



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ ایمان کیساتھ سے کچھ اور شائستگی ہیں۔ اور حیا (شرم) بھی ایمان کی ایک شاخ ہے۔ (بخاری: حدیث نمبر 9)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Biden urges world community to help flood-hit Pakistan

US President Joe Biden on Wednesday said that Pakistan is facing effects climate change and the country suffering from natural disasters needs help to mitigate the challenges effects climate change. While addressing the UN General Assembly, the US President said that Pakistan is facing difficulties due to floods as most of the country is submerged in water due to which Islamabad needs help.



NA Speaker urges political parties to promote peace, tolerance

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has urged political parties to promote peace and tolerance in society as it was indispensable to economic progress and development of the country. He said that our religion Islam stressed upon propagation of peace in the world. The beloved Prophet (Peace be upon him) had been the symbol of peace for all mankind, he added.

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PTI chief announces to start movement on Saturday

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has announced to start anti-government movement on Saturday.

While addressing All Pakistan Lawyers Convention outside the Supreme Court (SC) Lahore Registry, Imran Khan appealed to the lawyers to support him when he gives a protest call to the nation. He thanked the lawyer community for giving him a warm welcome.

"Lawyers have a big responsibility in this scenario as Pakistan needs the supremacy of law. The economy cannot be improved without a powerful justice system. We have to bring Pakistan out of the crisis."

Khan announced that he is going to start a movement on Saturday for the real independence march. "When I give a call, you have to come out with me to get real independence for Pakistan."

He once again criticised Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and said that the premier was begging everywhere during his foreign visits. He added that the current rulers were only trying to be in rulership without analysing the damages to the country.

The PTI chief said that the first NRO was awarded by former military ruler Pervaz Musharraf and now the current rulers were dissolving their cases after getting another NRO.

He further urged the public to never ever vote for those political parties whose leaders have vested interests lying outside the country, as he used the term "conflict of interest," to define those leaders who have wealth outside the country.

Need for Climate Action

New York: John Kerry, Special Envoy of the USA for Climate Change calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Rehabilitation phase

PM appeals int'l community to help flood victims

US Special Presidential Envoy reaffirms US Admin's continued support in facing challenges due to floods

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized the need for continued support from the international community in immediate recovery and relief efforts as well as during the subsequent reconstruction and rehabilitation phase.

He said this while talking to US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, on the sidelines of the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Prime Minister stressed that Pakistan contributed less than one percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions, but it is among the ten most vulnerable

WB, IMF chiefs meet PM; economic issues discussed

NEW YORK: World Bank Group President David Malpass and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Ms Karistalina Georgieva separately called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Wednesday. During the meetings held on the sidelines of 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the two sides discussed the economic issues faced by Pakistan, with particular reference to the situation after devastating floods in the country.

countries to climate change. Talking about devastations caused by recent floods in Pakistan, he said over 1400 people have been died and 33 million people displaced as climate refugees, out of which over six hundred thousand are pregnant women. He said that four million acres of crops have been destroyed, entire villages and livelihoods swept away.

Shehbaz Sharif underscored the importance of US leadership in enabling developing countries including Pakistan to deliver on their climate action commitments under the Paris Agreement by providing sufficient tools in the shape of Climate Finance, Technology Transfer and Capacity Building Assistance. Special Envoy Kerry expressed

solidarity with the people and Government of Pakistan and reaffirmed US Administration's continued support in facing the challenges due to floods. He said his country is ready to engage with Pakistan to collaborate in rebuilding resilient infrastructure as well as other forms of support that would avert such a crisis in future.

Both sides agreed to continue to closely focus on climate change and energy dialogue.

Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz Sharif said his meetings with the world leaders on the sidelines of 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly focused on the need to deal with climate change and enhance trade partnerships.

3rd phase of G20 DSSI

Pak-Japan agree on debt deferral of \$160m

Ambassador of Japan reaffirms his commitment to support Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Governments of Japan and Pakistan agreed on debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$160 million, as the last phase of "the G20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI)". Prior to this, both Governments agreed on the first debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$370 million on April 27, 2021 and the second debt deferral amounting to approx. US\$200 million on October 22, 2021, under the same initiative.

The total amount of deferred debt has reached approx. US\$730 million, which will widen the fiscal space for the Government of Pakistan to restore its economy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the flood disaster.

The concessional loans, subject to debt deferral, have been utilized for infrastructure development such as roads, tunnels, power plants and grids, irrigation, water supply, and drainage facilities in Pakistan from the early 1990s to the mid-2010s. These concessional loans have favorable conditions for Pakistan in terms of low interest rate, as well as long grace and repayment period. Under the last agreement, repayments for the debt and interest due between July 1 and December 31, 2021 will be rescheduled after June 15, 2023.

In addition to the debt deferral, the Government of Japan decided to extend Emergency Grant Aid of USD 7 million to Pakistan in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster that have occurred in Pakistan since mid-June.

IHC acquits Ahsan from Sports City reference

Planning Minister vows to complete Narowal Sports City

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday vowed to complete the Narowal Sports City that was delayed due to a NAB reference alleging involvement of corruption in the project.

He said the residence of the Narowal would get state of the art sports facility through this project.

He said the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference had incurred losses of millions of rupees to the project and this loss would be recovered from Imran Khan and other responsible.

Addressing the media persons here outside the Islamabad High Court (IHC) after dismissal of the NAB reference case against him by an IHC bench, the minister said former Prime Minister Imran Khan and former Chairman National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Justice Javed Iqbal jointly initiated a campaign against the PML-N leadership and this reference was part of that 'NAB-Niazi alliance'.

He said the court kept on questioning the NAB during the one hour hearing to tell it how Ahsan Iqbal was involved in corruption in this reference.

For procurement, logistics

ECC okays Rs10b for flood affectees

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet Wednesday approved funds of Rs.10 billion to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for procurement and logistics of relief items for flood affected people.

Moreover the ECC has directed to the Finance Division to immediately release funds of Rs.5 billion to NDMA. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail virtually presided over the ECC meeting.

The NDMA presented a summary for allocation of funds for procurement and logistics of relief items for flood affected people and apprised about devastation caused by the recent floods in Pakistan. In order to provide immediate relief to the flood affectees, NDMA started procurement on emergency basis costing Rs. 2.4 billion. Due to colossal damages, the already procured items are not sufficient viz-a-viz relief requirement in the flood affected areas.

Therefore, NDMA placed



orders for procurement of more items at cumulative cost of Rs. 7.113 billion, which are being procured in emergency to provide relief to affected people. Previously, NDMA was allocated Rs. 8 billion for procurement and logistics cost of relief items to the flood affected people. The amount was insufficient as the cost of only procurement has surpassed Rs. 9.5 billion. Besides procurement, NDMA is also undertaking logistics of all relief goods and materials provided by friendly countries.

The ECC also considered a summary of Ministry of Commerce on clearance of stuck up consignments in light of office memorandum dated 22 July, 2022, 19 August, 2022 and 23 August, 2022 issued by Ministry of Commerce. The ECC approved the proposal and directed that the consignments of previously banned items that landed in Pakistan till 18th August, 2022 may be released at the rate of

surcharge.

The ECC directed Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination to withdraw the summary and directed to submit a fresh summary on paracetamol and to rationalize the price and ensure its availability. The summary presented by Ministry of National Food Security and Research regarding import of Wheat through Gwadar sea port was deferred by ECC.

Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mehmood, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel, MNA/ex-PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha, Chairman FBR, Federal Secretaries and senior officers attended the meeting.

Dollar reaches all-time high at Rs239.65



KARACHI: The US dollar continued its ascent on Wednesday against the Pakistani rupee, reaching all time high in the inter-bank market.

According to details, the greenback closed Rs239.65 after a climb of 74 paise from Tuesday's close of Rs238.91.

The greenback is on a winning streak despite State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) getting much needed funds from International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Experts say the country's borrowing needs are expected to increase in the wake of massive devastation caused by flash floods, which will also drive up the import bill.

Meanwhile, market experts said several factors are contributing to the ongoing decline. Agencies

Amid climate headwinds

Economy to slow to 3.5% in FY2023, says ADB

The recent devastating floods in Pakistan add profound risk to the country's economic outlook

Our Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's economy is forecast to slow to 3.5 percent in fiscal year 2023 amid devastating floods, policy tightening, and critical efforts to tackle sizable fiscal and external imbalances, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in a report released Wednesday.

The slowdown in FY 2023 (ending on June 30, 2023) has been predicted even as growth in FY2022 is expected to have reached 6.0%.

According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2022 Update, gross domestic product (GDP) growth in Pakistan in FY2022 was propelled by higher private consumption and an expansion in agriculture, services, and industry—particularly large-scale manufacturing.

But in FY2023—as well as climate headwinds and Pakistan's critical policy efforts—ADB's lower growth projection also reflects double-digit inflation. The latest report is an update to ADB's annual flagship economic publication.

"The recent devastating floods in Pakistan add profound risk to the country's economic outlook," said ADB



Country Director for Pakistan Yong Ye. "We hope that flood related reconstruction and economic reforms will catalyze significant international financial support, stimulate growth, and preserve social and development spending to protect the vulnerable. ADB is preparing a package of relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction to support people, livelihoods, and infrastructure immediately and in the long-term," Yong Ye added.

"The economic outlook will be shaped largely by the restoration of political stability and the continued implementation of reforms under the revived

International Monetary Fund program to stabilize the economy and restore fiscal and external buffers.

According to the update, private consumption expanded by 10% in FY2022 resulting in improved employment conditions and higher household incomes.

Agriculture output increased by 4.4% in FY2022 supported by strong performances in crops and livestock. Agriculture growth is expected to moderate due to flood damage and high input costs next year, which may diminish services growth, particularly wholesale and retail trade.

Unflinching support for Kashmiris

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir in New York on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

No concept of forced marriage in Islam: Ashrafi

KARACHI: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East, Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Wednesday said that there was no concept of forced marriage or conversion of religion in Islam.

He was addressing "National Dialogue with Religious Scholars" organised by UN Women in collaboration with UNFPA and UK Aid here for deliberating on negative effects of child marriage and devising a way forward to address the issue through effective awareness raising and advocacy.

Council of Islamic Ideology's Chairman Doctor Qibla Ayaz and other members of the council, representative of UN Women, UNFPA, UK Aid, and international and national organisations and health experts among others attended the dialogue.

Hafiz Tahir Ashrafi terming child marriages as an important social issue said that well-being of girls should be given priority as only a healthy mother could give birth to a healthy child.

He said that associating child and forced marriages with Islam was totally erroneous and baseless notion as it was the religion of peace and it had granted a respectable status to the women.

Hafiz Ashrafi referring to Ahadis Mubarka said that being mature physically and mentally was specified as prerequisite for entering into matrimonial bond.

Last Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) had sought consent of Bibi Fatima before her marriage with Hazrat Ali and set an everlasting guiding example for the entire Muslim Ummah, he added. APP

IS Pakistan Stands with Kashmiris

No peace without resolving Kashmir dispute: FM

India has resorted to a series of illegal actions, gross and consistent violations of HR in IIOJK

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari says India's illegal and unilateral actions of 05 August 2019 are aimed at changing the internationally recognized "disputed" status of Jammu and Kashmir and altering its demographic structure.

Addressing the meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir in New York on Wednesday, he said India has resorted to a series of illegal actions, gross and consistent violations of human rights, and other crimes in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said massive Indian occupying force has continued to perpetrate vicious and repressive actions, including; extrajudicial killings, custodial killings, use of pellet guns and collective punishments.

He said Indian authorities incarcerated the entire Hurriyat leadership, the true

Pakistan for global dialogue to counter Islamophobia

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for convening a global dialogue on countering Islamophobia as a state policy. Addressing High Level Meeting on Effective Promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities in New York on Wednesday, he asked United Nations to formulate an action plan to combat Islamophobia. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said India, the once secular country, is transforming into a Hindu supremacist state at the expense of its Muslim and Christian communities. He said RSS' hate filled Hindutva ideology has unleashed a reign of fear and violence against India's two hundred million strong Muslim minority.

representatives of Kashmiri political aspirations. Most Hurriyat leaders are subjected to brutal and inhumane treatment at the hands of Indian occupation forces.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in pursuance of the "Hindutva" ideology, the RSS-BJP government in India has initiated illegal demographic changes in the occupied territory in gross violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention.

