



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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## Hina Khar stresses women's role in addressing global issues

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has stressed the importance of women's role in addressing global issues. Speaking at the event on "Feminist Foreign Policy", hosted by the Foreign Minister of Germany, she emphasized the importance of the voice of women leaders in addressing issues of international peace, security and development, in particular the efforts to combat, mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.



## Proposed amendment in transgender law to prevent misuse: Kaira

Advisor to the Prime Minister for Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Thursday clarified that the proposed amendment to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Right) Act was aimed at preventing the misuse of law against the transgender community. He said the proposed amendment to the transgender law, which passed in 2018, had been sent to the committee concerned for further debate.

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## EU Commission chief pledges more aid for Pakistan

NEW YORK: EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen held a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York as she expressed grief over the loss of lives in ravaging floods in the country and pledged "new humanitarian aid in the coming weeks". During the meeting, the premier highlighted the damage wrought by floods, causing widespread damage. APP

## 77th UNGA session

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif holds meeting with the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres and exchanged views on diverse matters. The meeting between the two leaders took place on the sidelines of the ongoing 77th session of the UNGA.



Photo: PID

## Flood victims support

# US stands with Pakistan in difficult time: Blinken

NEW YORK: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed grief over the widespread devastation by flash floods in Pakistan, saying the US stands with Pakistan at this critical juncture.

Blinken said this while meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The US Secretary of State expressed sympathy for the flood victims.

Also, President of the World Bank David R. Malpass met with PM Shehbaz on the sidelines of the UNGA's 77th session. He stressed that Pakistan

should be prioritized for reconstruction through the collective support of the international community.

PM Shehbaz appreciated the World Bank's partnership with Pakistan and informed them about the government's initiatives to introduce economic policies focused on strengthening the economy, price stability, and maintaining the sustainability of financial sectors.

The Prime Minister emphasized that Pakistan's role in climate change is very small, yet Pakistan is facing the devastating effects of climate change.

He thanked the World Bank Group

for providing \$372 million in flood relief.

Shehbaz Sharif also met with the President of the United Nations General Assembly (PGA), Csaba K. Körsi on the sidelines of the UNGA session. The Prime Minister drew attention to the unprecedented rains that had triggered the worst natural disaster in Pakistan's history.

The Prime Minister also briefed the PGA on Pakistan's priority issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Afghanistan, and Islamophobia. APP

## Contempt of court case

# Apologies if I crossed any line, IK tells IHC

Says he never intended to hurt sentiments of court

ISLAMABAD: In a surprise move, PTI Chairman Imran Khan finally apologised on Thursday before the Islamabad High Court (IHC) as the hearing started of a contempt of court case against him for controversial remarks about Additional District and Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry during a rally in Islamabad on August 20.

Imran Khan appeared before the court amid strict security. On Thursday, the court was set to frame charges against the former prime minister during the hearing. However, Imran Khan offered an apology at the outset of the hearing.

"I apologise if I crossed any line. It won't happen again. I never intended to hurt the sentiments of the court," Imran Khan said while assuring the court of never committing "such an act again," Khan said.

He also requested the court to allow him to apologise to judge Zeba Chaudhry in person. Agencies

## Pakistan rejects any delegation visiting Israel: FO



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar has categorically rejected the notion of any delegation from Pakistan visiting Israel.

Responding to media queries, he, in a statement, said the reported visit in question was organized by a foreign NGO which is not based in Pakistan.

The Spokesperson said Pakistan's position on the Palestinian issue is clear and unambiguous. He added that there is no change whatsoever in our policy on which there is complete national consensus.

Asim Iftikhar said Pakistan steadfastly supports the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination. He said that the establishment of an independent, viable and contiguous Palestinian State with pre-1967 borders and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital, in accordance with the relevant UN and OIC resolutions, is imperative for just and lasting peace in the region.

## 2nd Anniversary

We extend our Heartiest Congratulations to

# Daily The Spokesman

on completion of 2nd years of success of its publication



With best wishes & Compliment

Jawed Bilwani  
Chief Coordinator

Abdul Rehman  
Chairman (SZ)

&

all Members of Executive Committee

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## Anniversary

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(Waqf) Pakistan**  
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continued success  
and prosperity

## Focus on economy

Mr. Martin Raiser, Vice President of World Bank for South Asian Region calls on Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his office today.



Photo: APP

### Jolie vows to support flood victims in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Renowned Hollywood celebrity and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie called upon the world community to come forward and help Pakistan tackle the flood relief. The humanitarian activist reiterated the resolve to divert the world's attention toward the unprecedented devastation caused by widespread flash floods in Pakistan.

"I've never seen anything like this before," the actress said as she visited the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC).

Deputy Chairman NFRCC Ahsan Iqbal welcomed the visitor and thanked her for visiting the country. The human rights activist was briefed about the flood response and measures taken thus far.

Witnessing people's suffering during her visit to Dadu in Sindh moved the Hollywood actress. She said she had met flood victims. She also said that she is with the flood-affected people and will make all-out efforts to let the world know the scale of devastation climate change has caused and the life-saving support the flood victims desperately need.

### Greener and climate resilient

# FM Bilawal calls for Green Marshal Plan

To assist and support the climate vulnerable countries



### Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has called for a Green Marshal Plan to assist and support the climate vulnerable countries.

Addressing a Closed Door Leaders' Roundtable on CoP-27 in New York, he highlighted the devastation caused by the

### No peace without resolution of Kashmir issue: Bilawal

NEW YORK: Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Thursday said Pakistan desired peace with India but it was evident that unless the Kashmir dispute was resolved, there would be no durable peace between the two countries. He was delivering an opening statement as chair of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at the OIC Annual Coordination Meeting here. The minister said, "We are prepared to resume a sincere dialogue with India for a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. However, the onus is on India to create a conducive environment for such a dialogue. It must rescind its unilateral and illegal measures instituted since August 5, 2019 and halt its human rights violations in IIOJK." Bilawal said, "Kashmir is our common cause. Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan are bound irrevocably by geography, faith, history and culture. Kashmir is Pakistan and Pakistan is Kashmir."

recent climate induced floods in Pakistan. He noted that the loss to the economy was expected to run over thirty billion dollars.

The Foreign Minister stressed the need for collective and urgent action to build back better in a greener and climate resilient manner.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, in a meeting with his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijarto on the sidelines of 77th session of UNGA in New York, discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The foreign minister stated that Pakistan highly valued its relations with Hungary, bilaterally as well as in the context of European Union.

The exchange of views covered the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, including matters relating to political, economic and trade, culture, defence and people-to-people contacts.

The two sides also reviewed recent developments in bilateral relations and explored the way forward to enhance cooperation in diverse fields.

Focusing specifically on enhancing bilateral trade and economic ties, the Foreign Minister suggested that Hungary could take advantage of the investor friendly climate in Pakistan to enter into joint ventures with Pakistani companies, especially in the Special Economic Zones.

### Child malnutrition crisis

## Over half a billion dollars pledged to tackle child malnutrition

At least 60% of commitments will directly support UNICEF's work in 15 countries

### Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Governments, philanthropies, and private donors have pledged approximately US\$577 million since July in response to the deepening child malnutrition crisis – with at least 60 per cent of that amount committed to directly supporting UNICEF's work.

Roughly US\$280 million of the over half billion raised was pledged today at The Child Malnutrition Crisis: Pledging to Save Lives – a high-level event co-hosted by UNICEF, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), and the government of Senegal at UNICEF Headquarters in New York.

The governments of Canada, Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom; and the Aliko Dangote Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Children's Investment

Fund Foundation (CIFF), the Eleanor Crook Foundation, the Greta Thunberg Foundation, Humanitarian Services of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and King Philanthropies came together at the high-level event during the 77th annual United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to address the growing food crisis.

The commitments were made as climate-driven drought, conflict, and rising food prices continue to drive up emergency levels of severe wasting in young children worldwide. In 15 countries hardest hit, including in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, a child is being pushed into severe malnutrition every minute, according to a recent analysis by UNICEF.

"An escalating malnutrition crisis is pushing millions of children to the brink of starvation – and unless we do more, that crisis will become a catastrophe," said UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell.

### President backs suggestion to hold snap elections

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi on Thursday backed suggestion for holding snap elections to pull the country out of political and economic crisis.

During an interview with private TV channel, Arif Alvi suggested talks between political stakeholders to pave out way within the constitutional ambit. "It is important to take measures within the ambit of the Constitution for the betterment of the country," he said, adding that it would still take three months to hold polls if all parties agree to a framework. He warned that talks of increasing the tenure of the incumbent assemblies and postponing elections would only add to uncertainty in the country. Alvi further revealed that he was trying to arrange a meeting between government and opposition. "Imran Khan has offered that he is ready to hold talks on election date. Similarly, way forward for economy should also be discussed," he said. While sharing the process for initiating talks, the president said initially the second-tier leadership should sit together and prepare a framework which should later be finalized by the top leadership from both sides. Agencies

### Law Minister rejects propaganda on Transgender Bill

ISLAMABAD: Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar on Thursday rejected the baseless propaganda regarding the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill.

Addressing a joint news conference, along with Prime Minister's Advisor Qamar Zaman Kaira, in Islamabad on Thursday, he said it is not a new law as it was enacted in 2018. He said all the political parties, including PML-N, PPP, PTI, and others, approved this law in 2018. He said Senator Mushtaq Ahmed Khan of Jamat-e-Islami has proposed an amendment to the law to prevent its misuse.

