruits in the high-quality Belt and Road cooperation, and contribute to the security of the global industrial and supply chains as well as food and energy security, Xi said.

The two sides need to advocate true multilateralism, uphold international fairness and justice, and strengthen cooperation in multilateral organizations including the United Nations, the G20, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Xi added.

Erdogan noted the important progress in Türkiye-China relations in various areas and expressed the readiness to work with China to leverage bilateral mechanisms such as the inter-governmental cooperation committee to promote even more fruitful trade and investment cooperation between the two countries.

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## Japan expresses solidarity with Pakistan



Spokesman Report

TOKYO: Seishiro Eto, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan and Chairman, Japan-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship League (JPPFL) visited the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo to express solidarity with the flood affectees on behalf of the Japanese Government.

The Japanese government will provide all possible support to flood affectees, he stated. He also expressed support for long-term rehabilitation efforts in this regard, says a press release received here today from Tokyo, Japan. Ms. Ismat Hassan Sial thanked him for his visit to the Embassy. Further ways of enhancing future relations were also discussed.

## Pakistan stands in solidarity with Azerbaijan's right to territorial integrity: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Friday expressed his grief over the loss of 70 Azerbaijani troops in an unprovoked attack by Armenia and said Pakistan stands in solidarity with Azerbaijan's right to defend its territorial integrity.

The Prime Minister, who is currently in Uzbekistan's city Samarkand to participate in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, expressed his sorrow over the incident.

In a tweet addressed to the president of Azerbaijan, the prime minister said, "Dear brother, we are saddened on hearing news of the loss of more than 70 Azerbaijani servicemen in unprovoked attack by Armenia."

He said, "The people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with their brethren and support Azerbaijan's right to defend its territorial integrity."

## Seven dead as flash floods hit Italy's Marche region

ITALY: Heavy rains and floods hit the central Italian region of Marche from the late hours of Thursday, killing at least seven people, while three others were still missing, Italian media reported on Friday.

Local authorities said they did not expect such a sudden "water bomb", as around 400 millimetres of rain fell within two to three hours, inundating the streets of several towns in the Ancona and Pesaro-Urbino provinces.

Footage released by fire brigades showed operators navigating the streets of seaside town Senigallia on rafters to rescue people and evacuate them, while others attempted to clear an underpass of debris.

Rescue services were still searching for survivors, authorities were quoted as saying. Meanwhile, the leader of Italy's centre-left Democratic Party (PD) wrote on Twitter that it would stop its campaign in the region ahead of the Sept. 25 national election.

## Iran's permanent membership in SCO becomes official

TEHRAN: The 22nd Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit on Friday officially announced Iran's accession to the permanent membership of the regional international organization.

Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev whose country hosts the 22nd SCO summit officially announced Iran's status as a permanent member of the organization, which received the attendee's applause.

The 22nd SCO is ongoing in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, and is attended by heads of member states, SCO Secretary-General Jang Ming, and Director of the SCO RATS Executive Committee Ruslan Mirzayev.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has taken part in the summit at the invitation of the Uzbek President Mirziyoyev. He is in Uzbekistan since Wednesday and has met Mirziyoyev and several participating heads of states.

Iran has been granted permanent member status which is in finalization process and has signed obligation memorandums in Raisi's ongoing visit.

## China's Shenzhou-14 astronauts to conduct 2nd extravehicular activities

BEIJING: China's Shenzhou-14 astronauts will conduct extravehicular activities (EVAs) for the second time within the next few days, the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) announced on Friday.

The Shenzhou-14 astronauts are now in good condition, and the space station combination is operating stably, with the conditions in place for the crew's second EVAs, the CMSA said.

Since completing the first EVAs, the astronauts have conducted the recovery of EVAs, tested and operated the mechanical arm, and made preparations for the second EVAs.

They also continued to carry out space science experiments and tests, such as space material research and the cultivation of higher plants, according to the CMSA.

# ASEAN, Russia vow to further deepen bilateral economic ties

SIEM REAP: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Russia on Friday emphasized the need to further deepen their bilateral economic relations to quicken their post-COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery, according to a joint media statement.



The remarks were made during the 11th ASEAN-Russia Economic Ministers Consultation in northwest Cambodia's Siem Reap province, co-chaired by Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak and Vladimir Ilyichev, Russia's deputy Minister of Economic Development.

The two-way trade between ASEAN and Russia amounted to 20 billion U.S. dollars last year, up 27.3 percent from 2020, the statement said, adding that the bilateral foreign direct investment (FDI) amounted to 1.7 billion dollars.

It said Russia is ASEAN's ninth largest trading partner and source of FDI among ASEAN Dialogue Partners in 2021.

The meeting noted that the post-COVID-19 economic recovery remains vulnerable to adverse global economic developments such as rising global food and energy prices that have caused rising global inflation.

The meeting "emphasized the need to further deepen ASEAN-Russia bilateral

economic relations to promote cooperation in addressing comprehensive post-pandemic recovery, by sustaining open market to navigate the supply chain disruption, reinforcing trade and investment, and supporting safe and seamless mobility," the statement said.