He said new "domicile rules" have been introduced, and over four million fake domicile certificates have been issued to Hindus from across India to settle in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The land and properties of Kashmiris are being confiscated for military and official use.

He said there will be no peace in South Asia until the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is peacefully resolved on the basis of justice and international legitimacy.

IS Devastating floods

Angelina Jolie visits Pakistan to support flood victims

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: International humanitarian Angelina Jolie is visiting Pakistan to support communities affected by the devastating floods. Heavy rains and floods across the country have impacted 33 million people and submerged one third of the country under water. Ms Jolie is visiting to witness and gain understanding of the situation, and to hear from people affected directly about their needs, and about steps to prevent such suffering in the future.



Ms Jolie, who previously visited victims of the 2010 floods in Pakistan, and the 2005 earthquake, will visit the IRC's emergency response operations and local organisations assisting displaced people including Afghan refugees. Pakistan, which has

contributed just 1% of global carbon emissions, is also the second largest host of refugees globally, its people having sheltered Afghan refugees for over forty years.

Ms Jolie will highlight the need for urgent support for the Pakistani people and long-term solutions to address the multiplying crises of climate change, human displacement and protracted insecurity we are witnessing globally.

She will see first hand how countries like Pakistan are paying the greatest cost for a crisis they did not cause.

Iran intends to expand ties with Pakistan: President Raisi

Iran-Pakistan ties based on age old cultural commonalties

NEW YORK: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a meeting with Pakistan's prime minister voiced Iran's strong will to expand bilateral relations with Pakistan, and said Iran's relations with Pakistan are based on cultural and religious commonalties which are thousands of years old.

President Raisi in his Tuesday meeting with Shehbaz Sharif, the prime minister of Pakistan at the hotel of residence of the Iranian president and on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, said, "Iran sees no limits for expansion of cooperation with Pakistan in economic, business, energy, transportations and cultural fields."

President Ebrahim Raisi once

again condoled with the Pakistani nation on the devastating flood that inflicted huge loss of lives and material damages, ensuring the Pakistani prime minister that the Islamic Republic of Iran will do all it can to assist the flood-stricken Pakistani brethren.

President Raisi said he had met his Pakistani counterpart five days ago in Samarkand, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) meeting, reiterating, "Increased meetings and consultations of the two countries' officials have constructive effect on improvement of comprehensive mutual cooperation."

Ali Zaidi demands action on Miftah money laundering case

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Sindh President and former Federal Minister Syed Ali Haidar Zaidi demands action on Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail's money laundering case, which is pending with National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Mr. Zaidi reminds the public and the relevant law enforcement agencies of the facts about the pending money laundering case against current Federal Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and Ismail Industries Limited.

Bank Al Falah reported a Suspicion Transaction Report (STR) against Miftah Ismail on inconsistent transactional activity in his accounts, i.e. A/C No. 1004326467 at Bank Al Falah Main Branch, Karachi and A/C No. 6-1-1-20311-714-202848 Habib Metropolitan Bank Main Branch, Karachi. Mr. Ismail opened his personal account 1004326467 at Bank Al Falah Main Branch, Karachi on 10-7-2014 wherein aggregated credit turnover of PKR356.422 million was observed.

Furthermore, bank records show that between 2013-2018, a huge amount of PKR1.306 billion came

into the personal accounts of Miftah Ismail Ahmad and his close family members through TT (telegraphic transfers). The sender of these funds was M. Ismail Ahmad/Farzana Muhammad who's also a brother of Miftah Ismail with the places of remittance being UAE/Bahrain/British Virgin Island.

Most of the above funds were later sent to the accounts of Ismail Industries Limited. It's unclear what the purpose is for sending the money indirectly into Ismail Industries instead of directly and thus, this requires further investigation.

Mr. Zaidi believes that the way the above funds were transferred is established evidence of Miftah Ismail parking corruption money in mutual accounts through commingling and layering to hide its sources. Plus, Mr. Ismail's alleged money laundering is a classic money laundering case as the source/origin of the funds is unknown.

The money laundering inquiry was initiated by NAB in February this year and then proceedings were stopped in April, as now Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) 2010 has been detached from NAO (NAB Ordinance), and so, the case will likely be closed by NAB.

'We won't let you go,' CM Punjab tells CCPO Lahore

LAHORE: Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Wednesday met with Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar, ordering him to keep performing his duties, as usual.

According to a private TV channel, the centre and provincial government had locked horns over the removal of Dogar from the position. The PML-Q leader, along with his son Moonis Elahi, met with the CCPO and ordered him to perform his duties as usual. All police officers in Punjab are performing their duties as per merit, the CM said. He added that no officer would be transferred on anyone's liking or disliking.

Imran's days in power are over: Fazl

Says PTI chief has resorted to 'issue based politicking', including the appointment of army chief

SUKKUR: The former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's days of enjoying political power in Pakistan are now over, the greatest evidence of which is how he has resorted to issue-based politicking.

This was stated by Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Wednesday while addressing the media in Sukkur.

"Imran Khan never was, is, nor ever will be a political leader," Rehman said, adding that no political leader worth their salt is ready to consider Imran as a politician. He pointed out that the proof of this was how Imran had resorted to 'issue-based politicking' and that its hype was momentary.



Asked about Imran's comments on the appointment of the next army chief, Rehman dismissed it as another attempt by Imran to politick on a non-political matter. Asked about his views on the transgender bill in the parliament, Rehman rather snarkily stated that he has nothing to do with it.

He continued that transgenders are the need of PTI, not his party, the

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (Fazl) JUI-F. Transgender Act The law states: "Every Transgender person, being the citizen of Pakistan, who has attained the age of eighteen years shall have the right to get himself or herself registered according to self-perceived gender identity with NADRA on the CNIC, CRC, Driving Licence and passport in accordance with the provisions of the NADRA Ordinance, 2000 or any other relevant laws."

While speaking to the media in Larkana, the JUI-F leader condemned the transgender law and said it goes against the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah. He added that he would also be submitting amendments to some of its 'objectionable parts'. Agencies

President for development of education sector as per modern trends

Languages learning vital to benefit from vast reservoirs of knowledge, says Dr Arif Alvi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said that besides learning and promoting the national language, it was also important to learn other languages, especially English, to benefit from the vast reservoir of scientific, technical, and business knowledge available in those languages.

He was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day 1st Pak TESOL international conference on emerging trends in English language teaching in Pakistan, at the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), here.

US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, Vice-Chancellor of AIU, Professor Dr Zia ul Qayum also addressed the conference.

In his address, the president said that being heritage and a language of communication at

the national level, therefore, we should appropriately focus on the promotion and development of Urdu.

He said added that the English language was spoken by a large number of people and was a language of international communication. Therefore, he said it could be beneficial for acquiring modern scientific and technological knowledge as well as for communicating Pakistan's perspective effectively to the international community.

The president said that scientific knowledge and terms were usually available in the language of developed countries, therefore, it was important to learn those languages.

President Alvi said that though modern research and development was taking place in other languages as well, however, a vast amount of research was being done in the



English language, which made its learning essential for increasing the pace of the country's development.

The president said that the latest advance-

ments in the field of Information Technology (IT), especially in the form of Artificial Intelligence, were affecting every facet of life. Modern applications and technology could be

used to learn languages in an easy and effective manner.

He said that modern technology had altered the concept of learning and education and that the memorization of information had gained secondary importance as compared to analytical and logical decision-making.

The president highlighted that the Muslim world in the past had displayed reluctance in adopting the latest technology, especially the Gutenberg printing press, which caused Muslim societies to lag behind in science and knowledge.

He added that the Muslims of the sub-continent also showed resistance to learning the English language due to its colonial nature, before being urged by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan for its learning to acquire knowledge and advance socially, politically and economically.

Public-private partnership key to improve education quality: PM AJK

Says educational institutions will improve under public-private partnership

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that public-private partnership was key to improve the quality and standard of education in Azad Kashmir.

The AJK premier expressed these views while addressing the annual prize distribution ceremony at City School here on Wednesday. Government Ministers including Abdul Majid Khan and Chaudhry Mohammad Rasheed, former Chief Justice High Court Justice Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, Syed Zeeshan Haidar, Commissioner Muzaffarabad Masood-ur-Rehman, Sardar Rahim Khan, Sardar Gulfranz, Principal of the Institute Ms. Umbreen Sohail, Rahat



Agha, Shaukat Awan and others participated in the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the PM said that preparation of a confident new generation was one of the primary duties of the educational institutions. He said that the developed nations across the globe excelled in every field of life because of paying immense attention to education. He said that educational institutions will improve under public-private part-

nership under step-by-step planning.

He said that state-owned educational institutions were also performing on their own, however, for their further improvement, it was imperative to create a mechanism of public-private partnership. Expressing his pleasure to see the confidence of the school children, the PM said, "It is our shared responsibility to provide proper guidance and counselling to our children who happen to be the



future architects.

He said that education played an important role in the progress and prosperity of developed countries. He said that the government would promote the public-private partnership for improving the quality of education in Azad Kashmir. While announcing 7 lakh rupees for the city school, the PM also announced a cash prize of 2500 for the children who performed in the event.

VC IUB inaugurates special bus service for students

Spokesman Report

BAHAWALPUR: Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob has inaugurated a special bus service for the students of Hasilpur. He said that hundreds of students from Hasilpur tehsil are studying in different departments of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur.

These students were suffering due to lack of proper travel facilities. University has started bus service on the long-standing demands of these students and parents. They said that 2 buses are already running for Khairpur Tamiwali and now with the addition of Hasilpur bus, the number of these points has increased to 3 buses. Considering the number of students, the number of these buses can be increased.

On this occasion, Deputy Director Colleges, Prof. Taslim Alam, Honorable citizen Chaudhry Imran Ahmed, Director Superior College, Mian Azim Akram, Kamran Khalid, Senior Columnist Khan Khuda Yar Khan Chanar, Zulqarnain Javed, Muhammad Yusha Naeem, Chief Transport Officer Qazi Khalilur Rehman, Director Students Affairs Rizwan Majeed, Chairman Plant Pathology



Department Prof. Dr. Naveed Aslam Malghani, Director TV and Broadcast Prof. Dr. Rana Muhammad Shahzad, Associate Prof. Dr. Azhar Hussain, Assistant Professor Dr. Shanayra Mahmood, Transport Officers Arif Masood and Samar Waheed, Director Press Media and Publications Shahzad Ahmed Khalid, Deputy Registrar Public Affairs Fatima Muzahir, Executive Secretary Muhammad Khalid Sheikh, Principal Staff Officer Wasim Ahmed Siddiqui, Lecturer Athar Lashari and Protocol Officer Faizan Sheikh were present.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob inaugurated campus TV studio equipped with modern facilities in the Department of Media Studies. On this occasion, Chair-

man Department of Media Studies, Prof. Dr. Abdul Wajid Khan, Controller of Examinations, Prof. Dr. Sajjad Ahmed Pracha, Director TV and Broadcast, Prof. Dr. Rana Shahzad, Director Campus TV and Digital Media Studio, Prof. Dr. Rao Muhammad Shahid, Assistant Professor, Dr. Jam Sajjad Hussain, Director Press Media and Publications, Shahzad Ahmed Khalid, teachers and students were present.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the Department of Media Studies has a special place in Pakistan and a large number of students who graduated from it are serving at the national and international level. Practical Training of students is very important. He said that the university already has FM 92.6 campus radio and now the students will get practical

training through campus TV and also highlight the activities of the university.

On the other hand, Pakistan Veterinary and Medical Council has granted permanent accreditation to Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.

Similarly, permission has also been given to start evening classes of fifty students for DVM program. The Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences has also been approved to start MPhil program in six subjects. This historic development was announced by the Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council in a special announcement.

Vice Chancellor Engr. Prof. Dr. Athar Mahboob congratulated Dean Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Prof. Dr. Khalid Mansoor and the students for this great achievement. He thanked Pakistan Veterinary Medical Council President Prof. Dr. Masood Rabbani, Convener Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sarwar Khan and Prof. Dr. Khalid Mansoor and former President PVMC Dr. Muhammad Arshad. It is worth mentioning that the Islamia University of Bahawalpur Veterinary College was established in 2006.

