



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

جابر بن عبد اللہ رضی اللہ عنہما کہتے تھے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ جس نے بسن بلیاڑ کھائی ہو تو اسے پانی سے نہ دھوئے۔

دور سے۔

(صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 5452)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Muqam for promoting national heritage with world

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday stressed the need for sharing national heritage with the world to promote soft and positive image of the country at abroad. "Pakistan is a cradle of ancient civilizations and blessed with world's best historical places and artifacts, which can be used to promote soft image of the country," said the adviser.



Babar Azam hopes to regain batting form in England T20Is

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam on Monday said that he hopes a seven-match series against England starting in Karachi this week will help him return to his best scoring form, after a lean Asia Cup earlier this month. "I hope to return to my best in this series... and it will be good if it happens before the World Cup," Azam said.

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PM to attend UNGA session; interact with world leaders

Spokesman Report

LONDON/ISLAMABAD: After completing his visit to the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has left for New York from Luton Airport to attend the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During his stay in New York, he will have important bilateral meetings with the leaders of other countries.

The Prime Minister will attend the reception of the Secretary General of the United Nations on Tuesday and will also meet French President Emmanuel Macron.

Besides, Shehbaz Sharif will also hold meetings with Austrian Chancellor and Spanish President on Tuesday.

He will meet the President of the European Union Council Charles Michael.

The Prime Minister will also participate in the Global Food Security Summit.

On Wednesday, Shehbaz Sharif will meet Managing Director of International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva and President World Bank David Mills.

Apart from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Shehbaz Sharif will also have a bilateral meeting with Iran's President Seyed Ibrahim Raisi. He will host a luncheon in honor of the President of Turkey and his wife on Wednesday.

Other engagements of the Prime Minister include meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Imai Sabri Yaqoob, President of the United Nations General Assembly, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai.

All set to attend UNGA session

Pakistan's High Commissioner in UK, Moazzam Ahmad Khan seeing off Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif upon his departure for New York to attend UNGA's 77th Session. 19th September, 2022.



Photo: PID

'Clarion call for swift action'

PM seeks world support for flood-hit children

Over 500 children lost their lives in unprecedented floods, rains, says Shehbaz Sharif

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday urged the world for swift action by taking as a clarion call the deaths of children during the massive floods in Pakistan.

Over 500 children lost their lives in the unprecedented floods and rains while around 16 million have been affected, according to official data.

"Let these children not be an arithmetic but a clarion call for swift action to rebuild their lives and future," the prime minister

PM attends State funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday joined world leaders and members of the royal family at the State funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, held at the Westminster Abbey. PM Sharif especially flew in to attend the last rites and funeral of the Queen, who passed away on September 8 at the age of 96. The prime minister also penned his condolatory message in the official condolence book at the Church House, conveying grief to the royal family, the people, and the government of the UK over the demise of Queen Elizabeth II.

ter posted on Twitter. PM Sharif stressed that the global conversation on Pakistan's flood devastation needed to be focused on the plight of children.

He mentioned that disaster had adversely affected millions of children with over 500 dead. "Super floods" in Pakistan have left 3.4 million children in need of "immediate, lifesaving support," according to UNICEF.

The floods - caused by record monsoon rains and dubbed by one minister as "the worst humanitarian disaster in a decade" - have impacted 16 million children in total, UNICEF's Pakistan Representative Abdullah Fadil said following his visit this week to the country's southern Sindh Province.

That estimate came as the country's National Disaster Management Authority updated the death toll from the floods since mid-June to 1,545 people, 552 of them children.

'Pak-China should further enhance strategic ties'

Chinese Defence Minister holds meeting with COAS

Spokesman Report

BELJING: State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe met with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa in Xi'an on Monday. Wei Fenghe first expressed his condolences over the deaths due to the severe floods in Pakistan and said that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic partners.

Under the leadership of the leaders of the two countries, the friendship between China and Pakistan has been strong for a long time, according to Chinese Ministry of Defense.

"We should work together on the way forward, take care of each other, and unwaveringly support each other's core interests", he added.

He said, no matter how the world situation changes, the rock-solid friendship between China and Pakistan will never change. It will always be the most reliable true friend and brother. In recent years, relations



between the two militaries have maintained a good development trend.

The two sides should further enhance strategic mutual trust, deepen pragmatic cooperation, continue to improve their ability to jointly respond to various risks and challenges, and work together to safeguard the common interests of the two countries and regional peace and stability, he added.

General Bajwa thanked President Xi Jinping and the Chinese government and army for their strong assistance to the floods in Pakistan.

Toshakhana reference

ECP reserves verdict in against Imran

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reserved its verdict in a reference seeking disqualification of PTI Chief Imran Khan over his failure to declare gifts he retained from the Toshakhana or the state gift repository.

The then-Prime Minister Imran Khan had retained gifts from the Toshakhana between 2018 and 2022 but failed to declare some of them in his annual statements of assets submitted before the ECP.

Under the law and rules, lawmakers are required to declare their assets with the ECP every year.

Multiple references were filed against Imran Khan after

it emerged that he retained some of the Toshakhana gifts to sell them on the market.

In a 60-page reply submitted earlier this month to the ECP bench hearing one of the references Imran Khan admitted that he did not declare some of the gifts.

During the hearing on Monday, Khan's counsel Barrister Ali Zafar completed his arguments and insisted that a failure to declare some types of assets did not warrant disqualification.

He said that in the reference filed by the National Assembly speaker Imran Khan has only been accused of hiding gifts between the years 2018 and 2019.

Country's exports touch \$20.9b

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in rupee term witnessed an increase of 40.53 per cent during the first two months of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding month of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports during July-August (2022-23) were recorded at Rs. 1,043,046 million as against the exports of Rs. 742,226 million in July-August (2021-22), showing an increase of 40.53 per cent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On year-on-year basis, the exports from the country increased by 48.67% and were recorded at Rs.548,326 million, against the exports of Rs.368,814 million in August 2021.

On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 10.84 per cent in August 2022 when compared to the exports of Rs. 494,720 million recorded in July, 2022.

The main commodities of exports during August, 2022 were knitwear (Rs. 99,362 million), readymade garments (Rs. 72,897 million), bed wear



(Rs. 57,055 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 43,159 million), rice other than Basmati (Rs.22,569 million), cotton yarn (Rs.19,679 million), towels (Rs.16,574 million), madeup articles (Excl. towels & bedwear) (Rs.13,355 million), petroleum crude (Rs.12,056 million) and rice Basmati (Rs.9,179 million).

On the other hand, imports during July - August, 2022 totaled Rs. 2,436,754 million as against Rs. 1,969,047 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 23.75%.

Imports into Pakistan during August, 2022 amounted to Rs. 1,341,024 million (provisional) as against Rs. 1,095,730

million in July, 2022 and Rs. 1,079,268 million during August, 2021 showing an increase of 22.39% over July, 2021 and of 24.25% over August, 2021.

The main commodities of imports during August, 2022 were petroleum products (Rs. 205,549 million), petroleum crude (Rs.104,572 million), palm oil (Rs. 92,096 million), natural gas, liquified (Rs.88,118 million), plastic materials (Rs. 46,649 million), wheat unmilled (Rs.44,977 million), electrical machinery & apparatus (Rs.43,114 million) iron & steel scrap (Rs.34,396 million), raw cotton (Rs. 32,916 million) and iron & steel Rs.32,617 million). APP

For review

Transgender rights bill should be forwarded to CII: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said the Transgender Rights Bill 2018 should be forwarded to the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) for review.

In an exclusive talk with APP, Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council said all religious organizations had apprehensions on the certain provisions of this bill and they should be addressed by taking the CII on board as per existing mechanism.

He said Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl's Senator Maulna Atta-ur-Rehman, Jamaat-e-Islami Senator Mushtaq Ahmed and others had expressed their reservations on the bill.

He was of the view that the best way to deal with issue was to send the aforesaid bill to the CII and it would present its recommendations to remove the clauses which were in contradiction to the Shariah. APP

Shehbaz won't achieve anything from US visit: Imran

IHC quashes terrorism charges against PTI chief

Spokesman Report

CHAKWAL/ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wouldn't achieve anything from his US visit.

Addressing a rally in Chakwal on Monday, he said that the floods have wreaked havoc in Sindh and Balochistan and flood water devastated the crops, while farmers couldn't sow crops due to water accumulated in the fields.

Imran Khan said that despite being in government for the past 14 years, the PPP couldn't complete work on Right Bank Canal on river Sindh, adding that the thieves of Sindh have sent the funds of Right Bank Canal project to Dubai.

Turning his guns towards PM Shehbaz Sharif, the PTI chairman said that insensitivity of Shehbaz Sharif can be witnessed that the one third of the country is swept by the floods and the premier has left for the US.

The former PM went on to say that the economy was flourishing during his tenure when his government was overthrown through conspiracy. "They run a propaganda campaign against my government with the help of their paid media houses that the country's economy was sinking during my tenure,"



he said. Imran Khan said the power tariff has been increased three-fold since the PML-N-led government came to power earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) has quashed the terrorism charges against former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan over his remarks against Additional Sessional Judge Zeba Chaudhry. A two-member bench, headed by IHC Chief Justice

Athar Minallah, announced the verdict - reserved earlier in the day - on PTI's plea, seeking dismissal of the case. The court ordered that proceedings on the other sections of the case would continue in the relevant forum.

During the hearing, IHC CJ Minallah inquired about the views given by the joint investigation team (JIT) at the outset of the trial. To which, the prosecutor - while quoting JIT - said the terrorism charges are applicable to Imran Khan's statement.

NADRA asked to develop database of flood-affectedees

Sindh CM says we want distribution of relief goods in smooth and transparent way

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meeting with Chairman of NADRA Tariq Malik urged him to develop a database and system for his government so that the distribution of relief goods and transfer of cash to the affected people could be made transparent.

"We want distribution of relief goods in such a smooth and transparent way so that each and every affected family can benefit."

The meeting held at CM House was attended by Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh, and Col Anees of NADRA.

The chief minister said that the heavy rains/floods have displaced around 1.5 million people and collapsed three million houses. "Presently over



600,000 people are living in camps and a similar number of affectees have temporarily settled along the main roads and highways," he said.

Mr. Shah said that the provincial and federal governments, friendly countries, and donor agencies were supporting us to provide relief goods to the affected people. "I want you (NADRA) to develop a database of the affected people on

a union council basis with the provision of making entry of providing relief goods being provided to them so that it can be verified," he said and added there must be digital details of the recipient and donor/administration giving them goods.

Chairman of NADRA Tariq Malik told the chief minister that his organization would develop the best database so that donations could reach the deserving people, and it could be checked.

The chairman of NADRA told the chief minister that they have started stationing their mobile units in the areas where their [NADRA] offices have collapsed and stopped functioning. At this, the CM urged him to give priority to the people whose CNICs have expired.

The chief minister was told that all the expired CNICs have been validated up to December 31, 2022. "It means all the expired CNICs are valid till the end of December 2022," he said.

The matter of cash transfer to the flood-affected people also came under discussion and NADRA chief suggested that the affected people would be given a facility to open their bank accounts only on their CNIC. "These accounts can be opened in mobile bank units to be stationed at relief camps/affected villages by partner banks," he suggested.