Speaking at a press conference at the end of the meeting, Cambodian Ministry of Commerce's Undersecretary of State and Spokesman Penn Sovicheat said the meeting also highlighted the need to strengthen cooperation in digital and sustainable economy, which could play an important role in facilitating trade for post-pandemic recovery. He said the meeting welcomed the

progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-Russia Trade and Investment Work Program 2021-2025.

"The meeting encouraged ASEAN and Russia to continue implementing the work program effectively and to focus further on ASEAN-Russia's priority areas of cooperation that are critical to economic integration between the regions and to post-pandemic recovery efforts, such as digitalization, energy transition, green infrastructure, and supply chain resilience," Sovicheat said.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Angola's Joao Lourenco takes oath as president

LUANDA: Angola's Joao Lourenco took the oath of office for a second term as the country's president at an inauguration ceremony held in Luanda, the Angolan capital.

Joao Lourenco of the ruling People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) took the oath of office in the presence of at least 12 heads of state and dozens of other representatives.

The re-elected president during the inauguration pledged to be the president of all Angolans and promote economic development and the population's well-being. Lourenco praised the Angolan people for making the best options and choosing with great responsibility the future of their country.

"By electing the MPLA and its candidate, they bet on continuity as a secured way to guarantee peace, stability, and the country's economic and social development," Lourenco said.

He also congratulated all political parties and coalitions for their participation in the elections, which he said contributed to the strengthening of democracy in the resource-rich country.

He pledged to dedicate all his efforts to the permanent quest for the best solutions to address the country's main problems, starting with the social sector.

## Posters appear in Telangana against Indian Home Minister

HYDERABAD: Posters have been displayed against Indian Home Minister Amit Shah at the Sikandarabad Parade Ground in Hyderabad city of the Indian State of Telangana.

Amit Shah will visit Hyderabad tomorrow (Saturday) and attend a rally at the parade ground. Unknown persons have placed the posters in the ground.

In the posters put up by the Cantonment Youth, some questions have been asked of the Bharatiya Janata Party's fascist government. Some posters have written that it is the BJP government that has taken Telangana's self-respect hostage.

The posters raised twenty questions and asked what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done for the development of the state

# Zelenskiy alleges torture, war crimes evidence in recaptured northeast

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Friday many Ukrainians were buried at various sites in the newly-recaptured northeast including whole families and people who were tortured, likening the aftermath to Russia's withdrawal from near Kyiv months ago.



In an interview at his presidential office, he told Reuters an investigation was underway with international assistance and that there was evidence of Russian war crimes in those areas.

"As of today, there are 450 dead people, buried. But there are others, separate burials of many people. Tortured people. Entire families in certain territories," he said. Asked if there was evidence of war crimes, he said: "All this is there. Investigative commissions with international partners, joint investigative commissions," he said.

"Our prosecutors are also working with international ones. There is some evidence, and assessments are being conducted, Ukrainian and international,

and this is very important for us, for the world to recognise this." Russia denies targeting civilians and has said in the past that accusations of human rights abuses are a smear campaign.

The governor of Kharkiv region, Oleh Synhubov, told reporters on Friday at one of the burial sites in the city of Izium

that some bodies exhumed there had been found with their hands tied behind their backs.

Moscow has not commented on the mass burial site in Izium, which was a Russian frontline stronghold before Ukraine's counter-offensive forced its forces to flee.

# APHC concerned over stepped up arrest spree by Indian police, troops

SRINAGAR: All Parties Hurriyat Conference has expressed serious concern over the arrest spree unleashed by Indian police and troops across Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to create a sense of fear among the people and force them to give up their just freedom struggle.

The APHC spokesman in a statement issued in Srinagar said the Indian forces' personnel have arrested dozens of people including leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami during house raids and cordon and search operations in Srinagar, Badgam, Pulwama, Islamabad, Kulgam, Shopian, Baramulla, Bandipora, Rajouri and

other districts of the occupied territory in the last few days.

He said, the occupation authorities have booked many of the arrested persons including religious leaders, Maulana Abdul Rasheed Dawoodi, Maulana Mushtaq Ahmad Veeri and Abdul Majeed Dar Almadni, under draconian law, Public Safety Act. The APHC said that such brutal tactics could not subdue the freedom sentiment of the Kashmiri people and they would continue their struggle till it reached its logical conclusion.

The occupation authorities once again disallowed senior APHC leader, Mirwaiz Umar

Farooq, to offer the Juma prayers at historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. The Mirwaiz has been under continued illegal house detention since 5th August 2019 when Modi-led fascist Indian government repealed the special status of IIOJK.

Meanwhile, as part of its settler colonialism agenda in IIOJK, Modi regime has intensified the process of granting land ownership rights to non-state subjects. In its latest move, the Modi regime is granting land ownership rights to Hindu refugees who had migrated from Pakistan post partition in 1947 and settled in different areas of

the territory. These Hindu refugees, known as West Pakistan refugees as they had migrated from then what was called West Pakistan, had not been given the ownership rights as they were not the State Subjects of IIOJK. However, under the new domicile law introduced by Modi government after abrogation of special status of IIOJK, non-Kashmiris can own land in the occupied territory.