CM Sindh visits Tangwani



KANDHKOT: Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah visited Tangwani Kandhkot.

He was briefed by the Deputy Commissioner of Kandhkot-Kashmore, Manoor Mithani. In the briefing, the Deputy Commissioner said that there are 3 taluks, one municipal committee, 6 town committees and 41 USCs in the district of Kandhkot-Kashmore.

There are lakes in which 110 are ripe and 38 are raw. From July 1 to August 26, 1353 mm of rain has occurred. He said that 159731 acres area of the district has been affected due to heavy rains. 119698 houses have collapsed due to rains. DC Kandhkot Munoor Mithani said in the briefing that 20084 cattle have died in the rains. 21 people died and 709 were injured in the rains. 27 relief camps have been established where 6961 have been accommodated.

Cooked food, packets of milk, ration bags, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, jerry cans, bed sheets and pillows have been provided in the camps. In the briefing, the Chief Minister of Sindh was told that water has been drained from the low-lying areas.

Emirates adds another feather in its cap

With Gerry the Goose 'Fly Better' campaign

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Following in the footsteps of iconic film and TV personalities Jennifer Aniston, Chris Hemsworth and Jeremy Clarkson, Emirates latest brand ambassador Gerry the Goose is inviting customers to take a gander at the benefits and services of the world's largest international airline, and choose to 'Fly Better'.

From September, the global ad campaign will be in full flight across the USA and Europe, reminding customers that Emirates provides an 'impeccable' travel experience on-board with award-winning in-flight entertainment, world-class cabin crew, regionally inspired cuisine and acclaimed beverages. To compliment the 'best-in sky' offering, Emirates also offers an impressive on-ground experience through a myriad of online and home check-in options, chauffeur-driven airport transfers and outstanding lounges.

Dastgyr partners with MoEngage

To leverage its insights-led customer engagement platform

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Dastgyr, a Pakistan-based B2B E-commerce marketplace platform has partnered with MoEngage, an insights-led customer engagement platform, to better engage with its customers by understanding behavior and driving customer-centric strategies.

Having recently raised US\$37 million in a Series A round, Dastgyr connects thousands of retailers with suppliers, ultimately providing its customers with real-time visibility on pricing and financing rates.

Fulfilling over one million orders from 100,000+ customers, Dastgyr is work-

ing to ease the lives of mom & pop stores in Pakistan by boosting the income levels of both store owners and sellers. The E-commerce marketplace democratizes access to digital platforms for buying and selling. To drive benefit for the underserved retailers, Dastgyr needs to encourage adoption and engagement with its app. Driving app adoption has been a struggle owing to the resistance to technology among older store owners.

We are delighted to partner with Dastgyr in their mission of connecting 2 million underserved retailers to suppliers. We're dedicated to providing them with the insights they're look-

ing for. We're also empowering Dastgyr to monitor customer journeys closely and automate triggers to speed up conversions. We've also added a layer of seamless support to help achieve their business goals, said Shivangi Boghani, Associate Vice President-India, Middle East & Africa, MoEngage, while discussing the partnership.

Dastgyr can gather meaningful customer insights as they grow and expand into different verticals. The B2B E-commerce marketplace can now run targeted engagement and improve chances of final conversion, streamline onboarding, and boost retention.

Talking about the integration, Asna Ashraf, National Growth Lead, Dastgyr, said, 'Prior to implementing MoEngage, we were using large databases to extract and analyze insights, which rarely went beyond the surface level. With MoEngage, we have a streamlined approach to creating customer cohorts, from time spent on specific in-app features to utilizing RFM analysis. The insights-led approach has been instrumental in driving better adoption of our platform among retailers, suppliers, and end consumers. We look forward to utilizing MoEngage better and driving our business goals more effectively.'

Uch Compression project vital to meet rising energy demand: OGDCL clarifies

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Apropos to a news item published in a section of press regarding Uch Compression Project, the factual position is that the Uch Gas Field is located in Baluchistan and providing low BTU gas to Uch Power Limited (UPL). Initially its well head pressure was 2100 psi; however, with the passage of time pressure has dropped to around 1200 psi and further decline in pressure continues as per reservoir behavior.

In order to meet the contractual obligations with UPL to provide the low BTU gas at a certain pressure, OGDCL engaged internationally reputed firms

i.e. Weatherford & Schlumberger to conduct comprehensive integrated reservoir simulation study. As a result of the study, installation of compressor station was recommended to continuously supply gas to UPL. It is pertinent to mention here that tendering process of Uch Compression Project was also initiated in the past however due to single bidder it was annulled. The provision of low BTU gas to UPL at required pressure is the cornerstone for selection of equipment/compressor. Based on available technical information, TORs were prepared and press tendering process was initiated. Engineering consultant was hired to prepare tender documents for EPC

contractor through press tender. Various OEMs interacted with OGDCL and consultant during the tendering process and sought further information/clarifications which were provided to ensure healthy competition.

Bids were evaluated in accordance with TORs and technically responsive and financially lowest bidder has been determined. The entire process was completed in accordance with PPR rules and OGDCL procurement procedures. It is a vital time bound project that is required to be completed well in time to avoid penalty of around US\$ 245,000/- per day as any shortfall in contract quantity or pressure would expose OGDCL to liquidated damages.

As far as factually incorrect and mischievous WhatsApp message of Mr. Imran Shoukat (Ex-General Manager) is concerned, he has concocted a story to malign the present MD/CEO who has never interacted with him directly or indirectly. Mr. Imran Shoukat has no role in the award of contract for Uch Compression Project. Notwithstanding the intimidation and pressure tactics being relied upon by certain elements, the process will be concluded strictly in accordance with the procedure and rules. Elements interested in the outcome of this case will not be allowed to sabotage the project. OGDCL team is committed to serve the organization to the best of its abilities.

Indonesian envoy evinces keen interest in Pakistan's housing sector



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Adam Mulawarman Tugio-Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, called on Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works here on Wednesday in his office.

During the course of meeting, matters of mutual interest were discussed between the dignitaries. Both sides discussed about the similarities between Indonesia and Pakistan within the realm of history, culture, religion, as well as education and that is why there is a lot of scope of collaboration and contribution to bilateral relations between the two countries.

Secretary Housing extended a cordial invitation to Adam Mulawarman, to attend the upcoming first International Housing Expo-2022 to which he extended his support and pleasure and expresses his country's participation.

Adam Mulawarman Tugio-Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan conveyed his deepest sympathies to the Government and the people of Pakistan over the devastation caused by the recent floods and offered condolences on the loss of life due to unprecedented monsoon rains in the country. He also showed keen interest in the housing sector of Pakistan and expressed desire to work with the Housing Ministry.

Kashmiri expatriate community urged to highlight Kashmir issue



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the Kashmiri expatriate community should redouble their efforts to highlight Kashmir cause and expose atrocities committed by the Indian forces in Occupied Kashmir.

The AJK president expressed these views while addressing a reception served in his honour by Aftab Shah here today. The reception ceremony was also addressed by Sardar Imtiaz, Chaudhry Rashid, Mohammad Akhlaq, Dr. Ilyas, Mirzarshad and others. Highlighting the terrible situation in the Indian Occupied Kashmir, he said, "The people in Kashmir are struggling with a serious situation". Under the given circumstances, he said there was dire need that America should play its role to stop the violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir influence the government of India to implement the UNSC resolutions that guarantee the right of self-determination to the Kashmiri people.

The president said that on 24 September Kashmiri diaspora community would gather at capitol hill to lodge a strong protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to draw the world's attention towards the ongoing Indian brutalities in Occupied Kashmir.

Farewell party held in honor of DPO

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: A farewell ceremony was organized for District Police Officer South Waziristan Khanzeb Khan Mohmand at Police Line South Waziristan.



A large number of police officers, journalists and members of the civil society participated in the farewell ceremony.

On this occasion DPO Tank Waqar Ahmed Khan, DSP Sharifullah Kundi, PA to DPO Junaid Khalid Mehsud, Superintendent DPO Office Adnan Mehsud, Accountant Nissar Khan Kundi, Line Officer Kamran Khan Mehsud Public Relations Officer Muhammad Shoaib Mehsud, Reader to DPO Abid Raza, In-charge DSB Asif Mehsud, Sub-Inspector Sanatullah Mehsud, Sub-Inspector Farhan Mehsud, tribal elders, constables and head constables participated in large numbers.

President PCJCCI donated 225,000 for flood victims

Spokesman Report

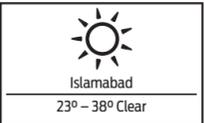
LAHORE: Wang Zihai, President Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) has suggested to transform the industrial economy of Pakistan to the digital economy as per the Chinese model that has proved to be the best practice in this regard. During a discussion on digitalization of the national economy at PCJCCI Think Tank meeting on Wednesday, he said that we should set up integrated computing network hubs across the country to boost the digital economy and provide new impetus for the sector's development.

The meeting was also attended by Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI, Sarfaraz Butt, Vice President, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General and the Executive Committee members of PCJCCI. Wang Zihai, said that data center computing equipment will be key accelerators for the development of new technologies and industries such as artificial intelligence, big data and block chain, and help fuel digital transformation and high-quality development.

Under the plan, China's national hubs are being set up in key areas including Beijing-Tianjin-He-

bei region, the Yangtze River Delta region, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the Chengdu-Chongqing city cluster, Guizhou province and the Inner Mongolia autonomous region, he said and suggested to replicate this model in major business cities of Pakistan including Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Faisalabad, Sialkot, Hyderabad and Gilgit-Baltistan.

Mr. Ehsan Choudhry, Senior Vice President PCJCCI said that the national computing network will boost the free flow of data and smoothen economic circulation, with the hubs also playing a key role as the new drivers of economic growth and supporting the national big data strategy. He further added that China has planned to build national integrated computing network hubs as part of the government's ongoing efforts to accelerate the "new infrastructure" construction and promote green, high-quality development of the digital economy. We can also adopt this technique to boost the development of super-large and large-scale data centers and build data center clusters in key regions, supporting businesses such as industrial internet, financial securities, disaster warning, telemedicine and video calls, he said.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:32 am
Zohr 12:01 pm
Asr 4:22 pm
Maghrib 6:06 pm
Isha 7:30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway 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

PTA's relief and restoration activities in flood affected areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In order to ensure earliest restoration of telecom services in flood affected districts across the country, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) in conjunction with telecom operators' teams has been vigorously and continuously pursuing earliest restoration of affected services since mid-August 2022. At its peak, a maximum of 3,386 sites were down on 28th Aug 2022, out of which 3251 sites have been restored (approx. 96% of the total).

PTA field teams carried out extensive coordination with telecom operators, civil and military authorities for restoration of damaged telecom infrastructure.

Various obstacles were faced including accessibility to damaged sites, commercial power availability, equipment damage due to submersion and availability/delivery of fuel for generator sets etc. However, the continued efforts by PTA and telecom operators to restore connectivity in flood affected areas has resulted in reduction of non-functional sites count to 135 only i.e. 0.26% of the total sites across the country.

Currently, non-functional sites are only those which are inaccessible in some areas of Balochistan and Sindh. However, other operational sites in those areas are ensuring that there is no communication blackout. More than 120 cuts occurred to the nationwide optical fiber backhaul connectivity in different flood affected areas. Now 100% backhaul fiber optic connectivity is restored.

In order to further augment the restoration of telecom services, 4 PTA and Cellular Mobile Operator (CMO) teams are deployed to visit every affected tower/BTSs. Continuous and proactive joint efforts by PTA and telecom operators have helped in getting telecom infrastructure back to pre-floods level.

Apart from restoration of telecom infrastructure, PTA is also extending its continued support for awareness of the general public as well as distribution of funds to affecteds. In this regard, short code: 9999 has been activated for Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022 since 26th August, 2022. A total of 716.12 Million SMSs have been disseminated so far for the promotion of PM's Flood Relief Fund 2022.

Speakers stress coordinated response to curb human trafficking

High-level consultation of National and Provincial TIP Committees held

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Under the EU-funded GLO.ACT – Global Action to Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT – Asia and the Middle East), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency, organized a high-level consultation workshop for National and Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Committees on 21 September 2022.

