



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ کسی بھی مسلمان کو مرثیہ کی تکلیف یا کوئی اور کوئی تکلیف ہوتی ہے تو اللہ تعالیٰ اس کے گناہوں کو اس طرح گرا دیتا ہے جیسے درخت اپنے پتوں کو گرا دیتا ہے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5660)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

UN chief warns of worst climate change devastations

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urges the developed countries, international financial institutions and fossil fuel companies to come forward to help the developing nations, facing the worst climate change devastations, especially in Pakistan. At inaugural of 77th Session of UNGA, Antonio Guterres said he himself witnessed the devastation caused by recent rains and floods in Pakistan.



AJK president seeks USA's role to help resolve Kashmir dispute

President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the United States should play its role to bring about a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue that has been the main cause and consequence of rights violations in the region.

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Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 24, Wednesday, September 21, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 168

Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Relief package

ADB ready to assist flood-hit Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) preparing a flood relief package to assist Pakistan, stricken by devastating floods.

The ADB in a communique said that the bank will participate in funding for relief work in flood affected areas of the country. The bank will provide support to poor people, ailing women and children suffered ravages of flooding.

The ADB will provide help to farmers who suffered losses of crops and extend assistance in cultivation of crops so as they could stand on their feet, according to the statement.

The lender will also provide funds for rebuilding of roads, bridges and other infrastructure destroyed in flood. It will also extend support for reconstruction of damaged houses, schools, hospitals and other amenity buildings.

The ADB in its recent report had placed Pakistan among high-risk countries prone to be affected by natural calamities, adding that the country every year suffered losses of US\$2 billion from natural disasters.

The report shared by the ADB highlighted that floods have brought more destruction than earthquakes in Pakistan and every year natural calamities claim on an average 863 lives in the country.

The natural calamities have increased poverty in the country after floods destroy harvest, homes and other infrastructure. "There is only a limited insurance of harvest in Pakistan and only 272,000 farmers have got their harvest insured," it reported.

77th UNGA Session opens

Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif attending the opening of the General Debate in the General Assembly of the United Nations, New York on Tuesday.



PM attends opening session of UNGA, meets world leaders

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets New Zealand PM, President of France and other world leaders

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday attended the opening session of the high-level general debate of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif interacted with his counterpart from New Zealand Jacinda Arden at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York, United States.

PM Shehbaz is currently in New York to attend the 77th session of UNGA, starting today (Tuesday), the first in-person session since 2019 after which all meetings were made virtual due to the pandemic.

In a post shared on Twitter by

the Prime Minister's Office, the premier could be seen holding a discussion with PM Arden.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif interacts with Jacinda Arden, Prime Minister of New Zealand at the welcoming reception by UN Secretary-General for Heads of State/Government participating in the seventy-seventh session of UNGA," read the caption.

The prime minister also met President of France Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the 77th UNGA session.

Moreover, PM Shehbaz also interacted with the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Karl Nehammer at the UN.

Earlier, PM Shehbaz said that he was there "to tell Pakistan's story to the world."

"A story of deep anguish and pain arising out of a massive human tragedy caused by floods. In my address at UNGA and bilateral meetings, I will present Pakistan's case on issues that call for the world's immediate atten-

tion," the premier wrote.

He will address the session on September 23.

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, the prime minister will participate in the Global Food

Security Summit jointly organised by the African Union, European Union and the United States, and a Closed-door Leaders Gathering on COP-27 bringing together select world leaders to discuss climate change.

The premier will hold a number of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from various countries, the President of the General Assembly, the UN Secretary-General as well as heads of International Organizations, IFIs and philanthropic organisations. Leaders will also have the opportunity to interact during the receptions hosted by the UN Secretary-General and the President of the United States.

PM Shehbaz will also hold interactions with the international media.

PM Shehbaz says he is in New York "to tell Pakistan's story to the world"

PTI to prepare road map for economic recovery: Imran

Says hard work done to stable economy was destroyed within weeks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that he will prepare a complete road map for the economic recovery.

A meeting of the senior political leadership and economic team of the party was held under the chairmanship of Imran Khan. During the meeting, the country's political situation and deteriorating economic conditions were discussed in detail.

A special committee consisting of political and economic experts was established under the chairmanship of former finance minister Shaukat Tarin. The committee set up

will also recommend measures to protect the poor and needy from the worst effects of the economy and help them.

On this occasion, Imran Khan said that a good, stable and developing economy was brought to ruin by foreign conspiracy, while the country was subjected to political instability and a bunch of incompetent people was imposed without preparation, he added. The PTI Chairman went on to say that the hard work done to stable the economy was destroyed within weeks.

The only way to get the country out of the mire of economic disaster is transparent and early elections, said the former premier. Agencies

Imran trying to return to power, says Info Minister

Trough blackmailing & intimidation'

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said Imran Khan was a 'bluff master' and trying to return into power through 'blackmailing and intimidation'. "It is not possible for you (Imran Khan) to get power (back) through blackmailing, bluff and lies," the minister said in a news statement while reacting to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's remarks.

Those, who were advising on (striking) a balance in the civil-military relationship, should better care about Imran's 'mental health', she said while referring to

Chaudhry Fawad Hussain's statement. Imran Khan first hurled allegations and then resorted to giving clarifications, which showed that his mental condition was in a total disarray, she added. The PTI chief, she said, "is a coward, otherwise, he should name the persons who are threatening him and his party leaders".

She said Imran Khan, who was a "coward" and "liar", sent his political opponents to jails while assuming that the time would never change for him.

The minister said Imran Khan had assumed that he could frighten Maryam Nawaz by sending her to jail, but, in fact, he was afraid of her growing popularity among the masses.

Imran Khan wants US to broker political truce: Maryam

ISLAMABAD: In yet another scathing flak, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Tuesday said PTI Chairman Imran Khan, who had accused the US of co-conspiring to overthrow his government, was now "lobbying with the Americans to get himself a political bailout".

"Today, he is trying to convince the US to broker a normalisation deal between him (Khan) and them (the establishment)," she said while talking to the media in the federal capital.

Maryam dared Khan to name the people he referred to as X, Y, and Z, which he often refers to during his speeches.

"How does challenging them in the daylight and then kissing their feet in the night work?" she questioned. She said the PTI chairman must have the "moral courage to come clean about who he had been secretly meeting in the dark of the night."

The PML-N vice president went on to say that Khan was not happy over his party leaders' ongoing engagements with the establishment. "We have given the names as well as the proof."



ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Pakistan Muslims League (N) Maryam Nawaz talking to media persons outside Islamabad High Court after attending her hearing, in Federal Capital. Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

On the accusation of threatening phone calls, Maryam said Khan, who used to have his trolls harass others over the phone, was now getting a taste of his own medicine.

"We also received such threatening calls ourselves, but our revolution did not die out in two months."

Maryam said Khan's revolution was "too scared of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah" to take to the streets, adding it was nature's way that no matter how long it might take, the truth would always see the light.

She said her father and the party supreme Nawaz Sharif would soon return to Pakistan and would be cleared in the illegal cases he was facing for crimes never committed.

"Khan is not the blue-eyed boy. They are just using him and he is saying if he doesn't get an army chief of his choice, then he is going to smear their faces," she said while resuming her flak.

Maryam also lamented the skyrocketing inflation but pinned it on the former PTI government's economic mismanagement. Agencies

Army Chief, EU envoy discuss regional security

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa says Pakistan earnestly looks forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations with the European Union based on common interests.

He was talking to Ambassador of European Union Dr Riina Kionka who called on him in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation with European Union were discussed. They hoped to further increase bilateral engagement. Congratulating the Ambassador on assuming her new appointment, the Army Chief said Pakistan values its relations with European Union.

Speaking on the occasion, the Ambassador pledged to play her role for promotion of bilateral relations between Pakistan and European Union.

Expressing deep grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan, she extended sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

Promoting trade

Pak-China agree to encourage int'l investment in CPEC

Inviting third parties to CPEC attests to transparency, openness: Ambassador Haque

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan and China agreed to welcome and encourage international investment and introduction of advanced technologies and expertise in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from third parties who were ready to work with the two countries for common development, Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque said on Tuesday.

"Inviting third parties to join the CPEC is consistent with international best practices and also attest to its transparency and openness," he said in an interview with Global Times on "iron brothers" relations, the CPEC and his take on China's development.

Ambassador Haque said that both Pakistani and Chinese governments had consistently rejected malicious propaganda against the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the CPEC.

"It is said that some sections only view the BRI from the narrow prism of geopolitics and glibly ignore its potential for socio-economic development and prosperity of the entire region," he added.

Responding to a question about the biggest challenges facing the construc-



tion of the CPEC at this moment, he said that Pakistan and China remained committed to the fast-track development of the CPEC with special focus on industrial relocation, agricultural modernization, science and technology cooperation, job creation and the socio-economic well-being of our people.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic in the last two years, all CPEC projects have continued unhindered.

The 10th meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee held in Septem-

ber 2021 and subsequent meetings of specialized Joint Working Groups reviewed wide-ranging cooperation under the CPEC framework.

"A new Joint Working Group on Information Technology and Industry has also been established to support high-quality development of the CPEC as envisioned by the leadership of the two countries," he added.

He assured that Pakistan would continue to extend all possible assistance to the Chinese companies working on CPEC projects and would closely partner with China to remove all challenges for its steady development.

Regional Peace & Stability

NEW YORK: US Special Representative for Afghanistan, Thomas West called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari here on Monday.



Photo: APP

Angelina Jolie visits Dadu to interact with flood victims



Our Correspondent

DADU: International humanitarian and Hollywood actor Angelina Jolie is visiting Dadu District in Sindh, which is one of the worst-affected areas due to the heavy flooding, to interact with the victims.

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said that Jolie was visiting Pakistan to support communities affected by the devastating floods. Heavy rains and floods across the country have killed over 1,500 people, impacted 33 million, and submerged one-third of the country under water.

Jolie is visiting to witness and gain an understanding of the situation and to hear from people directly affected by the floods. She will be hearing their stories, talking about their needs, and discussing steps to prevent such suffering in the future, the IRC's statement mentioned.

Jolie, who previously visited victims of the 2010 floods and 2005 earthquake in Pakistan when she was the UNHCR's goodwill ambassador, is scheduled to visit the IRC's emergency response operations and local organisations assisting displaced people, including Afghan refugees.

Peaceful Afghanistan priority for Pakistan: FM

US Special Representative for Afghanistan lauds Pakistan's efforts for stability in Afghanistan

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has stressed that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan is a priority for Pakistan.

Talking to the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West who called on him in New York, he emphasized the significance of continuing international engagement with the interim Afghan government for lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan and beyond.

Referring to humanitarian prospects in Afghanistan, which United Nations and international agencies warn will deteriorate further in impending winters, the Foreign Minister stressed that such

UNGA: Bilawal, Malala discuss challenges to education

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari Tuesday met Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai at the United Nations (UN) to discuss challenges to education after the devastation due to Pakistan's catastrophic floods. In a brief statement on Twitter, the foreign minister said that they discussed Pakistan's floods and challenges posed by the climate catastrophe to education for millions of young children affected. Both leaders also exchanged views on women's rights and girls' education, the foreign minister's tweet mentioned.

a scenario could result in mass refugee exodus and provide fertile ground for exploitation by terrorists/extremists, with regional and international implications.

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Thomas West appreciated Pakistan's efforts for peace and stability in Afghan-

istan, and in facilitation of evacuations.

The two sides acknowledged the need for continued cooperation on the shared objectives of sustained efforts and engagement of the international community to alleviate sufferings of the Afghan people and promote regional peace and stability.

Children facing harrowing situation in flood hit Pakistan: UNICEF

Staff Reporter

GENEVA/ISLAMABAD: "Next week marks a month since catastrophic floods uprooted more than 3.4 million children from their homes. The violent rapids have already claimed the lives of more than 550 children. Without a significant surge in support, we fear many more children will lose their lives."

