



Daily The Spokesman

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فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے سونے بیان کیا کہ ہم سے بھی
نے بیان کیا ان سے عید اللہ ہے، کہا مجھ
سے تاق نے بیان کیا اور ان سے عید اللہ
رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم نے پانچ گروہوں کے گوشت
کی ممانعت کی تھی۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5522)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

AJK President urges UN, OIC to support Kashmiris'

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry, while terming Kashmir dispute as one of the oldest disputes pending on the United Nations' agenda, said on Friday it was high time that the UN and OIC must come forward to support Kashmiris the right to self-determination.



Pakistani investors invited to explore UAE for investment

Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan said that United Arab Emirates (UAE) was emerging as a hub of trade and investment activities and was striving to attract USD 150 billion of inward investment by 2030, therefore, it was the right time for Pakistani investors to focus on UAE for business and investment activities.

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US President vows to help Pakistan addressing devastating floods

NEW YORK: US President Joe Biden has expressed the commitment to continue helping Islamabad in the wake of difficult humanitarian situation due to devastating floods in Pakistan. He expressed this resolve during his meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in New York. The meeting was held at the reception of world leaders participating in 77th session of UNGA hosted by Joe Biden. President Biden expressed grief with the affected families over loss of human lives and the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan. On the occasion, the PM thanked the US President for his message to the international community to the flood affected people and to support Pakistan. APP

Nawaz Sharif seeks relief under Amended NAB Law

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif has moved accountability court for relief in corruption cases under NAB Amendments Ordinance 2022. As per details, Nawaz Sharif has filed plea in the accountability court against declaring him absconder in the plot allotment case. In his plea, Nawaz Sharif has stated that as per new NAB amendments, corruption cases worth less than Rs500 million cannot be taken up by graft-buster body as he is accused of Rs130 million corruption in the case. Citing the acquittal of three accused in the corruption reference, the former prime minister has pleaded with the court to end the reference and order revival of his seized assets. Agencies

Pak-US ties

New York: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President Joe Biden at the reception of world leaders participating in 77th session of UNGA hosted by US President Joe Biden.