This high-level national consultation aimed to provide an opportunity for all the members of National, provincial, and district-level anti-trafficking committees to meet and deliberate on their objectives. There were three main objectives of the consultation. First, there is a lack of understanding of trafficking by law enforcement officers. Secondly, there is a tendency to consider irregular migrants as offenders only but they are also victims. Thirdly, there was a lack of coordination among relevant actors at the federal, provincial, and district levels.

The lack of coordination and understanding of the distinction between trafficking, irregular migration, and smuggling of migrants was well brought out in the consultation. This consultation gave a more holistic framework for coordinated approaches.

During his welcome remarks, Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNODC Country Office Pakistan, said "Curbing human trafficking and migrants smuggling requires a coordinated response at all levels. Realizing this fact, the government of Pakistan notified provincial and district-level TIP Coordination committees earlier this year. We, as UNODC, are very pleased with this action by Pakistan and commend the efforts. We hope that there would be great coordination and synergy amongst all the stakeholders and that the activities will be conducted in a coordinated matter at all levels including Federal, Provincial, and District levels."

He further added, "The foundation for curbing TIP and SOM must be the Palermo Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, to which Pakistan is a signatory. Our approach needs to balance progressive and proactive law enforcement with activities that combat the market forces driving human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Pakistan."

During his speech, the Director-General FIA, Mr. Mohsin Hassan Butt, said, "We are improving our identification of poten-



tial victims and offering greater support to those who are victims of this abhorrent crime. Trafficking is a gross violation of a person's basic rights and dignity and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, especially women and children. We are working jointly with UNODC and the European Union to enhance support to the victims of trafficking and vulnerable smuggled migrants. Our National Action Plan to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling is victim-centered and addresses the gaps related to it."

He further added, "We are enhancing our ability to act early and to help other relevant stakeholders within Pakistan to deal with the issue. Police are mandated to investigate crimes of internal trafficking and other departments including labour, child protection, women's protection, and social services are mandated to provide protection and assistance services to the victims".

Mio Sato, Chief of Mission, IOM Pakistan, during her opening remarks congratulated the Government of Pakistan and Federal Investigation Agency for adopting comprehensive counter-trafficking measures, that are also in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM).

She added that "It is critical to strengthen partnerships and collaboration amongst local and national stakeholders in order to ensure efforts are sustainable and holistic. As implementing partner for the GLO.ACT project, IOM has been supporting the FIA on strengthening response on victim protection and assistance and remains available to extend full support to the national, provincial and district-level anti-trafficking committees".

Eric Hann, Migration Liaison Officer

said as part of the EU Strategy on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025, we are committed to step up cooperation with countries of origin and transit. This is crucial to ensure a comprehensive approach that includes demand reduction; law enforcement and criminal justice response; and assistance and support to victims, in line with priorities that apply both inside and outside the EU. Through our initiatives like GLO.ACT, we encourage capacity building, prevention, protection of victims, and the dismantling of criminal networks.

Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah Khan said that our government has a strong political will and commitment to move forward with the work against trafficking in persons. FIA has already developed a National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (2021-2025) which aims to promote the detection of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, improve the position of victims and intensify the enforcement of criminal liability. He also said that if the Action Plan is implemented in its true letter and spirit, this would bring trafficking in Persons cases to ZERO in Pakistan. The Minister urged Director General FIA and other provincial bodies to work in closer coordination with each and UNODC to achieve the objective of eliminating Trafficking in Persons from Pakistan.

Senior representatives of the FIA, UNODC, the European Union, IOM and conveners, co-conveners, and members of Punjab provincial and district level committees attended the high-level consultation. Members from civil society organizations and NGOs involved in relevant fields, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, and UNICEF, also participated.

Investiture ceremony

ISLAMABAD: Professor (Retd) Muhammad Najeed Dar posing a group photo along with the students after the investiture ceremony for the selection of Class Monitors and College Prefectorial Board at Islamabad College for Boys in G-6/3 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Youth depict 'End Racism Build Peace' in paintings

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: As many as 54 paintings and posters by the youth were put on display at the Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi to commemorate the United Nations International Day for Peace on Wednesday.

The exhibits are an outcome of the art competition organized by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) to mark another significant day of the UN. Islamabad Crescent Lion Club supported the event.

The young artists used various symbols to reflect the message of the day. A dove with a branch of an olive tree remains the main element to depict the peace messages in different colours and designs. The participants of the competition also highlighted the impact of wars and bloodshed in their paintings. A couple of creative works reflected the atrocities in different parts of the world. The climate impact creating conflicts and disturbing peace remained a focus of some participants.

Senator Fawzia Arshad generations flourish in peaceful societies and every individual plays its role in it. We shall



educate our children and youth to tolerate each other's opinion and philosophy of life.

Riffat Ara Baig, Head of Art and Design section at the Westminster School, was the chief jury on the occasion. While announcing the names of the winners, she said the students have reflected the much desired messages of peace. Creative pursuits are the best way of educating people. The images remain in our minds forever.

Devcem-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed was the guest of honour. Speaking on the occasion, he urged the authorities, educational institutions and civil society organizations and social groups to engage all the people of any age

in creative art therapies. "Engagement in art gives peace of mind and an undefined ultimate pleasure. Our politicians, hardliners and vulnerable communities need them the most. Our artists shall come up to engage them for a tolerant society."

Munir Ahmed said quoting the UN Secretary-General António Guterres: Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. But achieving true peace entails much more than laying down arms. It requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race.

Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi Director Waqar Ahmed said youth is an important and largest component of our society. Engaging them for a harmonized multicultural society is very crucial. The Punjab Arts Council has been putting several activities to engage youth and other segments of society to create harmony and peace.

Health Corner

Eating ultra-processed foods associated with risk of dementia

ISLAMABAD: People who eat the highest amounts of ultra-processed foods like soft drinks, chips and cookies may have a higher risk of developing dementia than those who eat the lowest amounts, according to a new study published in the July 27, 2022, online issue of Neurology®, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology. Researchers also found that replacing ultra-processed foods in a person's diet with unprocessed or minimally processed foods was associated with a lower risk. The study does not prove that ultra-processed foods cause dementia. It only shows an association.

Ultra-processed foods are high in added sugar, fat and salt, and low in protein and fiber. They include soft drinks, salty and sugary snacks, ice cream, sausage, deep-fried chicken, yogurt, canned baked beans and tomatoes, ketchup, mayonnaise, packaged guacamole and hummus, packaged breads and flavored cereals.

"Ultra-processed foods are meant to be convenient and tasty, but they diminish the quality of a person's diet," said study author Huiping Li, PhD, of Tianjin Medical University in China. "These foods may also contain food additives or molecules from packaging or produced during heating, all of which have been shown in other studies to have negative effects on thinking and memory skills. Our research not only found that ultra-processed foods are associated with an increased risk of dementia, it found replacing them with healthy options may decrease dementia risk."

For the study, researchers identified 72,083 people from the UK Biobank, a large database containing the health information of half a million people living in the United Kingdom. Participants were age 55 and older and did not have dementia at the start of the study. They were followed for an average of 10 years. By the end of the study, 518 people were diagnosed with dementia.



During the study, participants filled out at least two questionnaires about what they ate and drank the previous day. Researchers determined how much ultra-processed food people ate by calculating the grams per day and comparing it to the grams per day of other foods to create a percentage of their daily diet. They then divided participants into four equal groups from lowest percentage consumption of ultra-processed foods to highest.

On average, ultra-processed foods made up 9% of the daily diet of people in the lowest group, an average of 225 grams per day, compared to 28% for people in the highest group, or an average of 814 grams per day. One serving of items like pizza or fish sticks was equivalent to 150 grams. The main food group contributing to high ultra-processed food intake was beverages, followed by sugary products and ultra-processed dairy.

In the lowest group, 105 of the 18,021 people developed dementia, compared to 150 of the 18,021 people in the highest group.

After adjusting for age, gender, family history of dementia and heart disease and other factors that could affect risk of dementia, researchers found that for every 10% increase in daily intake of ultra-processed foods, people had a 25% higher risk of dementia.

Researchers also used study data to estimate what would happen if a person substituted 10% of ultra-processed foods with unprocessed or minimally processed foods, like fresh fruit, vegetables, legumes, milk and meat. They found that such a substitution was associated with a 19% lower risk of dementia.

"Our results also show increasing unprocessed or minimally processed foods by only 50 grams a day, which is equivalent to half an apple, a serving of corn, or a bowl of bran cereal, and simultaneously decreasing ultra-processed foods by 50 grams a day, equivalent to a chocolate bar or a serving of fish sticks, is associated with 3% decreased risk of dementia," said Li. "It's encouraging to know that small and manageable changes in diet may make a difference in a person's risk of dementia." Courtesy Science Daily



A leading importer of medicine and chemicals who is joining hands with a Pakistani company Safe Pharma called on Ambassador Ahmed Ali Sirohey at Pakistan Embassy Niamey, Niger. The Safe representative briefed the Ambassador Ahmed Ali Sirohey about the progress of pharma company.

Study report on "Plight of Street Children" unveiled

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman has directed all concerned agencies of the Federal Govt. to implement the recommendations of the study report on "Plight of Street Children" in Islamabad prepared by the task force constituted by him.

He was addressing a press conference in his office wherein the background of the study, its salient findings and key recommendations were brought out by him. He vowed to ensure the implementation of the recommendations. The study sets out priorities and gives evidence-based recommendations to the key stakeholders & government agencies. The research was conducted by Syeda Viquar un Nisa Hashmi, Advisor / Grievance Commissioner for Children and her team. This was reported to be the first ever empirical study focusing on street children in ICT. The research is to be taken as a Pilot Project which would be replicated in other parts of the country.

The research revealed that child labour / beggary is an outcome of extreme poverty, homelessness / abandonment of children, etc., and predominately a lucrative family business of some communities and begging rings. The field data revealed that 91% sample children were living with their families / guardian (generally the migrants from Northern Areas, Nomads termed as 'Changar' and refugees), while 9% were homeless.

The medical examination of street children CPI revealed serious issues of malnourishment, drug addiction, sexual abuse, skin diseases and even HIV. The report indicates that the present mechanism for the shelter, welfare and development of children in need, is inadequate, and inefficient. The shelter facility is meant for boys only.

The internal trafficking of children is not recognized as an offence. The report also indicates that there is neither legal provision relating to ban on child labour nor provision of minimum age for light work, which is the non-compliance of the ILO Convention. The report indicates that violation of laws relating to children's employment were witnessed but Local Administration had no record of action taken in this regard.

The team also observed that there is no Child Court in ICT and only one Model Police Station in ICT with a desk for children. The task force noted that from 1991 to May 2022, only 597 adult beggars and their facilitators were put behind the bars.

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King Charles takes over a Commonwealth at a tipping point

Michael Jennings

Queen Elizabeth II was never a parochial figure, solely of interest to the UK and the 14 other realms of which she was head of state. During her 70 years on the throne, she met 13 US presidents, more global leaders than perhaps anyone else and saw the UN expand from 60 to 197 countries. And despite a slowing down in her world travels in the final few years of her life, she came third in a 2021 global survey of the world's "most admired women."

But her global legacy is complicated. For all the respect and love for the queen, there are those for whom she represented an institution and system responsible for harm, violence and exploitation across Britain's former empire and beyond. With the succession of the new king, what does this mean for the British monarchy and its relationship with peoples and countries beyond the UK? And, in particular, what of the Commonwealth — the club of 56 nations, mostly former members of the British Empire? Given the complicated legacy

of the monarchy, can it survive the death of a queen who was perhaps respected more for her dedication and commitment than the wider institution she headed?

Now that the public displays of mourning and respect are over, questions are likely to be raised in the remaining non-British countries for whom the queen was head of state over their continued relationship. As the decision of Barbados to become a republic last year showed, there has long been a growing appetite for cutting this formal link to the British monarchy. There is likely to be a new push by many in countries like Australia, Jamaica (which has just announced its intention to hold a referendum) and Grenada for becoming a republic. The succession of the new monarch will be seized upon as an opportunity for a new start.