In Geneva, Kashmiri representatives Altaf Hussain Wani, Syed Faiz Naqshbandi, Sardar Amjad Yousaf Khan, Ms Shameem Shawl and Ms Saira Shah taking part in general



debate during the ongoing 51st session of the UN Human Rights Council urged the world body to appoint a Commission

of Inquiry to investigate the grave human rights violations perpetrated by Indian troops in IIOJK. They also urged the Council to utilise the UN mechanisms to protect the life and dignity of the people of the occupied territory.

A group of protesters disrupted the Jaipur Literature Festival in New York event over the presence of a Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Shazia Ilmi, saying that she represented genocide of Muslims and deep betrayal. Earlier, three writers had withdrawn from the event over the presence of BJP spokesperson, Shazia Ilmi.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,772.09	41,679.49
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,916.86	41,603.48
Index Value	Change
7,736,013,671	-92.60
Percentage	Time
-0.22%	16 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,239.89	-40.77
Percentage	Time
-0.57%	16 Sept, 4:28 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
30,633.83	-327.99
Percentage	Time
-1.06%	16 Sept, 11:29 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,567.65	-308.26
Percentage	Time
-1.11%	16 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	158.89	160.14
Bahrain Dinar	629.83	634.33
Canadian Dollar	179.4	180.75
China Yuan	33.76	34.01
Danish Krone	31.58	31.93
Euro	239.5	241.7
Hong Kong Dollar	30.17	30.52
Indian Rupee	2.96	3.04
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.65
Kuwaiti Dinar	766.35	771.35
Malaysian Ringgit	51.92	52.37
New Zealand \$	141.55	142.75
Norwegians Krone	23.29	23.59
Omani Riyal	615.09	619.59
Qatari Riyal	64.58	65.08
Saudi Riyal	63.8	64.4
Singapore Dollar	168.05	169.35
Swedish Korona	21.99	22.29
Swiss Franc	246.53	248.28
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	65.8	66.4
UK Pound Sterling	278	280.5
US Dollar	240.2	241.2

# Pakistan should integrate with \$20 trillion SCO economy

President FPCCI says Pakistan must aggressively promote its trade, investment and economic ties with the SCO nations

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has emphasized that Pakistan must aggressively promote its trade, investment and economic ties with the SCO nations; as the formidable bloc has a cumulative GDP of \$20 trillion. This will mean broadening of export markets, becoming part of major supply routes of the world, major joint ventures, transfer of technology and foreign direct investment (FDI) by major retail groups & industrial conglomerates from SCO countries, he added.

President FPCCI noted that Pakistan has many close allies in SCO and these bilateral & multilateral relations should be translated into commercial & economic relations through people-to-people, business-to-business and chamber-to-chamber relations; and, joint trade promotion activities. He added that an economic bloc with a GDP of \$20 trillion can uplift Pakistan out of all its economic shortcomings; provided we work hard and diligently to tap the opportunities & potential that SCO offers.

Being the President of country's apex body, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh represented Pakistan in the



Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, is seen in a group photo along with delegates of other countries during Board Meeting of the Business Council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Uzbekistan.

board meeting of the high-powered business council of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); which held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. He apprised the audiences of the economic aftermath of the most devastating floods of Pakistan's history and the need for the international

community to swiftly provide the much needed relief and assistance. He elaborated that the extent of damage is so much that Pakistan will need upwards of \$15 billion for rehabilitation of the affected populace and reconstruction of the infrastructure.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh apprised the SCO Business Council that Pakistan has implemented land-based logistics convention, i.e. TIR, measures initially for Turkey and Azerbaijan; and, by the end of this year, we are going to start land-based transportation to Uzbekistan as well. Eventually, through TIR, Pakistan will expand to Russia and other Central Asian states. He informed that TIR has cut short the transit time by two-thirds and more than halved the transit cost for the trial consignments to Turkey.

FPCCI Chief has highlighted that SCO region offers enormous potential for Pakistani exports in goods and services; and export of skilled & semi-skilled workforce. He has offered to collaborate on regional trade exhibitions and exchange of trade delegations. Pakistan can multiply exports of its world-class products & services to SCO countries; namely, value-added textiles; IT & ITES services; surgical instruments; sports goods; cultural artifacts; rice, fruits & vegetables and precious stones & minerals. The time has come that we should look east and expand, enrich and diversify our trade, investments and economic relations with the new & untapped markets, he added.

# Economy collapsing due to political turmoil

Targeted subsidy of 25000 be given to flood affectees, says Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday expressed concern over the continued retreat of rupee against the dollar which is resulting in inflation and other problems.