The Law Minister said transgender people are also human beings and this legislation is meant to protect their rights, including inheritance, education, employment, health, and purchasing a property. He stated that using transgender people for begging would be illegal.

Azam Nazir Tarar said the opinion of the Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council was also sought with regard to the transgender bill. He said it is a wrong interpretation that intersex marriages have been allowed through this bill. APP

### ADB okays \$100m for secondary healthcare in KP

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$100 million results-based loan to help strengthen the quality of secondary health care in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. The program will help improve the delivery of health services at secondary hospitals by modernizing infrastructure and equipment; ensuring clinical protocols, standards, and guidelines are implemented; and improving human resources planning and medicine supply chain management, said an ADB press statement received Thursday. "While the coronavirus placed an enormous strain on essential health services in KP and across the country, Pakistan now faces unprecedented flooding exacerbating the risk of waterborne diseases," said ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Yevgeniy Zhukov.

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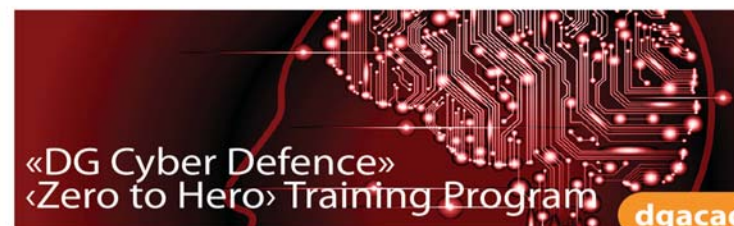
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## FLOOD RELIEF SUPPORTS

As all members is aware about current devastating situation in interior Sindh due to monsoon rain-triggered flash floods. Affected People are seeking help as they have lost all things and compel to live in worst situation. Keeping in view this devastating situation PRGMEA has formed "Flood Relief Camp" at PRGTTI House/PRGMEA to collect funds also procure all the required material and relief goods including tents, mosquito nets, food items, medicines etc to help the affected families. In this respect our Members are appeal to come ahead and send necessary items PRGMEA committee members will carry items by themselves and distribute the same to the affected families of interior Sindh in a transparent level.

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# AJK president seeks OIC’s pro-active role to resolve Kashmir issue

*Says OIC has always supported the Kashmiris’ just cause*

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that the international community should play its much needed role to help-resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute that happens to be the main cause and consequence of bloodshed and human rights violations in the region.

He said this while addressing a special meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) at the United Nations here in New York. The OIC Secretary General Hussain Ibrahim Taha, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Nigeria and other Islamic countries also participated in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, the president said that the OIC has always supported the Kashmiris’ just cause and condemned the human rights



violations being committed by the Indian forces in Kashmir. “Even today, when I come to the meeting of the OIC-Kashmir Contact Group here at the United Nations, I am burdened by the expectations of one and a half million Kashmiri people who want that the member countries of the forum (OIC) should move beyond the political rhetoric, come forward in a big way and openly express their support for Kashmiris’ legitimate right, the right of

self-determination”, Barrister Chaudhary said.

He said that the Kashmiri people in Occupied Kashmir were currently going through a serious and alarming situation. In the aftermath of August 5, 2019, the president said that India has started large-scale changes in Occupied Kashmir and at the same time has increased the violation of human rights.

Under the given circumstances, the president said that there was a dire

need that the international community, especially the OIC should openly support the Kashmiri people and use its influence to stop the ongoing atrocities in Occupied Kashmir.

Highlighting the India’s nefarious designs aimed at changing the region’s demography, Barrister Chaudhary said that India has issued fake domiciles to more than 42 million non-state Hindus to change the population ratio in Occupied Kashmir.

Referring to delimitation of constituencies, he said that the BJP government was changing the entire electoral landscape of the region in order to install a Hindu Chief Minister in the state. Similarly, he said, Hurriyat leaders have been arrested and left to rot behind the bars.

He also raised the unjust sentencing of prominent Kashmiri leader Yasin Malik and termed it as a judicial onslaught to suppress legitimate Kashmiri voices.



KARACHI: Group picture shows Murtaza Wahab, Administrator KMC along with Taha Saleem, DC Central, Muzzamil Athar, Head of IT and Data decision M&P and others at the Opening ceremony of Ibn-e-Insha Park under public private partnership b/w DC central and Dell Technologies.

## Meeting reviews rehabilitation operation in flood-hit areas



**Azad Baloch**

DADU: Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Dadu Syed Murtaza Ali Shah, an important meeting was held at the camp office for the rehabilitation operation in the flood-affected areas of Dadu and to prepared a plan for water drainage from the cities submerged in flood water.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioners, WAPDA SCORP, Department of Health, Department of Irrigation, Department of Public Health, Municipal Committees and Town Committees officers. During the meeting, the current situation of the district was reviewed.

According to Deputy Commissioner Dadu Syed Murtaza Ali Shah water drainage and rehabilitation plan was formed from the flooded cities, Indus Highway and Link Roads.

He said very soon, large-scale relief operations including rehabilitation of cities and roads will be started. The district administration is working day and night to serve the people and alleviate their sufferings.

## Unity needed to win war against climate change

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Thursday said climate change is a threat to the whole world but it is not being realized.

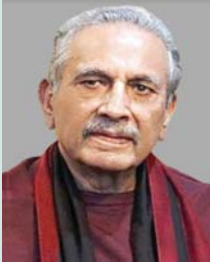
The lack of interest of developed countries has become a problem for poor countries which are paying a heavy price, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that this serious threat could be tackled if all countries take it seriously and unite to face it.

He said that the dangers of extreme weather events are increasing around the world and despite the resources developed countries have not done anything notable in this regard.

Heavy rains, devastating floods, storms, droughts, forest fires and heat waves have affected millions of people, while the global economy has been seriously threatened as dozens of countries are experiencing financial and employment crises, he added.

He said that on one side, the planet is being destroyed and on the other side all the previous records for emissions of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide are being broken. The business leader said that the sea levels are rising rapidly which can affect all the countries of the world.

Pakistan is paying the price for the greed of developed countries as it faced ten times more than normal rains which led to devastating floods and affected millions of people and caused billions of dollars in damages.



# SAP driving digital transformation for progress in Pakistan

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: Saquib Ahmad, Country Managing Director, SAP Pakistan, held a media meet-up at a local hotel to apprise the press of the impact and contribution of SAP’s operations in Pakistan.

SAP is deeply-rooted in all segments of business and operations. For Pakistan, it has been instrumental in shaping and expanding the industry to create a global footprint for commerce and business.

The avenue created an excellent opportunity for Mr. Ahmad, to showcase and explain SAP’s contribution and its ongoing enrichment.

“From industries producing household products to automobile and energy industry, education networks, pharmaceuticals, textile hubs, SAP has proven to be the success factor in enabling them with expansion and efficiency towards meeting targets and widening the horizon.” He further added that the list of clients for SAP Pakistan varies from conglomerates to Small



and Medium Enterprises, and SAP is equipped to provide a tailored made solution to consolidate the requirement and enhance it for the desired vision. He validated this further, relaying the example of a retail store that utilized the services of SAP and grew from a single unit to a national-level entity.

He was clear on SAP Pakistan’s vision. Profound yet simple, Make People Lives Better. SAP, through their software, ensure a design and workflow that impacts the lives of the users

To provides both on-Premise and Cloud services, as per the requirements of the business. All major systems-related companies in Pakistan including Systems Ltd., IBM, and Siemens work

with SAP.

Answering one of the questions from the media regarding the security of sensitive information, Mr. Ahmad elaborated, “SAP ensures and controls security at all levels. We guarantee full compliance with all governmental protocols and all relevant information stays within Pakistan.”

SAP’s strength lies in its efficient supply chain that expedites and delivers on time. They are also engaged with Predictive Analysis with 82% accuracy. The goal is to be 99% accurate soon.

Ahmad emphasized the support to the economy provided by SAP. It enables economic expansion and creates more employment opportunities. The digital transformation provided by SAP helps creates a larger international footprint for Pakistan.

Presently, SAP holds a 70% market share for digital and IT-related services in all realms of business, industry, and education and is working towards an energized ecosystem for technology-driven Pakistan with a global presence.

## SMEDA resumes matching grant process for industrial stitching units

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) has resumed the matching grant process for establishment of industrial stitching units across the country.

Hashim Raza, Chief Executive Officer of SMEDA informed that the grant is part of a PSDP funded project being implemented by SMEDA under the Federal Ministry of Industries and Production for establishment of in total 1000 industrial units, for which the grant has already been issued to 93 SMEs. The Project, he said, aims to provide financial assistance to boost value addition in the field of textile garments manufacturing through matching grants to new business startups as well as existing small & medium enterprises (SMEs) having adequate experience in textile-related manufacturing.

CEO SMEDA observed that textile sector had a significant role in development of national economy and the enhancement of value addition, productivity and innovation could steer this sector to the increased exports and more job creation. The financial assistance to be provided through this grant will help the industrial stitching units sharing more contribution to growth of the economy, he added.

The project is targeted to establish 1000 industrial stitching units as a long run and is passing through the first phase of its three-years operation, under which 93 units out of a target of 150, have so far been completed successfully. The current process of the grant aims to support 57 units, after which the first phase of this project would stand completed.

## Levi’s® launches next iteration of buy better, wear longer

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Levi’s® just launched the next iteration of its “Buy Better, Wear Longer” campaign which builds on the brand’s long-term commitment to making fashion more sustainable and prolonging the lifespan of its products. Levi’s® is on a mission to help consumers love their jeans for decades, not seasons.