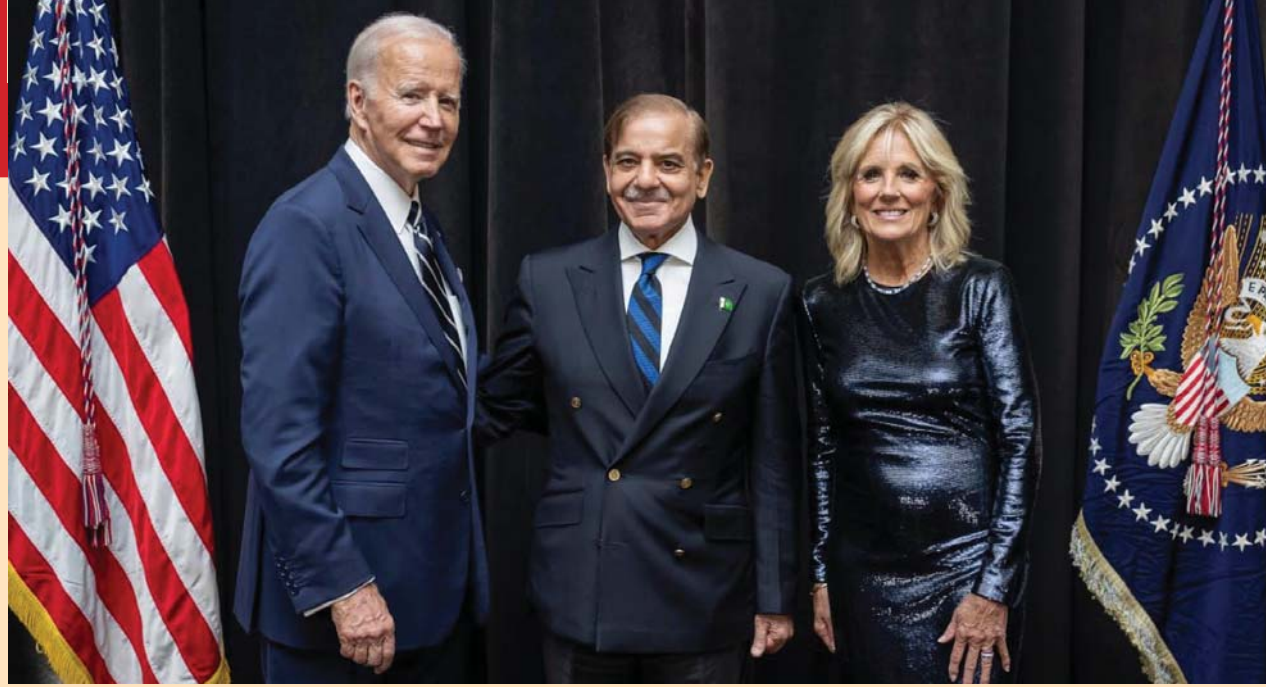


Photo: PID

77th UNGA Session

PM urges global leaders to act against climate change

Addressing UNGA session, Shehbaz says no peace in South Asia without resolving Kashmir issue

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has urged the world leaders to come together and "act now" to deal with the issue of climate change. In his address to the 77th session of United Nations General Assembly in New York on Friday, he said we expect some approximation of justice for the loss and damage by this calamity that has not been triggered by anything we have done. The Prime Minister said due to this global challenge, our glaciers are melting fast, our forests are burning, and our heat waves have crossed 53 degree C, making us the hottest place on the planet. He said during the recent

calamity, for 40 days and 40 nights a biblical flood poured down on us, smashing centuries of weather records, challenging everything we knew about disaster, and how to manage it. The Prime Minister said this calamity has pushed some 11 million people below the poverty line, while others will drift to cramped urban shelters, leaving little room for climate-smart rebuilding. He said Pakistan's urgent priority right now is to ensure rapid economic growth and lift millions out of destitution and hunger. To enable any such policy momentum, Pakistan needs a stable external environment and we look for peace with all our neighbours, including India.



Talking about Kashmir issue, the Prime Minister said sustainable peace and stability in South Asia, however, remains contingent upon a just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. He said India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August

2019, to change the internationally recognized status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory further undermined the prospects of peace and inflamed regional tensions. Shedding light on Afghanistan's issue, the Prime Minister said Afghanistan today presents a unique challenge as 30 million Afghans are left without a functional economy and banking system that allows ordinary Afghans to make a living to be able to build a better future. He said Pakistan would also like to see an Afghanistan which is at peace with itself and the world, and which respects and nurtures all its citizens, without regard to gender, ethnicity and religion.

Ishaq Dar to return to Pakistan next week

Dar says he will take oath as a senator immediately after his return

LONDON: Former finance minister Ishaq Dar has decided to return to Pakistan before October 7, confirming that he will probably be in Pakistan next weekend. Speaking to a private tv channel, he said that he will take oath as a Senator immediately after his return. Addressing rumours regarding him replacing Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, he said: "I will perform whatever duty is assigned to me by [PML-N supremo] Nawaz Sharif and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif." He revealed that Shehbaz

will return to London after attending the United Nations General Assembly summit being held in New York. "I will adhere to whatever is decided after consultations with Shehbaz and Nawaz," he maintained. Earlier on Friday, an accountability court in the federal capital suspended the arrest warrants of the former finance minister till October 7 in a case pertaining to him being a proclaimed offender. Commenting on the court's decision, he said that he will have to return before that. Agencies

COAS visits flood-hit areas in Badin

Gen. Bajwa lauds role of business community to help flood victims



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday visited the flood-affected areas of Badin, and spent time with the affected in the relief and medical camps. He also met the army troops busy in rescue and relief activities in Malkani Sharif, Badin district, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) press release said. Later, the COAS had an aerial reconnaissance of the flood-affected areas of Badin

and its surroundings. General Bajwa also interacted with the business community in Karachi. During the interaction, the COAS said the business community had always helped the countrymen whenever a natural calamity hit Pakistan, including the recent floods. The business community members acknowledged the role and sacrifices of the Pakistan Army for ensuring a safe environment for the country's economic prosperity, and assured the COAS of maximum support for the flood affected people.