But if the number of countries of which King Charles III is head of state is likely to fall over the next few years, these formal ties were never the foundation of the queen's global yet quiet, mostly invisible, authority. This was founded more on her leadership of the Commonwealth and soft-power relationships of state dinners, informal chats and the

power of pageantry. While the new king will be able to continue the latter two, having formed his own relationships with world leaders through his long heirship, there are questions about what his accession means for the Commonwealth.

Charles was chosen as the next head of the Commonwealth at the 2018 heads of government meeting. But this was always more reflective of the warm bonds of affection for the queen within the Commonwealth than active support for the then-Prince Charles.

For a reign that began in the last, desperate and violent days of empire, the respect for the queen in its former colonies has always been something of a puzzle. Some of the most important moments of her reign occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. In 1947, in a speech broadcast from Cape Town, she pledged a life of service to the peoples of the empire and Commonwealth. It was in Kenya that she learned she had become queen after the death of her father. She received much credit, too, for her role in persuading British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to drop her opposition to Commonwealth sanctions on apartheid South Africa.

The Commonwealth meetings allowed her to chat and get to know the leaders of 2.5 billion people. But still, it was the person and her evident personal commitment and love for the Commonwealth that proved the glue for these bonds. Charles has visited about 45 of the 56 Commonwealth countries and has voiced his own commitment. But he has had — as heir rather than monarch — fewer opportunities to prove that commitment through his own "Thatcher moment."

While he cannot inherit those ties of affection, nor gain decades-worth of respect within a few months, he does have an opportunity to make his own mark and to ensure the British monarchy continues to exercise its peculiar form of global authority.

Charles has been vocal, long before it became a subject of global concern, on environmental issues and climate change. This is an area in which he could use his informal power to speak to global leaders and institutions and support those Commonwealth countries that will be impacted the most by rising temperatures and sea levels and extreme weather events. He will be constrained in his

public voice, but being able to meet world leaders and institutions gives an opportunity few others will ever have.

His desire to be seen as a defender of the faiths, rather than the traditional defender of the Anglican faith, may also be useful. He has shown himself interested in other cultures and religions, supporting cross-faith dialogue and understanding. This, too, would help build new bonds within the diversity of the Commonwealth. And the work he has supported through his Prince's Trust — a charity focused on young people — would be an ideal platform for a more Commonwealth-wide focus on global youth. With more than half the global population under the age of 30, a champion for youth (even if that champion is in their 70s) would strengthen the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth is at a tipping point: It could easily slide into irrelevance or become a somewhat aimless club. As king, Charles will have access to global leaders and institutions; and a powerful, quiet influence. By serving as an ally to states most threatened by the climate emergency in the corridors of global power and by championing youth and diver-

Floods: Pakistan seeks world support

The visit of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to the United Nations is very important. The Foreign Minister is using all the diplomatic tools to attract the foreign investors to come and invest in different sectors in Pakistan. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held an important meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of Development Finance Corporation to explore investment potential in Pakistan. Foreign Minister invited the CEO of DFC to visit Pakistan as well. There is no doubt that Pakistan is a land of opportunities for the foreign investment. The Foreign Minister is meeting with different world leaders and inviting them to start joint ventures with the government and private sector of Pakistan to contribute to the economic growth of the country. It will be a win-win situation for all the stakeholders. Pakistan is badly affected due to devastating floods in the country.

As the people in different parts of the country lost their livestock, crops and even their houses during the floods. It is the need of the hour to motivate the foreign investors to invest in Pakistan for the economic recovery of the country. It is obvious that Pakistan is suffering the worst impacts of climate change. The contribution of Pakistan in overall carbon emissions is less than 1%, yet it is among the countries that will be affected more due to climate change. In 2010, Pakistan faced extreme floods that caused damage to the lives and properties of people. Earlier this year, the forest fires were experienced in different parts of the country. We witnessed the hottest months in March, April and May and now the super floods in the country are the results of climate change.

The so-called developed countries are the main contributors to the carbon emissions and it is the need of the time that they compensate the damages of the developing countries. The UN Secretary General in his speech at the United Nations General Assembly specifically highlighted the destruction caused by the devastating floods in Pakistan and urged the world to provide massive financial support to the country in this critical time. We must be hopeful that the world will come forward in order to contribute to the government's efforts for rehabilitation of flood affected people. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held two important meetings including one with the US Special Envoy for Climate Change. The Prime Minister discussed the adverse impacts of climate change and the disasters caused by it in Pakistan. On the other hand, the Prime Minister also met with Managing Director International Minority Fund IMF Ms. Karistalina Georgieva. The Prime Minister assured that with the support of world organizations, Pakistan will come out of the current difficult situation.

The rehabilitation of flood affected people will definitely take enough time. Another challenge that Pakistan faces would be the food security as the crops across the country have been destroyed in Sindh and Southern Punjab. Therefore, the international community should come forward to help Pakistan in order to address the problems being faced by flood victims due to devastating rains and floods.



Apathy not an option in today's 'world of worry'

Kerry Boyd Anderson

The UN Development Program this month launched its "Human Development Report 2021-2022." The report goes beyond traditional development metrics and represents an important effort to nail down the vague sense of uncertainty and disillusionment that seems to pervade today's world. While helping to solidify our understanding of modern global problems, the report also highlights progress and opportunities.

The report opens with a simple but key statement: "We live in a world of worry." History is replete with wars, disease, poverty and social transformations; nonetheless, today we face unprecedented challenges. As the report notes: "Novel layers of uncertainties are interacting to create new kinds of uncertainty — a new uncertainty complex — never seen in human history."

The UN agency identifies three "volatile crosscurrents" that are amplifying, complicating and otherwise interacting with other global issues. They also threaten to compound inequalities. At the same time, the pace of change has accelerated immensely.

A third factor is intensifying polarization found across and within societies around the world. The report presents data that demonstrates that many societies in different parts of the globe have experienced increasing political polarization. Digital technologies play a role in this trend. A related issue is decreasing trust in institutions and people. As a sense of insecurity increases, political extremism also tends to rise.

These three trends are driving uncertainties and interacting with many other global developments. The report notes that the COVID-19 pandemic led to a decline in the global Human Development Index for the first time since the index began. The pandemic revealed weaknesses in the global governance system, and the extremely unequal distribution of vaccines highlights global inequalities.

The number of armed conflicts has risen compared to 10 years ago, according to conflict trackers. In particular, the war in Ukraine has had global ramifications and further eroded the norms on which the international political system is based. For the first time in history, "more than 100 million people are forcibly displaced." People are feeling the rise in insecurity; the report notes that six out of seven people feel insecure and uncertain about the future. Overall, there is a sense of a loss of agency and declines in the belief that people can shape their lives through their own decisions.

Despite all of this worry, uncertainty and bad news, the world has still made incredible progress. While the pandemic wiped out about five years of gains in the Human Development Index, human development today remains far higher than it did even a couple of decades ago. The pandemic took a terrible toll, but scientific developments allowed for the creation of a safe and effective vaccine in record time. By many metrics, humans are far better off today than a generation ago.

Yet, around the world, people are feeling worry and disillusionment. It is essential that this not lead to paralysis. Climate change and other trends will demand that societies and individuals make significant changes, and some of that change will be very difficult.

In general, people often struggle to accept change, and now they must accept significant change in a short period of time. The institutions that helped manage 20th-century challenges need to change to address 21st-century problems.

The UN Development Program report does not dwell in doom and gloom. It also highlights opportunities. The technologies that contribute to climate change, polarization and other problems also offer opportunities for more sustainable economic development, bringing people together to solve problems, advancing science and much more. The report calls for an increase in investment, such as in renewable energy, climate change resilience and pandemic response. It also calls for various forms of social insurance, including improving health and education. Innovation is another essential tool as humans adapt to fast-paced change. The report also suggests a framework for helping societies navigate uncertainty.

Throughout history, people have adapted to changes in their environment, societies, economies and more. Now, we need to draw on that ingenuity and adaptation faster than ever. Apathy is not an option. Neither is returning to an imagined past. We will have to move forward, together, embracing creativity and resilience. Tempting though it may be, we cannot give up.

Kerry Boyd Anderson is a writer and political risk consultant with more than 18 years of experience as a professional analyst of international security issues and Middle East political and business risk. Her previous positions include deputy director for advisory with Oxford Analytica. Courtesy: Arab News

Global development, global governance inextricably linked

David Gosset

Global governance, which is now at the heart of international relations, is linked to the history of globalization, but also to the geopolitical transformations that accompany it.

There are signs that attempts are being made by some countries to roll back globalization. These attempts should not, however, lead us to anticipate de-globalization, which would render futile moves to perfect the existing elements of global governance.

Globalization is complex. It is neither unidirectional nor unidimensional. It ebbs and flows depending on the nature of the relations between economies. Technological advances that are combining to form what is described as a fourth industrial revolution are illustrative components of the complex nexus that is for the sake of convenience labeled globalization.

While forging ever deeper connections between peoples, globalization has also made evident problems that do not stop at borders. These transnational issues call for a more effective collective organization not a dismantling of the nexus.

Moreover, and this is fundamental to the solution to the problems, the awareness of belonging to the same human civilization has never been so strong and shared by peoples on all continents.

Power relations are a key determinant of global governance. Until the end of the 20th century, the global governance system was largely developed under the impetus of the Western world, and in particular the United States.

It is because it is itself a reference in the field of development that China is able to formulate strategies that can serve other nations. From this point of view, it can be said that its influence will be proportional to its ability to achieve the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The United Nations' 2021 Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals Report estimates that more than 100 million people have been pushed back into extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We can ignore it, or worse, pretend not to see it, and yet the urgency for action is clear. The Global Development Initiative tries to respond to this responsibly. The initiative also echoes principles that we must always bear in mind and which are clearly set out in founding declaration of the UN.

Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, Article 55, reminds us that the members of the organization shall promote "higher standards of living, full employment and conditions of progress and development in the economic and social order". And, moreover, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, in particular for food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services."

At the heart of the Global Development Initiative is the notion of a community with a shared future for mankind.

What is truly new in our times is not the bid to dismantle globalization, but the increasing complexity of the interconnectedness that makes up our world.

In this context, a paradigm shift is needed. If the problem of failed states remains, that is failure of the global governance system, that is to say an international community incapable of renewing its mechanisms of governance to support the development of all countries. That constitutes the major risk of our time.

It is to be hoped that we have the courage and reason not to let a tragedy occur which we know that cooperation could prevent. It is now that China, the European Union and the United States should set aside their differences and take the lead in putting the Global Development Initiative into effect for a better future for all.

David Gosset, a sinologist, is the founder of China-Europe-America Global Initiative (2021). He is the editor of China and the World in three volumes. Courtesy: China Daily

Biden accuses Russia of 'irresponsible' nuclear threats, violating U.N. charter

U.S. President addresses United Nations General Assembly in New York

UNITED NATIONS: U.S. President Joe Biden accused Russia on Wednesday of violating the core tenets of membership in the United Nations by invading Ukraine and said Moscow was making "irresponsible" threats to use nuclear weapons.

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Biden slammed Russian President Vladimir Putin for starting an unprovoked war that some 40 U.N. members are helping Ukraine fight with funding and weapons.

"A permanent member of the United Nations Security Council invaded its neighbor, attempted to erase a sovereign state from the map. Russia has shamelessly violated the core tenets of the United Nations Charter," Biden said.

Earlier on Wednesday, Putin ordered a Russian mobilization to fight in Ukraine and made a thinly veiled threat



to use nuclear weapons, in what NATO called a "reckless" act of desperation in the face of a looming Russian defeat.

"A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought," Biden said.

Biden said no one had threatened Russia, despite its claims to the contrary, and that only Russia had sought

conflict. He pledged the United States would stand in solidarity with Ukraine.

The White House also announced \$2.9 billion in additional U.S. funding to combat global food insecurity, building on \$6.9 billion in U.S. food security funding already committed this year. The United States has strengthened

its focus on food security since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine worsened a global food crisis that was already fueled by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. Russia and Ukraine are major grain and fertilizer exporters and shipments were disrupted by the war.

The United Nations has said the conflict has pushed another 47 million people into "acute hunger." The United States and Western allies are competing with Russia for diplomatic influence. The United States has acknowledged that some countries are concerned the Ukraine war had drawn global attention away from other crises.