To support this effort, Levi’s® created a cinematic short film from the perspective of a pair of Levi’s the film takes us through the life of Levi’s most iconic design, the 501. Transformed through the decades with each owner, adapting to the style of the times, the 501 is just as relevant, and wearable today as it was in the 1960s.

“The campaign speaks to Levi’s® legacy, durability, and appeal to a broad global audience. A pair of Levi’s® ages beautifully, engaging generations after generation, with a few tweaks and changes. Timeless and versatile, yet fashionable — no matter the decade. This message is more relevant today than ever before, when we’re all thinking how we can contribute to a more sustainable future.”—Karen Rikley-Grant, Global Chief Marketing Officer

The Buy Better, Wear Longer campaign is both a plea and a promise.

# Govt providing relief to weaker segments of society: PM AJK

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan said that the food subsidy offered by the government was meant to provide relief to weaker and economically underprivileged segments of the society.

Addressing a high level meeting of the Department of Food here today the PM said, “The benefit of the subsidy should be given to the economically underprivileged people and a comprehensive mechanism should be evolved so that the poor and deserving people could avail this opportunity offered by the government”.

He said that a proper survey should be conducted on subsidies offered on flour to evolve a comprehensive mechanism. “Only deserving people should get cheap flour”, the PM said, adding that instead of taking advantage of the scheme the well-off people who were rich enough to fulfill their requirements of life should come forward and help the government in its efforts to establish a welfare society.



The PM directed the Food department officials to take immediate steps to meet the food requirement of the people so that there is no shortage of flour in any part of the AJK. “In particular, the shortage of wheat grain in the areas adjacent to Line of Control and other remote areas should be met immediately”, he said, adding that steps should also be taken to prevent smuggling of grain outside Azad Kashmir.

Earlier, Secretary Food Mansoor Qadir Dar briefed Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan and Food Minister Ali Shan Soni about the details of food requirements including demand and supply, transportation and grinding of wheat in Azad Kashmir. Chief Secretary Muhammad Usman

Chachar, Secretary Finance Ismatullah Shah, Secretary Food Mansoor Qadir Darud and others were presenting in the briefing.

The Prime Minister was told that at the time the subsidy of more than 22 rupees per kg was given on wheat. Secretary Food also informed the PM about the situation of grain supply and its demand and said that the quantity of flour sold in the open market has increased enormously due to which the department was facing severe difficulties.

The Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir also asked the Food Department to contact the landowners for the purchase of wheat from different cities of Pakistan.

# Sightsavers partners with Health Dept Punjab for eye health facilities

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: As a measure to ensure inclusive eye care by providing refractive and optical services to people, especially those in rural areas, Sightsavers has launched an initiative called Improving National Systems in Pakistan for Integrated Action on Refractive Error (INSPIRE).

The project has been initiated in collaboration with National Programme for Prevention and Control of Blindness and its provincial chapter, i.e., College of Ophthalmology and Allied Vision Sciences (COAVS), Mayo Hospital Lahore.



Ken Moon, Chief Operating Officer Sightsavers appreciated the role of National Committee for Eye Health and Health department in order to deliver refractive services of Multan and Sheikhpura. He said that this project is materializing the vision of Sightsavers to ensure health equity at grassroots level.

Munazza Gillani, Country Director Sightsavers Pakistan said that in collaboration with the COAVS, Lahore, Sightsavers has initiated the INSPIRE project to assist the development of a comprehensive approach to strengthening refractive and optical services in Pakistan. The project will also make a significant

contribution to the effective scaling up of screening, refractive services and eyeglasses provision and will promote the integration of these approaches into government-led national programs.

Prof. Dr. Asad Aslam Khan, Chairman National Committee for Eye Health thanked Sightsavers for their efforts and cooperation and said that such public private partnerships will go a long way in addressing the issues. He threw light on the advancements made in health sector such as provision of latest equipment and technology, establishing new eye departments in more than 180 hospitals.

# Saudi National Day revives patriotism and love

*Celebrations on 92nd National Day of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held*

As Saudi Arabia gears to mark its 92nd National Day, citizens across the Kingdom have expressed their patriotism, love and allegiance to their country as they gear up for a celebration marked by parades, fireworks and entertainment shows.

In Riyadh, preparations for celebrating the Saudi National Day have begun. All regions of Saudi Arabia are currently witnessing the largest ever celebrations in the history of the Kingdom to mark the occasion of the 92nd National Day, which falls on Sept. 23.

The city's main streets are adorned with the Saudi flag while towers and buildings are covered with green lights to mark the occasion.

For 28-year-old Saad al-Ruwaili, celebrating the Saudi National Day goes beyond the numbers and is rather a reminder of the deep values on which the Kingdom was built. "Every year Saudi Arabia celebrates this National Day; I feel inside that I am part of every tribe and every region of Saudi Arabia," he told Al Arabiya English.

Al-Ruwaili said that this sense of patriotism that Saudis have toward their country is due to a combination of many factors but noted that the leadership's response to the various global crises makes the bond stronger.

May bin al-Amir, 24, based in Riyadh, said that National Day is a close occasion for every Saudi. "The National Day is the anniversary of the founding of this dear country and its unity," she said. "For me, the National Saudi Day is renewing an even stronger allegiance to this country."

Al-Amir added the feeling of safety and stability that Saudi Arabia gives her is incomparable. "This country gives you back



The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister

and the sense of social bonding that we have is essential for us."

Salma Asiri, 32, said that the unification of the Kingdom gives her a sense of pride and strength. Asiri added that marking the Saudi National Day means renewing loyalty to the Kingdom's leadership. "It is [also an occasion] to revive our love and patriotism for our country," she said. "Patriotism runs in our blood."

While National Day itself falls on Friday, there will be 10 days packed with a variety of parades, musical performances, fireworks displays, and even a Saudi-themed Cirque du Soleil show from Sunday.

To mark National Day, Royal Saudi Air Force fighters are performing acrobatic air shows with Typhoons, Tornados, and F-15 in Jeddah pulling

off stunts over the skies. This is taking place in various cities for 10 days, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The Royal Guard will parade through Riyadh to the tune of the national anthem played by a military band, and they will be followed by a procession of classic cars.

A specially-designed Cirque du Soleil show entitled 'The Wealth of a Nation' will be performed at Riyadh's Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University theater from September 21 to 24.

Arab musicians including Mohammed Abdo, Abadi al-Johar, Rabeh Saqr, Majed al-Mohandes, Ahlam, Angham, and Ahmed Saad will be performing.

The Ministry of Interior is also organizing its own festivities that will include live music from the

military band and other performances.

There will be major fireworks displays over the skies of 18 cities across the Kingdom, and public parks will host history and heritage exhibitions.

In Medina, a theatrical performance narrating the Kingdom's history through the ages will be held at the Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz Sports City.

Saudi Arabia's National Day commemorates the unification of the Kingdoms of Najd and Hijaz by King Abdulaziz in 1932.

It was made into a national holiday by King Abdullah in 2005 and differs from 'Founding Day' – a new holiday that was introduced in February 2022 to mark the founding of the first Saudi state in 1727.

Meanwhile, in the UAE, three days of celebrations are also slated

to mark Saudi National Day.

With the close ties between the two GCC countries, and with so many Saudi nationals living in and visiting Dubai, the city will host an extensive program of special celebrations for the Kingdom and its people, including concerts and entertainment, retail promotions, activities, and hotel deals.

Arabic music sensations Assala Nasri, Fouad Abdelwahed and Aseel Hameem will be taking center stage to honor the Saudi National Day with a showcase featuring all of their chart-topping tunes on September 24 at Coca-Cola Arena.

As part of the Saudi National Day celebrations across the city, top retail brands throughout Dubai's malls will offer from 25 percent up to 75 percent off

across fashion clothing, accessories, footwear, cosmetics, beauty and perfumes, optics, home and outdoor furnishings, electronics, pharmacies, as well as department stores and supermarkets.

In honor of the 92nd Saudi National Day, shoppers can also head over to City Walk for special retail deals, while the Outlet Village will celebrate the occasion with live music and will surprise its visitors with free giveaways on September 23.

Fitness lovers can head to The Track at Meydan Golf for the Saudi National Day Run, a night run on September 23 from 8 p.m., where adults over 16 can either walk or jog distances of 10 km, 5 km or 3 km, while children up to the age of 15 can dash across the 1 kilometer route.

Dubai Festival City Mall

will also be hosting a special IMAGINE fountain show to honor Saudi National Day on September 23.

Visitors and residents can enjoy sights of Dubai's most famous landmarks illuminating the colors of the flag of Saudi Arabia, including Burj Al Arab Jumeirah, Ain Dubai and the Dubai Frame lighting up green on September 23 at 7 p.m. Dubai's sky will also be lit up with fireworks at The Beach from 9 p.m.

Dubai will also welcome families and visitors arriving by plane for this year's Saudi National Day celebrations.

Dubai International Airport will tag passenger bags with the country's national flag and display welcome greetings on its screens. Al Arabiya/SPA

## SECP approves eight technology driven business solutions

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan's Regulatory Sandbox continues to lead innovation and technological disruptions, particularly in the fintech sector. The third cohort of Regulatory Sandbox, will include business models and technology platforms for telematics-based vehicle insurance, digital-only asset management companies, banking sector ETF, livestock fund and bond fractionalization.