The chief minister directed Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput to further discuss with the Chairman of NADRA and get a system/database evolved so that distribution of relief goods could be made properly.



ISLAMABAD: The rapid response and rescue team of the State of Palestine (PRRRT) launched from the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Pakistan under the supervision of PICA, accompanied by a force from the Pakistani army, to secure their access to the affected areas in Dera Ismail Khan.

TCF delivers over 1 mln meals to flood-hit communities

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Citizens Foundation (TCF) has delivered more than one million meals to flood affectees in sixteen districts of Pakistan including Mirpurkhas, Badin, Shikarpur, Dadu, Hyderabad, and Khairpur. The ongoing relief efforts begun as a response to the flood crisis.

TCF is using its extensive network of schools in rural and urban areas to address the immediate needs of affected families residing nearby. TCF has already provided 1,103,345 meals to communities whose lives continue to be disrupted as a result of unprecedented floods.

The organisation intends to provide 5 million meals for flood affectees and help reconstruct homes for 9000 families once the flood water recedes.

Since 27 years, TCF is committed to making quality education accessible for the lesser privileged children of Pakistan. Due to the magnitude of the flood damage, a large number of residents have lost their homes and sources of income, making it likely that the number of out-of-school children will increase. To prevent school dropouts, TCF will continue to work on multiple fronts to sustain its school communities in this difficult time.

ACPKHI announces to hold "Live Music Aid Concert 2022"

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi has announced the "Live Music Aid Concert 2022" to help the flood victims, in which Asim Azhar, Aima Beg, Natasha Beg, Ramis Ali, and other famous singers of the country will awaken the magic of their voice. This is an effort of the Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi and singers that will play an important role in dealing with the flood situation in the country.

The concert will be held on 2nd October 2022 at Karachi Gymkhana while all the proceeds from the concert will be donated to flood-affected families. Concert tickets can be easily purchased from Karachi Gymkhana, Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi, and Ticketwala.pk.



PhD Scholar to defend research dissertation

TAXILA: Shafqat Maqbol a PhD Scholar of Islamic Studies Department of HITEC University Taxila, will defend his research dissertation on Friday October 07, 2022 at 10:00 AM in IQBAL Auditorium of the University.

The research has been supervised by Dr Farhad Ullah. Defence is open to all interested individuals can attend the open defence and be seated by 09:45 AM.

Naya Nazimabad joins hands with NFEH for launching urban forest

KARACHI: Karachi's Commissioner, Muhammad Iqbal Memon, has said that collective efforts are required by all the relevant stakeholders to make Karachi a clean, green, and beautiful city.

The Karachi Commissioner stated this as he was speaking as the chief guest at the launching of the urban forest project at Naya Nazimabad in collaboration with the National Forum for Environment and Health (NFEH).

The Karachi Commissioner said that non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and corporate entities had an important role to play in promoting greenery in Karachi.

He welcomed the launching of an urban forest at Naya Nazimabad while stating that residential societies and urban communities should reserve ample space for tree plantation.



CEO of the Naya Nazimabad project, Abdul Samad Habib, said that a new urban forest was being developed on 10,000 Sq. Yard of area. He said that over 1,000 fruit and shade trees and flowering plants would be planted in the urban forest.

He said that over 40 percent area of the Naya Nazimabad project had been reserved for parks, greenbelts, and tree plantations.

NFEH President, Muhammad Naeem Qureshi, said that this is the fourth time in the past five years that tree plantation activity was taking place at Naya Nazimabad.

He said that all the housing societies were lawfully bound to reserve a minimum of 10 percent of their area for tree plantation. He said the city's civic authorities should immediately

come into action to prevent brazen tree cutting at several green spots in the city.

He said the unscrupulous elements involved in tree cutting should be penalized by slapping heavy fines. He greeted Naya Nazimabad's management for launching the urban forest project.

Karachi's Commissioner along with NFEH President, Naya Nazimabad CEO, and other prominent guests planted a tree to formally launch the urban forest project.

The NFEH also presented an award on the occasion to Abdul Samad Habib for the best tree plantation activity in Karachi.

Others present on the occasion included Saeed Ahmed, SM Talha, Test Cricketer Fawad Alam, General Secretary of NFEH Ruqiya Naeem, Ghulam Kabria, Shakeel Qureshi, and Ali Asghar.

Emirates launches exciting new offer

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Emirates, the world's largest international airline, has launched an exciting new offer for holidaymakers planning a trip to Dubai between 22 September and 8 December 2022. From today, all Emirates customers can now enjoy a complimentary ticket to the Museum of the Future – one of the city's most famous landmarks.

Starting today, this special offer is valid for all tickets to Dubai purchased using code MFUTURE until 2 October 2022. The offer is available on bookings made on emirates.com, Emirates Call centre or via participating travel agents, for travel from 22 September 2022 until 8 December 2022 in any cabin class.*

The complimentary ticket to The Museum of the Future entitles travellers to one admission during the working hours of the museum and must be booked on museumofthefuture.ae against a redemption code sent by Emirates prior to the planned visit and used latest by 15 December 2022.*

Dengue counters set up in LGH

LAHORE: On the directions of the Punjab govt, the administration of Lahore General Hospital set up dengue counters at emergency/ outdoor departments for timely free of cost diagnosis, treatment and guidance of patients suffering from this virus.

Doctors, nurses and other medical staff will be available to treat such patients in the Emergency and OPD. Post Graduate Medical Institute Principal Prof. Dr. Muhammad Al-Fareed Zafar said this while reviewing the anti-dengue activities, public awareness and the arrangements made to provide the best medical facilities to the patients at LGH, here on Monday.

On this occasion, MS LGH Dr. Khalid Bin Aslam told the principal that 56 beds had already been reserved for dengue fever patients while this number would be increased to 200 in view of any need, adding that doctors and nurses had been assigned duties and were not allowed to go on leave without approval.

Principal PGMI highlighted that strict monitoring should be done to eradicate dengue mosquito breeding in hospital building and the teams formed for this purpose should ensure careful inspection of roofs, lawns and pots of buildings so that there was no water accumulated at any place which could cause breeding of dengue mosquito.

Moving from relief to disaster preparedness

KARACHI: Pakistan witnessed one of the worst flooding events in its history. As of the end of August, 33 million people were affected and two million acres of crops were damaged, of which over 75 percent are in the Sindh Province.

As devastating as they were, such weather events have been increasing in frequency as well as intensity for years, as is evidenced in the frequency of excess or unseasonal rains, prolonged and earlier heatwaves, and other climate change effects we have seen in Pakistan in recent years.

Over the last two years, Pula Advisors, a Swiss insurtech company, has been working with the Pakistan Agricultural Coalition and other partners to upgrade crop insurance programs in Pakistan. Agricultural loss estimates for the current floods are in the hundreds of millions of USD and possibly exceed \$30 billion although accurate and authentic estimates are still being worked at with the support of international development partners and the government of Pakistan. A proper insurance solution will help the government of Sindh to mitigate such losses.

Last week, Pula met with officials from the Sindh provincial government, including Secretary of Investment, Dr. Mansoor Abbas Rizvi, Sindh Enterprise



Development Fund CEO, Mr. Khizar Pervaiz, and the Director of Major Crop Development in the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Zamir Ali Surhio, and other associates to propose disaster risk insurance which could insure all areas of the province where wheat farming is still possible for the upcoming Rabi season.

The insurance would cover 12,500 farmers this year, and over the next three seasons, extend to 120,000 farmers across Sindh with Area Yield Index Insurance, an outcomes-based index insurance product that is insuring small-holder farmers across the African continent to protect them from climate perils. The insurance will be embedded in the People's Hari Card Scheme or through

the Crop Loan Insurance Scheme so that farmers are insured automatically. If another calamity were to hit the area through floods, excess rains, or even drought during the farming seasons, then farmers would receive insurance payouts directly into their bank accounts.

Pula stated the importance of bringing transparency into this important development to the general public. "It is high time the government moves away from frantic disaster relief to more sustained institutional interventions in disaster preparedness. Government should devise a strategy directly linked to the losses incurred by these climate events that devastate farming, livestock, housing and livelihoods."

Roche Diagnostics, Sysmex and AKUH join hands for lab system

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Outreach Health Network, Roche Diagnostics and Sysmex have 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, whether at single or 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

ical 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 Diag-

nostics and Sysmex, Shagufata 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 Aga Khan University Hospital and its Outreach Health Network, she said, "AKU is Pakistan's first academic medical centre 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."

PTCL, PPAF partner to boost digital, financial inclusion of women



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) Group has entered into a strategic partnership with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to foster digital and economic inclusion of women entrepreneurs through training and access to digital and financial tools and opportunities for economic growth.

Group Chief Commercial Officer (GCCO), PTCL Group, Adnan Anjum and Chief Operating Officer (COO), PPAF, Nadir Gul Barech signed the agreement at a ceremony held at Ufone Tower, Islamabad, in presence of senior officials from both organizations. This public-private partnership project will enable and up-skill women entrepreneurs to drive their businesses towards sustainable growth and resiliency.

The year-long, pilot project will be implemented across four union councils and ten villages in the Hari-pur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under which one hundred women entrepreneurs will be trained. The partnering institutions will implement a two-week training module using a standardized high-impact curriculum, focusing on digital literacy, business skills, and life skills that will come in handy in driving fledgling and small-scale businesses towards success and sustainable

growth. PTCL will allocate a physical space which will serve as a digital-enabled Hub with access to basic facilities like Internet and training spaces as a central venue for the training sessions. In addition to this Ufone will be providing smartphones with registered SIMs and data packages for the one-year project to ensure their full participation. PPAF will lead the identification and selection process of the women entrepreneurs leveraging its existing presence at community level through partner organizations already engaged in diverse development initiatives. PPAF will also contribute to the overall cost of the project on equity basis.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Group Chief Commercial Officer, PTCL & Ufone, Adnan Anjum said: "No nation can achieve economic growth and progress without including half of its population; that is why diversity and inclusion are core themes in PTCL's business philosophy. I am glad that PTCL and PPAF are joining hands to enable and empower women entrepreneurs to leverage digital technology and access to finance to grow their businesses. PTCL and PPAF share the vision for inclusive growth at the grassroots level because we believe it will translate into a broad-based economic transformation at the macro level."



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr | 4:30 am |
| Zohr | 12:02 pm |
| Asr | 4:25 pm |
| Maghrib | 6:09 pm |
| Isha | 7:33 pm |

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Islamabad | 9222596 |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 |

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| CDA | 9221334-43 |
| CDA | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 |
| RDA | 5555864 |
| TMA | 5770886 |
| Cantonment Board | 9270151-3 |
| Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town | 5773343 |

COMPLAINTS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| Water Tanker Service | |
| E-7, F-10 & F-11 | 9204654 |
| G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 | 9203883 |
| G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 | 9266316 |
| Wapda Islamabad | 9217579-80 |
| Sui Gas Complaint | 119, 9272249 |
| Wasa Water Tank | |
| Rawalpindi | 0331-5022125 |

IICR organizes national conference on Russia-Ukraine crisis

Speakers highlight historical and geographical context of Russian-Ukraine conflict

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) organized a national conference titled "Russia-Ukraine Crisis & Regional Security Apparatus". The eminent speakers included Prof. Dr. Rifaat Hussain, HOD Governance and Public Policy NUST, Dr. Shabana Fayaz, HOD Department of Defence and Strategic studies QAU, Prof. Dr. Azhar Ahmed, Faculty Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University Islamabad, Mr. Nasir Qadri, Executive Director Legal Forum for Kashmir, and Shahid Raza, Defence Analyst.