"Even after three weeks, large parts of the flood-affected areas are still submerged under water. Many of the roads and bridges have either been washed away or damaged. Thousands of

families in the 81 calamity-hit districts are still cut off and desperately need support. Families have no food, clean water or medicines.

"Lack of food means a lot of the mothers are now anaemic and malnourished and have very low-weight babies.

UNICEF has been on the ground since Day 1 supporting the Government of Pakistan's flood response. Immediately following the floods, we dispatched US\$ 1 million in prepositioned supplies, with an additional US\$ 3million of supplies delivered and being dispatched

to the worst affected districts. We have set up 71 mobile health camps, and have set up temporary learning centres to help children cope with trauma.

"The world needs to come together and help the children in Pakistan. Our funding appeal for US\$ 39 million is still less than a third funded, and the needs of children will only continue to grow. Together we can save lives by delivering lifesaving health, nutrition, WASH, protection, and education services to every child in Pakistan who needs it the most.

Ahsan vows to rehabilitate flood victims through national unity

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Reforms and Special Initiative on Tuesday said that Pakistan was facing a large scale disaster in the world history due to the recent floods and torrential rains and vowed to revive the situation through national unity.

In recent floods, some three million people had been affected whose livelihood were destroyed, he said adding that around 1500 people also died in the recent floods.

Federal Minister for Planning, Reforms and Special Initiative said this while addressing a press conference after chairing a meeting here at the National Flood Response and



Cooperation Center.

Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lt General Akhtar Nawaz and Coordinator National Flood Response and Coordination Center Maj General Zafar Iqbal were also present on the occasion.

The Minister said that in flash floods, 1.7 million houses were destroyed, 800,000 cattle killed and millions of the people were left homeless.

He said that this was one of the largest disaster in modern time, which had disturbed the financial capacity of Pakistan therefore "we need the help of our friends to minimize the impact of losses."

Ahsan Iqbal said that after the huge calamity, challenges had emerged in different sectors, as millions of people were homeless and their livelihood had been affected by the disaster. He appealed to the nation and people who had not been affected by the floods to help these people in this critical time.

The Minister said that women belonging to the flood hit areas were suffering more as their health and livelihoods were destroyed as a result of the disaster.

Realizing true potential

President for enhancing Pak-Cambodia trade

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Tuesday said that the existing immense scope for investment, trade and business cooperation between Cambodia and Pakistan, needed to be realized to its fullest potential.

He added that both the countries had garments and textile sectors as the backbone of their economies, which could be further developed by creating linkages between the stakeholders of the two countries.

The President made these remarks while talking to Chairman Board of Directors of the World Bridge Group

of Companies, Cambodia, Neak Okhna Rithy Sear, who called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

During the meeting, the President highlighted the opportunities for investment in healthcare, real estate, energy, agriculture, housing, construction, marble, granite, pre-fabricated houses and tourism sectors of Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan possessed vast landscapes, different climate zones, Buddhist archaeological sites, mountains, beaches, rivers, vast deserts and the fertile lands of Punjab and Sindh, which offered tremendous opportunities for investment in the field of tourism.

Sessions court to hear Imran's case

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) on Tuesday transferred a case registered against PTI Chairman Imran Khan over his remarks against Additional Sessional Judge Zeba Chaudhry and officials of the Islamabad Police to the session court.

The ATC Islamabad has transferred the case against Imran Khan to the sessions court on the orders of the High Court. ATC Judge Raja Jawad Abbas Hassan heard the case. During today's proceedings, ATC directed PTI chief Imran Khan to approach the district and sessions court for interim bail as the matter did not fall under its jurisdiction in light of Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict which removed terrorism charges from the FIR. Imran's lawyer Dr. Babar Awan read out the high court's judgment regarding shifting the case to the sessions court. After listening arguments, the court sent the matter to the district court and disposed of the bail plea of Imran Khan.

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) yesterday 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.

Sanjrani lauds efforts of WHO



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has commended the efforts of World Health Organization (WHO) to protect people from epidemics and diseases in flood-affected areas.

During his visit to WHO office in Islamabad on Tuesday, Sadiq Sanjrani said a special health committee has been established on the request of the WHO chief, which would play a key role in providing basic health services to the people of Pakistan especially in Balochistan.

Chairman Senate eulogized Country Director World Health Organization Dr. Pulitha Gunrathana Mahipala for his efforts to providing relief to far-flung areas and underprivileged population of Balochistan.

On the occasion, The WHO Country Director welcomed the Chairman Senate and handed over the necessary medical equipment for the flood-affected districts of Balochistan. Agencies

Soldier embraces martyrdom in North Waziristan

DWA TOI: A Pakistan Army soldier embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with the terrorists on September 19, a statement issued by the ISPR said Tuesday. According to the military's media wing, terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border opened fire on the Pakistani troops in the general area of Dwa Toi, North Waziristan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner and, as per intelligence reports, terrorists suffered heavy casualties. However, during an exchange of fire, Sepoy Nazam Muhammad, who was a 34-year-old resident of Jaffarabad in Balochistan, embraced martyrdom having fighting the terrorists gallantly. Our Correspondent

It is state to recover missing MQM workers: Rana Sanaullah

We live in a state where enforced disappearance is not a crime, says MQM-P convener

KARACHI: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that it is the responsibility of the state to recover the missing Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) workers. He was in Karachi to meet with MQM-P leadership at their office located in Bahadurabad.

The minister said that the bodies of MQM workers who were missing for years were recovered recently. He said that the enforced disappearance is the state's failure, adding that the government would not leave any stone unturned for the recovery of missing MQM workers.

We can feel the pain of MQM as torture and enforced disappearances are against humanity, Rana said. Those involved in enforced disappearances are violating the constitution, the minister said. He expressed hope that the government still has the support of the MQM.

The minister also met with the families of missing workers. We live in an unfortunate state where enforced disappearance is not a crime, said MQM-P convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui.

MQM-P leader said that they do not wish to punish those responsible for the crime. We just want our workers to return, he said. Siddiqui said that earlier 27 of their workers were killed extra-judicially. According to a private TV channel, the Sanaullah is carrying a special message from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for the government's allies.

Recently, the MQM had threatened to quit the ruling coalition after the dumped bodies of three of their missing workers were found. They had also demanded that Prime Minister Shehbaz visit Karachi and inform them about the action taken by the government to recover



the missing men. Sabri said families of MQM's missing work-

ers have gathered at the Bahadurabad office of the party to meet with Sanaullah and learn

about the action taken by the government to recover the men. Agencies

IS Agriculture Sector

Pakistan, China vow to further strengthen bilateral cooperation

Both countries review progress of several investment initiatives by Chinese companies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFS&R), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) of the People's Republic of China jointly held the third meeting of China-Pakistan Joint Working Group (JWG) on Agriculture.

The participants of the meeting discussed and reviewed areas to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture and livestock between the two countries.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed progress of several investment initiatives by Chinese companies. Royal Group of China has established a laboratory in Lahore to develop buffalo embryos of elite animals. The company also plans to set up a buffalo dairy farm of 8,000 heads.

Dr. Akmal Siddiq, Technical Advisor MNFS&R, while welcoming the initiative, noted that the project will significantly improve buffalo breeds



and milk yield both in Pakistan and China.

Sichuan Litong Ltd. and China Machinery and Engineering Corporation have started chili contract-farming in Punjab and Sindh on 400 hectares. The company is providing local farmers technology and training to grow high-quality chilis. It has planned to expand this operation on 10,000 hectares and to also establish

a chili processing plant. Dr. Waseem ul Hassan, Food Security Commissioner at MNFS&R said that Pakistan is a net-importer of chili and this initiative will help in import-substitution and genetic improvement of chili in the local climate.

"Pakistan has tremendous potential to export horticultural products. Pakistan looks forward to exploring export potential of these products in

the Chinese market," said Dr. Akmal Siddiq, Technical Advisor MNFS&R.

These two investment initiatives, among others, are in the first batch of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor projects to boost agricultural trade and expand economic activities between the two countries.

China Animal Husbandry Industry Co., Ltd. is planning a livestock vaccine production plant in Gwadar which will produce vaccines to prevent animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth Disease. Shandong Rainbow Agriculture Polytron Technologies Inc. is planning to set up laboratories for potato seed culture and oilseed development. Zhengbang Ltd. has signed an MOU with Fauji Fertilizer Corporation to jointly establish plants to produce pesticides and cattle and poultry feed in the Allama Iqbal Special Economic Zone in Faisalabad under the said framework. Both sides appreciated and expressed satisfaction on the progress in business-to-business initiatives.

MMBL to offer e-health insurance to Careem captains

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has collaborated with Careem, a pioneer in the Middle East region's ride-hailing economy, to provide its Captains health insurance services over digital channels at market competitive rates for enhanced well-being.

MMBL's Chief Finance & Digital Officer, Sardar Mohammad Abubakar, and Country Head Careem Pakistan, Feroz Jaleel signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations to formally implement the initiative that intends to bring more value in terms of financial independence



and wellbeing to the diligent workforce that drives the successful ride-hailing service across Pakistan. Careem Captains will open their MMBL accounts digitally to access the insurance services while being assisted through the process by both the Careem & MMBL Support team.

Sharing his thoughts on the development, Chief Finance & Digital Officer

MMBL, Sardar Mohammad Abubakar said: "Innovation and digitalization is the twin fuel that drives our growth at MMBL, and expanding our services to Careem Captains will help enable the achievement of our collective goal to promote digital and financial inclusion at all tiers. Through this partnership, we aim to provide health & financial security to the

Captains, who ensure secure & comfortable rides for the masses every day."

Also speaking at the event, Country Head Careem Pakistan, Feroz Jaleel said: "Captains are at the heart of what we do and a priority area for us. This collaboration with MMBL will undoubtedly bring value to our deserving Captains in availing hassle-free digital financial solutions and e-health insurance. Careem has always been at the forefront of coming up with initiatives designed at improving the quality of life for Captains. This is the beginning of bigger solution space for our Captains as we will continue to explore other ways to improve financing."

BOP inaugurates new corporate, treasury office

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Bank of Punjab opened doors of its new, digitally-equipped Corporate & Treasury Front Offices today at Sky Tower, Dolmen Mall, Karachi. The new premises have been designed to better serve the customers of Karachi and the South market, as elevating the Bank's presence in this region is a strategic priority. In addition to increased customer facilitation, the new office will also enable our employees to service the Bank's products and services to a larger universe of customers. The Offices are complete with the entire gamut of the required technological infrastructure to enable cross-functional team interactions, and to stimulate enhanced service delivery.



The new corporate office was inaugurated by a selected group of BOP employees which included the oldest serving male and female staff and staff with special abilities. The inauguration was attended by Zafar Masud, President and CEO of The Bank of Punjab along with the senior members of the management and staff.

Speaking at the occasion, Masud shed light on the pivotal role played by the Bank's employees in achieving its strategic objectives. He stated that our employees are our most valuable resource. Speaking of the contributions by teams of all functional groups, the President & CEO reiterated the value and high esteem with which

the senior management of the Bank regards them. He assured all employees of the Bank's commitment to their wellbeing, and his awareness and appreciation of their tireless efforts to deliver results. Mr. Farid Ahmed Khan (Group Chief - Corporate & Investment Banking) expressed his pleasure at the recent steps taken by the Bank to elevate employee engagement, motivation, and wellbeing. He also extended his admiration towards the initiative to recognize and appreciate high-achieving employees. Khawar Ansari (Global Treasurer) expressed hope that CIBG and Treasury teams will measure up to the challenges of strengthening BOP's brand and foothold from these new offices to the entire country by upping the ante on transparent dealing with their clients.