These business models and tech platforms will be tested in the coming 9-12 months. SECP approved eight applicants out of the applications received for testing innovative business solutions for the financial services market.

## British HC visits UK funded aid projects in flood-hit areas

*Dr Christian Turner says Pakistan faces a growing flood-fuelled public health crisis*

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British High Commissioner, Dr Christian Turner, visited flood affected communities in Mirpur Khas District, Sindh, and saw first-hand the delivery of lifesaving assistance by Concern Worldwide, an NGO being funded by the UK.

Accompanied by the Concern Worldwide Acting Country Director, Sherzada Khan, Dr Christian Turner met with relief workers and community leaders to better understand the scale of the situation in Sindh and ascertain how further UK assistance could be utilised.

He also visited a cash assistance programme and primary health care centre, which was being funded, in part, by an initial tranche of £1.55m committed by the UK right at the start of the flood crisis.

To date, the UK has committed a total of £16.5m to support flood relief efforts and the British public have donated over £25m via the Disasters Emergency Committee's Pakistan Appeal. This appeal has notably been supported by the England men's cricket team, who are



touring Pakistan for the T20s, with the team making a personal donation which was then matched by the England Cricket Board. In addition to this, last week a UK Royal Air Force flight delivered 8 boats and 10 portable generators gifted in kind by the UK's Ministry of Defence for use in flood relief operations.

Whilst visiting Mirpur Khas, Dr Christian Turner, said the following: "Pakistan faces a growing flood-fuelled public health crisis. UKAid is helping with shelter, clean water and emergency healthcare. But also we must rebuild smarter to be resilient against future climate disasters."

## Promoting creativity

## Haiku Poetry Art Illustrations Exhibition inaugurated

*Japanese Ambassador lauds students, other artists participating in exhibition for their eye-catching thematic art works*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: To promote creativity and cultural affinity about the traditional Japanese poetic form of Haiku among the youth of Pakistan, the Embassy of Japan and Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association (PJCA) Islamabad in collaboration with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) organized a first ever "Haiku Poetry Art Illustrations Exhibition" at the National Art Gallery on Thursday.

WADA Mitsuhiro, the Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, together with Justice (R) Ali Nawaz Chowhan, President, PJCA Islamabad, inaugurated the Haiku Art Illustrations Exhibition in the presence of haiku poets, artists, teachers, students and other distinguished guests.

The exhibition that features 110 art works themed on the Haikus painted by the students from educational institutions in the twin cities including some art organizations have been put on display depicting their creative talent as well as their understanding



standing of haiku. The exhibition was curated by Mr. Jamal Shah, an eminent artist and executive member of Pakistan-Japan Cultural Association Islamabad.

Haiku is a precise, compact and condensed form of traditional Japanese poetry written in 5-7-5 syllabic form usually in three lines that dates

back to the 17th century and still remains popular in modern Japan, and is now practiced in many countries of the world including Pakistan.

Ambassador WADA appreciated the students and other artists participating in the exhibition for their eye-catching thematic art works reflecting their keen interest and

understanding of haiku poetry and Japanese culture. The Ambassador stated that the purpose of showcasing this exhibition was to encourage the students in exploring and doing research on haiku poetry and also to show their artistic skills. "Understanding art and culture of another country is the best way to get familiar with its people and society as it promotes enhanced people-to-people contacts hailing from varying cultures" said the Ambassador.

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan as well as the 50th anniversary since the establishment of PJCA Islamabad, this exhibition is a part of activities arranged to commemorate the bond of friendship between the two countries in a befitting way.

The Ambassador expressed his gratitude to PJCA, PNCA, students and teachers for their collaboration in organizing this wonderful exhibition.

The exhibition will remain open for public till September 29, 2022.



ISLAMABAD: Dr Asjad Hameed, Chairman, The Diabetes Centre, Islamabad, being given a photograph as a goodwill gesture by visiting delegates of a leading Pharma at TDC.

## Smart Class Rooms are need of hour: IIUI President

*Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi inaugurates smart class rooms*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In pursuit of the smart education through advanced information and communication technology, smart class rooms at male and female campuses of the International Islamic University (IIU) have been inaugurated by Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, President, (IIU).

On the occasion, Vice President Administration and Finance, Dr. N.B. Jumani, Vice President Research and Enterprise, Dr. Ahmed Shuja Syed, Vice President Academics Dr. Ayaz Afsar and Vice President Female Campus Dr. Sameena Malik were present. Dean Faculty of Computing Prof. Dr. Mohammad Asmat Ullah Khan, Incharge IT Mr. Shehzad Saleem Qazi and his team members along with HEC smart class rooms initiative representative were also present.

On the occasion, IIUI President was briefed that live and interactive smart class rooms are expected to provide required faculty sharing along with e-learning and VDI. The planned Platforms are also expected to fortify the distance and blended learning. The facility will be utilized by students both at the undergraduate and graduate levels to get access to quality faculty which will ultimately help the institution improve the standards of education.

The IIUI President said that smart class rooms are the need of hour as the world has shrunk and now it is the age of E-learning. He hailed the efforts of the IT team and said that Smart Classroom setup can play a pivotal role to enhance students – teachers interaction through interactive online & distance learning, bridge the gap of good faculty, meet the shortage of faculty members at the universities/ campuses located at far-flung areas and ultimately to uplift the standard of education across the board. He said the Smart Classrooms strategy is a learning initiative that is about engaging the digital generation, improving individualized learning opportunities, sparking innovation in learning, enhancing teachers' and digital pedagogy.

The initiative of establishing smart classrooms is the continuation of HEC Vision 2025 ICT programs for "Transformation towards Smart Universities" that can be achieved by launching of "Smart Education" under which students will have access to digital contents and online learning materials to enhance their learning skills; whereas course(s) and program(s) learning outcomes could be measured/assessed through ICT tools.



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IS UNGA Session

## Pakistan seeks int’l humanitarian assistance

The meeting of Prime Minister with the CEO of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Microsoft has just started and definitely some support for the flood victims in Pakistan is also expected by Bill Gates. An exhibition is arranged in the UN General Assembly for the first time of Pakistan floods and devastation. The Prime Minister held an important meeting with the UN General Secretary on the sidelines of the UNGA session. The delegation headed by the Prime Minister is telling true stories about the damages done by the floods in Pakistan, Security outlook, moderate outlook and the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Prime Minister held fruitful meetings with MD IMF and President World Bank yesterday. The UN session is taking place at the time when Pakistan is confronting certain challenges including flood devastation, economic issues and others. The Prime Minister will address the UN General Assembly tomorrow and will attract the world’s attention on the flood situation in the country and the Kashmir issue. Then there is going to be a powerful demonstration by the Pakistani and Kashmiri diaspora on 24th September at the time when the Indian delegation will address the UN general Assembly session.

The Prime Minister and his team is actively and effectively presenting Pakistan’s narrative in the current situation in their meetings with world leaders. The Prime Minister and Foreign Minister are meeting with different delegations and the main agenda is to make the world realize that Pakistan is paying a huge price for carbon emission. The contribution of Pakistan in carbon emissions is less than 1% but even then it is among the 10 countries that would be badly affected due to climate change. Another focus of meetings to grab maximum financial assistance for the flood affectees in Pakistan. The Foreign Minister addressed a roundtable meeting and discussed the situation after floods that caused huge devastation and the impacts will be long-lasting. The infrastructure has been destroyed, people have lost livestock and precious lives and the crops have been flown. Now there are health issues for the flood victims and also there will be the food security issues. All these damages are irreparable. The Foreign Minister also highlighted that Pakistan is responsible for less than 1% of the world’s planet-warming gases yet it is among the most vulnerable nation to the climate crisis. The Foreign Minister also thanked the international community for its unconditional financial support for the flood affectees. The rehabilitation of flood affected people will definitely take enough time. So far, the response of the international community is very positive and we must expect that with the support of the world capitals, Pakistan will come out of the difficult situation. Pakistan direly needs international community support for relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees.

## Misconceptions about Single National Curriculum-Way forward-I

Prof. Amer Jamil

Education, no doubt, has the central place in development of any nation. The difference between a developed and an underdeveloped nation lies in strength of education and training of its youth. The leading nations have, in fact, knowledge-based economies. A strong foundation at school level is mandatory to build concepts that could lead to critical thinking and analysis. Merely getting education is not enough for effective learning by the children. It is quality education that is essentially needed to get the desired results in our youth.

Pakistan is a country with diverse cultures and languages. On top of that there are diverse types of education systems that exist in the country; Government and ordinary private schools, elite class schools and so on. The curriculum being taught in these schools is also very diverse. The kids coming out of elite class schools have advantage over the kids from ordinary schools in all walks of life. The training part is mostly missing from all types of schools whether elite class or ordinary. Practically what we observe in our society is failure of all sorts of education systems to train our youth. All of them are running for getting more and more marks by using some shortcuts. Students getting 95% or more marks are unable to write a letter

or application from their own. And there is no such training to observe etiquettes and other social norms, leading to increase in chaos in the country. We see the graduates feel no shame in breaking law, crossing red traffic signal, doing corruption etc., although they learn by heart many of such norms in Islamic Studies, Pakistan Studies etc.