PM raised voice on global warming: Marriyum

Says Pakistan facing health disaster due to floods and there was a dire need for medicines

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised his voice at international level regarding global warming and climate change, which was a common problem of the entire world. Talking to the media persons on the occasion her visit the photo exhibition organized by the Ministry of Information at the United Nations Secretariat lobby, she said currently Pakistan was facing health disaster due to floods and there was a dire need for medicines. She said winter was approaching and flood victims were in dire need of blankets, warm clothes and sheets etc. Those who wanted to help flood victims, they could help through NDMA and civil society, she said. Many women in the flood-affected areas were expecting babies and there was a dire need for baby milk,

baby food and other related items, she added. The Prime Minister had issued instructions regarding the distribution of tents in Sindh and Balochistan, she said adding tents were being distributed keeping in view the needs of the victims. The minister said that NDMA had been sharing its data with the general public on a daily basis and they were informed about what was required at which place. She said all our efforts were being made to provide relief to flood victims. Marriyum said that the Prime Minister yesterday had presided over a review meeting regarding the flood victims, in which it was found that there was a shortage of panadol and paracetamol tablets. The consumption of panadol and paracetamol had increased due to flood-related diseases and dengue, the minister said. She said that demand for these drugs was high, their production was less than increased demand where-

as the cost of production was also high. The Prime Minister had clearly instructed that the prices of these medicines would not be increased, she maintained. The PM had directed the Ministry of Finance to subsidize these medicines, she added. The minister said process of screening NGOs which were closed had been started by the Ministry of Interior so that they could start work in flood affected areas. At present, NGOs and civil society were doing very good work in the flood-affected areas, which had been appreciated not only by the Prime Minister, but at the public level as well, she added. The minister said there was a role of civil society all over the world, when this role was included in the efforts of the government, any disaster could be faced. The current focus of the government was on rehabilitation of the flood-affected areas, she added.

Debt relief

Pakistan not seeking relief from commercial banks: Miftah

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Friday said in the wake of climate related disaster, Pakistan was seeking debt relief from bilateral Paris Club creditors only, not from commercial banks or the Eurobond creditors. "Given the climate-induced disaster in Pakistan, we are seeking debt relief from bilateral Paris Club creditors. We are neither seeking, nor do we need, any relief from commercial banks or Eurobond creditors," he said in his tweet. "We have a \$1 bn bond due in December which we will pay on time and in full," he said, adding that the government had been servicing all the commercial debt and would continue to do so. He said Pakistan's Eurobond debt was only \$8 billion due till 2051 which was not a large burden. "A significant portion of our debt is from friendly countries who have said they will re-roll their deposits," he added.

Imran urges nation to wage jihad for 'Haqiqi Azadi'

Pakistan is going through a decisive phase, says PTI chief

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday said that rural Sindh was going through the "worst form of slavery", therefore, the nation will have to rise up to the occasion and wage jihad (holy war) for future generations. Addressing a students' convention in the federal capital, the former prime minister said that about 80% of women are stripped of their rights in rural Sindh, urging the nation to fight for the future generation and the "Haqiqi Azadi" (real freedom). Once again criticising his political opponents, Khan said that the khalifas (caliphs) in older times used to present themselves before the court but people like Nawaz Sharif and Zardari take money abroad. "How will the country develop when it is ruled by these thieves?" he questioned. The ex-premier said that the "thieves" have taken over Pakistan and their crimes are being gradually forgiven. "Pakistan is going through a decisive phase as Shehbaz Sharif always visits different countries to humiliate Pakistan," he added. The PTI chief has announced resuming his "Haqiqi Azadi" Movement from Saturday (September 24) and appealed to the public to take to the streets as soon as he calls on them. Khan has urged party workers and



supporters to get ready for his call as establishing the "rule of law" was the country's foremost need. Since his ouster in April, Khan has time and again demanded "fair and free" snap polls, warning of a "strict reaction" if the government failed to yield to his demands. Agencies

Seeking support

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing G77 and China annual meeting of Foreign Ministers here on Friday.



Photo: APP

Disputed transaction cases

President lauds private bank for avoiding undue litigation

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: While disposing of five separate representations of a private bank against the decisions of the Banking Mohtasib, President Dr Arif Alvi has appreciated the bank's policy of settling the grievances of customers and implementing the ombudsman's decisions, thus, saving the public's time and expenditure, and avoiding undue litigation. He urged the private banks of the country to provide timely relief to victims of bank frauds, comply with the State Bank of Pakistan's regulations, and save the time of public institutions and other forums of justice by avoiding unnecessary litigation, thus, saving their own time and resources. The president in his five separate decisions appreciated HBL for settling the cases of disputed banking transactions through mutually agreed settlements and paying its customers their lost amounts under its positive pro-people banking policy.