ICCI urges govt to address delay in opening LCs of importers

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the business community was facing the problems of unnecessary delay in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for import of raw materials and called upon the government to address this issue on urgent basis for facilitating the growth of business activities. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Muhammad Naveed Malik, former Senior Vice President, ICCI.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that due to delay in opening of LCs, many industries including food, pharmaceuticals, steel, automobiles, telecom, home appliances etc. were facing the shortage of raw material for their



manufacturing activities and if this issue was not addressed forthwith, it would badly affect the production activities and further hurt the already struggling economy. He said that the government had announced to lift ban on imports, but the business community was still facing a delay in opening of LCs for many important items including machinery and equipment. This situation has created a lot of concerns in the SMEs and large scale manufacturing industry, therefore, he appealed

to the finance minister to take urgent notice of this matter and intervene to address this issue of utmost importance for the business community.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Nasir Qureshi, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar,

Ch. Masood, Malik Najeeb, Ashfaq Chatha, Saeed Khokhar, Mustafaeez Abbasi and others also spoke at the occasion and said that many industries in Pakistan relied on imported materials, but production activities were badly suffering due to delay in opening of LCs for imports. They emphasized that the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan should take urgent measures to address this issue of vital importance to save the production activities from further problems.

AJK president seeks USA's role to help resolve Kashmir dispute

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the United States should play its role to bring about a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue that has been the main cause and consequence of rights violations in the region.

The AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry made these assertions during his meeting with the US Deputy Secretary of State Elizabeth Horst here today. Bureau head of South Asia, Central Asia and Pakistan Christopher Jester was also present in the meeting.

On the occasion, the president while briefing the US Deputy Secretary of State Elizabeth Horst about the worsening political and human rights situation in the occupied Kashmir, Barrister Chaudhry said that in the aftermath of 5th August 2019, the violation of human rights at the hands of the Indian occupation forces have intensified to a great extent. "Killing of innocent Kashmiris and arbitrary arrests of civilians, harassment and humiliation of common citizens have become a new normal", he said adding that the Kashmiri people who have been trapped in extremely difficult situations were desperately looking for help from civilized nations.

Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry specially emphasized in this meeting that the United States should play its role in implementing the UN resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue once and for all. Being the only superpower, he said, America must use its diplomatic influence to resolve the issue of Occupied Kashmir.

Later, while talking to the journalists the AJK president said that the dire situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir merits urgent attention of the international community particularly the United States of America. He said that a deeper engagement on the part of the USA was imperative to find a lasting and permanent solution to the Kashmir issue and bring an end to violence and bloodshed in the region.



Ceremony held at City School Gulistan-e-Johar campus

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: To continue with the legacy of the high graduates in Cambridge Examination, the batch 2021-22 of The City School, Gulistan-e-Johar Campus, made their mark with outstanding grades.

A ceremony was held at a local hotel to present the graduates with certificates and shields. Parents with school team proudly cherished this memorable moment of pride and glory. The ceremony was also attended by CEO NUTSHELL Mr. Azfar Ahsan.

On this occasion Principal of The City School, Johar Campus Madam Aneela Salman during her address felicitated all the graduates of 2021-22 batch over their groundbreaking accomplishment in CIAE Examination and remarked that this isn't only an accomplishment, this is your graduation. She quoted that this degree is not a piece of paper, it's a set of wings which will fly you away and burst out of horizon into a new world called "your life".

Beaconhouse Group donates Rs15m for flood relief

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Beaconhouse, Pakistan's largest network of private educational institutions has made a Rs 15 million donation through its charitable wing, Mahmud Ali Kasuri (MAK) Welfare Trust, to assist flood affected families by aiding relief and reconstruction work in the worst-hit areas of Pakistan.

Beaconhouse has collaborated with Akhuwat Foundation to help flood affectees by distributing 2,000 ration bags worth Rs 10 million in DG Khan, Punjab; Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; Khairpur and Thatta, Sindh; and Pashean, Balochistan. These ration bags contain a variety of food items for approximately one month of sustenance for a family of six to seven individuals. Additionally, a contribution of Rs 5 million is being made through MAK Welfare Trust for the long-term rehabilitation of the affected areas.

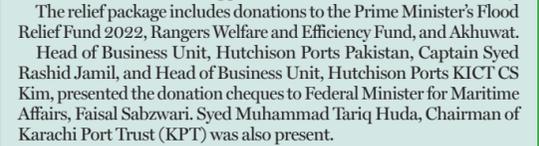


Hutchison Ports Network donates \$250,000 for flood-victims

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The country's first deep-water container terminal, Hutchison Ports Pakistan along with Hutchison Ports KICT have jointly donated US\$ 250,000 to support the flood relief efforts in the country.

The relief package includes donations to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022, Rangers Welfare and Efficiency Fund, and Akhuwat. Head of Business Unit, Hutchison Ports Pakistan, Captain Syed Rashid Jamil, and Head of Business Unit, Hutchison Ports KICT CS Kim, presented the donation cheques to Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Faisal Sabzwari. Syed Muhammad Tariq Huda, Chairman of Karachi Port Trust (KPT) was also present.



Supporting flood affectees

Coca-Cola Foundation provides funding to CARE

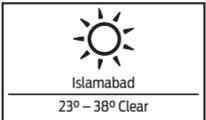
Staff Reporter

LAHORE: To further CARE International's commitment to uplift Pakistan's vulnerable communities in remote and urban areas, the organization has accepted a grant from The Coca-Cola Foundation, the global philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company, to provide emergency aid for the flood affected population in Pakistan.

This grant supports immediate relief efforts in Pakistan for approximately 1,000 households with essential supplies including shelter kits, non-food items, hygiene kits, and

menstrual hygiene management kits. Saadia Madsbjerg, President of The Coca-Cola Foundation said, "The sheer scale of damage across Pakistan owing to the ongoing catastrophic floods is unprecedented. Led by the dedicated team at CARE, The Coca-Cola Foundation's grant of USD 250,000 will be directed towards emergency flood relief in Balochistan."

The Pakistan floods require a united global response. "CARE International in Pakistan is one of the few organizations who are on ground providing life-saving assistance to flood affected families since the onset of the emergency.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:31 am
Zohr	12:01 pm
Asr	4:23 pm
Maghrib	6:08 pm
Isha	7:31 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
DHO	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

OPF distributes toolkits to returning migrants

Activity is part of OPF efforts to support returning migrants

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) has distributed various trade toolkits to returning expatriates as an in-kind support to help them start sustained self-employment under the government's initiative of facilitating the returning migrants in economic reintegration in the country.

The toolkits were presented at a ceremony held here on Tuesday to as many as 80 returning migrants intending to start their carrier as electrician, plumber, carpenter, and mason. They have already completed comprehensive business development training at the Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC), Lahore.

OPF Managing Director Dr. Amer Sheikh, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) officials, members of Senate and National Assembly Standing Committees on Overseas Pakistanis and HRD, Members, OPF Board of Governors, representatives of international organizations and civil society attended the ceremony.

The activity was part of the OPF efforts to support returning migrants to make a new start in Pakistan and achieve a



sustainable employment. OPF was implementing a program on economic reintegration of returnees in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Pakistan. It is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development Germany, (BMZ) and was part of BMZ support for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration.

In his remarks, Dr. Amer Sheikh shared that an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between German and Pakistan governments has been formalized which was the start of a new dawn in the area of support to the returning migrants. This arrangement would support in counselling

and introduction to employment or entrepreneurship measures. Addressing the audience, Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, Head of PGFRC, informed that the Centre was open to all Pakistanis and all our services were free of charge. PGFRC was providing advice on training and skills development, technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan, entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support, and information on the health system in Pakistan, information on living conditions and advice on getting microfinance and loans, he explained.

He informed that more than 800 returning migrants in the

trades of electrician, plumber, carpenter, and mason would benefit from this capacity building leading to in-kind support intervention.

Country Director GIZ, Tobias Becker, said on the occasion that the PGFRC was playing a critical role in fostering self-employment and entrepreneurship. These efforts were resulting in enhancing the capacity of workforce and reducing unemployment rates in Pakistan, he added. Moreover, he said, it not only helps to contribute to the better life and wellness of returning migrants but also achieve the Agenda 2030 as well as Sustainable Development Goals. He explained several Pakistanis migrate abroad to work, but at some point, in their lives, they return to the country and struggle to re-establish themselves and make a respectable living.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted Pakistanis living in other countries, resulting in huge layoffs and the return and repatriation of tens of thousands of migrants from their intended destinations.

When they return, they were very concerned about their job prospects. In these times of trial, the PGFRC was the platform for these returnees to seek guidance and support, he maintained.

19 criminals held; drugs, narcotic recovered

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police apprehended 19 criminals involved in illegal criminal activities and recovered drugs, and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha had ordered all zonal officers to curb the crime in their respective areas and arrest those involved in looting innocent people.

Following these directives, Secretariat police team arrested an accused Dawood Abbasi and recovered one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from his possession. Bhara Kahu police team arrested two drug peddlers namely Shahzad and Kifayat and recovered 1173 gram hashish from their possession.

Likewise, Tarnol police team arrested two accused namely Shahzaib and Taimur Shahzad and recovered 1210 gram hashish, 125 gram Ice and one 30 bore pistol along with ammunition from their possession. Sabzi Mandi police team arrested an accused namely Awais Khan and recovered 1090 gram hashish and 30 gram Ice from his possession, while police team also arrested two accused namely Muhammad saeed and Mansoor Khan involved in illegally gas filling.

IIUI holds seminar on message of Quaid



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Rector of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai has said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is a great leader whose honesty, hard work, academic ability and political understanding are examples of world history and world leaders have always acknowledged his vision.

Dr. Masoom, while addressing a seminar on "Message of

Quaid e Azam and contemporary requirements" said that youth should make the best use of their time to enhance the country's development through excellence in the field of education. The seminar was organized by Iqbal International Institute for Research and Dialogue, Department of Urdu, Department of Political Science & International Relations and Department of History and Studies of IIUI.

The keynote speaker Profes-

sor Dr. Ehsan Akbar said that Pakistan was achieved after great sacrifices and it was Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, whose efforts made it possible. He said that even today the Muslims living in India are suffering. Addressing the students, he further said that they should value Pakistan and learn the sacrifices of their forefathers by studying the history.

Among the speakers were the vice president Academic IIUI, Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar,

Allama Iqbal Open University's professor and historian Dr. Abdul Basit Mujahid and chairman of Pakistan Studies at Islamia University Bahawalpur Dr. Aftab Hussain Gilani. The speakers shed light on Quaid-e-Azam's efforts, vision and his practical life in detail and advised the students to follow the guiding principles and teachings of Quaid-e-Azam. A large number of university teachers and students participated in the seminar.

CCP awarded three-star rating by GCR

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has been awarded three-star rating by the London-based Global Competition Review (GCR), in its annual ranking of the World's top antitrust/competition authorities.

Alongside the three-star rating, GCR has shown CCP's performance indicator with upwards arrow as, "improving upon its previous accomplishments." The CCP's three-star rating brings it at par with the competition authorities of countries including, Switzerland,

South Africa, Belgium, Israel, and Romania.

GCR's Rating Enforcement and star-rating is the result of an independent and objective process scrutinising information and data supplied by the competition authorities, the GCR's daily reporting, and interviews with lawyers and economists on the quality of an agency's work in their jurisdiction. Their analysis rates each authority on a scale of one to five stars.

In Pakistan's country brief in the Rating Enforcement, the GCR noted: "The Competition Commission of Pakistan has made several substantial strides

in the past couple of years and re-established itself as one of the region's key competition enforcers." The Chairperson, Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan who re-joined in July 2020 credits this achievement to CCP's team. Ms. Hassan stated that international benchmarking will help CCP maintain the right focus and it will contribute to its better performance.