However, the fall of the rupee is also generating additional resources for the government in the form of customs duty and sales tax, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that concrete steps are needed to increase the country's exports and remittances to keep the currency stable otherwise the already weak economy will further deteriorate.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the government is not able to give the required attention to the economy due to the endless political turmoil. Apart from this, due to dollar smuggling, increased trade deficit, lack of investment and non-fulfilment of promises by friendly countries, the value of the rupee is decreasing, while the IMF loan



did not stabilise foreign exchange reserves as expected, he added.

He noted that the government lifted the ban on luxury goods under pressure which has allowed dollars to flow out of the country while imposing regulatory duties to control imports has also yielded nothing. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that India, Bangladesh and dozens of countries control imports through import tariffs, but this is not happening in Pakistan.

He said that the flood victims are

not getting the attention they deserve. More than one million houses have been completely or partially destroyed, more than eight million cattle have been killed, and eighty out of one hundred and sixty districts have been affected by floods, which have been declared disaster-prone. Three thousand kilometres of roads and one hundred and forty-five bridges have been washed away while two million acres of crops have also been destroyed.

In these circumstances, there is a need to keep a significant amount of money in the budget for relief and reconstruction. Due to the high value of the dollar, the government is receiving an additional hundred billion rupees per month in the form of customs duty and sales tax.

If a monthly targeted subsidy is provided to every family, these people can be rehabilitated, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that various diseases including cholera, diarrhoea, dengue and corona are emerging in the flood-affected areas and the victims are forced to live under the open sky, hungry and thirsty. The international community also needs to wake up to the problems faced by humanity.



RAWALPINDI: RCCI President Ch. Nadeem A. Rauf holds meeting with Ms. Saima Younus, Additional Commissioner, Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA). Senior Vice President Asim Malik, President Elect Saqib Rafiq, President Markazi Anjum Tajran Rawalpindi and Punjab Malik Shahid Ghafoor Pracha, Executive Members Bilal Maqbool and Hassan Mustafa were also present in the meeting.

# Chahyay.com launches range of health, beauty products

**Our Correspondent**

KARACHI: One of Pakistan's leading e-commerce-based lifestyle brands - Chahyay.com - has launched a range of health and beauty products to the Pakistani market and ever since its launch, it has continued to grow. Chahyay is the first Pakistani brand to allow consumers to buy customized furniture and home accessories online. With the foray into health and beauty, the brand aims to become Pakistan's foremost lifestyle shopping destination, with everything available at the click of a button.

With the health and beauty segment on the rise, along with consumer's increasing reliance on online shopping, the brand achieved huge success right after its initial launch. As the time passes by, and demand for quality products and white glove services increased, investors got the confident to double down as the business was going through hyper growth. Pakistani-American entrepreneurs Mohammad

Arsalan, and Omar Mahmood selected the start-up Chahyay.com as their first investment into the local Pakistani market who were later joined by Mikhaal Zulfikar. Having built and managed successful companies in the United States, they plan to introduce proven E-Commerce, Customer Experience, and Digital Strategies in Pakistan, as well as continue to build strategic alliances and identify further areas of investment opportunity in Pakistan.

Chahyay has distinguished itself from other e-commerce brands in terms of reliability, standards and personalized customer service. The brand has been successful in countering the online scamming culture when it comes to shopping for large, expensive articles like a bed, sofa set, or dining table set. This business also focuses on producing high-quality Pakistani craft that is not just contemporary but also strictly meets international high-quality control standards put in place by experienced professionals.

# MMBL promotes financial inclusion, supports farmers

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited, VEON's financial services arm and the largest digital bank in Pakistan, launched three major microfinance initiatives as part of its continuing efforts to financially empower women entrepreneurs and to support small and medium-sized farmers in the country. The initiatives were formally launched by VEON Group CEO, Kaan Terzioglu, during his recent visit to Pakistan.

As part of the first initiative, Mobilink Microfinance Bank (MMBL) has launched low-cost 4G handsets for customers, especially female entrepreneurs, aimed at driving participation in the digital economy among marginalized groups within the population. The substantially discounted Digit 4G handsets will be available across Mobilink Microfinance Bank's vast branch network and will come pre-loaded with the bank's digital banking application, MMBL DOST, that will enable customers to obtain quick financial assistance, pay bills, make money transfers and use a vast array of



digital banking services. Going forward, Mobilink Microfinance Bank will be offering these subsidized 4G handsets as part of its loan portfolio.

Under the second initiative, Mobilink Microfinance Bank has collaborated with Daraz, Pakistan's largest e-commerce platform, to help incentivise and upskill female entrepreneurs with brick-and-mortar stores to go digital and expand their customer outreach across the country. Under the partnership, female customers will be charged 0% commission for the first three months of their onboarding, giving them ample time to set up their businesses on the digital platform. Moreover, female

sellers using Daraz will be able to open accounts digitally and apply for Mobilink Microfinance Bank loans at concessionary rates. Although females comprise almost half of the country's population, their financial inclusion figure stands at 7%[1]. With a growing 3G/4G subscriber base in the country that currently represents 53% of the total 195 million cellular subscribers[2], Mobilink Microfinance Bank, under its flagship Women Inspirational Network (WIN) programme, aims to support an enabling digital financial ecosystem for empowering women, an underserved, yet influential segment of the country through such initiatives.