The first speaker on the panel was Prof. Dr. Rifaat Hussain, HOD Department of Governance and Policy NUST, while speaking to the audience Dr. Hussain highlighted the historical and geographical context of the Russian-Ukraine conflict and said that Russians were apprehensive of NAT's eastward expansion which is the precursor of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

The next speaker on the panel was Dr. Azhar Ahmed, Faculty member Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Bahria University. Speaking to the audience Dr. Azharsaidall conflicts have



political and economic consequences and the world is facing one in the shape of the Russia Ukraine Conflict. Adding further he said that it is in-fact a proxy war between Russia and west and an important aspect in global transition from west to east.

Talking about the economic aspect of the war Dr. Azhar said that around 1.2 billion people are vulnerable to food energy and Russia and Ukraine are the food basket of the world which is currently burning. Apart from food resources both Russia and Ukraine are suppliers of crude oil and fossil fuels Russia being the major one.

And because of the current war between both countries the world is facing shortages and supply chain disruptions of

not only food supplies but also energy. While the west is pushing hard to strangle Moscow it has created some ripples for Russia as well. About 1000 international companies left Russia and Russian economy is being hit by 15 percent decline however, if west looked to isolate both Beijing and Moscow it has been disappointed greatly remarked Dr. Azhar. In concluding remarks Dr. Azhar said that Pakistan has also had far-reaching consequences of the conflict. It has maintained a moderate position in the conflict as Pakistan needs both one for food and the other for energy resources.

Pakistan currently is compelled to purchase expensive energy and the situation might get grimer in coming months with more inflation in Pakistan.

Renovation of roads

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA) are marking a crossing line on a road at Constitution Avenue, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

IRSA releases 185,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 185,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 185,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum capacity level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 103,900 cusecs and 103,100 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1193.00 feet, which was 143.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 18,000 cusecs each.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 111,700, 114,500 and 139,200 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 27,900 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 5,500 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Anti-Corona drive to cover children 5-11 inaugurated

RAWALPINDI: Professor Rawalpindi Medical University Rai Muhammad Asghar inaugurated the special Anti-Corona drive by administering Corona doses to children at Benazir Bhutto Hospital here Monday.

Talking to the media, he said the campaign had been launched in five districts of Punjab, including Rawalpindi, to protect children between five and eleven years of age from this deadly virus.

Rai said that WHO, FDA and NIH have recommended this vaccine safe for children after its successful trials on children.

He further said that the second dose of prevention against Corona could be administered after 21 days, while paracetamol can be given



to children in case of fever or pain. Rai urged the parents to secure their future by getting their children vaccinated against Corona.

Meanwhile, Member National Assembly Sheikh Rashid Shafiq inaugurated the week-long anti-Corona campaign to cover 936,328 children aged five to 11 in the district at a private school. The campaign will continue from September 19 to 24, and children will also be vaccinated at schools and fixed centres set up in each Union council of the district.

54 citizens get self-defense training from Capital Police

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Police has imparted self-defense training to 30 females and 24 males here on Monday.

The applicants got training in human rights laws, weapon handling, swimming, live firing practice, repelling, crossing obstacles, Horse-riding and archery exercises.

Superintendent Police (SP) Headquarters Saud Khan distributed certificates among the participant and said the purpose of the course was to provide framework for dealing with difficult situations and their resolution, behavioral assessment, physical and mental health, besides utilization of resources.

It may be mentioned that in line with directives of IGP



Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan DIG Headquarters Owais Ahmad Malik had started a self-defense course to empower and sensitize citizens to tackle unpleasant situations.

Earlier on, two batches of women have completed the training of self-defense courses as well, during the course, separate classes have been organized for participants also.

Health Corner

Nordic diet lowers cholesterol

ISLAMABAD: Berries, veggies, fish, whole grains and rapeseed oil. These are the main ingredients of the Nordic diet concept that, for the past decade, have been recognized as extremely healthy, tasty and sustainable.

The diet can prevent obesity and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Until now, Nordic diet research has primarily been linked to the diet's positive health effect following weight loss.

But a new analysis conducted by University of Copenhagen researchers, among others, makes it clear that a Nordic diet has positive health benefits — regardless of whether one loses weight or not. "It's surprising because most people believe that positive effects on blood sugar and cholesterol are solely due to weight loss.

Here, we have found this not to be the case. Other mechanisms are also at play," explains Lars Ove Dragsted, a researcher and head of section at the University of Copenhagen's Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports. Together with researchers from Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland, Dragsted examined blood and urine samples from 200 people over the age of 50, all with elevated BMI and increased risk of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

The participants were divided into two groups — one provided foods according to Nordic dietary recommendations and a control group on their habitual diet. After six months of monitoring, the result was clear. "The group that had been on the Nordic diet for six months became significantly healthier, with lower cholesterol levels, lower overall levels of both saturated and unsaturated fat in the blood, and better regulation of glucose, compared to the control group.

We kept the group on the Nordic diet weight stable, meaning that we asked them to eat more if they lost weight. Even without weight loss, we could see an improvement in their health," explains Lars Ove Dragsted.

Instead of weight loss alone, the researchers point to the unique composition of fats in a Nordic diet as a possible explanation for the significant health benefits. "By analyzing the blood of participants, we could see that those who benefited most from the dietary change had different fat-soluble substances than the control group.

These are substances that appear to be linked to unsaturated fatty acids from oils in the Nordic diet. This is a sign that Nordic dietary fats probably play the most significant role for the health effects seen here, which I hadn't expected," says Lars Ove Dragsted.

Fats in the Nordic diet come from fish, flaxseeds, sunflower and rapeseed (Canola), among other things. As a whole, they constitute a very beneficial mix for the body, although the researchers have yet to accurately explain why these fats seem to lower both blood sugar and cholesterol levels. Science Daily



Indonesian educationists call on IIUI president



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya Indonesia comprising Prof. Dr. Ni Nyoman Tri Puspaningsih Vice Rector (research, Innovation & Community Development), Prof. Dr. Nanik Sitit Aminah and Dr. Alfinda Novi Kristanti, visited International Islamic University Islamabad on Monday.

The delegation called on President IIUI Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi in his office where issues pertaining to Research Collaborations were discussed. The IIUI President briefed the delegation about vision, future plans, on-going collaborations and services provided by the university to society. The IIUI President reiterated his resolve about the initiatives to join hands for a constructive future in the areas of research and innovation. This meeting was also attended by Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed Vice President (Research & Enterprise), Prof. Dr. Zafar Iqbal Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and Dr. Akhlaq Ahmad, Chairperson Department of Sociology.

President condoles with bereaved families of martyred Jawans

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday held telephonic conversation separately with the bereaved families of Jawans who embraced shahadat during an exchange of firing with the terrorists from Afghanistan border.

The president prayed for the high ranks of Shuhada and for the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity. The president also paid rich tribute to the martyred Jawans who laid down their lives for the protection of motherland.

The president talked to father of Shaheed Naek Mowiz Khan, brother of Shaheed Naek Muhammad Rehman and brother of Shaheed Sepoy Irfan. Brother of Shaheed Muhammad Rehman told the president that he was also serving in the armed forces and it was his desire to embrace shahadat.

56 more test positive for dengue

RAWALPINDI: As many as 56 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 1,330.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Monday said that, among the new cases, 33 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, five from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, four from Rawalpindi Cantonment, three from Potohar rural and Chaklala Cantonment, two from Taxila Cantonment while one of each patient reported from Kahutta and Taxila city.

Dr Sajjad said 269 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 143 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital(BBH), 64 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 62 to the Holy Family Hospital. He added that out of the total admitted patients, 197 were confirmed cases, with 151 belonging to Rawalpindi. The health officer informed that five patients were in a critical position at BBH.

He cautioned that September and October were crucial for dengue spread and advised the residents to use a mosquito net or repellants like mats and coils to prevent this fatal virus.



Sajid Turi inaugurates Skills Verification Program

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi chaired the launch ceremony at Saudi Embassy as a chief guest.

The ceremony was held to inaugurate the "Labor Skills Verification Program" (SVP). Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi expressed his gratitude to Prince Muhammad bin Salman and Ambassador of Haramen H.E. Sharif Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki for starting the Skills Verification Program in Pakistan. Federal Minister Sajid Hussain Turi delivered a speech at the ceremony. Federal Minister said, "The objective of the Skills Verification Program is



to provide quality manpower to Saudi Arabia from Pakistan.

Under this program, Pakistanis will get ample employment opportunities in major projects under Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030." He further said, "12

centers of Skills Verification Program have been established in eight cities of Pakistan." Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi intended to establish an excellent technical and vocational university in cooperation with Saudi Arabia.

Federal Minister said, "The government and people of Pakistan are proud of the brotherly relations with Saudi Arabia. Currently, Saudi Arabia is the home of more than 2.3 million Pakistanis". He said, in the past five decades, more than six million Pakistanis have gone to Saudi Arabia for employment.

Ambassador of Haramen H.E.Sharif Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki and Federal Minister Sajid Turi discussed Pakistan-Saudi relations, employment opportunities for Pakistanis and other issues of bilateral importance. Sajid Hussain Turi extended his gratitude to Khadim Hurmain Sharifin for the great help to Pakistan during the flood.

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BRI proving a boon to many countries

Ershad Shikdar

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has gone a long way to make positive contributions to many countries since its inception in 2013.

The initiative has so far gained ground across Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, North Africa, and Central and Eastern Europe. The combined land territories of those regions account for more than one-third of the world's total, a population of around 60%, and a GDP of 32%, which speaks volumes of its feats.

The initiative has also boosted international cooperation on education. China has signed agreements with many other BRI countries on mutual recognition of academic certificates and degrees in higher education, and over 60 Chinese universities have launched academic programs in partnership with local institutions in BRI countries.

If we break down the outcomes of the initiative, we can find that large projects under the BRI have greatly boosted the economy and improved local people's livelihoods in many countries all

over the world. Pakistan's Ambassador to China Moinul Haque said that the BRI has transformed Pakistan's economic landscape. He mentioned that BRI projects in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor have created around 70,000 jobs in Pakistan. BRI projects have benefited Pakistan through job creation, improved livelihoods, poverty eradication, and upgrading of remote areas.

Large BRI projects in Cambodia, including the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone, hydropower plants, Phnom Penh-Sihanoukville Expressway, the new Siem Reap International Airport, the Morodok Techo National Stadium, roads and bridges, hospitals, and rural water supplies, have similarly generated more than 3,000 jobs for Cambodians during construction.

According to a report by the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia, BRI projects will help Cambodia to achieve its ambitious goal of becoming an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050. They will be the major contributors to Cambodia's economic growth in the post-pandemic era too.

Some infrastructure projects

are also being implemented in Bangladesh in collaboration with China. Several have already begun, and the people of Bang-

Under the initiative, China has increased its scholarship entry number to 8,000 for Bangladesh. This great opportunity has contributed to increasing remittance inflows to Bangladesh, which is the country's second-largest source of foreign currency earnings, by producing skilled human resources.

lades are reaping the dividends. The Bangladesh Power System Upgrade and Expansion Project, a \$165 million power project, is a vivid example of how the BRI is playing a role in improving the livelihoods of the people of the country. This project has bene-

fited more than 7 million Bangladeshis by helping provide electricity connections to over 2.5 million rural people.