In this backdrop, the ex-government gave the idea of Single National Curriculum to bring unity and harmony among nation, and to bring an equal ground for children coming from different backgrounds. Unfortunately, as done with other things, this idea was politicized. Quite surprisingly, some of our intellectuals also opposed the idea saying that it would hamper originality and creativity of the kids because they would have to follow the same curriculum. According to them, the SNC would spoon-feed the children with certain well-defined concepts. In fact, they fail to comprehend the philosophy of the SNC. The implementation of SNC in schools never means to implant certain type of knowledge in our students. It only gives a uniform curriculum for whole of the country so that the students may have similar levels of education, augmented by strong foundation of Islamic ideology in the form of study of Quran with translation and the life of the holy prophet. It is a misconception that only purely secular type of studies at school level may prepare our students competitive globally. Character-building is equally important component of school education. We need a

generation who not only is market competitive but also has strong moral values.

Such intellectuals might be confusing the SNC implementation in school system with the University system. Otherwise, the same system exists in almost all developed countries where public schools are meant for education of children without any class discrimination. As mentioned earlier, the existing school system is total failure leading to learning poverty in the country. In most of the schools, teachers come in classrooms, give lecture, students take notes, no questions asked, and homework given to students. Students do homework, which usually is composed of re-writing the notes or answering the questions given by the teacher followed by mere cramming of the lessons. Students don’t even have time to play or enjoy other hobbies due to this useless activity. What it is to do with SNC?

Therefore, the real learning crises in the country is due to ineffective teaching methodology. There is a strong need to develop curriculum that covers the contents for international competitiveness. Unfortunately, there are myths in our society such as heavier content with more and more stressful work to the students will help prepare them to compete the world.

To be concluded  
Prof. Amer Jamil is Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

## The story of Queen’s love and sincerity



The late Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain died at the age of 96 at her Barlemole Palace in Scotland. It engendered a story of profound appreciation and affection that is unprecedented in the past. Because of the Queen’s love and sincerity, not only British Citizens but people all over the Globe felt dejected and affected, which is mainly due to the Queen’s 70-year reign.

No controversial verbal expression by the Queen against any country, religion, or nation was ever observed and visualised through the writer’s eyes. Queen Elizabeth II passed away after a brief illness She

met with the new British Prime Minister Liz Truss on September 6, 2022 couple of days before her death. Photos of the meeting were relinquished by the Royal Family in which the Queen appeared to be recuperating. It was precisely 2 days later on September 8, when the sad news of Queen Elizabeth II was broadcast, people could not believe that the Queen was not among them anymore.

The news of the Queen’s death spread like wildfire all over the world, after which people living in the United Kingdom started to commence to Buckingham Palace, the Royal Family’s palace in London, to pay their venerations to the Queen.

The British Government declared official mourning for 12 days and commenced implementing the London Bridge Operation Plan

Condolence messages from the Heads of States around the world were received by the British Royal Family, condolence remarks were also recorded in the Embassies of different countries of the world. The coverage of the death of the Queen of

Great Britain was prominent in the media around the world.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen’s son Charles prospered with his mother and is now the King of Great Britain. On September 14, the Queen’s coffin was flown to London by Royal Air Force aircraft for the funeral where people can pay their veneration. People had

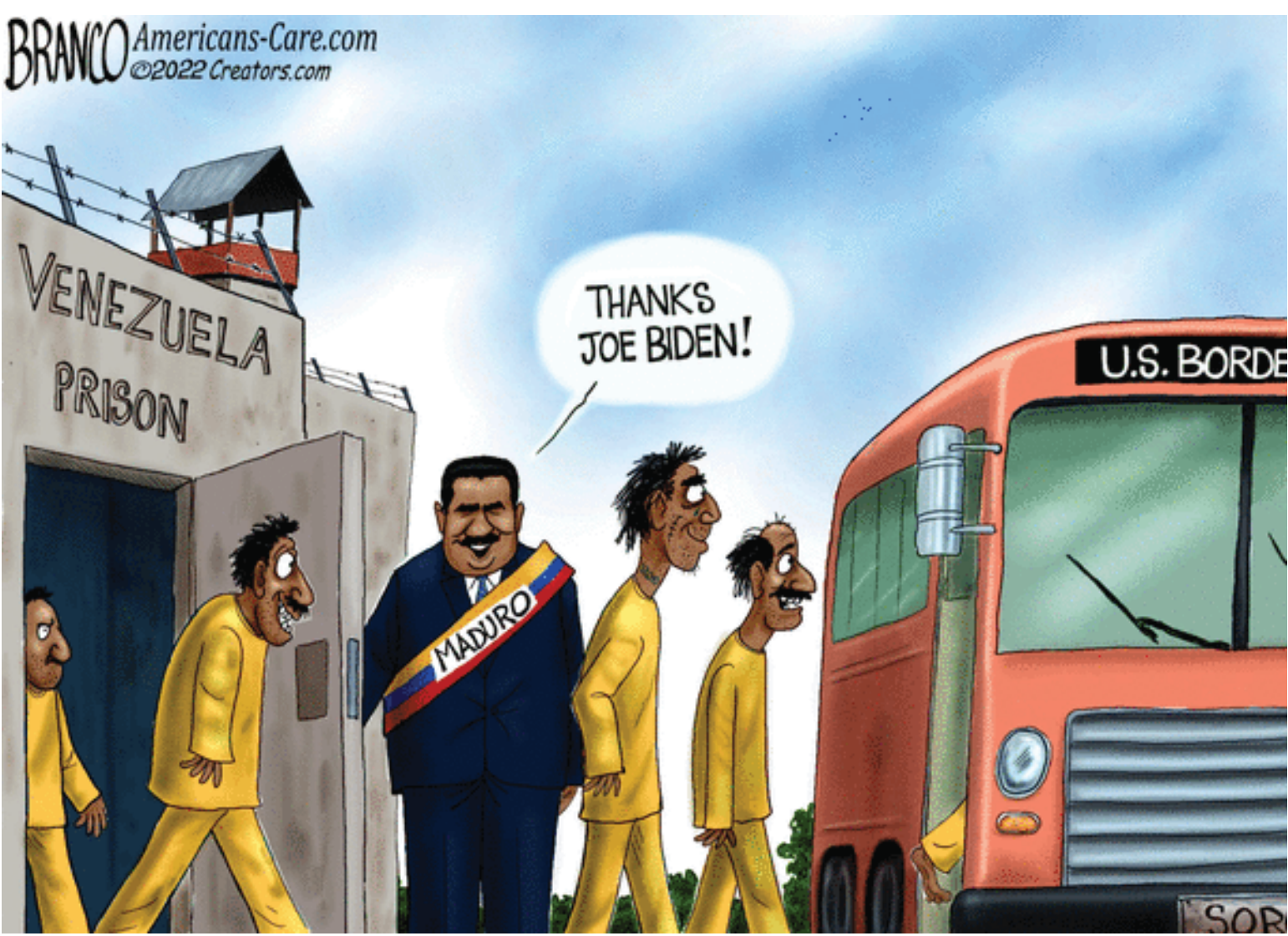
to the Queen and the emotions were palpable. This was not hard to realise just how popular and doted the Queen was in the world. That day was a public holiday in Great Britain and around 2,000 people attended the Queen’s funeral, in which there were around 500 people from all over the world who were specially invited.

members of the Royal Family, British Prime Ministers, former Prime Ministers, senior politicians, bureaucrats, and representatives of the armed forces.

The Queen’s funeral was an official funeral, the Queen’s casket was given a special cannon salute by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. The Queen’s coffin was moved in Royal protocol from Westminster Abbey to Hard Park Corner Windsor Castle, where the Queen was laid to rest. The Queen’s last rites were covered live by the media around the world, which was optically canvassed live by millions of people.

The 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain has proved one thing that kings who care about their people and work for their betterment win the profound appreciation of their people and the people pay encomium to their kings.

Chaudhry Tabraiz Aurah can be reached at Tabraizashraf2006@yahoo.com



## Education at the heart of Saudi Arabia’s progress

Maha Akeel

Education has always been at the heart of progress in Saudi Arabia and, as we celebrate Saudi National Day, it is important to remember, appreciate and be proud of what has been achieved in a short period of time, but also to anticipate and prepare for future challenges and developments.

We have certainly come a long way in education. The Kingdom has gone from low literacy rates of about 15 percent for men and less than 2 percent for women in the early 1960s to 99 percent for men and 96 percent for women today.

Women also participate in education at largely the same rate as men, including higher education, and are among the most-educated women in the Muslim world.

Significantly, in 2018, 66 percent of Saudi university graduates in the natural sciences, mathematics and statistics were women — a much higher rate than in many other countries, including developed nations.

We are seeing the fruits of this progress in education, as our universities are making it into international rankings and every day we rejoice at news of our high-achieving young men and women winning international awards and accolades in various fields.

The Ministry of Education is one of the country’s largest public institutions and the government has consistently allocated the largest percentage of its annual budget to education.

The objective, according to the Ministry of Education, is to keep pace with international best practices and reduce the gaps in the number of school days.

The minister said that the new academic school semester has been extended to cover 13 weeks, with seven-day breaks in between, while also including 12 holidays that incorporate long weekends.

More important are the radical changes to the curriculum, with the introduction of new subjects

such as philosophy, critical thinking, digital skills and music. English will also be taught from elementary grades instead of intermediate.

These are in addition to a reduced emphasis on religious education courses, which have been revised and screened for content that does not espouse moderate Islamic teachings.

Therefore, the new reforms are to boost enrollment in the fields of study related to the job market and its future demands.

In addition to the changes mentioned, smart classrooms and digital education management systems have been introduced across Saudi Arabia, with textbooks swapped for mobile devices that provide up-to-date content, while printed exams are transitioning to online assessments and, in higher education, more research centers and specialized universities are being opened.