GCR particularly recognised and appreciated CCP's performance in enforcement, stating that: "With just 45 non-administrative competition staff and a starting budget of approximately €4 million, the CCP does well with its modest

resources." Referring to CCP's sugar order, it noted that "CCP's most eye-catching achievement of 2021 was the decision to impose a record fine of about €200.6 million (PKR 44 billion) in August 2021 against several companies for "compulsive or pathological" collusion in the sugar sector."

Similarly, the dawn raids (search & inspection) according to GCR, proved to be an effective tool for CCP as the dawn raids in poultry, milk, tractor manufacturers, and other sectors resulted in uncovering the evidence of anti-competitive activities in these sectors.

Health Corner

People generate their own oxidation field

ISLAMABAD: People typically spend 90 percent of their lives inside, at home, at work, or in transport. Within these enclosed spaces, occupants are exposed to a multitude of chemicals from various sources, including outdoor pollutants penetrating indoors, gaseous emissions from building materials and furnishings, and products of our own activities such as cooking and cleaning. In addition, we are ourselves potent mobile emission sources of chemicals that enter the indoor air from our breath and skin.

But how do the chemicals disappear again? In the atmosphere outdoors, this happens to a certain extent naturally by itself, when it rains and through chemical oxidation. Hydroxyl (OH) radicals are largely responsible for this chemical cleaning. These very reactive molecules are also called the detergents of the atmosphere and they are primarily formed when UV light from the sun interacts with ozone and water vapor.

Indoors, on the other hand, the air is of course far less affected by direct sunlight and rain. Since UV rays are largely filtered out by glass windows it has been generally assumed that the concentration of OH radicals is substantially lower indoors than outdoors and that ozone, leaking in from outdoors, is the major oxidant of indoor airborne chemical pollutants.

However, now it has been discovered that high levels of OH radicals can be generated indoors, simply due to the presence of people and ozone. This has been shown by a team led by the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in cooperation with researchers from the USA and Denmark.

"The discovery that we humans are not only a source of reactive chemicals, but we are also able to transform these chemicals ourselves was very surprising to us," says Nora Zannoni, first author of the study published in the research magazine Science, and now at the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate in Bologna, Italy. "The strength and shape of the oxidation field are determined by how much ozone is present, where it infiltrates, and how the ventilation of the indoor space is configured," adds the scientist from Jonathan Williams' team. The levels the scientists found were even comparable to outside daytime OH concentrations levels.

The oxidation field is generated by the reaction of ozone with oils and fats on our skin, especially the unsaturated triterpene squalene, which constitutes about 10 percent of the skin lipids that protect our skin and keep it supple. The reaction releases a host of gas phase chemicals containing double bonds that react further in the air with ozone to generate substantial levels of OH radicals.

These squalene degradation products were characterized and quantified individually using Proton Transfer reaction Mass Spectrometry and fast gas chromatograph-mass spectrometry systems. In addition, the total OH reactivity was determined in parallel enabling the OH levels to be quantified empirically.

The experiments were conducted at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) in Copenhagen. Four test subjects stayed in a special climate-controlled chamber under standardized conditions. Ozone was added to the chamber air inflow in a quantity that was not harmful to humans but representative of higher indoor levels. The team determined the OH values before and during the volunteers' stay both with and without ozone present.

In order to understand how the human-generated OH field looked like in space and time during the experiments, results from a detailed multiphase chemical kinetic model from the University of California, Irvine were combined with a computational fluid dynamics model from Pennsylvania State University, both based in the USA.

After validating the models against the experimental results, the modeling team examined how the human-generated OH field varied under different conditions of ventilation and ozone, beyond those tested in the laboratory. From the results, it was clear that the OH radicals were present, abundant, and forming strong spatial gradients. Courtesy Science Daily



ISLAMABAD: ICCI women are present at a dinner hosted by Sahrish Ahsan Bakhtawari, the wife of the presidential candidate of Islamabad Chamber, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, in honor of ladies voter of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Spotify celebrates voices, stories of women creators

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: After launching EQUAL in Pakistan earlier this year, a global music program committed to raising the volume on women artists, Spotify debuts Spotify Talks, a digital series covering hard-hitting conversations, with the first episode dedicated to celebrating being a woman artist in Pakistan and the impact of EQUAL to date.

Featuring singer, songwriter, philanthropist, and household name, Momina Mustehsan, EQUAL Pakistan's Ambassador for the Month of September, the first episode of Spotify Talks will be hosted by Anoushey Ashraf, joined by the multi-faceted stars Natasha Baig and Zoha Zuberi, the EQUAL Pakistan Ambassadors for July and June, and Rutaba Yaqub, Spotify's Music Manager for Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

The episode titled 'Women in Music' sheds light on the challenges women artists face in Pakistan while also reflecting on how the space for women in music has evolved over the years. Sitting down for a candid conversation, these torch bearers for the achievements of women in the audio industry of Pakistan, will share glimpses of their journey and how Spotify has played a role as a platform powering their discovery and elevating their work globally.

As EQUAL Pakistan Ambassador for this month, Momina Mustehsan, commented, "It's my honour to be representing the women musicians of our country in September. Pakistani women in music are resilient—they manage to bring their own seats to the table despite limited opportunities by proving their abilities to extents that cannot be ignored."

"Platforms like Spotify are crucial for that. They serve as equalizers to tackle systemic inequalities historic to conventional broadcast. A program like EQUAL helps extend a seat to a global table, with the purpose of passing it forward for others to join."

As part of the program, Momina's melodious and soul stirring song, "Tera Woh Pyar (Nawazishein Karam)" from Coke Studio Season 09, is featured on the EQUAL Pakistan playlist and EQUAL Global, increasing the discovery of her music around the world.

Festive celebrations marked start of new classes at NSU

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The second batch of undergraduate students celebrated their admissions at the National Skills University Islamabad (NSU) along with their parents and friends.

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan recognized the NSU in 2021 and allowed undergraduate classes. Currently, the university is offering admissions in various technologies, including civil, electrical, mechanical, information engineering, and medical laboratory approved by the National Technology Council Pakistan, including mathematics.

Moreover, this year, the university has added BBA in management sciences, computer sciences in conjunction with information engineering technologies, and biotechnology with medical laboratory technology. All these



programs are integrated and interdisciplinary.

In the briefing session, all departmental chairpersons briefed about their departments and informed students about their responsibilities to thrive in the highly competitive academic environments of the university.

Addressing students and their

parents in the jam-packed NSU auditorium, the Vice Chancellor outlined the advantages of skills education in the contemporary world. Moreover, he spelled out that the undergraduate educational program at the NSU is unique. Every graduating student must complete one skills certificate aligning with their field of speciali-

zation. For example, undergraduate Electrical Engineering students can choose among four certificates: mobile phone manufacturing and repair, Solar PV System technology, and Domestic and Industrial electrician. This will promote entrepreneurial spirit among graduates, and if they cannot find a job could be the job provided through establishing their businesses.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice Chancellor of the NSU, also disclosed the idea of "NSU student once NSU student forever." The alumni will have the option to get free education through micro-credentialing methodologies through NSU Online portal to be released in the coming few weeks.

Students were highly joyful to hear that they would be studying in a university that is UNESCO/UNEVOC center – a unique recognition by a Pakistani university.

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Will lessons be learned from the world's failure on COVID-19?

Chris Doyle

Tucked away in the news last week was an extraordinary announcement. It received few, if any, headlines. Yet it concerned the most dominant factor affecting most people's lives over the last 32 months.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus claimed that "we have never been in a better position to end the (COVID-19) pandemic. We are not there yet but the end is in sight." Apparently, deaths from COVID-19 around the world are at their lowest level since March 2020, when the pandemic was officially declared. Is this the time that we see COVID-19 transition from being a deadly disease to a manageable one?

The inevitable warning followed seconds later. Nothing about this pandemic has ever been easy. The last stretch could be the toughest, where the most work is required and vigilance essential. New waves and new variants could still occur. The coming winter months in the Northern Hemisphere may see an increase in infections.

The terminal stages of a

pandemic tend to be long and drawn out. It is in this period that attention gets diverted by other crises, such as Ukraine and the cost of living. HIV/AIDS may have been declared over as a pandemic, but it is still killing people. Nearly 40 million people were living with HIV at the end of 2021.

The WHO has issued six policy briefs for governments — a summary of much of what has been learned over the last three years. One wonders which heads of government will ever read these briefs. What measures will be implemented in response?

So, why was this not more major news? After all, this is a pandemic that has hit every single country. More than 600 million cases of COVID-19 have been recorded, with more than 6.5 million people losing their lives. But these are only the official figures; the statistics from many countries cannot be relied on. Moreover, many countries have long stopped testing.

From the outset, too many underestimated this disease and many actors did not behave responsibly. China has faced legitimate criticism for its refusal to be more transparent about the origins of the virus that causes COVID-19. Many states were slow to react back in

January 2020. It only became an international issue when it hit the richer states. Far too many health authorities were reluctant to accept that the virus could be spread through the air. Too many believed it would not move beyond Asia. Many did not believe the virus would mutate, while governments were slow to react.

But as we review the pandemic, everyone must also be mindful that COVID-19 may just be a taste of what is to come. Such diseases can spread so fast in our globalized, 21st-century world. Did we learn any lessons?

What the pandemic has highlighted is the chronic lack of equality across the globe. The richer countries had the resources to adapt. But even these richer governments struggled to produce or procure enough protective equipment. Vaccine inequity was outrageous. The system of intellectual property rights has been a major restrictive barrier. Even now, the continent of Africa is way behind the global average of 61.9 percent of people being fully vaccinated. Many richer countries prioritized the hoarding of vaccines over distributing them to poorer countries.

Will this change? Many will remain skeptical. In the

wake of previous pandemics, such inequalities were never addressed.

Vaccine hesitancy remains. Despite the extraordinary scientific success of developing and rolling out the vaccines so fast, many remain skeptical. Some of these doubts should not be dismissed lightly, and such hesitancy was strong in countries like France. Others like the conspiracy theorists — those who think, for example, that Bill Gates was using the vaccine to microchip the world's population — should be dismissed with the contempt they deserve. How will global authorities address this challenge and instill greater confidence?

In part, this is owing to the increasing broader trend of ignoring or even denigrating scientific expertise. Disinformation and misinformation remain rife. The WHO referred to it as an "infodemic." Some of this was the responsibility of governments. Up until May of this year, North Korea maintained that it had no COVID-19 cases. Social media has been the toxic accelerant of the myths and lies that blighted the pandemic response. Institutions and governments have to address this.

Another worrying aspect is that many feel that the restric-

tions should never have been imposed. Will it be an outcome of this pandemic that the economy must always come first, ahead of public health? Liz Truss, in her successful campaign to be Britain's new prime minister, pledged never to reimpose lockdowns. But who knows if public health will require lockdowns in the future. It is folly to rule them out.

Better preparedness and collaboration are key. Early warning systems must improve and surveillance should be enhanced. We should keep testing and improve vaccine roll-out. Medical facilities and others have to improve their biosafety. Better ventilation and air filtration for buildings must be pursued.

Let's be honest, the world failed on this. It was not ready. Lessons were not learned. Despite the WHO calling for pandemic preparedness in the past, this was not implemented. This is just one pandemic, but it could be one of many. So, even now, everyone would be wise to mind the tail end of the WHO statement. The last yard will be the toughest.

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for Arab-British Understanding, in London. Courtesy: Arab News

Growing relations between Pakistan, China

Pakistan-China relations were always very close and professional. We are in a very challenging situation and China has vowed to consolidate their strategic relationship with us in all spheres of cooperation. With regards to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, China is one of the two world leading countries along with Russia. China has been playing a pivotal role in the development of SCO and its member countries. The recent meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at SCO summit held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan will help further strengthen the bilateral relations. The development of Gwadar port is highly commendable and it will bring more opportunities for the local people. We are working quite efficiently in terms of economic and infrastructural development. We are hopeful that Pak, China ties will grow more in the coming days to extend further ventures into the world market.