Besides, China is now implementing a series of infrastructure projects in Bangladesh, including an economic and industrial zone, power plant, bridge, and an exhibition center. Every project has created a huge number of jobs, bringing about enormous socio-economic development in Bangladesh.

The China-backed Karnaphuli Multi-Channel Tunnel Project is now underway and scheduled to be finished at the end of this year. The tunnel will connect the port city of Chittagong to the far side of the Karnaphuli River, which will shorten travel time from four hours to just 20 minutes.

The Special Chinese Economic Zone, another BRI project in southern Bangladesh, will have the capacity to house 150-200 industrial units and will focus on a range of different industrial sectors, including shipbuilding, pharmaceuticals, electronics, agri-business, IT, chemicals, power, and textiles. The 750-acre economic zone is set to create more than 75,000 jobs, a boon to the huge number of unemployed youths in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, the Padma Bridge

rail link, upon fruition, will cut the travel time from Dhaka to Kolkata, the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal, from nine hours to about four. The bridge will ease pressure on the country's premier seaport in Chittagong as it will bolster the second largest Mongla seaport in Bagerhat.

Finally, the BRI has also brought good news to Bangladesh students who aspire to receive a quality education in China. Under the initiative, China has increased its scholarship entry number to 8,000 for Bangladesh. This great opportunity has contributed to increasing remittance inflows to Bangladesh, which is the country's second-largest source of foreign currency earnings, by producing skilled human resources.

Apart from these projects, a great number of other BRI plans are immensely contributing to the socio-economic development of many countries. They are directly uplifting the livelihoods of millions of people all over the world, paving the way for the establishment of their basic human rights.

The author is a Bangladeshi journalist based in Beijing. Courtesy: China.org.cn

Pakistan and UNGA Session

The UN General Assembly session is an annual exercise and the member countries participate in the summit in September every year. It is a good omen that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will address the 77th session of the assembly. The focus of the PM's address will be the challenges faced by Pakistan due to climate-induced catastrophic floods in the country. The Prime Minister will also highlight the Kashmir issue which is the main bone of contention between the two nuclear states. The Prime Minister will also participate in the Global Food Security Summit and the presence of the Prime Minister will automatically trigger sympathy among the global community regarding the challenges faced by Pakistan. The Prime Minister will hold a number of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various countries, UNGA president, the UN Secretary-General and heads of different international organizations. We are hopeful that the visit of the Prime Minister will bring fruitful outcomes as far as the current situation in Pakistan is concerned.

The Prime Minister in his address at UNGA session will highlight the impacts of climate change in Pakistan. Moreover, Pakistan will also set up a photo exhibition at the UN Secretariat lobby displaying the destruction wreaked in Pakistan by recent floods. We must be hopeful that the international community will definitely come forward to provide financial assistance and aid to the flood affected people in Pakistan. International politics always remains complicated and every country prioritizes its national interests. Pakistan always highlighted the Kashmir dispute at all international forums but unfortunately the international community just for the sake of its national interests is hesitant to intervene in order to resolve the long standing issue.

It would be a great opportunity that PM Shehbaz would meet French President Emmanuel Macron, Austrian chancellor and Spanish president. A meeting with President of the European Union Council Charles Michel and participation in Global Food Security Summit to be hosted by president of Senegal and African Union is also on the agenda of the prime minister's visit. On September 21, he would meet Managing Director of International Monetary Fund Kristalina Georgieva and President of World Bank David Malpass, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. Besides meeting with the UNGA president, the prime minister would also attend a dinner reception to be hosted by US President Joe Biden. Prime Minister Sharif will also host a luncheon reception in honor of Turkish president and his spouse, besides meeting with Finnish President Sauli Niinistö. Meetings with Microsoft founder Bill Gates and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Chinese President Premier Li Keqiang and Japanese PM Fumio Kishida are also part of the prime minister's engagements. He would also meet Luxembourg PM Xavier Bettel and Malaysian PM Ismail Sabri Yaakob on the same day. On September 23, the prime minister would address the UNGA session, besides attending Nobel Laureate Malala Yousufzai and interacting with prominent American media outlets.

Therefore, Prime Minister's visit to UNGA is very important as it will provide him an opportunity to meet with world leaders and discuss issues of importance. Prime Minister will be able to apprise the international community on devastating floods situation in Pakistan and urge them to help the country. Pakistan has no fault in facing the impacts of climate change. It is the obligation of advanced countries as they have polluted the environment for their commercial gains. Prime minister will also inform them about Indian atrocities in IIOJ&K. Through this forum, Pakistan will be able to convey its national stance on various global and regional issues.



The Decline of Indus Delta

Asadullah

The Indus delta is one of the 5th largest deltas in the world that covers the land of 13900 km sq, and now 92% of the delta is submerged in the Arabian Sea. A delta is a region where the rivers flow into the sea by creeks, mouths of rivers. There are seventeen creeks of Indus delta through these the water flows into the Arabian sea. But unfortunately, now only two active creeks (Khorar and Khar) that experience the Indus water through the Kotri barrage and the rest of the creeks are dried due to decreasing the flow of Indus water to the delta. Owing to degrading the flow of water to the sea, decreasing of sediments, climate change and consequently, low rainfall, and construction of new barrages and dams on the Indus River the level of the sea increases into delta and degrading of the ecosystem of that area. Aside from it, the Indus delta is one of the most endangered deltas in the world.

The Ketri Bunder, located in the Indus delta, was one of the busiest trade port during the exaltation period of the Indus delta by the population of 40,000, but right now it seems disastrous. According to WWF, Ketri Bunder was one of the major ports of the sub-continent which consisted of 42 villages and a total area of 60,969 hectares.

Before the construction of barrages (1932-1960), the Indus River discharged a huge amount of water about 5,660 cumecs into the sea and its result was to establish the Marines in delta region. The canal irrigation system was initiated by the British government in the 19th century that was the preliminary point of the devastation of the Indus delta, but this canal system did not intervene to damage the delta. When the British government commenced to construct the Sukkur barrage in 1923 that was completed

in 1932. The barrage has seven canals, 4 on the right and 3 on the left sides of the river. During this construction, the freshwater of Indus ceased for four months and it badly hit the delta and forest. The Jinnah (1946), Gulam Muhammad at Kotri (1955), and Guddu (1962) barrages were constructed on the Indus River that changed the destiny of the Indus delta system.

Thereafter the partition in 1947, India and Pakistan had a serious confrontation on the ground of the distribution of water. Finally, a treaty was signed under the mediation of World Bank between India and Pakistan in 1959. Consequently, the Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum and Chenab) and Eastern rivers (Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas) were given to Pakistan and India respectively. Hence, the conflict was resolved and now Pakistan had the right to build the dams on granted rivers. Thus, Tarbela 1968 and Chashma 1971 dams were constructed on the Indus River that removed 74% of freshwater from Kotri Barrage and resultantly 250 km sq of delta region was dwindled.

The flow of Indus freshwater had been continuously shrinking since 1892 and its sequence is, in 1892 the flow of water to Indus delta was 185,000 million acres feet (MAF) and in 1932 that was 105,000 (MAF) due to construction of Sukkur Barrage, moreover it further diminished up to 79,581 (MAF) in 1960 because of the construction of Kotri Barrage. Thereafter the Indus water treaty 1959, the water reduced to 43,000 (MAF) and finally in the 1990s it decreased up to 12,300 (MAF). In 1991, an agreement was signed (Water Accord 1991) among all the major provinces in which the Accord supposed to flow 10 MAF water to the delta through Kotri Barrage. Murad Ali Shah, CM of Sindh, told the media on 11 September 2018 that the federal government doesn't release the granted water to the delta. He further said, in the recent decade the ratio

of flow of water to Indus delta less than 10 MAF and sometimes blow to 5 MAF. Thus, the Sindh government has valid reservations because they have been facing the destruction of the Indus delta since independence.

According to WWF, we have lost the Indus Dolphins due to the construction of dams in the second half of the 20th century. From 1944 the population of Dolphins speedily decreased and almost 50% of their population died due to decreasing the flow of water upstream as well as downstream and now they only 1100 remain.

Although, this manmade construction and climate change have disturbed the livelihood of the masses, especially for fish communities. Survival is not possible without the drinking water and when you feel that the water of the sea is speedily submerging the area of the delta. Thus, a huge mass migration has been taking place in recent decades, Sajawal, Badin, and Thatta are the most affected districts of Sindh by degrading the flow of freshwater. Approximately, 1.2 million people have migrated since the inception of Pakistan, and 3.5 million acres of land has submerged by the sea. Therefore, 80% of the total population of affected areas have migrated to the nearest cities of Sindh, especially Karachi.

There are so many suggestions and recommendations submitted to both provincial and federal governments, but no possible action is taken. First, we have to ensure the 8-10 MAF flow of water move to the Indus delta. We must establish the coastal highway to save the delta region. The levees and dykes established because they are important to prevent the intrusion of seawater into the delta. If we don't take immediate action to save the delta, then very soon the entire delta will submerge into seawater.

The writer is a graduate of NIPS, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

Biden's electric vehicle dream likely to go up in smoke

Dalia Al-Aqidi

There is now less than two months to go before America's crucial midterm elections are held, with the Democrats in danger of losing both the House and the Senate. Democratic candidates have been trying to distance their election campaigns from President Joe Biden due to his low approval rates, which may even lead his party to decline to nominate him for a second term. The same theory applies to his deputy, Kamala Harris, who has not succeeded in any task assigned to her so far.

Even the liberal-leaning Washington Post admitted last month that dozens of Democratic candidates in the most competitive battleground states did not want the president or vice president's help. "He is being attacked more often in televised ads than (Barack) Obama was at this point in 2010 or (Donald) Trump was in 2018. He goes largely unnamed on Democratic campaign websites and Twitter accounts. And candidates in key races in battleground states are either not asking him to come — or actively avoiding him when he does," the newspaper reported.

However, Biden has insisted on making himself relevant to the elections, even if he was not asked to do so. His administration's strategy until Nov. 8 is to focus on the president's achievements. The White House plans to take advantage of every public event to highlight its plans to decrease inflation and amend the country's economy. In August, Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act, which actually has nothing to do with inflation, describing it as a "victory for the American people."

According to the new law, the US government will make electric vehicles more attainable for buyers by granting them tax credits and additional incentives. For example, it offers a \$7,500 federal tax credit for each electric vehicle assembled in America if it is put into service after Dec. 31, 2022.

Biden last week visited the North American Interna-

tional Auto Show in Detroit, in which electric vehicles were the highlight. The president informed attendees that, as part of the Infrastructure Law, which was passed last year, his government was planning to invest \$7.5 billion to build charging stations across the country. "The great American road trip is going to be fully electrified. Whether you're driving coast to coast, along the I-10 or on I-75 here in Michigan, charging stations will be up and as easy to find as gas stations are now," he said.

This dream would be fantastic if only it was attainable and Americans were ready to give up their gas cars. Let us think about price, supply and charging stations.

The first obstacle facing the electric vehicle dream is the sale price, which has reached about \$62,000. The US median household income is approximately \$65,000. If we do the math, we can figure out that it will not work.