# Emirates, United expand market presence

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Emirates and United announced a historic commercial agreement today that will enhance each airline's network and give their customers easier access to hundreds of new destinations\* within the United States and around the world.

From November, Emirates customers flying into Chicago, San Francisco, and Houston—three of the biggest business hubs in the U.S—will be able to easily connect onto United flights to and from nearly 200 cities across the Americas on a single ticket.

At the eight other U.S. airports served by Emirates - Boston, Dallas, LA, Miami, JFK, Orlando, Seattle and Washington DC - both airlines will have an interline arrangement in place.

United will launch a new direct flight between Newark and Dubai starting in March 2023 - from there, customers will



be able to travel on Emirates or its sister airline flydubai to more than 100 cities. Tickets for United's new Dubai flight are now on sale.

Emirates and United announced their agreement today at a ceremonial event at Dulles International Airport, hosted by United CEO Scott Kirby and Emirates President Sir Tim Clark, featuring United and Emirates Boeing 777-300ER aircraft and flight crews from each carrier.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline said: "Two of the biggest, and best-known airlines in the world are joining hands to fly people better to more places, at a time when travel demand is rebounding with a

vengeance. It's a significant partnership that will unlock tremendous consumer benefit and bring the United Arab Emirates and the United States even closer. We welcome United's return to Dubai next year, where our hub Dubai essentially becomes a gateway for United to reach Asia, Africa and the Middle East via the combined network of Emirates and flydubai. We look forward to developing our partnership with United for the long term."

Scott Kirby, CEO of United Airlines said: "This agreement unites two iconic, flag carrier airlines who share a common commitment to creating the best customer experience in the skies. United's new flight to Dubai and our complementary networks will make global travel easier for millions of our customers, helping boost local economies and strengthen cultural ties. This is a proud moment for both United and Emirates employees, and I look forward to our journey together."

# 'Sarsabz Paagh' award recognizes top-performing dealers



**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: In our region, a turban or "paagh" is considered a symbol of honor. Accordingly, Fatima Fertilizer invited 180 of its top performing dealers from all over Pakistan to attend a special awards ceremony held in recognition of their outstanding performance and support to the company. The awards were associated with the title of "Sarsabz Paagh" with the objective of recognizing and encouraging those Sarsabz dealers who attributed their success to the success of Fatima Fertilizer. More than 40 high-profile farmers who achieved top yields in their districts were also invited to the event along with the dealers. The company honored them and expressed its commitment to creating a deeper bond with the end user of their fertilizers i.e. the farmers. These farmers are key recommenders of the latest technology, nitrate-based Sarsabz Fertilizers and high-end farm services provided by Fatima Fertilizers.

The invited dealers expressed their full confidence in Fatima Fertilizer who has always promoted their important role in ensuring the country-wide availability of fertilizer to help the farmers. The event was attended by senior officials of Fatima Fertilizer, including Rabel Sadozai, Director of Sales and Marketing at Fatima Fertilizer.

While expressing her views, Rabel Sadozai said, "Dealers play a pivotal role in ensuring country-wide availability of fertilizer to support the farmers. The main purpose of introducing the Sarsabz Paagh program is to honor and recognize the important role of Sarsabz dealers in enabling the agriculture sector to contribute toward economic prosperity and achieve food security at the national level. While the havoc caused by recent floods has inflicted serious damage to the agriculture sector, it also indicates that we need to work together with unity and mutual recognition to recover from this crisis."

# POL import bill up by 6.97% to \$3.3b in 2 months

ISLAMABAD: The imports of overall petroleum group witnessed an increase of 6.97 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

During the period under review, the total imports of the petroleum group during July-August (2022-23) stood at \$3,302.159 million, as against the imports of \$3,087.113 million last year, according to the latest data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products rose by 7.75 percent, from \$1,539.417 million last year to \$1,658.647 million during the period under review.

The imports of petroleum crude also increased by 10.46 percent, from \$818.884 million last year to \$904.522 million during July-August (2022-23) whereas the imports of liquefied petroleum gas surged by 41.50 percent from \$77.356 million

to \$109.460 million. The imports of all other petroleum group commodities (except LNG) increased by 79.07 percent, from \$0.043 million to \$0.077 million.

The only petroleum commodity that witnessed negative growth in trade was Liquefied Natural Gas, the imports of which declined by 3.37 percent, from \$651.413 million to \$629.453 million.

Meanwhile, on year-on-year basis, the petroleum group imports witnessed an increase 6.21 percent during the month of August 2022 as compared to the same month of last year.

The petroleum imports during August 2022 were recorded at \$1,865.979 million against the imports of \$1,756.826 million during August 2021.