The government is placing more and more emphasis on quality assurance in higher education and focusing on academic accreditation for both public and private institutions.

Furthermore, according to UNESCO, the number of degree-seeking students Saudi Arabia sends overseas places it among the top 10 countries worldwide.

Fully 5 percent of all Saudi tertiary students were studying abroad in 2017, which is considered a high outbound student mobility ratio by global standards, which is sustained by extensive government funding.

This kind of investment in Saudi human capital is needed to ensure sustainable development.

Change does not happen easily. However, with a clear vision, plan and steps for implementation, and with joint efforts and coordination under a strong, confident leadership, we will be on track for the future.

On National Day, we celebrate what we achieved with pride and look forward to the future with high hopes and determination.

Maha Akeel is a Saudi writer based in Jeddah, Courtesy: Arab News

# Islamic banking in Africa to gain foothold over next decade

*Islamic banking assets constitute only 2% of global Shariah-compliant banking assets*

DUBAI: Islamic banking assets in Africa are expected to increase noticeably over the next 10 years, given the continent's large Muslim populations, Moody's Investors Service said in a new report.

"There is huge potential for growth in the sector, given Africa's large Muslim populations and the low starting base," said Mik Kabeya, Vice President, Senior Analyst at Moody's.

The Muslim population of Africa stands at some 530 million people, around 40% of the African population. In North Africa, the Muslim population is above 90%, close to levels in Gulf countries and some way above Malaysia, where numbers are around 60%.

Africa's unbanked populations, particularly those opting out of the conventional system due to their religious beliefs, present an untapped pool of potential deposits and investments. However, ongoing challenges will constrain Islamic banking's growth over the next 12 to 18 months.

Rising competition among conventional banks in Africa makes for a difficult environment for developing the Islamic banking industry.

In addition, the legal, regulatory and tax regimes for the Islamic finance industry across the continent are in the early stages of development.

"Legal frameworks for the sector are a prerequisite for establishing both fully-fledged Islamic lenders and windows," Kabeya said. Islamic banking assets in



Africa comprised only 2% of global and less than 10% of total domestic banking assets in most African countries as of December 2021.

This is despite sub-Saharan Africa having around 15% of the world's Muslim population. The exceptions are Sudan, whose

banking system is fully Shariah compliant and Djibouti, where Islamic banking assets make up around 25% of banking sector assets, the report stated.

## Almarai completes redemption of \$426mln sukuk



RIYADH: Almarai Company has fully redeemed its SAR 1.60 billion Sukuk – Series V on 16 September 2022.

Issued on 16 September 2015, a total of 1,600 Sukuk notes were redeemed at a par value of SAR 1 million each, according to a bourse disclosure.

The Saudi listed firm pointed out that the transaction will reflect on its income statements during the third quarter (Q3) of 2022.

In the first six months (6M) of 2022, Almarai logged net profits after Zakat and tax worth SAR 940.81 million, an annual growth of 8.40% from SAR 867.92 million.

Revenues soared by 19.13% year-on-year (YoY) to SAR 9.11 billion in H1-22 from SAR 7.65 billion.

## Contact aims to close securitization bond issuance of \$79mln

CAIRO: Contact for consumer finance, a subsidiary of Contact Financial Holding, aims to close a securitization bond issuance of EGP 1.5bn within a month.

Saeed Zaatar, CEO of Contact Financial Holding, told Daily News Egypt that the issuance is for consumer goods. He expects that it will be completed within a month after obtaining the necessary approvals from Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA), to become one of the largest securitization issuances in the consumer finance sector.

The FRA approved the issuance of "Mudaraba Sukuk" with a value of EGP



2bn for 84 months. This is the fourth version of sukuk issuances by Contact Financial.

The company directs the outcome of the issuance to finance the purchase of cars owned by its own customers or customers of its subsidiary and sister companies

that carry out the same activity, bringing the total sukuk issued this year to EGP 5.251bn.

It is worth noting that the total issuances of bonds and sukuk that obtained the approval of the FRA in 2022 is worth about EGP 16.410bn.

## Al Rajhi Bank ups stake in Alrajhi Takaful



RIYADH: Al Rajhi Bank has increased its stake in Al-Rajhi Company for Cooperative Insurance (Alrajhi Takaful) to 35% after obtaining the Saudi Central Bank's (SAMA) go-ahead.

The transaction aims to strengthen the bank's role in developing the financial sector while supporting Alrajhi Takaful and its qualified cadres in achieving the company's strategy in the

insurance sector, according to a bourse statement on Sunday.

Earlier, the Tadawul-listed bank owned a stake of 22.50% in Alrajhi Takaful. It is worth noting that in the first half (H1) of 2022, Al Rajhi Bank reported an increase of 20.9% in net profits to SAR 8.4 billion, compared with SAR 6.9 billion in the corresponding period in 2021.

## Takaful Emarat board agrees \$13.6mln capital reduction

DUBAI: The board of Dubai-based Islamic insurer Takaful Emarat has agreed to reduce the company's issued share capital by AED 50 million (\$13.6 million) to write off accumulated losses.

The board will recommend the reduction to the company's general assembly, subject to approval from the Central Bank of the UAE and the Securities and Commodities Authority, a statement to Dubai Financial Market (DFM) said.

Auditor EY said last month in its introduction to the company's Q2 2022 results stated that it had failed to meet AED 100 million capital requirements.

## ahli islamic announces easy and convenient financing offers



MUSCAT: Mindful of the changing needs and requirements of the local market, ahli islamic has announced a bouquet of easy and convenient financing offers to partner in fulfilling its customers' personal responsibilities.

From mortgage-free auto finance to home and personal finance, ahli islamic presents its broad range of Sharia-compliant financing products with attractive profit rates. While the key objective behind the new scheme is to facilitate financial opportunities for retail customers, ahli islamic is also utilising this platform to demonstrate its commitment to uphold its service standards of 'partnering' with the customer, instead of merely financing. This will translate into simple financing procedures and convenient options for its growing customer base.

As per the new offer, customers looking for mortgage-free auto financing can choose repayment

## Watani Iron Steel renews, amends \$16mln loan deal



RIYADH: Watani Iron Steel Company has renewed and amended a Sharia-compliant credit facility agreement worth SAR 60 million with Bank Albilad.

The loan aims to finance the steel company's working capital, according to a bourse disclosure on Sunday. The loan term began on 7 September 2022 and will end on 1 September 2023. The facility agreement is secured by a promissory note with the value of the facilities in favor of the bank.

Furthermore, Watani Iron Steel renewed a short-term SAR 60 million credit facility agreement to finance its working capital, with a lower profit rate for the current year, compared to a year earlier, whilst maintaining a promissory note with the value of the facilities in favor of the bank only.

During the first half (H1) of 2022, Bank Albilad recorded net profits worth SAR 1 billion, an annual jump of 23.80% from SAR 808.80 million.

# Global sukuk issuance projected to reach \$257bln by 2027

DUBAI: Global sukuk issuance raised \$100.9 billion in the first half of 2022, slightly lower than the \$104.2 billion issued during H1 2021, according to the 2022 Sukuk Perceptions and Forecast Study by Refinitiv.

Mustafa Adil, Head of Islamic Finance, Refinitiv, an LSEG business, said, "A new sukuk issuance record had been set in 2021 for the fifth consecutive year, reaching a total of \$196.5 billion. Although this was up by 8.2% from \$181.6 billion in 2020, that compares with the much greater average annual growth of 21%, in the previous five years."

The report projects that global sukuk issuance will moderate in 2022, settling at \$185 billion by the end of the year. Issuance is projected to then grow by 6.4% annually over the next five years, reaching \$257 billion in 2027. Total sukuk outstanding is projected to reach \$742.3 billion by

the end of the year and \$1.1 trillion by 2027.

Although economic and geopolitical developments earlier in the year had a muted impact on sukuk markets, issuance nonetheless eventually slowed on the back of multiple policy rate hikes and persistently high oil prices. Even so, robust demand for sukuk and growing inflation-induced budgetary pressures on economies such as Malaysia, Indonesia and Pakistan have buoyed global issuance during H1, and continue to do so in the short term.

"Despite a strong start to the year, issuance momentum slowed as the Federal Reserve and other central banks kicked off a global monetary tightening cycle. The surge in oil prices also contributed to the slowdown in issuance, as it reduced government borrowing needs in core sukuk markets," Adil added.

Issuance began to moderate in the



second quarter due to smaller issuances by the Saudi government, whose funding requirements reduced amid soaring oil revenues. The kingdom reported a \$21 billion budget surplus in Q2, boosted by an 89 percent increase in oil income from the previous year. Despite this, the government has pledged that its spending will not be influenced by oil price movements and will continue to curb spending this year, signalling smaller issue sizes ahead.

In the GCC, most governments will be ending this year with budget surpluses. Still, most of the region's economic development visions are coming to term by 2030 with many strategic projects either underway or being revived. Sukuk supporting these projects will likely be offered when more conducive issuance conditions transpire. As a result, GCC sukuk issuance will likely remain flat at best.