And, according to the UK's Guardian newspaper, supply issues mean a consumer who orders an electric vehicle at the ongoing auto show may not get it until 2024, costing the car manufacturers customers.

The US does not have the capabilities to build an electric vehicle charging station network, which makes it difficult for consumers to give up their gas vehicles. Installing home charging stations would take at least 10 years to be efficient.

The Democrats are selling a dream that sounds like music to the progressives' ears, but cannot be achieved, in the hope of achieving political gains in November.

And what is the use of switching to electric cars while their advocates use commercial and private aircraft to travel around? Or driving an electric vehicle with an electric generator in the trunk that uses gas to charge the vehicle in case it stops in the middle of the road?

While hurting lower and middle-income families, only time will tell whether Biden's dream of an electric vehicle revolution will stand a chance or fade away.

Dalia Al-Aqidi is a senior fellow at the Center for Security Policy. Courtesy: Arab News

Queen Elizabeth II mourned by Britain and world at funeral

World leaders, former British prime ministers attended funeral

LONDON: Britain and the world said a final goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II at a state funeral Monday that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers — and crowds who massed along the streets of London to honor a monarch whose 70-year reign defined an age.

In a country known for pomp and pageantry, the first state funeral since Winston Churchill's was filled with spectacle: Ahead of the service, a bell tolled 96 times — once a minute for each year of Elizabeth's life. Then, 142 Royal Navy sailors used ropes to draw the gun carriage carrying her flag-draped coffin to Westminster Abbey before pallbearers bore it inside the church, where around 2,000 people ranging from world leaders to health care workers gathered to mourn her.

The trappings of state and monarchy abounded: The coffin was draped with the Royal Standard and atop it sat the Imperial State Crown, sparkling with almost 3,000 diamonds, and the sovereign's orb and scepter.

But the personal was also present: The coffin was followed into the church by generations of Elizabeth's



descendants, including King Charles III, heir to the throne Prince William and 9-year-old George, who is second in line. On a wreath atop the coffin, a handwritten note read, "In loving and devoted memory," and was signed Charles R — for Rex, or king.

"Here, where Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned, we gather from across the nation, from the Commonwealth, and from the nations of the

world, to mourn our loss, to remember her long life of selfless service, and in sure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer," the dean of the medieval abbey, David Hoyle, told the mourners, as the funeral opened.

The service drew to a close with two minutes of silence observed across the United Kingdom, after which the attendees sang the national anthem,

now titled "God Save the King."

The day began early when the doors of Parliament's 900-year-old Westminster Hall were closed to mourners after hundreds of thousands had filed in front of her coffin.

Monday was declared a public holiday in honor of Elizabeth, who died Sept. 8 — and hundreds of thousands of people descended on central London to partake in the historic moment. They jammed the sidewalks to watch the coffin wend its way through the streets of the capital after the service.

As the procession passed Buckingham Palace, the queen's official residence in the city, staff stood outside, some bowing and curtsying.

More people lined the route the hearse took from the capital to Windsor Castle, and many threw flowers at the convoy as it passed, with some resting on top of the vehicle. A committal service will be held in St. George's Chapel on the grounds of the castle where the queen spent much of her time and then queen will be laid to rest with her husband, Prince Philip, at a private family service.

Event held to celebrate national days of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia

JEDDAH: To celebrate the National Days of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, the Consulate General of Pakistan in Jeddah organized a cultural event at the Saudi Arabian Society of Art and Culture.

This cultural event was organized to strengthen the bonds between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and to showcase the rich culture and heritage of both countries. The event was a great success. High-profile diplomats, leading Pakistani and Saudi entrepreneurs, a cross-section of Pakistani and Saudi community members, and representatives from Saudi and ethnic media were present on the occasion.

National anthems of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were played at the beginning of the event. The chief guest, Mohammed Al Subaieh, Director General of the Saudi Arabian Society of



Art and Culture, praised the strong bond between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia and highlighted the importance of culture in promoting understanding between people.

He expressed his deep concern over the recent floods in Pakistan and the resulting casualties from them. He said that as a representative of the Saudi Arabian Government; I

assure Saudi Arabia will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with Pakistan and extend all kinds of support to come out of this crisis.

In his address, the Consul General of Pakistan, Khalid Majid, underlined the importance of art and culture in diplomacy. He also said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan enjoyed excellent relations

and cooperation at all levels. He commended the government of Saudi Arabia for its immense help and support to Pakistani flood victims and urged the participants to contribute generously to the KSA relief fund.

The Consul General also praised the pivotal role of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Royal Highness King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman in fostering peace and stability in the region and the world.

The event featured a variety of cultural performances, including paintings and music from both Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. There was also a display of traditional Pakistani dresses, which are very popular with the Saudis. Shields and certificates were awarded to the key performers. The event concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony.

Indian SC, new govt can restore Article 370, Congress rebukes Azad

NEW DELHI: The Congress has said that its former leader Ghulam Nabi Azad is changing his stand on the BJP government's move to abrogate Article 370 after quitting the party and said his "lies" on the issue should be exposed.

Responding to a tweet by J&K Congress leader Ghulam Ahmad Mir asking if Azad had signed the Congress Working Committee resolution following the New Delhi's move abrogating Article 370, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "Of course he did." "I was sitting behind him in Parliament when he spoke the previous day against abolition of Article 370. His lies should be exposed," Ramesh said in a tweet.

In an article in the Indian Express, senior Congress leader and former home minister P Chidambaram said that on August 5, 2019, the BJP government took the "extreme step" of abrogating the special status of Jammu & Kashmir, dismembered the State and created two Union Territories — Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

On the next day, the Congress Working Committee convened an emergency meeting and adopted a resolution, he said. "All members of the CWC were convinced that the above steps were illegal and unconstitutional. Nothing that the government did on those two fateful days required a two-third majority of the members present and voting in either House," Chidambaram said.

"These questionable steps have been challenged in the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court holds any or all of the steps to be unconstitutional, the step(s) will be reversed. Alternatively, if another government replaced the Modi government, it is possible that the new government may reverse some or all of the steps. Azad certainly knows all that," he said.

Then, why did Azad say that a political party promising to restore Art 370 would be "telling lies" to the people, he asked.

Samarkand digitalizes city's security system for SCO 2022 summit

TASHKENT: To ensure the safety of heads of states and other participants in the SCO summit in Samarkand, a professional security system was introduced for large-scale events. Previously, Samarkand's radio network had limited coverage and did not provide communication opportunities for employees of different departments.

The existing local public safety radio network has limited coverage, and employees of various government agencies cannot communicate with each other. This can reduce the effectiveness of their day-to-day operations and emergency response.

The city needed to modernize communications by introducing a professional security system. The new system had to be able to cover the entire



city, as well as provide operational and emergency communications to ensure the safety of all participants in the summit.

The modernization of the security system of Samarkand was carried out by a large supplier of communication technologies and solutions—the Chinese company Hytera Communications Corporation Limited—and

Uzelektroapparat-Electroshield JSC. Hytera is the communication solution provider for the 2021 SCO Dushanbe Summit, the 2014 Sochi and Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games, the G20 Hangzhou Summit, etc.

For operational and emergency communications, employees of responsible departments received several thousand DMR radio stations, several sets of base stations, several hundred video recorders, as well as a dispatching system and other devices. The new equipment is compatible with existing analog radios, allowing for a seamless transition to the digital standard.

The communication system introduced on the eve of the SCO summit will be used in the future for daily security in the city.

US and Afghanistan carry out prisoner exchange

KABUL: The United States and the Taliban have completed a prisoner swap, Afghanistan's foreign minister said Monday, with an American navy veteran traded for a key ally.

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said Mark Frerichs — kidnapped in 2020 — was exchanged for Bashar Noorzai, a warlord and Taliban associate imprisoned for 17 years in the United States for heroin smuggling.

"Today, Mark Frerichs was handed over to the US and Hajji Bashar was handed over to us at Kabul airport," Muttaqi told reporters in Kabul.

He said the exchange happened "after long negotiations," adding that Frerichs was given to a US delegation.

The US Navy veteran was working in Afghanistan as a civil engineer on construction projects when he was kidnapped, the US State Department said.

Government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP on Monday that Noorzai held no official position in the Taliban but "provided strong support including weapons" as the hard-line Islamist movement emerged in the 1990s.

President Tokayev in New York to attend UNGA session



ASTANA: Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will participate in the 77th session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on Sept. 19-20 in New York City, the Akorda press service reports.

Tokayev arrived in New York City on Sept. 19, where he is expected to address the General Debates on Sept. 20, meet with the representatives of several international organizations and heads of financial institutions, including JPMorgan Chase & Co., Citi, Goldman Sachs, NASDAQ, as well as representatives of transnational companies, including Boeing, Exxon Mobil, General Electric, Wabtec, and Microsoft.

He will also hold meetings with UN Secretary-General António Guterres, top European Union officials, and heads of state as per their request, and participate in the Global Food Security Summit.

The UN General Assembly is the primary policy-making structure of the institution. This year's assembly is taking place Sept. 13-27.

Israel's attempt to obliterate Palestinian narrative and history

JERUSALEM: Some 150 Palestinian schools in occupied East Jerusalem have today closed their doors to protest attempts by the Israeli occupation government to impose the Israeli curriculum or parts of it as an alternative to the Palestinian curriculum in what educators and parents fear is an attempt to distort and obliterate what their children learn about their history, society and political narrative.

About 100,000 students refrained from going to their schools today in compliance with the strike, a warning step after the Israeli government began taking punitive measures against schools in order to force them to drop the Palestinian narrative from the curricula they teach and to include the Israeli narrative only, which many see as a distortion of facts and realities, or an attempt to brainwash the young students in favor of the Israeli occupier's story.

Parents' committees organized two protests at Beit Hanina's al-Eman school and in Silwan school in rejection of the Israeli attempt to distort the Palestinian curriculum and introduce the Israeli curriculum in Jerusalem schools. "No to Israelization of education," said one of the signs held by the protesters. "We will not accept the Israeli curriculum," "We have the right to choose our children's books," "Yes to the Palestinian curriculum," and, "No to the distorted curriculum" were some of the signs raised in the protests.

The head of the Union of Parents of Jerusalem Schools Students, Ziad Shamali, told Wafa that "the official and popular position in Jerusalem is to refuse to teach our students in Jerusalem the Israeli curriculum, or the distorted curriculum," adding, "The message of the protests and the strike is clear: insistence on teaching the Palestinian curriculum in Jerusalem. This is a right guaranteed by international laws."

Speaking on behalf of the Palestinian Teachers Union in Jerusalem, Ahmad Safadi told Wafa that "the Jerusalem schools' strike had a clear message that says: no to the continuous assault on Palestinian awareness and identity." He said that the general national position is not to teach the students in Jerusalem the distorted and deformed curriculum that the occupation authorities are trying to impose on Jerusalem schools.

"The distorted curriculum is dangerous. It deletes all Palestinian symbols, such as the Palestinian flag, and distorts facts, such as using the name of the Temple Mount as a substitute for the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the celebration of Israel's so-called Independence Day as an alternative to activities to commemorate the Palestinian Nakba (1948 catastrophe). This intends to poison the Palestinians' minds," said Safadi.