At G77/China

FM urges 'urgent' help to 50 crises-hit states

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Friday called for urgent support to more than 50 developing countries that have suffered disproportionately from shocks such as the Covid-19 pandemic, rising commodity prices, conflict proliferation, and the adverse impacts of climate change, as he highlighted the flood devastation in Pakistan.

"Our countries and peoples confront monumental challenges; we need to change the policies and structures that perpetuate inequality and poverty," Foreign Minister Bilawal said while presiding over a ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 (developing countries) and China.

Pakistan is the current chairman of G-77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest inter-governmental group of emerging countries.

At the outset, FM Bilawal thanked all members of the Group for their "trust and cooperation" with Pakistan as the Group's chairman during the current year.

Dealing with the difficult times facing the developing countries, the foreign minister said in his presidential address, "Our challenges have been exacerbated by

a deficit in solidarity from our developed country partners."

"As a consequence," he said, "we now face the triple interlocking crises of food, fuel and finance."

In this regard, FM Bilawal called for larger ODA (official development assistance) and concessional finance.

"We welcome the proposal (of the UN Secretary-General) for a 'SDG (sustainable development goals) stimulus' of \$500 billion to enable those countries which are in extreme economic distress to revive their economies and development objectives."

He also called for providing emergency food supplies through the WFP (World Food Programme) to the 250 million people in food distress; further moderate prices by enlarging food production and supplies; and support small farmers access to seeds, fertilizer and finance.

Ensuring the availability of energy, especially gas, for the developing countries and exploring mechanisms to reduce the financial burden of imports would also help, he said, while calling for mobilization of the universal availability of Covid-19 vaccines and treatments.

Urgent and adequate assistance to the countries suffering from the impacts of climate change was also necessary, he said.

"Pakistan emits less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions; yet, it is now the epicenter of the impacts of climate change," the foreign minister said, pointing out that one-third of the country – an area the size of the United Kingdom – was under water.

"A thousand people were killed and thousands more injured; 33 million have been affected and 6 million are absolutely destitute. Over a million homes, 7,000 kilometers of roads, 350 bridges and 5 million acres of crops, have been destroyed. The total damage is estimated at over \$20 billion, almost 7% of Pakistan's GDP (gross domestic product)."

"The entire Pakistani nation – government, armed forces and common people – has rallied to provide relief to their compatriots in need," he said, thanking Pakistan's friends, including members of the Group of 77 & China, for the generous support they had provided.

"We are confident that their support will be sustained as Pakistan moves to the daunting task of rehabilitation and reconstruction."

Beyond the emergency actions outlined by him, FM Bilawal said there was need for changing global structures and policies which could end inequity and inequality.

Sheikh Rasheed receives threatening calls

Upon the complain, police has registered a case against unknown persons

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A case has been registered against unknown persons after former interior minister Sheikh Rasheed complained of receiving threatening calls at his residence's landline number.

The former interior minister and chief of Awami Muslim League Sheikh Rasheed filed an application in Kohsar police station against the unknown persons as he received threatening calls.

Sheikh Rasheed in his complaint

stated that he had been receiving threatening calls from unknown persons.

"I have been receiving death and kidnapping threats from unknown phone numbers," he added.

In addition, the former minister has also stated that he had informed other relevant agencies except for the police about receiving threatening calls.

Upon the complaint, a case has been registered under section 306 and Telegraph Act 25-D against unknown persons.

Imran working on agenda of creating 'chaos': Latif

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Javed Latif on Friday alleged that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman had the only agenda of creating 'chaos and anarchy' in the country. He claimed that Imran Khan wanted bloodshed. The government was fully aware of his intentions as his 'late night meetings' were no more secret, the minister said while addressing a press conference. "We know about the agenda of Imran's late night meetings. We also know that he is just a 'stooge' and working on the directions of others," he added. Javed Latif said Imran Khan had already indicated that his party would embark on another long march with full force and preparations as the PTI was not fully prepared at the time its so-called 'Azadi March' of May 25. APP

PML-N govt taking steps to control price hike: Fazal

VEHARI: President, Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) and JUI-F Chief Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman said on Friday that PML-N government was taking steps to control price hike to provide relief to the people.

He expressed these views while addressing a gathering of Ulema, students and notables at Jamia Khalid Bin Waleed in Thingi.