"This new announcement of \$2.9 billion will save lives through emergency interventions and invest in medium to long term food security assistance in order to protect the world's most vulnerable populations from the escalating global food security crisis," the White House said in a fact sheet.

US, Canadian warships sail through Taiwan Strait

TAIPEI CITY: A US Navy warship and a Canadian frigate made a routine transit through the Taiwan Strait on Tuesday, the militaries of both nations said, at a time of heightened military tension between Beijing and Taipei.

The transit was the second in a month by a US Navy ship, and the second jointly by the United States and Canada in less than a year, since October 2021.

While China condemned the mission, saying its forces "warned" the ships, recent years have seen US warships, and occasionally those of allied nations such as Britain and Canada, routinely sail through the strait.

Such trips anger China, which claims Taiwan over the objections of the island's democratically elected government.

"Cooperation like this represents the centerpiece of our approach to a secure and prosperous region," the US Navy said in a statement.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer Higgins and the Royal Canadian Navy's Halifax-class frigate Vancouver made the transit through a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state, it added.

Canadian Defense Minister Anita Anand said that as a Pacific nation, her country was deeply committed to upholding global stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Today's routine Taiwan Strait transit demonstrates

our commitment to a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific," she said in a statement. Taiwan's foreign ministry welcomed the action.

"This operation though the Taiwan Strait is, even more, a concrete demonstration of the resolute opposition of democratic allies to China's expansion attempts," it said.

The Eastern Theatre Command of China's People's Liberation Army said its forces monitored the ships and "warned them." "Theatre forces are always

on high alert, resolutely counter all threats and provocations, and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity," it said in a statement, employing its usual phrasing for such responses.

Taiwan's defense ministry said the ships sailed north through the waterway and its forces observed the mission but "the situation was as normal."

A visit to Taiwan early in August by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China, which subsequently launched military drills near the island that have continued, although on a much reduced scale.

The narrow Taiwan Strait has been a frequent source of military tension since the defeated Republic of China government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with the communists, who established the People's Republic of China.

Ilham Aliyev attends groundbreaking ceremony for Lachin Junction Substation



LACHIN: President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the 110/35/10 kV "Lachin" Junction Substation to be built by AzerEnergy Open Joint Stock Company in the city of Lachin.

The head of state laid the foundation stone for the "Lachin" Junction Substation.

President of AzerEnergy Open Joint Stock Company Baba Rzayev informed the head of state of the "Lachin" Junction Substation.

Brazil's Bolsonaro calls for negotiations to end Ukraine war

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday repeated his willingness to foster negotiations to resolve the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, calling for a ceasefire but renouncing sanctions and economic isolation.

"We have tried to avoid blocking the channels of dialogue caused by the polarization around the conflict," Bolsonaro said, during a speech at the U.N. General Assembly. "The consequences of the conflict are already being felt in world prices for food, fuel and other supplies. This impact puts us all against the goals of sustainable development."

Thousands rally in Belgium to protest high energy prices



BRUSSELS: Thousands of people gathered on Wednesday in the Belgian capital Brussels for "a national day of action" to protest against skyrocketing electricity, natural gas and food prices and draw attention to the sharp hike in the cost of living.

Trade unions and city police said that around 10,000 took part. People from across the country gathered, marching behind banners reading "Life is much too expensive, we want solutions now," and "Everything is going up except our wages," or carrying placards marked "Freeze prices, not people." City traffic and public transportation was disrupted.

A Belgian media poll this week showed that 64% of people questioned are concerned that they might not be able to afford their electricity and gas bills, which have more than doubled over the last year, while 80% of respondents said they are already trying to make energy and water savings.

"When we go grocery shopping, what's in the cart costs now 20, 30 euros (dollars) more, or even more depending on the shop you go to. We are reaching a point where our wallets can't keep up," said Pascal Kraeso, a protester from Brussels.

Last month, Prime Minister Alexander de Croo warned that "the next five to 10 winters will be difficult" because of high electricity and natural gas prices fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine.

The European Union's 27 member countries have agreed to cut gas usage by 15% on average this winter, and aim in particular to reduce demand during peak hours. EU energy ministers are meeting next week to discuss the crisis.

Zaheer Janjua presents credentials to ICAO's Secretary General



Spokesman Report

OTTAWA: Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada Ambassador Zaheer Aslam Janjua has said Pakistan has an expanding aviation sector and the announcement of two new airlines in the country last year reflects the strength of the sector as well as the role of air travel in boosting tourism potential of the country.

He made this statement while presenting his credentials as Pakistan's Representative to the Secretary General International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Mr. Juan Carlos Salazar, in Montreal city of Canada.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Janjua expressed the hope for an increased ICAO support to Pakistan with a view to further strengthening its civil aviation sector at the national level and enhancing its presence at the international level.

He congratulated the Secretary General on ICAO's 75th anniversary by remarking that ICAO's 75th anniversary had coincided with the 75th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence Day as well the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Pakistan-Canada diplomatic relations.

Mr. Janjua noted that being cognizant of its significance, ICAO was among the first international organizations the nascent state of Pakistan joined soon after achieving its freedom. He said Pakistan remained a member of the ICAO Council for 24 years and contributed effectively to various other committees of the Organization. He said Pakistan was undertaking further measures to deepen its relationship with the ICAO.

ICAO's Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar appreciated Pakistan's role as an active member of the ICAO community. He said Pakistan had a longstanding cooperation with the Organization thereby furthering its objective of promoting international civil aviation. He

Taliban replaces Afghan acting education minister in reshuffle

KABUL: The Taliban's supreme leader issued an order on Tuesday announcing a reshuffle of several national and provincial positions, including replacing the acting education minister.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid released the list of changes, saying they were by order of the Taliban's supreme spiritual leader Haibatullah Akhundzada, who is based in Kandahar,

the southern province that is the movement's birthplace.

Acting education minister Noorullah Munir would be replaced in the role by the head of Kandahar's provincial council, Maulvi Habibullah Agha.

No reason was given for the reshuffle. Afghanistan's education system has been in the spotlight since the Taliban took over the country just over a year ago. The group had largely banned

education of girls when last in power two decades ago but had said its policies had changed.

The education ministry initially said all schools would open in March, but secondary schools for girls have mostly stayed shut, a sudden U-turn that took even some Taliban members by surprise and left some girls who had turned up to class in tears.

The Taliban now say they

are working on a plan to open secondary schools for girls but have not given a specific timeframe.

Taliban and diplomatic sources told Reuters that last week several ministers had gathered in Kandahar for a cabinet meeting led by the supreme leader. The Taliban's information ministry did not immediately respond to Reuters' request to confirm the cabinet meeting had taken place.

Vladimir Putin mobilizes 300,000 reservists for Ukraine fight

LONDON: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called up 300,000 reservists to fight in Ukraine and said Moscow would respond with the might of all its vast arsenal if the West pursued what he called its "nuclear blackmail" over the conflict there.

It was Russia's first such mobilization since the second World War and signified a major escalation of the war, now in its seventh month.

It followed recent setbacks for Russian forces, who have been driven from areas they had captured in northeast Ukraine in a Ukrainian counter-offensive this month and are bogged down in the south.

In a televised address to the Russian nation, Putin said: "If the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will use all available means to protect our people — this is not a bluff."

Russia had "lots of weapons to reply," he said. Russia's defense minister said the partial mobilization would see 300,000 reservists called up and would apply to those with previous military experience.

Although Russia has been involved in a number of conflicts since World War Two, this was

the first such call-up since then. The Soviet Union's long war in Afghanistan involved conscripts. Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said 5,937 Russian soldiers had been killed since the start of the conflict.

The United States said last month it believed between 70,000 and 80,000 Russian personnel had been killed or wounded, and in July estimated Russia's death toll at around 15,000.

Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said the Russian mobilization was a predictable step that would prove extremely unpopular, and it underscored that the war was not going according to Moscow's plan.

"Absolutely predictable appeal, which looks more like an attempt to justify their own failure," Podolyak said. "The war is clearly not going according to Russia's scenario."

Before Putin's address, world leaders meeting at the United Nations in New York denounced Russia's invasion of Ukraine and plans for four occupied regions to hold referendums in the coming days on joining Russia.

In an apparently coordinated move, pro-Russian regional

leaders on Tuesday announced referendums for Sept. 23-27 in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces, representing around 15 percent of Ukrainian territory.

Russia already considers Luhansk and Donetsk, which together make up the Donbas region that Moscow partially occupied in 2014, to be independent states. Ukraine and the West consider all parts of Ukraine held by Russian forces to be illegally occupied.

Russia now holds about 60 percent of Donetsk and had captured nearly all of Luhansk by July after slow advances during months of intense fighting.

Those gains are now under threat after Russian forces were driven from neighboring Kharkiv province this month, losing control of their main supply lines for much of the Donetsk and Luhansk frontlines.

In his address, Putin said the partial mobilization of its 2 million-strong military reservists was to defend Russia and its territories. The West did not want peace in Ukraine, he said.

He said Washington, London, Brussels were pushing Kyiv to "transfer military operations to our territory" with the aim of the

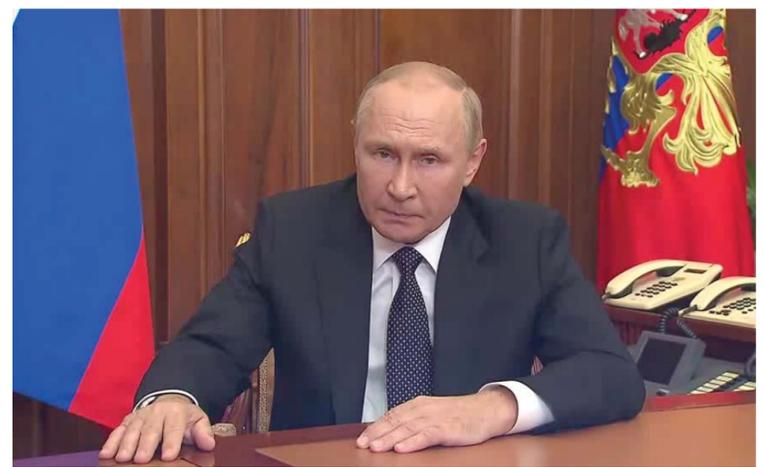
"complete plunder our country."

Ukraine's military has sporadically struck targets inside Russia throughout the conflict, using long-range weapons supplied by the West. "Nuclear blackmail has also been used," Putin said, citing Ukraine's Zaporozhzhia nuclear power plant, the biggest in Europe. Both Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of endangering the plant in the fighting. He accused officials of NATO countries of making statements about "the possibility and admissibility of using weapons of mass destruction against Russia — nuclear weapons."

"To those who allow themselves such statements regarding Russia, I want to remind you that our country also has various means of destruction, and in some components more modern than those of the NATO countries."

Putin restated his aim was to "liberate" the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland, and said most people there did not want to return to what he called the "yoke" of Ukraine.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, speaking to the UN General Assembly in New York, said Putin will only give up his "imperial ambitions" if he recog-



nized he cannot win the war.

"This is why we will not accept any peace dictated by Russia and this is why Ukraine must be able to fend off Russia's attack," Scholz said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's move to partially mobilize troops showed his "desperation" at Moscow's military failings in Ukraine, an EU spokesman said Wednesday. "This is just another proof of Putin that he is not interested in peace, that he's

interested in escalating his war of aggression," said EU spokesman Peter Stano.

"This is also yet another sign of his desperation with how his aggression is going against Ukraine." Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala said the mobilization was "further proof that Russia is the sole aggressor."

"It is needed to help Ukraine, and in our own interest, we must continue with it," he said. British defense minister Ben Wallace

said the mobilization was an admission by Putin that "his invasion is failing."

US ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink said Russia had shown weakness by announcing the mobilization of reserves and setting out the referendum in the Russian-occupied territories. China's foreign ministry urged all parties to engage in dialogue and consultation and find a way to address the security concerns of all parties.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
40,965.58	41,220.91
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,357.75	40,871.82
Index Value	Change
4,113,350,630	-255.33
Percentage	Time
-0.62%	21 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,237.64	+44.98
Percentage	Time
-0.63%	21 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
30,880.11	+173.88
Percentage	Time
+0.57%	21 Sept, 12:11 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,313.13	-375.29
Percentage	Time
-1.36%	21 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	159.95	161.2
Bahrain Dinar	634.56	639.06
Canadian Dollar	178.87	180.22
China Yuan	34	34.25
Danish Krone	32.07	32.42
Euro	240.5	242.8
Hong Kong Dollar	30.54	30.89
Indian Rupee	3.01	3.09
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.6
Kuwaiti Dinar	772.43	777.43
Malaysian Ringgit	52.84	53.29
New Zealand \$	140.95	142.15
Norwegians Krone	23.35	23.65
Omani Riyal	619.71	624.21
Qatari Riyal	65.85	66.35
Saudi Riyal	64.2	64.8
Singapore Dollar	169.25	170.55
Swedish Korona	22.16	22.46
Swiss Franc	247.75	249.5
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	65.9	66.5
UK Pound Sterling	275	277.5
US Dollar	242.5	244.8

SBP agree to clear dollar payments under chapter 84 & 85

FPCCI working relentlessly on the issue of delayed clearance of dollar payments of importers

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan that in a breakthrough achievement from the platform of FPCCI and under the leadership of its Senior Vice President & FPCCI's focal person on SBP-related matters, Suleman Chawla, SBP has agreed to clear/settle all the backlog and stuck up payments within two days, which fall under chapters 84 & 85 of the

customs tariff; and, if their invoice values are up to fifty thousand dollars.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh maintained that FPCCI has been working relentlessly over the past couple of months on the issue of delayed clearance of dollar payments of importers; and, finally after multiple detailed rounds of consultative sessions between FPCCI & SBP, the central bank has agreed, in principle, to at least release all payments in the range of \$50,000 or less. Suleman Chawla informed that

he has also released an official notification from FPCCI on the development to inform all members of the apex body & stakeholders of the lingering issue. He added that FPCCI has been receiving numerous calls each day for the past couple of months from across Pakistan and across various sectors affected by the restrictions – which were also impacting raw materials and equipment falling under chapters 84 & 85 – and, FPCCI is expecting that all payments falling under the aforementioned category will be cleared

within this week.

Suleman Chawla reiterated that the commercial importers and manufacturers have suffered a lot due to the restrictions as these were announced abruptly and without any homework or consultation. Authorities should have been meticulously selective in implementation of the restrictions to only luxury items; which, in turn, would have saved the business community millions of dollars in demurrages, container charges and lost export orders, he added.



Smart Energy Solutions

Zonergy debuts at SPI 2022 Trade Show

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Zonergy Corporation, an inverter and energy storage solutions provider, made its debut at the Solar Power International (SPI) 2022, the largest solar energy exhibition in North America.

Zonergy's Executive Director and President Richard J Guo and his team attended the exhibition, where leading renewable energy manufacturers and service providers showcase their products and storage products.

At this exhibition, Zonergy exhibited a variety of grid-connected inverters, energy storage inverters, energy storage systems, and portable power supplies for the North American market. All products are intelligent, safe and stable. Strong and other characteristics, in line with American standards.

Among them, the energy storage inverter is compatible with lead-acid batteries, lithium-ion batteries and other batteries, supports full power discharge, can automatically manage battery charge and discharge, and has obtained UL certification.

The battery has the characteristics of high voltage and high system efficiency,



from flexible expansion from 7.1kWh-21.3kWh, stacking design, easy installation.

Portable power supply with LED display, which can visually check the power supply. Support solar energy efficient charging, support device PD fast charging, long service life, suitable for household emergency power consumption, outdoor travel, emergency disaster relief, field operations and other occasions.

Solar Power International is co-sponsored by Solar Energy Industry Association (SEIA) and the American Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA). One of the international exhibitions, attracting well-known companies, manufacturers and distributors in the global new energy industry to participate in the exhibition.

This year's exhibition has a total area

of 600,000 square feet, with more than 800 companies from all over the world participating.

Research firm Wood Mackenzie said in a recently released global energy storage outlook report that the United States is currently the leader in global energy storage market, and it is expected that the cumulative deployment of energy storage systems will reach 600GWh by 2031.

By 2031, the United States is expected to be the energy storage market with an average annual deployment of 27GW of energy storage systems.

As an industry-leading provider of integrated solutions for smart microgrids, Zonergy attaches great importance to the expansion of the global photovoltaic storage market and actively builds international brand influence.

'Govt policies destroying solar industry'

Mian Zahid Hussain says solar companies going bankrupt

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said solar energy is being prioritized all over the world, but this industry is being destroyed in Pakistan under a plan.

The Prime Minister and Ministers are making announcements to generate 9000 megawatt electricity through solar energy and expand the solar industry while the bureaucracy is bent upon destroying this important sector, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that countries, where the sun does not rise even for a hundred days in a year, are investing heavily in solar energy while Pakistan which is rich in this resource is eliminating this industry.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that last year Pakistan imported oil and gas worth twenty



billion dollars while ten billion dollar could have been saved by producing ten thousand megawatts from solar energy.

He said that the import of solar panels has been subject to the approval of the central bank and no LC has been opened for the past two and a half months. The

government moves have led to a shortage of solar panels and other equipment in the country and made it impossible for the solar companies to honour their commitments, he added.

He said that solar companies are suffering from huge losses while the companies which have imported hundreds of containers are also going bankrupt because they are not being given the clearance papers. The goods, which were ordered at the rate of one hundred and eighty rupees per dollar, would now cost the companies at least 250 dollars, which would be enough to bankrupt them.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that NEPRA is currently acting in the interest of power distribution companies instead of the public and issuing orders to discourage solar power which is deplorable. Those who have installed solar systems and sell their electricity to distribution companies through net metering will see their profit reduced which is a major blow to the consumers and industry.

Sehat Kahani has upscaled BHUs in AJK with Telemedicine

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Committed to its vision of enabling health care access for all, Sehat Kahani, the leading digital healthcare platform in Pakistan has partnered with Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) under the stewardship of AJK IT board and health department of AJK, to launch the first of its kind public-private partnership in upgrading Basic Health Units across AJK into Telemedicine enabled centers, providing virtual health care to patients assisted by Nurse intermediaries.

The purpose of this partnership is mainly to address the concerns arising from inadequate supplies of doctors, and to equate the disproportionality between women, children, and elderly patients. The partnership has enabled Sehat Kahani to upgrade 13 existing Basic Healthcare Units and clinical facilities into telemedicine facilitation centers in the first three months already. This news was announced through a



simple and dignified event hosted at Muzaffarabad AJK on 20th September 2022. The occasion was graced by the presence of Honorable Health Minister AJK Mr. Nisar Ansar Abdali, Honorable Special assistant to the Prime Minister AJK for IT and Archeology Mr. Mohammad Iqbal, Honorable Minister of Planning and Development AJK Mr. Chaudry Rafiq, Honorable Dr. Khalid Rafique-Director General IT board AJK, along with senior country leadership for World Health Organization and

other business partners of Sehat Kahani. Speaking to the event, Honorable Health Minister AJK Nisar Ansar Abdali congratulated Sehat Kahani for the smooth launch of the program and expressed his belief that this partnership can work as a game changer in the region. He also stated that with the quality of care and verified pool of doctors available to practice online, this program can further be extended in the hospitals of AJK to enable access to multiple specialties across Pakistan and the globe.

Gearing up for Natural Calamities

Pula proposes disaster risk insurance

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Recently, Pula met with officials from the Sindh provincial government, including Secretary of Investment, Dr. Mansoor Abbas Rizvi, Sindh Enterprise Development Fund CEO, Khizar Pervaiz and the Director of Major Crop Development in the Department of Agriculture, Zamir Ali Surhio, and other associates to propose disaster risk insurance which could insure all areas of the province where wheat farming is still possible for the upcoming Rabi season.

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

In response, Sindh Enterprise Development Fund CEO Mr. Pervaiz stated

that "[it is] the Government's commitment in these turbulent times to support and help the deprived and uplift the Agri sector through such insurance schemes."

Pula proposed to embed this insurance within the People's Hari Card Scheme, or via Crop Loan Insurance Scheme so that farmers are insured automatically. This would cover almost 12,500 farmers this year and over 120,000 farmers over the next three seasons across Sindh with Area Yield Index Insurance, an outcomes-based index insurance product that is insuring small-holder farmers. If another calamity were to hit the area through floods, excess rains, or even drought during the farming seasons, then farmers would receive insurance payouts directly into their bank accounts.

In July and August 2022, Pakistan witnessed one of the worst flooding events in its history. As of the end of August, 33 million people were affected and two million acres of crops were damaged, of which over 75 percent are in the Sindh Province.

Kenyan HC visits RCCI, urges for enhancing bilateral trade



Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Kenya is a gateway for Pakistani investors to enter the big market of 38 African states, which are landlocked to Kenya that has the international seaport of Mombasa. Kenya will fully support Pakistani investors in exploring potential areas of investment and trade in various areas including Tourism, Agriculture, IT, Mining and Machinery.

Kenyan High Commissioner, Mary Nyambura Kamau expressed these views during her visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Wednesday. Boru Diba Roba, Commercial Attache, was also accompanying her during the visit.

RCCI President Nadeem Rauf, Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Taltal Awan and newly elected office bearers, Saqib Rafiq and Hamza Sarosh were also present on the occasion.

She advised the business and industrial community of Rawalpindi to focus on diversifying their exports to Kenya in order to improve the existing trade volume between the two countries. She said that rice and tea were two main commodities which were traditionally being traded between the two countries but there were many other Pakistani products which can not only be introduced in the Kenyan market but also to many other African nations via Kenya.

SECP revamps Companies Regulations, 2020

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has revamped the Companies (Further Issue of Shares) Regulations, 2020 (Regulations) for listed companies through introducing amendments vide notification dated September 21, 2022.

Examination of the historical cases of right

issues by listed companies indicated that risk disclosures were minimal and provided limited information to the investors even in cases of large issues. Therefore, after studying practices in several jurisdictions, analysing global trends and thorough deliberations with the industry participants, SECP has introduced certain amendments in the capital issue regime to bring it in line with global practices.

'Go Cloud Go Global'

HUAWEI CONNECT 2022
unleashes Global Cloud Innovations



Bureau Report

LAHORE: The 7th annual flagship event for the global ICT industry, Huawei Connect 2022, began yesterday in Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of this year's event is "Unleash Digital", gathering over 10,000 ICT industry leaders, experts, and partners from around the world to explore how to more effectively unleash digital productivity, promote the digital economy, and build up stronger digital ecosystems.

At the event, Huawei shared the steps it's taking to advance digital development across a wide range of industries and released 15+ innovative cloud services for the global market.

Kicking off the event, Ken Hu, Huawei's Rotating Chairman, delivered a keynote outlining three ways the ICT ecosystem can help break through common barriers in digital transformation: Boost digital infrastructure, including more robust connectivity and stronger, more diverse computing resources.

Help organizations go beyond simple cloud adoption and truly make the most of cloud, focusing on advanced technology services that drive leapfrog development. Build out local digital ecosystems, including partner development, strengthening the digital talent pool, and providing more support for SMEs.

At the event, Zhang Ping'an, CEO of Huawei Cloud, unveiled the "Go Cloud, Go Global" ecosystem plan, and reaffirmed the commitment to Everything as a Service.

Jacqueline Shi, President of Huawei Cloud's Global Marketing and Sales Service, said that Huawei Cloud would launch more than 15 innovations globally, covering cloud native, AI development, data governance, digital content, software development, and MacroVerse aPaaS.

Gujranwala and Mardan to play Pakistan Junior League opener

All 19 tournament matches including playoffs and final to be played at Gaddafi Stadium

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board today unveiled the schedule of the inaugural Pakistan Junior League edition that will be staged at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

Gujranwala Giants and Mardan Warriors will create history when they compete in the opening match of the tournament – the first of its kind – on Thursday, 6 October under the GSL lights.

Bahawalpur Royals will play Hyderabad Hunters in their tournament opener on 7 October, this match will also be staged under the lights.

A total of 19 matches will be played in



the 15-day tournament which includes 15 round matches followed by four playoffs including the 21 October final (Friday). Each of the six sides will play five matches in the single-league format (one against each of the five teams).