"The occupation authorities are waging a relentless war against the Palestinian education in Jerusalem, a war focused on identity and narrative, not only by imposing the distorted curriculum, but also they used other tools, such as preventing the restoration of Jerusalem schools or opening new Palestinian schools, or even adding classes for existing schools," he added.

Over 110,000 Canadian Sikhs vote in Khalistan Referendum

TORONTO: In an unprecedented show of power, more than 110,000 Canadian Sikhs took part in voting for the Khalistan Referendum in Brampton, Ontario, to demand an independent state of Khalistan with Shimla as its capital.

Organised by the pro-Khalistani advocacy group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), the voting started with a special prayer led by a religious leader Bhai Daljit Singh Sekhon, a close associate of Bhai Harjinder Singh Parha in whose name the voting centre was dedicated. Thousands were returned unable to vote at the close of the day at 5pm while queues stretched to several kilometres at the end of the day.

The first vote was cast at 9am but thousands of Canadian Sikhs had lined up since 7am to cast their votes. A large number of

women and elderly stood in long queues to cast their vote in favour of Khalistan.

By noon, the queue had stretched to around five kilometres from the Gore Meadow Community Centre Brampton to the nearest highway. There was so much traffic pressure coming towards the voting centre that the Ontario police blocked the highway for all kinds of traffic, for three hours, to prevent more Sikhs from attempting to reach the venue in their cars.

By the afternoon, there was a sea of people around the centre carrying flags of Khalistan, chanting slogans demanding the creation of Khalistan, calling on India to end human rights violations of Sikhs and asking the international community to listen to the demands of millions of Sikhs in Indian Punjab and

around the world. The observers confirmed that thousands had been returned at the close of voting while queues still stretched to over two kilometres.

Organisers at the Sikhs for Justice as well local observers estimated the total number of participants to be comfortably over 110,000. Deann Allison, Canada's Member of Parliament for Niagara West for the Conservative party, said in a tweet at mid-day: "Amazing turnout at Gore Meadows community centre in Brampton where the Sikh Nation is voting for their right to self-determination. Over 50,000 votes and lines are still growing."

The SFJ said attendance in Ontario for Khalistan voting had broken all previous records of voting in London, where over 30,000 Sikhs had taken part;

Italy, where the number was just below London; Geneva where the presence was under 10,000 and UK's cities of Slough, Birmingham, Leicester and Manchester where the numbers were significant.

The SFJ welcomed the turnout in huge numbers. Its Counsel General Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said in Canada that they will not accept anything less than an independent Khalistan with Shimla as capital of the free Punjab. "Today, Canadians voted in the independence referendum to reclaim Shimla as the capital once Punjab is liberated from the Indian occupation. The voting in Punjab for the Khalistan Referendum will start from January 26, 2023, coinciding with India's 74th Republic Day." There were more than 300



Sikh volunteers manning the community centre reserved for voting. Most of those volunteering were Canadian born Sikh youth who have shown strong connection with the Khalistan movement, initiated by their parents who were most born and raised in India.

Canada is now home to around a million Sikhs who strongly associate themselves with the Khalistani movement — an issue that has troubled the Indian govt for many years and has caused diplomatic rifts between India and Canada.

Earlier, the Canadian govern-

ment refused to stop the SFJ from organising the unofficial balloting for the Khalistan Referendum. Canada's position on the Khalistan Referendum is backed by its own laws as well as the United Nations laws that all people have a right to self-determination and freedom of speech and expression in a peaceful manner.

Participants of the referendum, on the occasion, said that the Indian Punjab will soon emerge as an independent country on the map of the world. They said that India cannot deprive the Sikh people from their right to independence at gunpoint.

The Khalistan Referendum voting campaign is being organised under the supervision of the independent Punjab Referendum Commission (PRC), which will announce the results when all phases are completed.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current | Prev. Close |
| 41,520.59 | 41,679.49 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 41,896.62 | 41,504.64 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 6,529,160,667 | -158.90 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.38% | 19 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm |

| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 7,236.68 | -45.39 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.62% | 16 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1 |

| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Index Value | Change |
| 30,770.42 | -52.00 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.17% | 19 Sept, 11:46 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 | 159.06 | 160.13 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 630.07 | 634.57 |
| Canadian Dollar | 178.61 | 179.96 |
| China Yuan | 34.01 | 34.26 |
| Danish Krone | 31.91 | 32.26 |
| Euro | 240.5 | 242.7 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 30.18 | 30.53 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.97 | 3.05 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.55 | 1.6 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 763.97 | 768.97 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 52.24 | 52.69 |
| New Zealand \$ | 141.91 | 143.11 |
| Norwegians Krone | 23.24 | 23.54 |
| Omani Riyal | 615.26 | 619.76 |
| Qatari Riyal | 65.08 | 65.58 |
| Saudi Riyal | 63.8 | 64.4 |
| Singapore Dollar | 168.46 | 169.76 |
| Swedish Korona | 22.05 | 22.35 |
| Swiss Franc | 245.57 | 247.32 |
| Thai Bhat | 6.2 | 6.3 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 65.5 | 66.1 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 274.5 | 277 |
| US Dollar | 242 | 244.3 |

American investors should invest in Pakistani textile industry: CG

There are great opportunities for American investors to invest here, says William K. Makaneole

Our Correspondent

MULTAN: The American investors should tap Pakistan markets especially textile industry as lots of opportunities are available for them to invest.

"I have realized during my stay in Pakistan that there are great opportunities for American investors to invest here." American Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole said on Monday during a dinner hosted by known industrialist, Khawaja Jalauddin Roomi in his honour.

The US values its long-standing relationship with Pakistan and that is why whenever Pakistan faced any problem, America was the first to the rescue, he maintained.

The current flood is a clear proof that the American government stood by Pakistan to fight this calamity since day one, he explained.

If both countries expand the investment, the results will be much better for them, Mr Makaneole hoped.



Multan is a historical city and its citizens are not only hospitable, but their business vision is also very important," he noted.

America wants to improve education and health systems, end energy crisis and eradicate poverty from Pakistan," he said adding that his country has been working on various projects in Pakistan for a long time which is bearing fruit now. The Multanites are as sweet

as their mangoes." The Consul General said and added that they have excellent skills in every field of life.

While speaking on the occasion, Khawaja Jalauddin Romi welcomed the American delegation.

He said that the eminent personalities from all walks of life attended the event. The friendship between Pakistan and America is based on sincerity, he said adding that both countries come to each other's aid when any problem arose.

Although there have been ups and downs in the relations between the two countries in the past, but the relationship of love has remained forever, Mr Roomi recalled.

The American government and the business community are more enthusiastic about the construction and development of Pakistan than before, he stated.

The United States is a major business ally of Pakistan. That is why the business volume

between US and Pakistan rose to 36 pc this year, former President MCCI disclosed. He requested American government to reduce the duties on cotton so that the volume of trade between the two countries could increase further. Former Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries Khawaja Jalauddin Roomi said that for the past several years every Pakistani government has been taking practical steps to empower women and include them in the stream of development.

Currently, American companies are interested in investing in various sectors including technology, Mr Roomi said and added that there are vast opportunities to increase trade and investment between Pakistan and America.

Khawaja Jalauddin Roomi said that good diplomatic relations were the need of the hour to promote the textile industry so that business activities could play an important role in the strengthening of mutual relations.

Sultan Mehmood urges govt to resolve issues faced by PHMA members, traders

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Central Chairman Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association (PHMA) Ch. Sultan Mehmood has appealed the Government to solve the problems facing by PHMA members, importers and traders and exporters.

He said that there are many members are registered with PHMA and they are facing difficulties. He said that government is not clearing their goods and banks are also not releasing the documents of importers. Clearing the goods and this should be implemented as soon as possible by the Government so that an importer could save the heavy loss.

Ch. Sultan Mehmood said that in



industry items the government should take more interest and millions of goods which are wasted. The Government should take positive steps to avoid any loss of the importers.

Central Chairman PHMA said "I would like to draw the attention of government to take strict action in these things and if industry items stopped then exporters can be at a loss and this is not a very good sign for the exporters." Government takes positive steps to save the heavy loss of PHMA traders/importers. He further said that if industry work stopped then the export can also suffer. So this is my appeal to the government to think about this and save the industry and save the heavy loss of our traders/importers/exporters."

Food importers should be allowed to buy dollars

Dollar destroying currencies of other countries, 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 Monday said food importers should be allowed to buy dollars from legal channels.

The government should take all the necessary steps to arrest the increase in the price of food items, especially vegetables being imported from Afghanistan and Iran, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government has instructed food importers to prefer barter trade, which is difficult, while the continuous depreciation of the rupee has made Afghan



exporters unwilling to trade in rupees and are preferring dollars.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that due to the flood, there has been a shortage of tomatoes, onions, potatoes and other vegetables in the country, which are being imported from Afghanistan and Iran, while imports from India have not been allowed

which is surprising.

He said that despite the shortage of vegetables in the country, importers are not allowed to buy dollars from banks or exchange companies and they are getting dollars from the open market which is increasing the size of this illegal market. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that the dollar is strangling the rupee and some elements are taking advantage of the political chaos to smuggle dollars, which is weakening the economy.

Despite the shortage of dollars in the country, some banks are taking advantage of the opportunity and according to some currency dealers, banks are sending dollars out through credit cards, while some are buying dollars from the open market against which

the central bank needs to act urgently.

The central bank may raise interest rates to reduce demand for dollars which will affect business activities while increasing unemployment and reducing productivity as well as revenue. The dollar has pushed the euro and the yen to two-decade lows, while the British pound is at its lowest level in more than forty years.

The central banks have left with two options, either increase interest rates or throw dollars in the market to control depreciation. However, Pakistan does not have the luxury to pump dollars into the market to dampen its demand. As long as the interest rates in the US continue to rise, the dollar will continue to strengthen while all other currencies will erode.

RCCI shows grave concern on delay in opening of LCs

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has shown grave concern over the delay in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) and demanded the Federal Minister Finance Miftah Ismail to intervene and open LCs immediately.

RCCI President Nadeem Rauf has said in a statement that many industries are now facing shortage of raw material and are on the verge of cutting their production. He said that key products especially under HS code 84 and 85 include home appliances, air conditioners, IT products, generators, telecom, steel and automobiles. Importers are worried due to non-opening of LCs.

Factories importing raw material for producing food, medicines and iron are now facing serious supply constraints. "Due to non-release of our import documents and consequent non-availability of raw mate-

rial, the manufacturing units are on the verge of closure," he said.

He said that despite the lifting of the import ban by the government, delay in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for essential machinery, equipment and spare parts is a matter of grave concern for traders.

Nadeem Rauf said that the current economic situation is very disturbing; SMEs and large-scale industry (LSM) are suffering from slowness.

Production has stopped due to non-availability of parts, bank payments are not being made, operational expenses are also becoming difficult to meet, which has increased the fear of unemployment, he added.

He said that large firms in Pakistan rely on imported raw materials / parts, which run our industries. He appealed to the Finance Minister and Governor State Bank to take immediate notice of the situation and open LCs.