PDM chief was on a visit to Jamia Khalid Bin Waleed to condole the death of Mohtamim Jamia, Sheikh ul Hadith Maulana Zafar Ahmad Qasim.

He said that he was giving best tips to the government as how to push down troubles of the people.

Maulana Fazal underlined the need for forging unity among the Muslim Ummah. APP

Chinese envoy lauds Pakistan's commitment towards CPEC

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong called on Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan in Islamabad on Friday.

Welcoming the Ambassador, Khurram Dastgir Khan remarked that back in 2014, no other country was willing to invest in Pakistan, but our brethren China stood the test of time. He said the Chinese investment in power sector is of immense

importance.

Both sides noted the importance of hydropower projects under CPEC and agreed to expedite the ongoing projects.

The Ambassador appreciated the present government for their commitment towards CPEC and continuous engagement.

He emphasized that this continued association will bear fruit for Pak-China friendship and improve the investment environment for Pakistan.

CJP for upholding rule of law, supremacy of constitution

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial has urged the legislature, the executive, and other state organs to play their role to uphold rule of law and supremacy of constitution in the country.

Addressing the 9th international judicial conference in Islamabad on Friday, he said the judiciary alone cannot pursue these ideals single handedly. The Chief Justice said that the court has the power to declare the rights guaranteed to the people by the constitution and the law but it cannot implement the same except in some circumstances. He said it is therefore the executive which must take charge in this regard and ensure that the words of the court are translated into practical actions for the people.

The Chief Justice of Pakistan said the bar is also expected to join hands in delivery of justice to the people.

Justice Umar Ata Bandial said apart from enforcing the fundamental rights of marginalized segments of the society, the apex court of Pakistan has also delivered landmark judgments to reinforce other dimensions of rule of law. In this respect, the court has come a long way to become a champion for cause of democracy in the country by burying the doctrine of necessity which in the past had been resorted to justify the

imposition of martial law. The Chief Justice recalled that the court had to intervene after the President ordered dissolution of National Assembly in April 2022 on the advice of the then Prime Minister. He said the court found the dissolution as unconstitutional and ordered restoration of the National Assembly for the formation of a parliamentary government in accordance with the provisions of constitution. The Chief Justice said regardless of the efforts of the court to strengthen democracy in the country, progress can only be made if all political parties come together to follow the established democratic practices and perform their respective roles in the parliament under the constitution.

Weekly inflation plunges down 8.11%

Kitchen items' prices ease as SPI falls 0.12 pc

ISLAMABAD: The prices of essential commodities witnessed a considerable decrease as the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) based weekly inflation for the week ended on September 22 for the combined consumption group witnessed a sharp decline of 8.11 percent as compared to the previous week.

The SPI for the week under review in the above mentioned group was recorded at 203.21 points against 221.14 points registered in the previous week, according to the latest data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) released here on Friday.

As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an

increase of 29.28 percent. The weekly SPI with base year 2015-16 = 100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732 witnessed 8.45 percent decrease and went down to 205.98 points from last week's 224.98 points.

Meanwhile, the SPI for the consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888; Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs 44,175 decreased by 11.91 percent, 8.02 percent, 6.07 percent and 4.08 percent respectively.

During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 26 (50.98%) items increased, 10 (19.61%) items decreased and 15

(29.41%) items remained stable.

The items which recorded decrease in their average prices on WoW basis included tomatoes (8.15%), bananas (1.90%), garlic (1.31%), pulse masoor (0.99%), cooking oil 5 litre (0.78%), onions (0.46%), vegetable ghee 2.5kg (0.34%), vegetable ghee 1kg (0.06%), electricity for Q1 (64.23%) and LPG (3.82%).

The commodities which recorded increase in their average prices included tea packet (6.30%), wheat flour (22.47%), tea packet (6.42%), chicken (4.52%), pulse gram (2.54%), bread (2.36%), cigarettes (1.82%), rice basmati broken (1.51%), potatoes (1.45%), pulse moong (1.31%) and rice Irri 6/9 (1.07%). Agencies

KSA National Day

Chairman Senate for further strengthening Pak-Saudi ties

Celebration of 92nd National Day of Saudi Arabia held

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The diplomatic mission headed by the Saudi envoy to Pakistan hosted a grand ceremony at Serena Hotel in the capital, Islamabad, to commemorate Saudi national day on Friday evening.