On month-on-month basis, the petroleum imports into the country also increased by 29.93 percent during August 2022 when compared to the imports of \$1,436,180 million in July 2022, the data revealed. APP

# DG Sports Punjab inaugurates National Inter-School Swimming C'ship

*Tariq Qureshi says the event is part of our talent scheme*

✍️ Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi inaugurated 2-day McDonald's 15th National Inter-School Boys and Girls Age Group Swimming Championship at State-of-the-Art Punjab International Swimming Complex on Friday.

Chief Sports Consultant Hafeez Bhatti, Divisional Swimming Coach Rafi uz Zaman and other officials were also present at the opening ceremony.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi distributed prizes and medals among the top performers of the event. The participants also had group photographs with Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi on this occasion.

Talking to media, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that more than 400 school children from all over the country are



participating in U-6, U-8, U-10, U-12, U-14, U-16 & Open age group categories in 15th National Inter-School Boys and Girls Age Group Swimming

Championship being organized under the aegis Sports Board Punjab.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that this event is part of our talent scheme and we are quite upbeat to find several talented swimmers from this event. "This event is a continuation of our talent hunt campaign in different games. In recent days, we have launched swimming, tennis and table tennis academies in Nishtar Park Sports Complex," he informed.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said the holding of 2-day McDonald's 15th National Inter-School Boys and Girls Age Group Swimming Championship is good omen for the promotion of swimming among the young boys and girls. "Sports Board Punjab is fully cooperating for the holding of this swimming championship. We are taking all essential measures for the growth of sports culture in the province".

## Fountain aspires to instil wicket-taking habits in new generation of fielders

LAHORE: The PCB Pathway Programme enters its last week before the participants join their respective Pakistan Junior League sides, end September. The five foreign coaches hired to work for the Engro Cricket Coaching Project under the pathway programme are focusing on sharpening the cricketing skills of the next generation of Pakistan stars at the National High Performance Centre, Lahore.

Renowned fielding coach Julien Fountain and batting coach Toby Radford arrived in Lahore earlier this week to join power-hitting coach Julian Wood, bowling coach Gordon Parsons and strength and conditioning coach Nick Webb to complete the foreign coaches' roster for the Engro Cricket Coaching Project.

Fountain has rich experience of fielding profession-

al sides including his stint with the Pakistan senior team, 2012-2014. Besides Pakistan, Fountain has also worked with Bangladesh, West Indies and various domestic and franchise sides around the world including Quetta Gladiators.

Fountain was with the Gladiators for the first six editions of the HBL Pakistan Super League.

Julien Fountain: "Pakistan is just like home for me, I am thrilled to be here again, the pathway programme is a fantastic initiative and I am looking forward to an exciting time with these youngsters who are the future stars of Pakistan cricket."

"In my earlier stints both with the national side and at the academy, I have found the players incredibly receptive and keen on learning and I am glad that this time around

I am fully dedicated to working with them as at the U19 level we can develop some great athletes and fielders.

"Coaching these youngsters will help Pakistan cricket build a foundation to give these young players, the skill, the technique, the tactics, the attitude and the life skills so that when they come into the Pakistan system for real, they will have the ability to deal with not only the foreign coaches but they will have the ability to fit in a professional system very quickly and that can only help Pakistan cricket."

"Fielding is as experts say, one discipline of the game that you can improve on even if you don't have the natural talent for it. The basic mantra of fielding that I want to instil in these players is wicket-taking, the fielders have to go on the field with

the belief that they can take wickets [through run outs and catches]."

More than 60 players between 16 and 19 years of age are being trained by the coaches while PCB's local coaches are also providing assistance in various disciplines in the revolutionary pathway programme that is aimed at developing the future stars from an all-round perspective.

Besides receiving world-class cricket coaching under the Engro Cricket Coaching Project, the players will also get education and life skills training.

The players will get the opportunity of showcasing their newly learned skills at the inaugural edition of the six-team Pakistan Junior League that commences in Lahore on Thursday, 6 October.

## Madrid derby doubts over Benzema and Griezmann

MADRID: Atletico Madrid are determined to put a dent in reigning champions Real Madrid's 100 percent record when the teams meet on Sunday in the derby at the Wanda Metropolitano in La Liga.

Carlo Ancelotti may be without last season's top scorer Karim Benzema, who is racing against time to recover from a thigh injury, but that hasn't stopped his team continuing their perfect start.

"We'll see if he can train or not, we won't take risks," said the Italian coach. "If he trains well, then he will play."

Last weekend, Real Madrid thrashed Real Mallorca 4-1 with Eden Hazard as a false nine. On Wednesday night they fought their way to a 2-0 win over RB Leipzig with Rodrygo operating in the middle.

Madrid lifted the European Super Cup against Eintracht Frankfurt and have eight wins from eight games across all competitions. Although they are not dominating games, there is a certain inevitability about Ancelotti's side so far.

"I haven't asked the team to play fantastic football," said Ancelotti after the scrappy win over Leipzig. "I asked them to play a simple game, to win."

Benzema's return would improve the fluidity of Madrid's attack, while there are question marks over a French striker across town for Atletico too.