Energy Training

ETRC inks MOU with Chinese LONGi Solar Technology



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Energy Training and Research Center (ETRC) and Chinese company LONGi Solar Technology Co. Ltd signed cooperation MOU yesterday at Energy Training and Research Center under which LONGi Solar will be providing technical and financial support for conducting two months Solar Training on Solar Photovoltaic (PV) system for Power Generation at ETRC Lahore. The chief guest of the event was Mr. Ali Majid, Country Manager (Pakistan) LONGi Solar China.

Mr. Ali Majid, Country Manager (Pakistan) LONGi Solar shared his views by saying that, LONGi Solar headquartered is located in Xi'an, is professional manufacturer of high-efficiency mono-crystalline solar cells and modules. By the end of 2016, LONGi Solar will possess 5.5GW of cells and 5GW of modules, incorporating 1GW of overseas capacity. With the obvious advantage of significant experience in mono-crystalline silicon products, LONGi Solar has shipped over 1GW in 2015 within mainland China and is now ready to enter over-

seas markets with branches in USA, Germany and Japan. He further added that the purpose of this support program/course is to combat the solar workforce gap arising because of rising demand of solar work force in Pakistan due to the hike in electricity rate.

Engr Faiz Bhutta, Head Energy Training and Research Centre (ETRC) is a reputed Solar Consultant and Trainer in Pakistan and has trained more than 3000 persons in Pakistan on solar, Micro Hydro and Energy Management. He said that Energy Training and Research Center (ETRC) is a SECP (Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan) registered Not-For-Profit Organization emerged out of the merger of already well-established Energy Training Center and Pakistan Renewable Academy (PRENAC) www.prenac.org in order to have one integrated platform with addition of Research area to enhance its capacity toward full energy training and research portfolio. He shared that the prime focus of this program is towards Green, Clean and Fossil Free Energy and research focus will be toward energy policy, regulations, markets and standards.

TECNO soon to debut its Camon 19 Pro

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: TECNO is about to add another superstar Camon 19 Pro to their camera-famous Camon series. This new addition aims to supersede the available competition in the market. Camon 19 Pro is set to unveil

industry-leading technology, high-tech cameras, and premium design applauded by the global market. Camon 19 Pro is expected to have two variants: Camon 19 Pro and Camon 19 Pro Mondrian.

The Pro addition to Camon 19 series is ready to trump the competition in the smart-



phone camera market. The smart phones in this series feature a 64MP Super

Night Camera equipped with RGBW technology (G+P)-co-developed with Samsung, a 50MP Portrait camera with a 2X optical zoom lens, and a 32MP bright light front camera.

Camon 19 Pro series offers the industry's slimmest bezels of 0.98mm.

5G Group of Companies organizes interactive session

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: To further its commitment towards safe and healthier lifestyle in the country, 5G Group of Companies organized an interactive session with the people associated with the real estate sector of the country. The session was organized at a local hotel in Lahore and was attended by prominent figures from different walks of life, investors and businessmen.

The basic aim of the gathering was to raise awareness among the people about how safe and healthier lifestyle can bring the change in the society.

While speaking on the occasion, Mujeeb Ahmed Khan,



Director Sales and Marketing, Lahore Smart City & Capital Smart City said that Pakistan's real estate sector is making significant contributions to the country's economic development. He said that Smart City

has become the bright future of Pakistan. He maintained that Smart City has always been a mark of pride when it comes to quality living and providing the best value of money. Members' convenience and satisfaction

have always been our first priority, he maintained.

Speaking on the occasion, Usman Khan - Chairman of 5G Group of Companies - said that real estate is the largest segment of Pakistan's economy. He claimed that Habib Rafique Group has made real estate as a significant industry of Pakistan through the development of Capital Smart City and Lahore Smart City.

Capital Smart City is a new eco-friendly destination with an exclusively designated interchange on the motorway (M2). A grand entrance with an 18-Lanes (400 Ft. wide) central boulevard just 5-7 minutes away from New Islamabad International Airport.

Shan Foods joins hands with IHHN

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Shan Foods, a leading name in the food industry, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN), a not-for-profit healthcare Network. Founded in 2007, IHHN has now evolved into Pakistan's private sector's largest free-of-cost healthcare Network with 13 hospitals, 4 regional blood centers, 4 physical rehabilitation centers, 26 primary care facilities and community-based outreach programs. Through this MoU, Shan Foods will sponsor 142 chemotherapy sessions for pediatric cancer patients every three months for over a year.

Cancer is one of the most neglected non-communicable diseases in Pakistan, with pediatric cancer particularly disregarded. Even though more than 8,000 children in Pakistan are diagnosed with cancer every year, the limited number of pediatric oncology centers means that not more than 50% are properly diagnosed and treated. The cost-prohibitive treatment, coupled with lack of awareness in families means that a staggering 45% of children with cancer never reach the hospital.

Furthermore, the unavailability of dedicated pediatric oncology centers and a specialized workforce trained to manage pediatric cancer leads to a substandard level of care and poor cancer survival in children. These challenges amalgamate into a dismal pediatric cancer survival rate in Pakistan; where around the world 85% of children with cancer go on to survive, in Pakistan only 20-30 out of every 100 children with cancer can hope for survival. IHHN is a ray of hope for pediatric cancer patients and their families in Pakistan, providing free-of-cost, high quality treatment at a state of the art pediatric cancer unit, which is the largest in Pakistan with 85 beds. To date, more than 10,600 children have been treated here for cancer, with more than 1,500 children being added to this pool from across Pakistan and even across borders. Shan Foods has joined IHHN in this noble cause, and will cover the cost of life saving Chemotherapy for children undergoing cancer treatment.

Maria Rashdi, Head of Corporate Communications and PR Shan Foods, said, "Shan Foods firmly believes that affordable and easily accessible, quality healthcare is a basic right of every citizen. We appreciate the services of IHHN to ensure this basic right for people.

Pakistan, England to use T20 series to gauge World Cup readiness

England will play four matches in Karachi and three in Lahore

KARACHI: England will kick off their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years with the first clash of the seven-match T20 series assuming even more importance for both sides ahead of the World Cup in Australia next month.

England were initially scheduled to tour Pakistan last year but it did not materialise because of security concerns. Jos Buttler's men were only given the green light to tour this year after a security team evaluated the situation on the ground.

England will play four matches in Karachi and three in Lahore before returning in December to play three tests in the second leg of the tour.

With Buttler set to miss the Karachi leg as he recovers from a knee injury, the side will be led by Moeen Ali, whose grandfather moved to England from Pakistan after the Second World War.

"It is going to be memorable playing in front of the Pakistani crowds and also an immense honour to deputise for Jos



Buttler, while he recovers from injury, and captain England," Moeen wrote in his column for the Daily Mail.

"Of course, this tour is important for

cricket and it is also crucial for us as a side. "Seven T20s will be a stern test in these conditions and a good pointer for where we are, ahead of the World Cup

in Australia next month," added the all-rounder.

England last toured Pakistan in 2005 but at least 10 members of the current squad have some experience of local conditions courtesy of their Pakistan Super League (PSL) stints.

One of them, Alex Hales, will be particularly keen to impress after his three-year absence from international cricket due to an off-field issue. Pakistan, meanwhile, will look to shrug off the disappointment of losing to Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final earlier this month.

Skipper Babar Azam's slump in form, and their overall batting approach in 20-overs cricket, have been major talking points and Pakistan will look to iron out the kinks during the course of the series.

England begin their Twenty20 World Cup campaign against Afghanistan in Perth on October 22, a day before Pakistan's opener against arch-rivals India in Melbourne.

PHF announces 32-member camp for Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) on Monday announced a 32-member national hockey training camp for the preparation for Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup, taking place in Ipoh, Malaysia from November 1 to 10.

The camp will be held from September 25 at Abdul Sattar Edhi Hockey Stadium, Karachi, a PHF spokesman said. The players have been instructed to report to Abdul Sattar Edhi Hockey Stadium on September 25.

The players invited for the camp include:- Goalkeepers: Abdullah Ishtiaq (Mari Petroleum), Akmal Hussain (WAPDA), Waqar (WAPDA), Abdullah Sheikh (Karachi) Defenders: Mubashar Ali (WAPDA), Rizwan Ali (PAF) Muham-



mad Abdullah (Mari Petroleum), Imad Shakeel Butt (NBP), Moeen Shakeel (WAPDA) Sufyan (Pakistan Navy) Abdul Manan, (Pakistan Air Force), Hammaduddin Anjum (WAPDA), Muhammad Umar Bhutta (WAPDA), Rana Abdul Waheed (WAPDA) Ehtisham Aslam (Mari Petroleum), Ijaz Ahmed (WAPDA), Osama Bashir (PAF), Junaid Manzoor (NBP), Arbaz Ahmed (Mari Petroleum),

Ghazanfar Ali (Mari Petroleum) M Murtaza Yaqub (WAPDA), Zahidullah (WAPDA) Forwards: Rana Sohail Riaz (Sui Southern Gas), Abuzar (NBP), Ahmed Nadeem (Mari Petroleum), Muhammad Shahzeb Khan (Karachi), Arshad Liaquat (Mari Petroleum), Ali Murtaza (Lahore), Roman Khan (WAPDA), Faraz (Mari Petroleum), Abdul Hanan Shahid (WAPDA), Obaidullah Bhutto (WAPDA).

The players who performed well in the recent Chief of Army Staff Inter Club event are also part of the national hockey training camp, including the best goalkeeper of the event Abdullah Sheikh, best player Osama Bashir and top scorer Ali Murtaza.

Muhammad Saeed Khan will be the team manager of Pakistan yeam while Siegfried Aikman, Ayaz Mehmood, Muhammad Usman Sheikh, Imran Butt and Muhammad Ali Khan will be the assistant coaches in the coaches panel. Abu Zaram Rao will be the video analyst and Rana Nasrullah the physical trainer.

Six teams will participate in the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey, including hosts Malaysia, Pakistan, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and Canada.

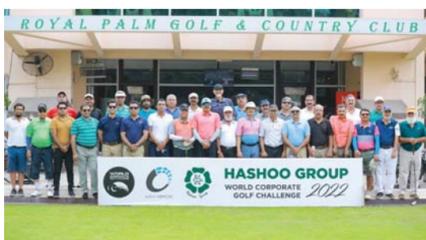
Hashoo Group World Corporate Golf Challenge: A phenomenal success

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: World Corporate Golf Challenge is the largest corporate golf tournament in the world and since its inception nearly three decades ago, and over one million golfers have competed across the globe for a chance to represent their company and country at World Finals.

Loco Services is the license holder of WCGC in Pakistan, and the official country partner of Heritage World Cup, GEC Open and World Golf & Business Club.

Following the success of the recent years WCGC tournaments, Hashoo Group, the Title Sponsor of the 6th edition of Hashoo Group World Corporate



Golf Challenge (WCGC), in collaboration with Loco Services hosted four events in 3 cities, Karachi, Islamabad, and Lahore this year, on 28th August, 11th September and 17th - 18th September respectively.

Held across the three major cities in Pakistan, the tournament was attended by Mr. Haseeb Gardezi, COO, Hospitality and Education

Division, Mr. Shakir Bhura, CFO, Hospitality and Real Estate Division, Hashoo Group, and Mr. Asim Ibrahim, SVPO, Hashoo Hotels, along with the top golfers from Corporate Sector, and Geo Super, as the exclusive media partner.

The winning team of the South Region (Karachi) was Lucky One: Mr. Ahmad Noman and Mr.