The forum of Shanghai Cooperation Organization is more important strategically, as Pakistan is looking forward to geoeconomic cooperation. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended an invitation to Chinese President Xi Jinping to visit Pakistan, which he humbly accepted. On the other hand, we are facing the devastating situation of floods, and any cooperation will be fortunate for us. But unfortunately, we haven't done our homework according to the potential of this forum. The SCO which includes the world leading powers can be much more useful to bring in more energy supplies for us. Good relations with Russia, Iran and China will help meet energy needs of Pakistan.

We are trying our best to connect with the Central Asian countries. Central Asian states hold vast reserves of oil and gas and we can get these hydrocarbon resources from them at cheaper rates. We should also extend our relations with Russia, as the gas pipeline project with them can be beneficial for us. It is said that our relations with the US might suffer due to our warming ties with Russia and China, but it is not true. Currently, the world's attention is on the Ukraine-Russia war as well as the tensions between China and the US. We are getting the attention because of the devastating flood situation in the country. However, we have to look at the future and work accordingly to increase our exports.

On the other hand, the meeting of Chinese Defense Minister and Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa held on Beijing, China is going to strengthen the strategic and economic relations between Pakistan and China. The visit of General Bajwa will improve the confidence building between the two countries. Pakistan has already expressed its serious intentions regarding the completion of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project on time. All the rumors against the CPEC will be eliminated through the visit. China has also hailed the role of Pakistan in regional stability. The Pak-China friendship is decades old and both the countries have leadership to leadership and people to people contacts. Both the countries have also been enjoying strong military and defense relations as well. The Chief of Army Staff is on an official visit to China and this visit is of vital importance. China and Pakistan have always supported each other in critical times. Islamabad and Beijing are determined to strengthen their strategic partnership in challenging times and willing to continue the regular exchange of perspectives on issues of mutual interest.



SCO summit reinforces global trend toward multipolarity

Ishtiaq Ahmad

The just-concluded summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, called for the forging of a multilateral world order as a hedge against US unilateralism. The eight member states — China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, India and Pakistan — reaffirmed "their commitment to a more representative, democratic, just and multipolar world order based on the universally recognized principles of international law."

The summit declaration commits them to "oppose grouping, and ideological and confrontational approaches to solving international and regional issues," and "to work together to build a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice as well as win-win cooperation, and to build a community with a shared future for mankind."

Putin was quoted as having told his Chinese counterpart: "We jointly stand for the formation of a just, democratic and multipolar world order based on international law and the central role of the UN, and not on some rules that someone has come up with and is trying to impose on others."

After the meeting, China stated that it "is ready to work with Russia in extending strong support to each other on issues concerning their respective core interests." China considers Taiwan as part of its territory and thus a domestic matter. Russia supports the One China policy. China also understands Russian sensitivities in the "near abroad."

Therefore, in his summit speech, Xi urged

cooperation to prevent foreign powers from meddling in internal affairs and instigating "color revolutions," referring to the one in Kazakhstan early this year.

China and Russia have also used other global groupings like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) to advocate for an alternative to the US-led international order.

India's diverse foreign policy pursuits offer another instance of the complexity of world politics today. It is part of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with the US, Japan and Australia, which is meant to contain China in the Indo-Pacific region. At the same time, however, India has assumed the presidency of the SCO for a year and will host its 23rd summit in 2023. It has also refused to join the trade pillar of the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, which was unveiled by the Biden administration in May, again with the purpose of containing China.

Moreover, India's trade with China has seen exponential growth in recent years, reaching \$125 billion last year. Just two years ago, their troops violently clashed in the Galwan Valley in the Himalayan border region. The two powers have other border disputes too, but they have not allowed these disputes to impact their economic and trade relations.

This model of interstate relations particularly applies to India-Pakistan ties, where the enduring conflict of Kashmir has subverted trade and economic cooperation. The issue has gained urgency due to the current floods. The summit made it clear that Indian and Pakistani leaders adhere to different versions of deeper connectivity, including free transit rights. Both sides need to emulate the "Shanghai spirit," which is the basis of the

SCO's creation and expansion. Next year's summit in India will be an excellent opportunity to renew the stalled peace process.

As is clear from the preceding discussion, the SCO is a vital regional platform for China and Russia to articulate the value of multilateralism in world politics and simultaneously protect each other's security interests from US-led Western interventionism. Covering more than 40 percent of the world's population and nearly 30 percent of its gross domestic product, the SCO is also an alternative venue for countries like India and Pakistan, which are seeking to diversify their foreign relations away from relying solely on the US and Europe.

That is why it has this year attracted several other countries — from Egypt in North Africa to Qatar in the Arabian Gulf and Belarus in Europe to Vietnam in Southeast Asia — to enter its fold, initially joining as dialogue partners before moving to observer status and eventually becoming full members. Some of them, such as Saudi Arabia, are drastically diversifying their energy-centric economies and, hence, have no choice but to diversify their global relationships, especially with the emerging powers and organizations in Asia.

Ultimately, any organization that serves the mutual gains of diverse nations in the economic and security spheres is a force for good in world politics, especially if we keep in mind the horrors of American unilateralism in the last three decades. The SCO's inner strength thus lies in its ability to promote the pragmatic interests of its partners.

Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford. Courtesy: Arab News

Global Development Initiative: Prioritizing global development

Tom Fowdy

In 2021, China proposed the Global Development Initiative (GDI), which calls for staying committed to development as a priority, a people-centered approach, benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between man and nature, and results-oriented actions. The initiative shows that China stands ready to work with other countries in putting development at the center of the global agenda.

First of all, China's development pathway has taken what is commonly described as a "people centric" approach, which prioritizes the interests of society at large, reducing uneven development, and cutting inequality in the distribution of wealth.

Most notably, this has included China rapidly building up international synergy for coordinated development, as shown by its efforts in coordinating the construction of high-quality infrastructure, both at home and overseas through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), connecting regions and countries alike. Not only has this consisted of necessary transport infrastructure, but it has also addressed human needs such as through the construction of schools, hospitals, internet connectivity and more. This outlook understands development not as a natural phenomenon brought about by unfettered market dynamics — which has in fact disadvantaged many countries in the global south — but focuses first on improving people's basic livelihoods.

Although not strictly economic based, a key example of these different models in general, and certainly an important aspect of the GDI, is China's approach to public health. China has prioritized public health in fighting the pandemic, and also supports other countries in responding to the virus.

This ties into the need for the GDI to be a multilateral and international project, confronting the global challenges of the time collectively, as opposed to unilaterally or mini-laterally. China has long under-

stood that its development and growth prospects are not merely centered on what it does at home, but in an increasingly integrated international society, and are interdependent with those of the rest of the world. Development is a common and collective goal — the economic success of one country is directly related to that of its neighbors and other countries.

Therefore, China's GDI looks at the bigger picture. While most predominantly this has involved the BRI, which as noted above strives to establish global connectivity for common development, it also covers other issues too. These include deepening mutual market access, regulatory standards and other provisions through free trade and economic agreements, as well as coordination on issues such as renewable energy with a view to global challenges such as climate change.

In setting this out, joint efforts are needed to tackle the big challenge to common global development — the ambitions of some countries to roll back globalization and cooperation in the name of ideological and geopolitical struggle. This includes attempts by these countries to form exclusive blocs or groupings which have the sole goal of targeting others, forcing their members to take sides and subsequently limiting their cooperation with others. This may also involve forcing them to reject certain markets and technologies, or to attempt to rewrite supply chains in highly costly and inexpedient ways in the name of geopolitics. These policies undermine the foundations of globalization, cause growing inflation and set the global community backwards. It aims to build walls instead of bridges.

As a result, the most pressing challenge in this global environment is for countries to remain open, prudent and to act in their own best interests, as opposed to fighting the hegemonic struggles of other countries.

Tom Fowdy is a British political and international relations analyst and a graduate of Durham and Oxford universities. Courtesy: China.org.cn

World is 'paralyzed' and equity is slipping away: UN chief

Stresses that cooperation and dialogue are the only path forward

UNITED NATIONS: In an alarming assessment, the head of the United Nations warned world leaders Tuesday that nations are "gridlocked in colossal global dysfunction" and aren't ready or willing to tackle the challenges that threaten humanity's future — and the planet's. "Our world is in peril — and paralyzed," he said.



Speaking at the opening of the General Assembly's annual high-level meeting, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made sure to emphasize that hope remained. But his remarks reflected a tense and worried world. He cited the war in Ukraine and multiplying conflicts around the world, the climate emergency, the dire financial situation of developing countries and setbacks in U.N. goals for 2030 including an end to extreme poverty and quality education for all children.

He also warned of what he called "a forest of red flags" around new technologies despite promising advances to heal diseases and connect people. Guterres said social media platforms are based on a model "that monetizes outrage, anger and negativity." Artificial intelligence he

said, "is compromising the integrity of information systems, the media, and indeed democracy itself." The world lacks even the beginning of "a global architecture" to deal with the ripples caused by these new technologies because of "geopolitical tensions," Guterres said.

His opening remarks came as leaders from around the planet reconvened at U.N. headquarters in New York after three years of pandemic interruptions, including an entirely virtual meeting in 2020 and a hybrid one last year. This week, the halls of the United Nations are filled once more with delegates reflecting the world's cultures. Many faces were

visible, though all delegates are required to wear masks except when speaking to ward off the coronavirus.

Guterres made sure to start out by sounding a note of hope. He showed a video of the first U.N.-chartered ship carrying grain from Ukraine — part of the deal between Ukraine and Russia that the United Nations and Turkey helped broker — to the Horn of Africa, where millions of people are on the edge of famine. It is, he said, an example of promise and hope "in a world teeming with turmoil."

He stressed that cooperation and dialogue are the only path forward — two fundamental U.N. principles since its founding after World War II. And he warned that "no power or group alone can call the shots."

"Let's work as one, as a coalition of the world, as united nations," he urged leaders gathered in the vast General Assembly hall.

It's rarely that easy. Geopolitical divisions are undermining the work of the U.N. Security Council, international law, people's trust in democratic institutions

and most forms of international cooperation, Guterres said.

"The divergence between developed and developing countries, between North and South, between the privileged and the rest, is becoming more dangerous by the day," the secretary-general said. "It is at the root of the geopolitical tensions and lack of trust that poison every area of global cooperation, from vaccines to sanctions to trade."

Before the global meeting was gavelled open, leaders and ministers wearing masks to avoid a COVID-19 super-spreader event wandered the assembly hall, chatting individually and in groups. It was a sign that that despite the fragmented state of the planet, the United Nations remains the key gathering place for presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers.

Nearly 150 heads of state and government are on the latest speakers' list, a high number reflecting that the United Nations remains the only place not just to deliver their views but to meet privately to discuss the challenges on the global agenda — and hopefully make some progress.

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan sign protocol



Spokesman Report

BISHKEK: Deputy Chairman of Cabinet and National Security Committee Chairman Lt. General Kamchibek Tashiev held talks with Tajikistan National Security Committee Chairman Saimumin Yatimov.

Following the held talks and in line with the earlier reached agreements on ceasefire and de-escalation of situation, the protocol on regulation of the armed conflict in border areas of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was signed.

The protocol envisions total termination of hostilities, disengagement of troops and military equipment to their permanent duty stations, joint inspection of border outposts and commandant's offices, thorough investigation of the armed clashes that occurred on September 14 and 16.

The protocol was signed by Kamchibek Tashiev and Saimumin Yatimov. "The joint work on the soonest re-establishment of peace and stability in border areas is ongoing," the National Security Committee said.