Bull & Bears  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
40,927.95	40,965.58
Day's High	Day's Low:
40,986.95	40,417.92
Index Value	Change
5,433,826,383	−37.63
Percentage	Time
−0.09%	22 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,159.52	−78.12
Percentage	Time
−1.08%	22 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT +1
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
30,180.17	−3.61
Percentage	Time
−0.012%	22 Sept, 12:25 pm GMT-4
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,153.83	−159.30
Percentage	Time
−0.58%	22 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

Khushhali  
Microfinance  
Bank provides  
educational  
support to students



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited is a leading financial institution of Pakistan, which is introducing global standards of banking for economic growth of the country, while it has a broad based ‘Corporate Social Responsibility’ (CSR) program, to ensure the wellbeing of wider community.

Khushhali Microfinance Bank CSR Program – ‘Education for Khushhali’ is providing educational support to deserving students in numerous underprivileged regions and this initiative has been recently extended to two more districts–Haripur and Lalamusa.

In two separate initiatives launched by Khushhali Microfinance Bank, KMBL’s volunteers visited the Government Primary School at Dobandi Bala town in Haripur and the Government Elementary School at Chak Dina Town in Lala Musa. Khushhali Microfinance Bank volunteers encouraged the students to perform better in studies, while hundreds of deserving students were presented with new school-bags, stationary-items and uniforms. This program is aimed at helping and inspiring the students to continue their pursuit of Education.

The Founder and President of Khushhali Microfinance Bank – Ghalib Nish-tar expressed his pleasure for being able to contribute towards the enlightenment of the next generation. He stated that: “We have a commitment to continue reaching out for the improvement of academic facilities across the underprivileged regions.

With better education, these students will be able to develop their communities for a progressive future. The inspiration behind this initiative is to enable the students to pursue education, despite financial-constraints. So we are fulfilling their academic requirements by providing educational accessories, tools and methodologies.”

Minister ensures support for Sialkot  
based surgical industry

*SIMAP welcomes steps being taken by Ministry of Industries & Production*

Spokesman Report

SIALKOT: The Federal Minister for Industries & Production, Makhdoom Syed Murtaza Mahmood assured the surgical instruments industry of his full support in resolving their issues and facilitating them in becoming medical device manufacturers.

He made these remarks during his visit to Surgical Instruments Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (SIMAP) office in Sialkot. He was accompanied by Chairman Engineering Development Board and senior officials of the Ministry of Industries & Production comprising Chairman EPZA, CEO EDB, CEO SMEDA, CEO NPO, Director TUSDEC, CEO PITAC. Provincial organizations present in the meeting included Punjab Small Industrial Corporation, Cluster Development Institute, TEVTA and Customs Department.

Chief Executive Officer of EDB briefed the participants that presently, MoIP organizations EDB, EPZA,

NPO, SMEDA, PITAC and TUSDEC are jointly working with the surgical industry to address various issues being faced by them to improve efficiency productivity and enhance as well as diversify exports.

President SIMAP welcomed the steps being taken by Ministry of Industries & Production for joint working through its attached departments towards supporting the surgical instrument industry to improve its productivity, output and enhancing exports and assured their full cooperation to the government of Pakistan to achieve these objectives.

He briefed the Federal Minister about the problems being faced by the surgical instrument manufacturers. He informed that the industry needs government support for identifying joint venture partners from China for transfer of technology for entering into manufacturing of medical devices / appliances. Furthermore, brand development, trainings for skilled labour and machine operators, lab infrastructure for certifications,



Medical Devices Regulations were other key issues requiring immediate attention.

Chairman EDB, Mr. Almas Hyder was of the view that it is high time for the industry to graduate from traditional instrument manufacturing to hi-tech product manufacturing and become a hub of medical devices. Issues and bottlenecks

in this process need to be identified and overcome to achieve this end. The industry needs to work with the government to address all such issues and develop a roadmap for bringing innovations, and value addition to this industry. He requested industry to identify required technologies and experts facilitate this migration.

The Federal Minister advised to

take on board all the relevant organizations like Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Commerce, PCSIR, PNAC etc., for an early resolution of MDR regulations which will come in force 2024 and may seriously affect the exports of this sector if compliance is not achieved by the industry. He assured to seek possibilities at the government level to negotiate with other international certification bodies for providing MDR solutions to the industry.

He advised the industry to identify two to three medical devices for reverse engineering and local manufacturing with the support of MoIP organizations. The Minister also directed to review the existing rules & regulations of EPZA and other SEZs for making them more industry friendly to increase ease of doing business in the country. He advised that all the provincial and federal organization and departments need work together to solve problems faced by the surgical industry for further increasing exports of surgical sector.

Akram Farid felicitates over victory  
in elections

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of ICCI and Former Chairman of Founder Group, Mian Akram Farid, while congratulating the elected Executive Members of Islamabad Chamber in the recent election, he said that workers are the backbone of any movement. And the success of the ICCI Founder Group in the election was made possible by the tireless work of the workers and the day and night hard work and correct guidance of the leaders.

In selecting the candidates, Founder Group Council has always kept merit and transparency in mind–and by the grace of Allah, all the seats will be the destiny of Founder Group–He said that Founder Group has continuously achieved its success through its performance and efforts.

And it was the Founder Group that brought the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the attention of the entire Pakistan and abroad–Former President ICCI further said that the Founder Group is the Fata of Haq and Truth, the members have voted to take on new responsibility given to the new leadership,



he said that it is hoped that the newly elected leadership will meet the expectations of the members of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry and will do justice to their positions.

He said that the honorable members of the Islamabad Chamber in the election last day rejected the politics of lies and accusations, and the opposition could not win a single seat, and the opposition got few votes because they had nothing to show for their performance except lies and smearing others.

Newly elected executive members, Nasir M. Qureshi, Fahad Waheed, Chaudhry Naeem, Malik Jalil Awan, Dr. Muham-

mad Usman, Muhammad Yahya, Ameer Hamza, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Irfan Zafar, Ahmed Khan, Ashfaq Ahmad Chatta, Chaudhry Maqsood Tabish, Faizan Shahzad, Mohammad Rizwan Chheena congratulating on his success in the election, he congratulated Chairman Founder Group, Vice Chairman A. Lecture Campaign Khalid Iqbal Malik, Co-Chairman Election Campaign, Ijaz Abbasi, Waseikh Amir Waheed, Council Members Founder Group, Khalid Javed Zubair Ahmed Malik, Sheikh Tariq Sadiq, Abdul Rauf Alam, Mian Shaukat Masud, Zafar Bakhtawari, Chaudhry Waheed-ud-Din, and former ICCI Presidents.

Pakistan is among most suitable  
countries for solar energy

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI’s Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Thursday said Pakistan is among the most promising countries for solar energy, but instead of benefiting from this source of unlimited energy, it is being discouraged.

Solar consumers are being cheated and now such policies are in the offing which will wipe out the existence of this important industry, he said.

Taking to an emergency meeting, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the energy needs of the country are increasing but the unlimited resource of solar energy is not being given importance like oil, coal, gas and LNG while the import of costly fossil fuels worth billions of dollars continues.

He said that India has announced incentives worth Rs19,500 crores to encourage



solar energy. An investment of Rs94,000 crores is expected in the sector after incentives which will also provide employment to almost one million people and reduce their import bill, but the opposite is happening in Pakistan.

He said that solar energy can play an important role in generating millions of megawatts of electricity, saving precious foreign exchange, tackling the threat of climate change and improving the quality of life of people living

in remote areas, but this requires friendly laws which is not the case in Pakistan.

Solar consumers are facing systemic exploitation, imports of solar panels etc. have been stopped under various pretexts, solar companies are going bankrupt, banks have refused financing while Nepra on the behest of DISCOs is working to reduce the profits of solar consumers which will discourage them.

The central bank initiated a very attractive scheme of long-term subsidised financing in 2016, available for solar installations at rates as low as 3-4 per cent with repayment periods extending up to 10-12 years. This funding is now no longer available through commercial banks.

The business leader said that the price of electricity is continuously increasing in the country, but electricity is being bought

cheaply from consumers who use net metering and now it is being reduced further.

Consumers of net metering generate electricity for themselves and sell the surplus to the government to help it overcome shortages. Presently base tariff is Rs24 in Pakistan but those using net metering are being paid Rs13 per unit and it has been decided to reduce it to Rs9 per unit which is exploitation.

Solar consumers are also made to pay transmission and distribution losses and power theft which is unjustified, he said, adding that authorities should abstain from moves which will destroy the solar industry in Pakistan.

The role of NEPRA is to safeguard the interests of the consumers who are no match for the very strong lobby of distribution companies who always manage to get things done their way at the cost of the consumers.

PTCL, PRCS  
collaborate to provide  
potable water



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PTCL & Ufone 4G have joined hands with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) to provide safe and clean drinking water to thousands of people including children and elderly in flood-affected areas of Sindh and Balochistan.

Through this initiative, the locals will stay protected from a range of water-borne diseases caused by

floods that have contaminated the wells and underground reservoirs.

In order to prevent serious health hazards PTCL and PRCS will provide 72,000 liters of safe drinking water per day to families in Larkana, Shaheed Benazirabad, and Jaffarabad districts of Sindh and Balochistan respectively. The provisions will cater the drinking water needs of the flood-affected communities each day.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari elected upcoming ICCI president

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The nominated presidential candidate of Founders Group, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has secured record 987 and achieved historical victory in the annual election 2022-23, of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI).

In the annual election 2022-23 of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the Founders Group won all the seats of the executive committee with a huge majority. Founders Group’s Presidential nominated candidate Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari set a record by taking more 987 votes, the turnout in the election was also a record of more than 80%, in the history of the chamber, no candidate has ever received so many votes, so many

turnouts has never been seen.