Antoine Griezmann has only been used off the bench so far in this campaign, despite coach Diego Simeone admitting the team is at their best when the forward plays.

"When Griezmann is on the pitch, the team plays better," said a frustrated Simeone. "He links well when it comes to building the play with Joao (Felix)."

With Atletico involved in a transfer wrangle with Barcelona over Griezmann and trying to avoid paying a 40 million euro clause to make his loan deal permanent if he plays over 50 percent of the time, it has been a frustrating start to the season for the forward.

Atletico improved after Griezmann came on against Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League on Tuesday, but they lost 2-0 in Germany.

Simeone and his team earned a 1-0 home win over Real Madrid in May, but it was after Ancelotti's side had wrapped up the title.

Although Atletico are aiming to prove otherwise on Sunday, it seems the greatest threat to Madrid's title defence are their eternal rivals, Barcelona.

Xavi's side have only dropped two points domestically and are looking to get back on their feet after Champions League loss to Bayern Munich on Tuesday. Barca host Elche on Saturday.

## Carrefour, VISA team upto offer three fans chance to attend FIFA World Cup

✍️ Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Pakistan, has partnered with VISA, the Official Payment Services Partner of FIFA, to give three football fans the opportunity to win a free trip to the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. Customers who spend PKR 10,000 or more at Carrefour in-store and online through their Visa cards will be entered into the competition from September 1 to 28, 2022.

Customers can win one of three group stage match packages which will include flights to Qatar, 5-star hotel accommodation for 3nights, and access to 2 matches in each package for the winner and a plus one. The winners of the packages can watch Portugal vs. Ghana and Qatar vs Senegal matches



from November 23 to 26, 2022.

Alongside these prizes, Carrefour will be selecting winners through a draw to win gift vouchers worth PKR 5000 to PKR 50000, which can be redeemed in Carrefour stores.

Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan, said: "We are thrilled to have brought this partnership to life as we know that the whole of Pakistan shares our excitement for the most prestigious tournament in the

world. Pakistan has millions of football fans and we are extremely excited that Carrefour is able to be a part of the campaign this year."

Commenting on the partnership, Leila Serhan, Visa's Group Country Manager for North Africa, Levant and Pakistan, said: "In the run-up to the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, we are delighted to partner with Carrefour in Pakistan to offer football fans, shopping and spending in-store and online, a chance to win the trip of a lifetime as well as several prizes. By introducing this promotion, we hope to expose more and more consumers to the perks of the digital economy and support the government's ambitions of extending the benefits of digital payments – secure, convenient and rewarding – to more consumers in Pakistan."

## Bagnaia seeks to maintain title charge

ALCAÑIZ: Italy's Francesco Bagnaia bids to extend his extraordinary winning run to five successive races in the Aragon MotoGP this weekend which also features the return of six-time top-class world champion Marc Marquez.

Bagnaia's run has seen him reduce world champion Fabio Quartararo's lead in this year's championship to just 30 points with six races to go. Bagnaia, 25, is not unused to hot streaks as he won four of the 2021 season's last six races, the first his debut MotoGP success in Aragon.

His victory in Aragon came at the expense of Marquez in a thrilling duel but the latter who won the race in 2013 and then from 2016-19 is not holding out too many hopes of winning this time round.

The 29-year-old Spaniard has been on the sidelines since June



when he underwent an operation in the United States on his right arm, fractured in a crash in July 2020, the fourth time he has gone under the knife for the injury.

"We have decided that the best thing for my recovery is to continue on the bike, adding kilometres for next year," said Marquez. "Doing it at the Aragon GP, in front of all the fans, is priceless...

Looking forward to being on the bike and go full gas."

The Honda rider's absence has for some of his rivals left a big vacuum.

"Without Marquez, the world championship has been missing something," said Bagnaia's compatriot Enea Bastianini. "I think that it will be more fun with him present" Bagnaia for his part noted with astonishment how

Marquez had performed in tests at Misano last week. "In the end he always does the same thing," said Bagnaia.

"He's back after a long time and immediately he is fast." Bagnaia for his part is wary of talking about winning the title and becoming the first Italian MotoGP champion since the legend Valentino Rossi won the last of his seven crowns in 2009.

"We are approaching this weekend with the same approach as usual," said the Ducati rider. "To give our best on Friday and concentrate solely on the weekend's race, without thinking about the title."

"The circuit is generally a very good one for us, and I think we will be even faster this year than we were last year." Quartararo cut a disconsolate figure following the San Marino MotoGP a fortnight ago after finishing fifth.

Adding to the gloom the 23-year-old Frenchman has never fared well at Aragon, his best finish fifth. The Yamaha rider says this race will be for him "the most difficult of the MotoGPs" that remain.

However, he is looking beyond this weekend to the following races which he sees as offering him hopes of regaining momentum. "Japan, Thailand, Australia, these are circuits I really appreciate," he said. "We will try and put together a series of good results."