BJP dismantling religious traditions to advance divisive agenda: Mehbooba

SRINAGAR: People's Democratic Party President Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday said that BJP is not ready to stop until they dismantle all our religious & Sufi traditions and advance their divisive agenda.

The statement from Mehbooba Mufti comes a day after the Waqf Board of Jammu and Kashmir, now in Modi's control, ordered a ban on Dastarbandi across religious places in the territory.

Mehbooba Mufti shared pictures of Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha wearing turbans on her Twitter handle and wrote, "Hypocrisy has no limits since BJP themselves leave no opportunity to get turban tying ceremony done whether at a mandir, dargah or gurdwara. They aren't ready to stop until they dismantle all our religious & Sufi traditions to take control by implementing their divisive agenda."

She added, "Steamrolling J&Ks cultural & traditional practices — arresting religious leaders, prohibiting Sajad nasheens from performing their traditional duties & now banning Dastarbandi which is a universal ceremony of giving blessings at religious places."

Al Jazeera journalist's killing referred to ICC in complaint

JERUSALEM: A coalition of lawyers and advocacy groups said Tuesday it has referred the fatal shooting of Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh to the International Criminal Court on behalf of her family, calling on prosecutors to investigate what it described as Israel's deliberate targeting of the veteran reporter.

Palestinian officials, Abu Akleh's family and Al Jazeera accuse Israel of intentionally targeting and killing the 51-year-old journalist, who was wearing a helmet and a protective vest marked with the word "press" when she was shot last May in the occupied West Bank.

An international research group also presented its investigation into the fatal shooting, implicating an Israeli soldier in her death and alleging that the timing and trajectory of the bullets suggest Abu Akleh was deliberately targeted. Israel has acknowledged that Israeli fire probably killed Abu Akleh, but vigorously denied allegations that a soldier intentionally targeted her.

Spanish PM calls for strong reform of UN

MOSCOW: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called on Tuesday for a major reform of the United Nations system in light of Ukraine crisis.

"The situation created by Russia in Ukraine is major proof that we need strong reform of the UN system," Sanchez said in an interview with the Politico newspaper.

According to Sanchez, UN member states must respond multilaterally to the ongoing food crisis while avoiding duplication of programs, and the response should include supporting UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' efforts to broker grain deals between Russia, Ukraine and Turkey.

On July 22, Moscow, Kiev, and Astana signed a UN-brokered initiative to provide a humanitarian maritime corridor for ships with food and fertilizer exports from Black Sea ports blocked amid the Russian military operation in Ukraine.

Three key Ukrainian ports Odesa, Chornomorsk, and Yuzhne were unblocked to resume exports.

The initiative was affixed in two sets of documents. The first, a memorandum, stipulates the obligation of the UN to remove various restrictions on the export of Russian agricultural products and fertilizers to global markets. The second defines the algorithm for the export of Ukrainian agricultural products from the Black Sea ports controlled by Ukraine.

Kazakhstan ready to support US investors: President

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Kazakh Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, who is in the US on a working visit, met with the heads of US major companies, Kazinform cites the Akorda press service. During the meeting, Tokayev informed the American financiers about the large-scale political and economic reforms.

He explained the significance of such key transformations in terms of their effect on the financial and economic sector. Tokayev briefed the meeting's participants about the opportunities in Kazakhstan in implementing joint investment projects in the key sectors of economy. In particular, the Head of State spoke of prospects for cooperation with the Samruk Kazyna National Welfare Fund,



pointing to the favorable opportunities opening following the privatization of the Fund's assets. In addition, the Head of State paid attention to the fact that Kazakhstan holds great potential in energy, green economy, transport, and logistics, agriculture, as well as the conditions creat-

ed at the Astana International Financial Center. In conclusion, Tokayev stated that the Kazakh government is ready to provide all-round support to American business circles in realizing investment projects. The meeting was held with the heads of Citi, Goldman Sachs, NASDAQ,

Auerbach Grayson & Company LLP, Franklin Templeton, Brightlight Capital, AllianceBernstein, Jefferies Financial Group, Luxor Capital Group, Paine Schwartz Partners LLC, New Silk Road Forum, Robotti & Company Advisors, TPG Capital, Grupo Los Grobo.

Britain's Truss doesn't expect UK-US trade deal anytime soon

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Liz Truss has kicked off her first visit to the United States as Britain's leader with an admission that a U.K.-U.S. free trade deal is not going to happen for years.

Truss said a trans-Atlantic deal is not one of her priorities — a sharp contrast with the stance of her immediate predecessors as Conservative prime minister, Boris Johnson and Theresa May. Both dangled the promise of a deal with the world's biggest economy as one of the main prizes of Britain's exit from the European Union.

"There (aren't) currently any negotiations taking place with the U.S., and I don't have an expectation that those are going to start in



the short to medium term," Truss told reporters aboard her plane to New York, where she landed Tuesday to attend the United Nations General Assembly.

Truss said she was more

focused on obtaining accession to the Trans-Pacific trade partnership and striking trade deals with India and the Gulf Cooperation Council of states including Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

"Those are our trade priorities," she said. Truss's downbeat assessment about trans-Atlantic trade came ahead of her first one-on-one meeting with President Joe Biden since she took office two weeks ago. The two leaders are due to meet Wednesday on the sidelines of the U.N. gathering in New York. Both were among scores of world leaders who attended the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II in London on Monday.

Truss said her priorities for the meeting with Biden were "making sure that we are able to collectively deal (with) Russian aggression," and ensuring "we are not strategically dependent on authoritarian regimes."

Four Ukrainian regions schedule votes this week to join Russia

KYIV: Russian-controlled regions of eastern and southern Ukraine announced plans Tuesday to start voting this week to become integral parts of Russia. The concerted and quickening Kremlin-backed efforts to swallow up four regions could set the stage for Moscow to escalate the war following Ukrainian successes on the battlefield.

The scheduling of referendums starting Friday in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions came after a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin said the votes are needed and as Moscow is losing ground in the invasion it began nearly seven months ago, increasing pressure on the Kremlin for a stiff response.

Former President Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of

Russia's Security Council chaired by Putin, said referendums that fold regions into Russia itself would make redrawn frontiers "irreversible" and enable Moscow to use "any means" to defend them.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba denounced the votes as a sham and tweeted that "Ukraine has every right to liberate its territories and will keep liberating them whatever Russia has to say."

The votes, in territory Russia already controls, are all but certain to go Moscow's way but are unlikely to be recognized by Western governments who are backing Ukraine with military and other support that has helped its forces seize momentum on battlefields in the east and south.

In Donetsk, part of Ukraine's wider Donbas region that has

been gripped by rebel fighting since 2014 and which Putin has set as a primary objective of the invasion, separatist leader Denis Pushilin said the vote will "restore historic justice" to the territory's "long-suffering people."

They "have earned the right to be part of the great country that they always considered their motherland," he said. In partly Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia, pro-Russia activist Vladimir Rogov said: "The faster we become part of Russia, the sooner peace will come."

Pressure inside Russia for votes and from Moscow-backed leaders in Ukrainian regions that Moscow controls increased after a Ukrainian counteroffensive — bolstered by Western-supplied weaponry — that has recaptured large areas.

Former Kremlin speechwrit-

er and Russian political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said on Facebook that Moscow-backed separatists appeared "scared that the Russians will abandon them" amid the Ukrainian offensive and forged ahead with referendum plans to force the Kremlin's hand.

In another signal that Russia is digging in for a protracted and possibly ramped-up conflict, the Kremlin-controlled lower of house of parliament voted Tuesday to toughen laws against desertion, surrender and looting by Russian troops. Lawmakers also voted to introduce possible 10-year prison terms for soldiers refusing to fight. If approved, as expected, by the upper house and then signed by Putin, the legislation would strengthen commanders' hands against failing morale reported among soldiers.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry



Peskov said there are no prospects for a diplomatic settlement. Medvedev, who served as Russia's

president from 2008-2012, said on his messaging app channel that separatist region votes are

important to protect their residents and would "completely change" Russia's future trajectory.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,220.91	41,520.59	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,642.02	41,078.71	
Index Value	Change	
4,723,741,816	-299.68	
Percentage	Time	
-0.72%	20 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,192.66	-44.02	
Percentage	Time	
-0.61%	20 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
30,725.50	-294.18	
Percentage	Time	
-0.95%	20 Sept, 12:28 pm GMT-4	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
27,688.42	-120.77	
Percentage	Time	
-0.44%	20 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	160.45	161.7
Bahrain Dinar	637.47	641.97
Canadian Dollar	180.39	181.74
China Yuan	34.21	24.48
Danish Krone	32.24	32.59
Euro	242.2	244.6
Hong Kong Dollar	30.54	30.89
Indian Rupee	3.01	3.09
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.65
Kuwaiti Dinar	775.79	780.79
Malaysian Ringgit	52.84	53.29
New Zealand \$	142.29	143.49
Norwegians Krone	23.35	23.65
Omani Riyal	622.56	627.06
Qatari Riyal	65.85	66.35
Saudi Riyal	64.3	64.9
Singapore Dollar	170.16	171.46
Swedish Korona	22.16	22.46
Swiss Franc	248.09	249.84
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	65.9	66.5
UK Pound Sterling	276.4	279
US Dollar	242.5	244.8

Digital Technology

Daraz, Alibaba Cloud forge partnership to drive digitalisation in Pakistan

The companies aim to build up local technology ecosystem together

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Daraz, South Asia's leading eCommerce platform and Alibaba Cloud, the digital technology and intelligence backbone of Alibaba Group, have forged a partnership to power Pakistan's digitalisation.

The parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to appoint Daraz as a partner to offer Alibaba cloud computing services in Pakistan. The signing of the MOU is witnessed by Her Excellency Ms Rukhsana Afaal, High Commissioner for Pakistan in the presence of Bjarke Mikkelsen CEO and Founder of Daraz and Derek Wang, General Manager of South Asia and Singapore, Alibaba Cloud Intelligence. This move is in line with the Pakistan government's 'Digital Pakistan Vision' to bolster the IT industry by building a digital ecosystem.

Founded in 2015, Daraz Pakistan is one of the most well-known brands in Pakistan. Daraz has more than 40 million active monthly users and over 100,000 active



sellers. Daraz University, Daraz's online learning centre, offers personalised and localised courses covering all areas of the e-commerce ecosystem. It gives small and

medium enterprises the skills to unlock their business online. Together with Alibaba Cloud's leading cloud computing capabilities, such as networking, and artificial intelligence, both parties will support Pakistan's digital economy with higher adoption of cloud services.

"We are glad to partner with Daraz to bring digitalization opportunities to Pakistan, and by offering our proven cloud computing services, we are confident to support Daraz in building up Pakistan's digital momentum to benefit the wider ecosystem," said Dr Derek Wang, General Manager for South Asia and Singapore, Alibaba Cloud Intelligence.

"Daraz's purpose is to uplift the communities where we operate, and through digitalisation, we can play a significant role in growing the digital economy in Pakistan. We look forward to increasing cloud adoption in the public and private sectors in Pakistan and making Alibaba Cloud accessible to SMEs and B2B sector in Pakistan," said Mr Bjarke Mikkelsen, Daraz Chief Executive Officer.

UBL partners with NICK to host BuiltByHer 3.0 Hackathon

Bureau Report

KARACHI: United Bank Limited is partnering with National Incubation Center, Karachi to organize the BuiltByHer 3.0 Hackathon to address women's economic inclusion in Pakistan whilst simultaneously promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education. Despite having an estimated population of over 220 million, the participation of women in Pakistan's local economy is impeded due to lack of financial literacy and difficulty in accessing financial services. Therefore, it is imperative for leading businesses to support endeavors that encourage women empowerment.

BuiltByHer is a 48-hour long virtual hackathon aimed at empowering young women in creating technological solutions to address pressing developmental challenges present within their communities. While the previous iterations focused on a variety of issues ranging from education to tourism, this edition focuses on the economic empowerment of women, a subject matter that UBL as a responsible corporate organization is committed to addressing.