Speaking on the occasion, Upcoming president of ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that he will play his full role in bringing Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry to the international level and connecting the business community with international markets.

He said that he will play an active role with his team in improving the image of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry not only in Pakistan but also internationally.

He said that there is a need to pave the way for international investment in the country at this time, by working on it, his team will create opportunities for trade and investment in the global market by connecting local businessmen with the international market.



Ahsan Bakhtawari said that connecting local businessmen with regional and global markets and increasing trade is part of their core

vision.

He said that they are aware of the problems faced by the business community in Islamabad at present

and fully prepared to face these challenges.”

He said that the business community should hope that he raises their voices at every forum to solve these problems. After the announcement of the results, the supporters of the Founders Group had a great celebration, raised slogans, distributed sweets, lifted the nominated presidential candidate Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on their shoulders and carried him in a “baghi” to his election office Blue Area in the form of a rally.

According to the details, polling continued uninterruptedly from 9 am to 5 pm in Chamber House G-8/1 Islamabad yesterday in connection with the Annual Election 2022-23 of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

# Babar masterclass helps Pakistan level series against England

*Rizwan, Babar put on a stunning partnership*

KARACHI: Pakistan mounted a great comeback into the series on the back of a stunning century from Babar Azam along with a brilliant 88\* from Mohammad Rizwan in the second T20I against England.

Alex Hales and Phil Salt put on a quickfire 42-run partnership in the first five overs. Salt got England up and running with a six against Mohammad Nawaz and Hales followed it up with a four and six in the next over.

Shahnawaz Dahani turned it around for Pakistan in the final over of the Powerplay and was on a hat-trick with the wicket of Hales and Dawid Malan. England, however, did not go into a shell with Ben Duckett counter-attacking with the bat. England scored seven boundaries in the next eight overs and all of them came from Duckett en route to his 22-ball 43.

Just when England were once again looking dangerous, the hosts struck back with two wickets in two overs with both set batters heading back to the pavilion. Once again, the visitors fought fire with fire and took the attack to Pakistan.

Harry Brook and Moeen Ali added



59 runs in just 27 balls in a partnership laced with three fours and five sixes. The captain made Pakistan pay for the dropped catch in the 18th over and finished with a flurry. With two sixes off the last two balls, Ali got to his fifty and set Pakistan a daunting target of 200.

Needing to chase at 10 runs an over, Mohammad Rizwan made his intent clear with two boundaries in the very first

over. Babar Azam too got in on the act with two boundaries of his own in the third over against Sam Curran.

The carnage continued in the remaining overs of the Powerplay as the two took Pakistan to 59/0 at the end of six overs. The boundaries continued to flow even after the fielding restrictions ended as both Rizwan and Babar got to their fifties in 30 and 39 balls respectively.

The Pakistan captain became even more dangerous once he got to his half-century. After reaching his fifty in 39 balls, he only needed 23 more balls to reach his three-figure milestone. With his 62-ball century, he became the first Pakistani batter to score two T20I centuries. The two star batters remained unbeaten as they chased down the total with three balls to spare and level the series 1-1.

## Federer one of the greatest athletes: Djokovic

LONDON: Novak hailed the retiring Roger Federer as one of the greatest athletes of all time and said he would leave a lasting legacy for the world of tennis.

The 41-year-old Swiss great will play competitively for the last time at this week's Laver Cup, turning out for Team Europe alongside Rafa Nadal, Andy Murray and Djokovic—the three biggest rivals of his glittering 24-year career.

Federer, who has won 20 Grand Slam titles, has struggled with injuries in recent years and said last week that he would end his career after the Laver Cup in London.

"His impact on the game has been tremendous, the way he was playing, his style, effortless, just perfect for an eye of a tennis coach, player or just a tennis fan," Serbian Djokovic told reporters on Wednesday at London's Tower Bridge.

"He has left a huge legacy that will live for a very long time," Djokovic beat Federer in four major finals including



at Wimbledon in 2019, the Swiss's last Grand Slam final.

"Both Andy and I didn't know that this is going to be his last match, his farewell this weekend, so that makes this occasion even greater because he's one of the greatest athletes ever to play sport, any sport," said Djokovic, who is one major title behind Nadal's men's record of 22.

"His popularity on and off the court speaks for itself. So

I'm sure we're going to have a blast this weekend."

This week's Laver Cup will be the first time that Federer, Nadal, Murray and Djokovic are playing together in an event since the 2019 Australian Open. "It's great we will have a chance to spend some quality time off the court together," Djokovic told Euro-sport.

"We have team dinners and will chat about tennis, sports,

life. We don't normally do that on tour, we have our own teams and families, so this is quite unique.

"We all want to win and perform well but at the same time because of Roger's farewell and the opportunity to be alongside some of my greatest rivals in my career you also want to share some good times off the court too. "The WhatsApp group is what keeps us together."

## Bale confident of World Cup fitness

LONDON: Wales captain Gareth Bale insists he will be fully fit in time for the World Cup despite his lack of action with Los Angeles FC.

Bale has made just two starts among his 11 appearances for the MLS team and has yet to play 90 minutes since joining in July.

But the 33-year-old is adamant his fitness programme is tailored to reach its peak for the end of the MLS season and the World Cup in Qatar in November.

Speaking after linking up with Wales for their Nations League games against Belgium and Poland, Bale said: "We have a plan in LA with what we're doing. We're



not doing too much straight away.

"Every footballer wants to play as much as they can, but we're being clever and building myself up for the last important part of the season. "Hopefully that should put me in great shape for the World Cup. I think I'll be a lot fitter.

"Of course I want to play 90 minutes as much as I can, but I understand I need to build up to that because I haven't done it an awful lot in the last few years.

"The plan is just to be 100 per cent to help LAFC first and foremost. Ultimately, that will lead into me being

100 per cent fit for the World Cup." Bale turned down offers to stay in Europe, including one from his hometown club Cardiff, as he moved to the United States following nine turbulent years with Real Madrid.

Wales manager Robert Page will assess Bale's condition before deciding whether to start him against Belgium, the world's number two-ranked team, in Brussels on Thursday.

"His preparation started as soon as the final whistle went in his Los Angeles game. He goes to the nth degree," Page said. "I'm not surprised by his professionalism, but I was surprised with how fresh he looked."

## Ghana's new recruits get Brazil test

LE HAVRE: While Brazil will jet off to Qatar in November dreaming of winning a sixth World Cup, Ghana hope the addition of reinforcements from the diaspora can re-establish the Black Stars as one of Africa's top sides.

Unbeaten throughout World Cup qualifying, Brazil's only competitive loss since going out to Belgium in the 2018 quarter-finals in Russia came against Argentina in last year's Copa America final.

Ghana's recent record is far less impressive going into Friday's match in Le Havre, one of two final warm-up games for both nations ahead of the global showpiece. A shock loss to the Comoros in January consigned Ghana to their earliest Africa Cup of Nations exit in 16 years.

But after the humiliation of that group stage debacle in

Cameroon, Ghana rebounded by defeating fierce West African rivals Nigeria to reach a fourth World Cup in five tries.

They edged Nigeria on away goals and with the bitter memories of an AFCON failure still fresh, Ghana's management team made it a matter of urgency to cast the net for new players far and wide.

Coach Otto Addo turned to his German roots to lure Ransford-Yeboah Konigsdorffer and Stephan Ambrosius, both capped by Germany at under-21 level, while Chris Hughton was instrumental in convincing Tariq Lamptey to switch allegiance from England.

Yet the most intriguing newcomer in the Ghana camp is Inaki Williams, who won one cap for Spain, the country of his birth, in a 2016 friendly.

Williams has made a record 239 consecutive La Liga appearances for Athletic Bilbao. His younger brother, Nico, was called up by Spain for the first time last week.

The 28-year-old qualifies through his parents, who left Ghana and crossed the Sahara desert barefoot before eventually resettling in Bilbao shortly before Williams was born.

"Despite being born in Europe, I have my African roots and Ghanaian blood," Williams told BBC Sport Africa last month.

"I think this is the best moment to make that decision. I don't think I will regret it because these trains (opportunities) only come by once.

"I wasn't going to have this opportunity again and I think I made the right choices. I will enjoy the moment, my roots and

repay the chance Ghana has given me."

Southampton defender Mohammed Salisu has also made himself available having turned down previous call-ups. There are concerns the influx of new players could disturb the harmony of the squad that qualified for the World Cup.

Addo, himself born in Germany to Ghanaian parents, is keen to stress to his dual nationals the choice to represent the four-time African champions is "a lifetime decision".

"It's not only about the World Cup, but also about more World Cups to come," Addo, who played for Ghana at the 2006 World Cup, told the BBC World Football podcast.

"It's about African Cup of Nations. It's about winning, being successful. So, it's not about just



this one World Cup in Qatar." Addo will have little time to integrate the newcomers with next Tuesday's friendly against Nicaragua in Spain the only other run-out scheduled before he names his final list for Qatar.

The finals will surely represent one last chance for Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to lift a



World Cup, but the same could apply to Neymar, still comparatively young at 30. The Brazilian said last year he might not feature at a World Cup again, such is the strain on his body and mind.

But Neymar looks to have returned to the peak of his powers after a brilliant start to the season with Paris Saint-Germain.

He is three shy of Pelé's national record of 77 goals for Brazil, and coach Tite believes a new generation of players are ready to share the load. However, there was no place for Gabriel Jesus in his latest squad despite the striker impressing since his July move from Manchester City to Arsenal.



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