Malik Murtaza. North Region (Islamabad) winning team was PAEC: Mr. Imran Ahmed Khan and Mr. Shahid Aman. The winning team from Central Region (Lahore) was DCC Developers: Mr. Shah Nawaz Durrani and Mr. Saqib Rehman. A total of fifteen top teams, five from each region, competed against each other in the WCGC National Final, held at the Royal Palm Golf and Country Club, Lahore on 18th September.

The winning team of the National Final of Hashoo Group World Corporate Golf Challenge Pakistan, DCC Developers: Shah Nawaz Durrani and Saqib Rehman will represent Pakistan at World Final in Tenerife, Spain, during October 2022.

Cummins issues warning to opposition batters ahead of India series

SYDNEY: Australia pacer Pat Cummins has issued a warning to opposition batters by declaring he is fit and firing and ready to peak during the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup.

Cummins skipped Australia's recent home series against Zimbabwe and New Zealand and hasn't featured for his country since their World Test Championship series against Sri Lanka at the start of July.

The break has allowed Cummins to get plenty of rest into his battle-weary body and spend some extra time with his wife and young child ahead of a busy summer of cricket at home for Australia. Cummins is currently in India preparing for Australia's three-match T20I series against India, before he returns home to try and help his side retain the T20 World Cup crown they won in Dubai last year.

And Australia's Test captain says he is ready for the hectic upcoming schedule and confident he can make an impact in whatever format he plays.

"I'm pretty keen to play quite a lot so that come the World Cup I feel like my



game is in really good order," Cummins said.

"That World Cup is the time we want to be peaking so I think we'll find that balance between making sure we're ready but not overcooked going to the start of the World Cup. "I feel probably the best I have for a year or two, my body feels fresh, it feels like I've been able to have a mini pre-season.

"In terms of mindset, I feel really fresh and ready to get stuck in, so it was a great break, a couple of the niggles are fine.

"There will be ongoing management, some of those things just compound if you don't get that little window, so they are all as good as they have been for a while."

Australia will field a relatively experimental side against India during the three-match series that commences in Mohali on Tuesday, with as many as four first choice players missing through injury or rested.

Veteran opener David Warner skipped the tour to help obtain some extra rest prior to the T20 World Cup, while regulars Mith Marsh (ankle), Marcus Stoinis (side) and Mitchell Starc (knee) are battling minor injury concerns. It means highly-touted all-rounder Tim David is likely to make his Australia debut against India and Cummins is confident the 26-year-old can slot in seamlessly to his side's middle-order.

"He's been right up there with the best in the world batting in that middle-order," Cummins said. "It's a really tough spot (to bat), you see most of the run-scorers open the batting or in the top-order.

Alcaraz puts Spain into Davis Cup quarters



PARIS: World number one Carlos Alcaraz sealed Spain's berth in the Davis Cup quarter-finals on Sunday by beating South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo in straight sets.

US Open champion Alcaraz won 6-4, 7-6 (7/1) against his 74th-ranked opponent at home in Valencia, after Roberto Bautista Agut had earlier beaten Hong Seong-Chan 6-1, 6-3.

After their surprise 2-1 loss to Canada on Friday, in which Alcaraz lost to Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime, the Spaniards won in the singles against South Korea.

"Playing the Davis Cup here is an honour for me," Alcaraz told the crowd after the match. "But it's even better to come here being No. 1 in the world and US Open champion, to share this moment with all my people, my family, my friends."

First in Group B ahead of Canada, the Spaniards will meet Croatia in the quarter-finals in November, in front of their home crowd in Malaga. Serbia, in third, have been eliminated.

In Hamburg, Germany took the top spot in Group C ahead of Australia after doubles pairing Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz's 6-4, 6-4 victory over Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell.

That gave the hosts a 2-1 victory. In singles, Thanasi Kokkinakis beat Oscar Otte 7-6 (8/6), 6-1 to keep Australia in the tie after Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff eased past Purcell 6-1, 7-5. Germany and Australia had already secured the top two spots in Group C with wins over France and Belgium earlier in the group stage.

The Germans next meet Canada and Australia play the Netherlands. The Dutch finished the group stage undefeated in their Group D, where Andy Murray's Britain claimed third place by beating Kazakhstan with difficulty after the doubles on Sunday where each set was a tie-break as Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski edged Alexander Bublik and Aleksandr Nedovyesov 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (9/11), 7-6 (7/4).

In Bologna, Croatia advanced to the last eight thanks to Italy's 2-1 win over Sweden in Group A.

Zimbabwe, PNG register comprehensive wins

DUBAI: Zimbabwe and PNG got the better of Thailand and UAE respectively in the afternoon games on the second day of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier 2022.

Opting to bat first, Thailand were in big trouble early on after losing wickets in quick succession. Zimbabwe's bowling trio of Nomvelo Sibanda, Josephine Nkomo and Audrey Mazvishaya made life difficult for the Thailand batters in the opening exchange that saw them lose half their side inside the first seven overs.

Nannapat Koncharoenkai and Sornnarin Tippoch were forced to drop anchor to avoid getting bundled out for cheap. However, it meant that they had to bat extremely cautiously. Their 22-run stand came off 47 balls. Koncharoenkai remained unbeaten on 47 as Thailand ended up with a modest 86/6 in their 20 overs.

Sharne Mayers and Kelis Ndlovu got Zimbabwe off to a quick start and within the first five overs, had knocked off half the target. Mayer fell after the Powerplay and Zimbabwe lost three quick wickets thereafter, including that of Ndlovu four runs short of a fifty. However, they chased down the target with more than three overs to spare to go on top of Group B in the table.

Put in to bat first, Sibona Jimmy and Naoani Vare got the team off to a solid start with a 29-run opening stand. Jimmy then added 35 runs for the second wicket along with Tanya Ruma with the former assuming the role of the aggressor.

Once Jimmy departed, Ruma took on the UAE bowling attack, starting with three consecutive sixes off Vaishnava Mahesh in the 13th over. PNG were 115/2 with five overs remaining before UAE fought back brilliantly to restrict PNG to 148/6. Bowling all four of her overs on the trot in the end, Samaira Dharmidharka returned with brilliant figures of 3/22. Ruma got to a well-deserved half-century laced with 4 fours and sixes each.

UAE got off to a brisk start in the Powerplay, scoring 46 runs while losing just one wicket. The second-wicket stand between Theertha Satish and Kavisha Egodage was worth 53 runs and put UAE in a commanding position in the chase.

However, the wicket of Egodage triggered a collapse and UAE never managed to recover from it. From 77/2, UAE could only manage 119/8. Satish was the last wicket to fall but her 56-ball 68 went in vain as UAE fell short by 29 runs.

Murray hopes to play in Davis Cup again

LONDON: Britain's Andy Murray said he felt "a bit emotional" over the idea he may have made his last appearance in the Davis Cup but the three-times Grand Slam champion added that he hopes to be selected again.

Murray defeated Kazakhstan's Dmitry Popko 6-3 6-4 in Sunday's dead rubber following Britain's losses to the United States and the Netherlands.

The 35-year-old led Britain to their first Davis Cup title for 79 years in 2015, but has struggled to regain top form since undergoing two hip surgeries and is currently ranked 43rd in the world.

Murray said he felt emotional in the final moments of Sunday's match in front of his home crowd in Glasgow. "I only thought about it at about 5-2 today, to be honest, in the second set."

Murray told reporters when asked whether he thought it could be his last Davis Cup match. "I wasn't thinking about it before the weekend or during any of the doubles matches or anything ... I lost my focus a bit and felt a little bit emotional about that."

The former world number one said getting the opportunity to play for Britain again would be difficult due to the competition for places in the team.

"It's obviously not going to be easy with the players that we have... Then obviously don't know which way the captain will go with the doubles after the results here, as well," Murray said. "Don't know what the future holds ... But if I'm selected, yeah, I'll definitely be involved," he added.

Siebatcheu, Becker fire Union top of Bundesliga

BERLIN: Second-half goals from Jordan Siebatcheu and Sheraldo Becker propelled Union Berlin back to the top of the Bundesliga with a 2-0 home win over Wolfsburg on Sunday.

Union, in only their fourth year in the top division, are the Bundesliga's only unbeaten team after seven matches and will finish top for the second week in a row.

Union manager Urs Fischer suggested things were running so well with his table-topping team, that he could take a back seat. "I thought it was very impressive how the side delivered - it was a very mature performance in my eyes," Fischer told German news agency SID. "In the second half we were very dominant. I didn't feel the need to exert any influence from outside."

Before the match, the biggest cheer from the Alte Foersterei crowd was reserved for returning defender Timo Baumgartl, who made his first appearance in the starting XI since overcoming testicular cancer.

Speaking after the victory, Baumgartl told broadcaster DAZN "that's exactly what I was dreaming of after chemotherapy." "These are emotional moments for me."

Just as they did last matchday against Cologne, Union opened in furious fashion, almost taking the lead after just 45 seconds when Janik Haberer forced a block from Wolfsburg 'keeper Koen Casteels.

Union had another chance through Becker just two minutes later, but the Bundesliga's leading goalscorer blazed over. As the half wore on, Nico Kovac's Wolfsburg took the sting out of the game and produced the chance of the first half, with Josip Brekalo's shot, set up by a backheel from Bartol Franjic, skimming just wide.

Bastianini nails Aragon MotoGP on last lap

ALCAÑIZ: Enea Bastianini won the Aragon MotoGP with a last lap overtake after mayhem at the start as world champion Fabio Quartararo crashed out to put a severe dent in his hopes of retaining the title.

Bastianini shaded Francesco Bagnaia following a nerve-jangling duel over the closing laps to deny the factory Ducati rider a fifth straight win by four-tenths of a second. With Quartararo the victim of first lap drama pole-sitter Bagnaia moved to within 10 points of Yamaha's defending champion with five races remaining.

"Enea did an incredible job all weekend, he was very competitive," said Bagnaia, who will have the race winner as his teammate next season. "Fabio (Quartararo) was unlucky. I tried to do my best, but on the last lap I didn't feel I was able to retake Enea as these 10 points are important so I did okay." "It was a really nice race for me," said Bastianini, on



a Ducati satellite bike. "I made some mistakes but on the last lap I was in a position to attack this time to win. Amazing!" Aprilia's Aleix Espargaro took third at the end of a breathless 15th round of the championship which saw six-time world champion Marc Marquez's hopes of a dream return after 112 days out turn into a nightmare.

It was Marquez's Honda that Quartararo clipped, sending the Frenchman slithering across the track as his Aragon curse continued at the Motor-

land circuit where he has never made the podium.

Seconds later Honda's Japanese rider Takaaki Nakagami also hit the deck, after contact again with Marquez, who was forced to retire with damage to his bike.

Yamaha boss Lin Jarvis reported his star man Quartararo had escaped without serious injury. "Obviously a really bad day for Fabio," he said. "The good news is he's okay. I've just heard from the clinic that he has nothing, no serious problem, only abrasions, but he'll be fine for the next race in Japan.

"Unfortunately in the middle of the bunch he clipped the rear of Marquez's bike. Fabio is angry, upset, but from what we can see it appears a racing incident." Quartararo, whose miserable day ended with another fall from a scooter leaving the track, said: "I feel bad. For once we had the pace to fight for a good result here, unfortunately that wasn't possible."