To commemorate the partnership, a signing ceremony was held recently and was attended by Sharjeel Shahid, Group Executive-Digital Banking, UBL (seated, left) and Omar Abedin, Project Director, NICK (seated, right) alongside other senior members

Signing Ceremony UBL and National Incubation Center join hands for "BuiltByHer Hackathon 3.0"



from both sides.

The participants of the nationwide hackathon will team up to ideate and create solutions to redesign financial products to be made inclusive, create marketing campaigns to promote financial inclusion and design digital solutions aimed at promoting financial literacy amongst women. The competition will not only provide young women the opportunity to test their innovativeness but the best two teams will also win an exciting cash prize sponsored by UBL.

On the eve of the ceremony, Omar Abedin, Project Director, NICK shared his excitement of partnering with UBL and said, "Having an organization like UBL

committed to creating a gender inclusive economy is a game changer. With UBL's expansive reach and expertise in banking technology, the participating teams are bound to come up with some truly innovative solutions."

Speaking on the occasion, Sharjeel Shahid, Group Executive, Digital Banking Group, UBL said, "UBL has always taken pride in being a progressive and inclusive bank. Supporting women entrepreneurs in tech space will go a long way in bank's attempt to carry forward the spirit of UBL as a responsible Corporate Citizen. We hope this partnership inspires the participants and many others to go after their dreams".

Expensive electricity is bankrupting economy

Atif Ikram Sheikh says costly electricity is affecting production and exports

Tariq Khattak

ISLAAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Tuesday said expensive electricity is bankrupting the economy. Costly electricity is affecting production and exports and it is necessary to make electricity affordable to boost the economy and improve the quality of life of the people, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that electricity should be made cheaper to increase production and reduce the cost of services.

In a statement issued here on Tuesday, he said that there is a need to develop small power plants and promote renew-



able energy in Pakistan like developed countries to solve the energy problem.

The practice of building large grid stations has ended in developed countries and if

the same is done in Pakistan, losses of billions of rupees can be reduced. As of last year, 50 million people in Pakistan were without electricity, and the number has increased after the floods, he informed.

Pakistan depends on petroleum imports for electricity, which costs billions of dollars and also increases pollution, even now, sixty-four percent of the electricity in Pakistan is being generated from imported fuel. Energy policy should be aligned with ground realities so that people get affordable electricity, he demanded.

Nepra is continuously increasing power tariffs to add to the burden of the masses,

who are already reeling from inflationary pressures due to rising food and fuel prices. The government has faced criticism for increasing fuel prices during the last few months, but top officials argue the country still offers petroleum products at the cheapest rates in the region.

The government fixes the prices of petroleum products on a fortnightly basis to pass on the impact of fluctuating international prices to consumers. Three renewable energy sources — wind, bagasse and solar — together contributed 6.5pc of the total power supply. Wind and solar have no fuel cost, while that of bagasse has been calculated at Rs5.98 per unit.

FPCCI applauds Quetta Chamber's flood relief drive

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has applauded Quetta Chamber of Commerce & Industry (QCCI) flood relief campaign; aimed at providing emergency sustenance and assistance to the flood affectees of historically unprecedented floods in Balochistan. He added that, as President FPCCI, I thank QCCI, on behalf of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan for working tirelessly 24/7 to reach as many affected families as possible. He also paid glowing tributes to the exemplary leadership role of Fida Hussain Dashti, President QCCI, for his meticulous & swift launch of the relief efforts.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has acknowl-

edged the patronage of the relief campaign by the prominent business leaders of Quetta; namely, Mr. Ghulam Farooq, Haji Juma Khan and Mr. Wali Khan — and, the entire business community of Quetta for their selfless efforts in flood relief campaign under the umbrella of QCCI.

Mian Anjum Nisar, former President FPCCI, apprised that QCCI is providing a number of essential goods to the flood affectees; including, but not limited to, water-proof tents; linen sheets; clean drinking water; dry eatables, e.g. roasted black channa, dates & biscuits; packaged milk & juices; formula milk powder for children of various ages; stitched or ready-to-wear clothes; plastic shoes; sanitary pads; raw food items such as rice, flour

and lentils for people stuck in homes due to flooding outside; medical supplies for elderly, sick, mothers & children and dry fodder for the cattle as well.

Senator Haji Ghulam Ali, former President FPCCI, explained that the business community is also cooperating with the government and the armed forces to synergize the relief efforts for maximum affect. He also asked for protecting SMEs in these times of crisis as these are the real engine of economic growth and employment generation.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, former President FPCCI, maintained that QCCI has made us all proud and have saved many lives through provision of much needed sustenance goods and cash handouts as well. QCCI has become one of top

entities who have come forward for flood relief for Quetta in particular and Balochistan in general.

Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, has extended his full support, from the platform of FPCCI, to QCCI to facilitate their effective and substantial efforts and endeavors. We should all come together to save and rehabilitate as many lives & families as possible.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has proposed a five-point agenda to protect the economy from further damage: (i) the government should negotiate the restructuring of external debts with IMF, World Bank, ADB, IDB, Paris Club and friendly countries to create fiscal space for flood relief & rebuilding activities (ii) detailed damage assessment should start immediately

at every district, tehsil and village level; and, multilateral & bilateral donor conferences should be held and findings should be professionally & transparently presented to generate substantial donations from international community (iii) electricity bills of the businesses affected by floods should be waived for 3 months to enable them to continue their operations and keep generating employment opportunities (iv) natural rainwater passages and canals should be restored to their natural shapes before the monsoon season of the next year (v) a comprehensive plan to rehabilitate internally displaced people (IDPs) should be put in place with a deadline of 6 months along with the regular provision of food & medical facilities throughout the interim period.

Reduction in POL price should be announced: President KATI

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam expressed concern over the government's delay in changing the prices of petroleum products. He said that there is a trend of continuous decline in oil prices in the global market, and the government should immediately announce a reduction in the price of petrol so that inflation and production costs can be reduced.

Salman Aslam welcomed the Saudi government's decision of a one-year extension of \$3 billion to stabilize Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves. He said that Saudi Arabia is Pakistan's best friend and has helped Pakistan in



difficult times in the past. With this decision, Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and economic stability in the country will be possible.

He hoped that the government will solve the problems faced by the industrialists so that the production process in the country can be accelerated and the economy can travel towards development.

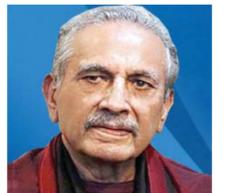
SBP should increase interest rates immediately, says Dr Shahid Rasheed

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said the central bank should immediately increase the interest rates and take action against the banks involved in dollar smuggling in order to stabilize the rupee and reduce inflation.

Import of vegetables from Afghanistan and Iran should not be hindered as it is important for food security in Pakistan, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that LPG mafia has increased the price of the domestic gas cylinder to 3600 rupees but the relevant institutions are silent spectators while the electricity bills are burying the people alive. He said that the use of air conditioners is increasing worldwide due to



increased temperature which is adversely affecting the environment.

The air conditioning industry needs to be better regulated and there is a need for increased investment in research and development to develop machines that use less electricity and have a less negative impact on the environment, he said. Mr. Butt said that according to the International Energy Agency, currently there are two billion air conditioners running in the world, while their number will reach five billion by 2050.

Saudi debt renewal will reduce Pakistan's problems: PEW



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Tuesday said the roll-over of debt by Saudi Arabia will reduce the problems of Pakistan and improve the confidence of investors.

The extension in the return period of three billion dollars kept in Pakistan by Saudi Arabia may also reduce the speed of fall of the rupee, it said.

Pakistan received this amount on November 2021 and was supposed to return it on December 5 but now the period of return has been extended by one year which is a good decision by a friendly country, said Brig. (ret'd) Aslam Khan, Chairman PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves are currently eight and a half billion dollars, which are only enough for forty days of imports, which is the main reason for the pressure on the rupee.

Aslam Khan said that if China and the United Arab Emirates also renew their loans, Pakistan's woes, which have been marred by extreme conditions, high oil and commodity prices, floods and political instability, could ease.

Floods have rendered all targets of the government and IMF irrelevant but lender is still silent on this important issue which is adding to the anxiety of policymakers, he said.

Hales, Brooks star as England beat Pakistan in first T20I

England is visiting Pakistan after 17-year to play seven-match series

KARACHI: Alex Hales hit half-century on return as England hand Pakistan their first-ever T20I defeat at the National Stadium Karachi.

Playing their first-ever T20I in Pakistan, the visitors outshined the Men in Green in all departments of the game as they chased the 159-run target in 19.2 overs. The right-hander, who hasn't featured for England in past three years, smashed 53 off 40 balls with the help of seven boundaries. Though, he was dropped twice by the home side when he was on 22 and 28.

Apart from Hales, Ben Duckett and David Malan contributed with 21 and 20 runs respectively. Harry Brook finished that game in style as he played a wonderful cameo of 42 off 25 balls. He struck seven boundaries. For Pakistan, Usman Qadir ended up picking two wickets for 36 runs. Earlier, Mohammad Rizwan hit half-century as Pakistan set 159-run target after losing the toss.

The world number one batter smashed 68 off 46 balls in front of a house full crowd at the National Stadium Karachi. The opening pair of skipper Babar Azam and Rizwan started off magnificent-



ly after being put into bat by England's stand-in captain Moeen Ali. The pair provided 85-run stand of 57 deliveries to the Men in Green with Rizwan being the dominant of the two. He contributed 53 while Babar departed after scoring a classy 31.

Their stand was broken by Adil Rashid in the 10th over of the game. Babar's

departure not only triggered the collapse of the batting lineup but also stopped the run flow. After scoring run-a-ball 24 for the second wicket, Haider Ali was sent packing by Sam Curran, as Pakistan were reduced to 109-2. He attempted a short-arm jab, but didn't get the distance.

In the next over, set batter Rizwan got stumped as England captain Ali claimed

his first wicket of the series. Debutant Shan Masood only managed to score just seven, while Mohammad Nawaz and Khushdil Shah managed to score just four and five respectively. Ifthikhar Ahmed provided finishing touches to the innings as he played a 28-run cameo of 17 balls. He smashed three boundaries in the innings.

Debutant Luke Wood, who represented Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League, claimed three wickets of just 24 runs from his four overs.

Adil Rashid ended up with the figures of two for 27 from his four overs. All-rounder Luke Wood and top-order batter Shan Masood made their debuts for England and Pakistan respectively.

"It is massive for us and massive for Pakistan as well," Moeen Ali said. "I've not been to Pakistan much in my life so to represent England as captain here is amazing," he says. "Alex Hales comes in after 3 years which is amazing for him."

Meanwhile, Babar Azam was aiming to overcome their lapses in the Asia Cup. "We're looking to improve our skills. We sat together after the Asia Cup to work out areas of improvement."

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Chess Championship held in Islamabad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The first Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Chess Championship held at F-9 Park, Islamabad has concluded.

The championship was organized by Chess Federation of Pakistan and Islamabad Chess Association with the support of Directorate of Sports Culture and Tourism, CDA & MCI under the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Administrator MCI Irfan Nawaz Memon.

In the championship professional category, CM Sulaiman Ahmed Ashrafi stood first, NM Sibti Ali second and Salman Ali Khan stood third, while Noor Fatima Rashid stood first, Raja Hattamur Rehman second and Hamza Zaka Mustafa stood third in the women's and under-14 category.

More than 100 top players from all over Pakistan participated in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Championship. Moreover, the young boys and girls were given the opportunity to improve their game by playing with renowned players.

Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon participated in the event as chief guest. Cash prizes were distributed among the first ten players



who won and the winner was awarded with a beautiful trophy.