In order to provide the local cricket fans an extended opportunity of seeing the next generation of crick-

et stars play under the guidance of team mentors Javed Miandad (league mentor), Sir Vivian Richards (Gwadar Sharks), Shahid Afridi (Mardan Warriors), Shoaib Malik (Gujranwala Giants), Imran Tahir (Bahawalpur Royals), Daren Sammy (Hyderabad Hunters) and Colin Munro (Rawalpindi Royals), a total of four double-headers will be staged in the inaugural edition – all on weekends.

The first double-header day (Saturday, 8 October) will see Rawalpindi Raiders and Gwadar Sharks play their opening match of the tournament. Gujranwala Giants will play Bahawalpur Royals in the second match of the day.

Other than the day-night fixtures, 15 matches will be staged under lights. The

day-night matches start at 3:30pm while the night matches (single-headers) start at 8pm. The tournament final will also start at 8pm.

The local players in the meantime continue to prepare for the PJJ at the ongoing Engro Cricket Coaching Project under the PCB Pathway Programme at the National High Performance Centre, Lahore.

The foreign players will join their respective sides at the beginning of the tournament support period – 28 September. The foreign mentors will join their teams in the first week of October. All six sides will start practice with their squads and coaching staff during the event support period.

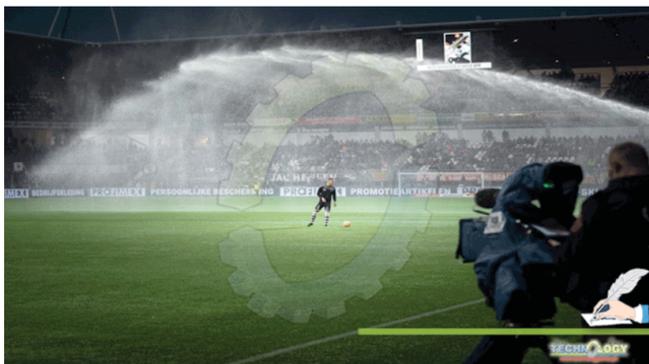
PFF Initiates modern technology to train men's national team

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Football Federation has started using modern technology for the training of national players.

The GPS (Global Positioning System) that has been used widely in the world is also being utilized by Football Federation in men's team camps. The significant advantage of a GPS system is that the performance data relates to each player i.e., total distance, tactical positioning, or sprint are available to help a head coach with training advice. Whereas the technology of the VEO camera is also being adopted in the camp.

The players are going through an extensive training process that includes lateral band walks, burpee pull-ups, forward-backward sprints, and drills, whereas



the tough VO2 max test was taken out yesterday which indicated the stamina and strength of the players. This data is being analyzed and every footballer's fitness level is being dealt with as an individual case. The friendly matches were also played to check the performance of players.

Pakistan men's team head coach Shahzad Anwar said: "Pakistan Football Federation is facilitating us with modern technology and we are working hard on every single player to make them one of the best sides in Asia. The boys have the potential to give tough times to opponents. We are giving exten-

sive training to everyone to make sure that every single player performs well even in friendly matches."

Moreover, the tests of squat jumps and speed agility will be taken out soon. As soon as the weather gets normal, we will definitely enhance the training time, he added.

Cricket tournament held in Rochdale

LONDON: With the efforts of businessmen and sportsmen of Rochdale, Syed Khalid Abbas-Sufian Khalid and businessman Muhammad Zubair Des Direct, an indoor and outdoor cricket tournament is organized in Rochdale every year.

A prestigious prize distribution ceremony was held in the Parish Hall. Apart from Mayor Rochdale, Deputy Leader of Court Ali, Councillor Shakeel Ahmed, Councillor Rana Faisal, Councillor Iram Faisal, Councillor Sardar Shahid, Councillor Samina Zaheer, Councillor Prof. Iftikhar Ahmed, UK Europe's entrepreneur Chaudhry Khalid Mahmood-Nazakat Khan Solicitor-Chowdhury Nawaz Indus-Community members and players of participating teams participated in the tournament. Shields were also given to those who performed well in the tournament.

The enthusiastic and chief coordinator Syed Khalid Abbas said that



last year we conducted an indoor cricket tournament which was very successful, so this year we conducted an indoor and outdoor tournament in which public interest was noticeable. Businessman Muhammad Zabeer said that the purpose of our two cricket tournaments is to save our young children from street crime and to reform them towards healthy activities.

We congratulate Syed Khalid Abbas for organizing this tournament. Media Advisor Muhammad Zahid said that this tournament is to attract the youth towards sports. Next month we are conducting another indoor cricket tournament. Senior player and Empire Sohail Rana paid tribute to Syed Khalid Abbas for conducting a successful tournament.

Councillor Samina. Zaheer gave credit to Khalid Bhai for making the tournament a success and said that we will always support him on behalf of Rochdale Council. Special guest Mayor Rochdale Councillor Ali Ahmed Hum congratulated all the players on getting the trophies and organizer Syed Khalid Abbas. In the end, the guests were treated to Lahori food.

Germany's Flick admits mistakes in Bayern exit

BERLIN: Germany coach Hansi Flick admitted on Tuesday he had made mistakes in his controversial exit from Bayern Munich, saying: "I sometimes ask myself - 'Why did it come to this?'"

Flick was talking from the Germany training camp ahead of Nations League clashes with Hungary and England.

He left Bayern in June 2021 amid rumours he had fallen out with sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic, despite being one of the most successful coaches in Bayern's illustrious history.

"I do think that I'd do one or two things differently now," Flick told newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. "Of course a conversation would have been good - sitting at the table with each other again to address things and to let everyone have their say. 'At the end of my time in Bayern, there were times when I took a wrong turn."

"There were certainly moments when I was unfair to the team." Taking over as

caretaker coach after the firing of Niko Kovac in November 2019 with the team in fourth place, Flick led the club to a historic treble.

Under Flick's guidance, Bayern claimed 64 of a possible 72 points to finish the Covid-interrupted Bundesliga season, before clinching their sixth Champions League title with a 1-0 win over Paris Saint-Germain in Lisbon.

He won the Bundesliga title again in the next season, but left the club when the Germany job became available, saying he did not receive the necessary support from Bayern's hierarchy.

"I'm very pleased we were able to clean up a few things," Flick added.

Flick also said he believed his former club would overcome their current struggles. Bayern sit in fifth place in the table, having gone winless in four Bundesliga games.

"Bayern played incredibly at the beginning of the season. After the third



round of matches, everyone thought the other teams did not have a chance," Flick said.

"Now they're in a bit of a weak phase - but they always create opportunities, and that makes me very positive." Flick also backed his successor Julian Nagels-

Nashra Sundhu replaces Fatima Sana for Women's T20 Asia Cup

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Nashra Sundhu has been named as Fatima Sana's replacement for the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup. Fatima has been ruled out of the tournament due to ankle injury. The fast bowler was injured while playing for Barbados Royals in the Women's Caribbean Premier League.

Fatima's replacement, left-arm orthodox Nashra has featured for Pakistan in 77 matches (49 ODIs, 28 T20Is) and she was amongst the four reserve players for the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup.

Pakistan women's team are currently undergoing a 10-day camp at Lahore Country Club in Muridke. The national side will fly out for Bangladesh on 28 September.

Pakistan will play their opening match in the tournament against Malaysia on October 2 at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium.

Pakistan squad: Bismah Maroof (c), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali (wk), Nida Dar, Omaima Sohail, Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Tuba Hasan

Reserve players: Natalia Pervaiz, Umme Hani and Waheeda Akhtar

Raducanu survives wobble in Seoul



SEOUL: Former US Open champion Emma Raducanu overcame a late wobble before defeating Japan's 126th-ranked Moyuka Uchijima in her opening match at the Korea Open on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old Briton, whose US Open defence collapsed in the first round last month, won 6-2, 6-4 to make the last 16 in Seoul. The sixth seed will face Yanina Wickmayer of Belgium. Raducanu reached a career-high 10th in the world, but is now 77th, having failed to build on her shock success at Flushing Meadows last year.

After rattling through the first set, the teenager picked up the pace in the second to surge into a 5-0 lead in less than 20 minutes. A Raducanu double-fault in the sixth game gave Uchijima a whiff of survival and the Japanese won four straight games, before Raducanu finally sealed the match with a 114-kilometer per hour ace.

The match lasted one hour and 18 minutes. Raducanu burst onto the scene last year when she made history by emerging from qualifying to claim a maiden Grand Slam title. It was the first time a qualifier had won a major.

Host venues for World Test Championship Finals confirmed



LONDON: The World Test Championship 2023 Final will be hosted by The Oval in June 2023 while the 2025 Final will be played at Lord's.

The two venues in London will succeed Southampton, which hosted the inaugural final between New Zealand and India in 2021. New Zealand emerged as the victors in the first edition of the World Test Championship.

The Oval will host the final in June 2023, with the top two teams from the World Test Championship standings making the cut. The Oval has previously hosted the finals of the 2004 and the 2017 editions of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy.

Australia and South Africa are currently the top two teams in the standings, with a host of teams on their trail, hoping to surpass them on the table.

Australia have a points percentage of 70, followed by South Africa on 60%. Australia and South Africa will also clash against each other in a three-match series in the current cycle in December-January, which could have a big bearing on the final points table.

Sri Lanka (53.33%), India (52.08%) and Pakistan (51.85%) round up the top five of the standings. With many series still to go in the current cycle, there could be many twists and turns in the points table before the two finalists are decided.

The next edition's Final will take place at Lord's in London, an iconic venue, which has hosted several high profile ICC matches, including the epic 2019 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup final. "We are delighted to be hosting next year's ICC World Test Championship Final at The Oval which has such a rich legacy and an amazing atmosphere, which is ideal for such an important fixture on the calendar," said ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice.

"Following that we will then take the 2025 Final to Lord's which will provide a fitting backdrop to the ultimate Test.

Schedule for Ashes 2023 announced



LONDON: England have announced a bumper home schedule for the summer of 2023, which will include a five-match Ashes series against Australia and a one-off Test match against Ireland.

Ben Stokes' men will get their summer under way with a one-off Test match against Ireland at Lord's, which will be played between June 1-4. Their attention will then turn to the five-match Test series against Australia, with England hoping to regain the Ashes after their 4-0 defeat in 2021/22 Down Under.

The men's Ashes will be contested between June 16 to July 31, with Edgbaston, Lord's, Headingley, Old Trafford and The Oval set to host the Tests. The England men's side will also contest in an ODI and a T20I series against New Zealand, comprising four 20-over and four 50-over games. The series against New Zealand will be played between August 30 and September 15.

They will also play a three-match ODI series against Ireland between September 20 and 26, as they ramp up their preparations for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which will be played in India.

England also announced the schedule of the multi-format women's Ashes series, including the first-ever five-day Test match for the England women's team on home soil.

The series will consist of one Test (worth four points), three ODIs (worth two points) and three T20Is (worth two points). It will be played between June 22 and July 18. The women's team will also take on Sri Lanka in a three-match T20I series (between September 2-9) and a three-match T20I series (between September 14-19), in what rounds up a bumper home schedule for both the men's and the women's sides.

Alex Hales praises Karachi crowd



KARACHI: England opening batter Alex Hales heaped praise on the passionate cricket fans of Karachi who turned out in large numbers to watch the historic T20I.

Hales marked his return to international cricket with a brilliant

half-century which paved the way for a dominating six-wicket win over the hosts.

Hales said he felt different while playing in front of a jam-packed crowd yesterday and it was a very special feeling for him to be a part of the match. He termed it as "one of the best atmospheres in world cricket." Hales has been a part of the Pakistan Super League and has represented the Karachi Kings and Islamabad United respectively.

"I have played in front of full houses at Karachi but this is very different," said Hales "You couldn't believe the noise and the atmosphere. Karachi put up a show tonight," he added. He said he has fond memories of his previous tours to Pakistan. "It's a place which means a lot to me," he said. "So to be a part of the England tour, the first one in such a long time is an incredibly special feeling."

Hales was ecstatic to make a strong comeback for England after a three-year absence from the team.

"It's a very special feeling to get back out on the park for England - three years felt like forever but to get a fifty on my return in a winning team is the stuff dreams are made of," said Hales. "There are always nerves and pressure after having not played for England for three years, it felt like a debut again, so a very special night," he said.

The remaining matches are in Karachi (September 22, 23, 25) and in Lahore (September 28, 30 and October 2).