Quartararo will also have to keep an eye out for Spaniard Alex Espargaro, who is 33 points in arrears although the spark seems to have gone out of his campaign. The race will also see the return of 2020 world champion Joan Mir – who will partner Marquez next year at Honda – after he missed the San Marino MotoGP due to an ankle injury.

## Progress on sports development schemes reviewed

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Youth Affairs Shiza Fatima Khawaja presided over an online meeting to review progress on sports development schemes and youth projects on Friday.

The representative from all provinces, PILDAT and UNFPA participated in the online meeting. Deputy Secretary Planning/ Admin Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab Imtiaz Ahmed and Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan represented Punjab in the high-profile meeting.

Deputy Secretary Planning/ Admin Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab Imtiaz Ahmed and Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan briefed the chair about the Punjab's sports development projects and different sports events organised under the banner Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab.

Shiza Fatima Khawaja appreciated the effective measures taken by Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab for the promotion of sports across the province.

Deputy Secretary Planning/ Admin Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab Imtiaz Ahmed said that Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab has approved stipends for athletes and grant in aid for Sports Associations. "Pride of Punjab Sports Awards have also been initiated to acknowledge the meritorious services of sports icons of the country".

He said that first Youth Hostel (180 capacity) is ready and functional at Nishtar Park Sports Complex. "Punjab Youth Ambassador Programme has also been initiated and initially world snooker champion Ahsan Ramzan, tennis star Aisamul Haq, athlete Sahib-e-Asra and young record-breaking mountaineer Shehroz Kashif have been nominated Youth Ambassadors of Punjab".

## Additional tickets released for ICC Men's T20 WC

ISLAMABAD: With only 30 days to go until the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, additional tickets have been released for all matches, with the exception of the India v Pakistan fixture, which remains sold out.

Over 500,000 fans have already snapped up tickets to the T20 World Cup, which features the world's best cricketers from 16 international teams playing around seven Australian host cities, the ICC said in a press release on Friday. The ticket release includes the double-header at the SCG that features South Africa v Bangladesh and India v Group A runner-up, where the initial allocation of tickets were sold out.

There have also been a small number of tickets released for Australia's opening fixture against New Zealand at the SCG on October 22 to ensure as many as possible can attend.

A number of other matches have had additional category A and B allocations released, which were previously exhausted. Fans wishing to attend are encouraged to purchase tickets as soon as possible to avoid missing out on their desired matches and accessing the best seats available.

Tickets are available at t20worldcup.com with children's tickets starting from just \$5 and adult prices from \$20. The T20 World Cup gets underway on October 16 when Asia Cup champions Sri Lanka takes on Namibia at Kardinia Park Stadium. The final is set to be held on November 13 at MCG, where a new champion will be crowned.

## Serena welcomes Federer to retirement

NEW YORK: Serena Williams welcomed Roger Federer to the tennis "retirement club" on Thursday, saying she has always admired and looked up to the Swiss legend.

Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam champion, said Thursday he would retire after playing next week in London at the Laver Cup.

Among those sending congratulations to the 41-year-old icon for his tremendous career was 23-time Grand Slam winner Williams, who said she was "evolving" away from tennis, with last week's US Open expected to be her final tournament.

"I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest – perfectly done, just like your career," Williams said in an Instagram post.

"I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people – including me – and we will never forget."

Serena came as close as she has come to firmly saying her own career is complete by welcoming Federer into "the retirement club". "I applaud you and look forward to all that you do in the future," Williams wrote. "Welcome to the retirement club. And thank you for being you @rogerfederer."

## Schedule for inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 WC announced

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Friday announced the fixtures for the inaugural ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup.

The tournament will take place from January 14 to 29, 2023 in South Africa. As many as 16 teams are participating in the competition, making it one of the biggest ever ICC events, with 41 matches being played across 15 days.

Last month the venues were revealed with Benoni and Potchefstroom hosting the big event. Both cities hosted the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup in January 2020.

The qualification for the event began in June 2022, with four of the spots being decided by regional qualifiers and the last remaining spot going to USA on account of the side being the only Associate nation eligible to compete under the ICC's Event Pathway Participation Criteria in the Americas region.

The 16 teams constituting of 11 full ICC members and five associate teams have been split into four groups. The top three teams from each group will progress to the Super Six League stage, where teams from Group A will play against Group D and Group B will compete against Group C.

## Spurs stars aren't 'undroppable', warns Conte

LONDON: Antonio Conte has warned his Tottenham stars that no one is undroppable in the aftermath of their sloppy Champions League defeat at Sporting Lisbon.

Conte's side crashed to their first loss in eight games in all competitions this season as Sporting scored twice in stoppage-time to win 2-0 on Tuesday.

Although Tottenham had been in good form before their trip to Portugal, there have been concerns over the form of South Korea forward Son Heung-min. Son has failed to score a single goal this term after finishing as the Premier League's joint top-scorer last season.

Harry Kane also missed several chances in the Sporting defeat and Conte was quick to make it clear he won't tolerate sustained periods of poor form, even from his best players. "There are no players that are undroppable. This has to be very clear," Conte told reporters on Thursday.