Chess Federation of Pakistan President Hanif Qureshi appreciated the efforts made by Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad to promote mind games.

The organizers of the championship and Secretary Finance of Chess Federation of Pakistan Raja Gauhar Iqbal congratulated the winning players.

Chairman Chess Federation of Pakistan Anwar Shaikh said that for

the promotion of chess throughout the country, obtaining financing and involvement of government institutions is indispensable, so his aim is to overcome these challenges by using all their abilities.

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Administrator MCI Irfan Nawaz Memon said that ICF administration is also going to establish a chess club in F9 Park and chess activities will be organized on every Sunday in F9 Park Islamabad.

Jayawardena asks Babar to treat captaincy, batting separately

ISLAMABAD: Babar Azam, the Pakistan captain and star batter, has been in a rough patch of form recently which is a slight "concern" for Pakistan heading into the T20 World Cup, according to Sri Lanka legend Mahela Jayawardena.

Babar managed just 68 runs in six outings in the Asia Cup as Pakistan lost in the final to Sri Lanka. It was a rare blip for one of the most consistent T20I batters of his generation and it's a streak that cost him the No.1 spot in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I batters' rankings.

Team-mate and opening partner Mohammad Rizwan now holds that coveted spot with Babar at No.3 behind South Africa's Aiden Markram.

"The way Babar has been batting the last two years, for him to have a tournament like this is a concern," Jayawardena told host Sanjana Ganesan on The ICC Review. "But I think he is still a quality player."

"Probably the occasion being, you know, part of an Asia Cup, and not that often that India-Pakistan play each other as well. So maybe the whole pressure got to him a little bit, I would say. But he is still a quality player."

"Pakistan did miss him with the bat because Rizwan and him at the top are a very, very consistent opening pair. The success of Pakistan over the last two years has been on that foundation, where all the big-hitters come in the middle and they (Babar and Rizwan) give that platform and they take it on."

"That's something that they missed, but all good players go through some lean patch. I'm sure he will go back and go through his processes and come back stronger." Despite Babar's lean run of his 68 runs, 30 came against Sri Lanka in the final Jayawardena wasn't buying into the talk that bowlers had figured him out.

Instead, once again, Jayawardena pointed out the occasion as a factor in Babar's poor form. "Not really I think, there were a couple of good balls that caught him out in this competition and a couple of soft dismissals, which can happen," Jayawardena said.

"It's just the occasion, the conditions and all that. You take him away from this tournament and put him in another tournament, and he will come back strongly the quality is always there."

"Babar is that kind of a batter, he will go through that process vigorously and make sure that he comes back stronger." Jayawardena said it was crucial to ensure the Pakistan captain wasn't surrounded by "undue pressure" heading into the ICC T20 World Cup.

Sindh clinches maiden National T20 title

Spokesman Report

MULTAN: Sohail Khan's four-fer and Sharjeel Khan's blistering 53 off 36 balls led Sindh to their maiden National T20 title after beating Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets in the final of the Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 here at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

This was Sindh's first National T20 title since the inception of the new domestic structure in 2019 and they also took away the glittering National T20 trophy besides the PKR 5million winners' prize. While, this was defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first defeat in the final in the last three years.

In pursuit of a 141-run target, Sindh opening pair Saim Ayub and Sharjeel Khan provided a flying start to their team as both batters stroked eight fours and six sixes between them. The pair scored at 11 runs an over in the powerplay and stitched a 70-run partnership for the first wicket.

The left-handed Saim was the first one to depart with 36 off 24 balls and ended the tournament with 416 runs at a staggering strike rate of over 155. Sharjeel top-scored for his side and smoked four fours and as many sixes during the course of his innings. Omair Bin Yousuf (21 not out, 12b, one four, two sixes) and captain Saud Shakeel (18 not out, 16b, two fours)

saw Sindh chased down the target with 32 balls to spare. Earlier, the decision to bat first from Khalid Usman backfired as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa wobbled at the top of the innings when they slumped to 44 for three in the powerplay. Sohail accounted for Sahibzada Farhan (four off two, one four) and Kamran Ghulam (16, 11b, four fours) in the first nine balls he bowled in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's batting. He went on to pick two more wickets (Mohammad Sarwar Afridi 30 off 20, one four, two sixes) and Mohammad Abbas Afridi (one off two) to end with match figures of 4-0-18-4 and later adjudicated player of the final. Wicket-keeper-batter Rehan Afridi

top-scored with a 41-ball 43, studded with four fours and one six.

Mir Hamza and Asif Mehmood bagged two wickets apiece. That the Sindh were able to win the tournament goes to an all-round performance from the side which included performances from Saim - who was awarded player of the tournament, Sohail - who was awarded best bowler of the tournament with 21 scalps and Sarfaraz Ahmed - who was awarded with best wicket-keeper of the tournament with 13 dismissals to his name. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Sahibzada Farhan was awarded with best batter of the tournament with 429 runs.

Haider surfaces as Millat Tractors Governors Cup winner

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The 39th Millat Tractors Governors Cup Golf Championship concluded at the Lahore Gymkhana Golf Course after three rounds of fierce competition bringing distinction and acclamation for an artistic golfer of the host club who made the grade by curbing the victory intents of many capable aspirants and emerging as the incomparable one of the 39th Governors Cup Golf Championship.

At the start of the final days 18 holes, at least ten skillful contenders were all intent on upstaging the prominent leaders like Saad Habib, Farid Maneka and Hamza Kardar and as the flow of final round progressed noticeable was the inability of the second round overnight leaders to hold

on to their exalted positions on the leaderboard and plummeted unfavorably as they hit shots that lacked a classy touch.

And the vacuum thus created was adequately filled up by a solid one like Ghulam Haider who applied his golfing skills most effectively and found his way to the winning route and ultimate triumph. In the final round Ghulam Haider had one birdie, fifteen regulation pars and just two bogies, a final 18 holes score of net 68 and a three rounds aggregate of net 212, four under par. This steady effort of the final day was laudable and fetched Ghulam Haider an illustrious reward in the shape of the prestigious Governors Cup Title 2022.

What needs to be mentioned here is that fortune certainly favored Ghulam Haider as he and

a very young one Ahmed Ibrahim of Royal Palm ended the championship at the same aggregate score of 212 but G.Haider won because he had a better net score over the last 36 holes.

It goes to the credit of Ahmed Ibrahim that he put in an impressive effort and for him winning the runners up position is laudable. While Ahmed Ibrahim was second a very talented one Abdullah Farooqi ended up third at an aggregate score of 213. Once again Abdullah Farooqi, a doctor in the making, revealed his skills and admirable was his effort in this competition.

In the race for gross honors Salman Jehangir won the best gross. His score was 220. Second gross went to Qasim Ali Khan with a gross score of 225, followed by Mohsen Zafar, third gross

score being 226.

In the other events Shafiq Bhatti of Defence Raya outsmarted his senior competing mates to win the Seniors Gross. He looked sound as a competitor of excellence. As for the race in gross category, Asad Khan came second and Col Asif Mehdi was third.

Seniors Net section winner was Asim Tiwana who displayed youthful command over his golfing skills application, though he was competing in the seniors event. His score of gross 71 and net 63 in the concluding 18 holes was a spell binding effort and gave him a 36 holes aggregate of 136 and the top net prize in seniors net race. AVM Fawad Younus won second net and Mian M.Shabbir Nagiana, third net.

The young one to shine in Boys section was Mohammed Afnan



who impressed with his all round game.

Other Results: Junior Girls ;Mahnoor Sayid ; Junior Boys ;Dawood Abbasi ;2nd gross;Yahya Ahsan,1st gross;Mekail Osman ;2nd net ;Muhammed Afnan

National taekwondo squad off to Nepal



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: National Taekwondo team has left for Nepal to partake in the coveted 3rd Mount Everest International Open Taekwondo Championship (G-2) scheduled to be played from Sept 21 to October 2 in Pokhara city, Nepal.

Pakistan would participate in the different categories of Khyurogi and Poomsae events of the championship. Team members for the Khyurogi event are Abu Bakar Siddique, Muhammad Arbaz Khan, Mazhar Abbas, Hamza Omar Saeed, Haroon Khan, Shahzaib Khan, Fatimatuz Zahara Khawar, Naqsh Hamdani and Noor Rehman while Poomsae Squad consists of Shahbaz Ahmed, Muhammad Waseem Javed, Wajeeh Ul Hassan, Naila, Mehrunnisa and Flower Zaheer.

Korean Kukkiwon coach Master Seongoh Choi of Korea is the head coach of the Poomsae squad while former Iranian champion Yousef Karami is the chief coach of the Khyurogi squad. Hawas Khan is accompanying the squad as team Manager while Faisal Nadeem Butt is the trainer. Earlier, the members of the Pakistan squad were called by the Director General of Pakistan Sports Board Col (ret'd) Asif Zaman.

On the occasion, the DG PSB expressed the hope that the team will do extremely well in Nepal and return home triumphantly.

He said that any good news from the sports ground about Pakistan's performance help boost the confidence of the entire sports fraternity and helps promote sports at every level in the country. Pakistan Taekwondo Federation's (PTF) President Lt Col (ret'd) Waseem Janjua said that a 15-day training camp was organized with the collaboration of PSB to enhance and honed the skills of the participants and it will continue till the Combaxx Asian Open Championship to be held in Islamabad in November to horn their skills and improve their techniques.

"The players' participation in the 15-day training and coaching camp would be instrumental in the team's good performance", PTF president retired Lt Col Raja Wasim Janjua said.

He said that now the main national players are off to Nepal, other players and the juniors have ample time to take benefit of the absence of main players and hone their skills through the camp.

He said that the world's best athletes are taking part in the Nepal Open but our athletes are also well-prepared for this mega event. The Federation's CEO Omar Saeed said the Federation left no stone unturned to provide the best training opportunities and facilities to the athletes to prepare for this event and hoped they will fare well and win laurels for the country.

Master Seongoh Choi of Korea and Iranian coach Yousef Karami said that players have worked hard and attained strenuous training sessions ahead of this event and are hundred percent fit both mentally and physically due to which they will be able to make it to the victory podium. Athlete Haroon Khan, Hamza Khan and Flower Zaheer were also upbeat and said that all the players are in high spirits and are focused on nothing less than victory.

"The participation in this event will also help us gain international exposure by playing alongside international players and hence their skills will be improved further", Haroon Khan said.

Women tent pegging team ready for int'l championship



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: For the first time in the history of Pakistan, women tent pegging team ready for international championship.

Three-member women's tent pegging team off to Jordan for International Tent Pegging Championship. Championship will be held in the historic and archaeological city of Petra in Jordan from September 22 to 24.

For the first time in the history of Pakistan, the women's national team was selected through an open trial, team coach Haroon Bandalia Pakistan Women's team is participating in a major international event for the first time, President EFP

The preparation of the team is good, hopefully will perform well, Sahibzada Sultan.

The team was selected after open trials organized by the Equestrian Federation of Pakistan. This is the first major event for the Pakistani women's tent pegging team. Before that team went to South Africa on a training tour.

gross ,Omar Farooq ;1st gross Javed A.Khan ;3rd net 'Ch Guftar ;2nd net W/C Pervaiz Saeed Mir ;1st net Col Muhammed Hazir ;

At the conclusion of the Championship the prizes were awarded to the winners by Governor Punjab ,Baligh ur Rehman along-with Sikandar Mustafa Khan ,Chairman Millat Group ,Mian Misbahur Rehman ,Chairman ,Lahore Gymkhana ,Convener Golf ,Sarmad Nadeem in the presence of Syed M.Aqeel ,CEO Millat Tractors ,Ahsan Imran ,CEO Millat Equipment ,participating golfers and families. Sikandar Mustafa Khan committed that Millat will continue to promote golf in years to come.

The Governor Punjab reminded the elite golf playing audience of their responsibility towards the flood victims and their problems.