The national day is celebrated annually on September 23 to commemorate the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 by its founder, King Abdulaziz bin Saud. A large number of foreign diplomats, Pakistani officials, dignitaries, parliamentarians, journalists, and senior military officials were in attendance.

Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy, said the relationship between Pakistan

and Saudi Arabia had been further strengthened and enhanced the strength of the relationship between the two brotherly countries.

Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, in his address as chief guest, congratulated the Saudi leadership and people and said both countries had formed a deep trust and understanding.

"It is now time to take our historic linkages by developing strategic partnership across the key areas of trade and investment, defense and security. We also need to join hands for peace, unity, development across Ummah and to resolve issues in Kashmir and Palestine," he said.

The National Assembly Speaker and Deputy Speaker also extended their

felicitations to the citizens and leadership of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on its 92nd national day.

The NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in his message congratulated the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Crown Prince Deputy Prime Minister/Defense Minister Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Chairman of the Shura Council Dr. Abdullah bin Mohammad bin Ibrahim Al-Sheikh, Royal Family and the Saudi people.

"Saudi Arabia is moving ahead of time when it comes to progress, prosperity and welfare of its people under the visionary and farsighted leadership of the Kingdom," the Speaker remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al-Malkiy and others cutting cake during celebration of the 92 National Day of the Kingdom of the Saudi Arabia at a Local Hotel, in Federal Capital. Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

He asserted that Pakistan always cherished its brotherly ties with the Kingdom. Both the countries always

supported and stood side by side through thick and thin. The NA Speaker said humanitarian

assistance extended by the Kingdom and the people to flood-ravaged Pakistan in the wake of devastating floods was highly appreciable and reflected the love and affection of the brotherly people of the country.

He also emphasized regular high-level exchanges between the parliaments of the two countries as it would further cement the bond of friendship and open new avenues of cooperation in all fields of mutual interest.

On the occasion, Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani while extending his felicitations to Saudi leadership and its people remarked that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are tied in deep-rooted bonds of faith, culture, and history.

Providing relief to farmers Gov't top priority: Sindh Info Minister

Sindh government forms committees to collect accurate data on damages

KARACHI: Sindh Information Minister, Sharjeel Inam Memon, on Friday, said that providing relief to the farmers is the first priority of Sindh government so that they could be able to sow crops of upcoming season.

The minister, in a statement issued here, said that recent heavy rains, besides destroying standing crops, inflicted damages to 3,773,707 acres out of 4,070,614 acres cultivable land in the province.

He said that Sindh government has fixed the support price for new wheat crop at Rs.4000 per 40 kg to provide relief to the farmers. Apart from this, steps were being taken to defer recovery of agricultural loans, he added.

Sindh government has formed committees to collect accurate data



on the damages and those committees would start their survey from coming Monday, he informed.

Water level at two barrages on Indus River in Sindh has receded below 100,000 cusec as inflow at Guddu Barrage was recorded at 87,300 cusec and outflow at 76,000 cusec while inflow and outflow at Sukkur barrage was recorded 92200 and 82000 cusec respectively; Sharjeel Memon said

adding that inflow at Kotri barrage was 203,100 cusec and the outflow 199,300 cusec.

He said that flood water from some areas has been drained out and IDPs have started returning to their homes. Victims from government schools in different areas of Hyderabad like UC Tando Hyder, UC Musa Khatian and other areas had returned to their homes, he added.

The district administration was providing transport facilities, tents and rations to the victims returning to their homes from the relief camp, Sharjeel said.

Giving update on flood situation the information minister said that 4 more precious lives have been lost and total number of deaths reached at 728 people

while 8422 got injured. He further added that 26,506 cattle were reported dead taking the total to 340,015.

According to the report received, 1,061,788 houses have been partially damaged and 720,799 destroyed completely, he said adding that department of Works and Services had reported that 2548 government buildings have been damaged due to recent rains and flood.

He said that relief activities were continue and 295,093 tents, 281,669 plastic tarpaulins, 2,309,809 mosquito nets, 749,762 litres of mineral water, 40,575 jerry cans, 7,579 pillows, 4,620 bed sheets and other relief materials have been provided to the flood affected people while ration bags have been given to 777120 families.

Budget of over Rs3b approved for University of Gujarat

Spokesman Report

GUJARAT: In the 46th meeting of the Syndicate of the University of Gujarat, a budget of more than 3 billion was approved for the financial year 2022-23.

The 46th meeting of the Syndicate was held at Hafiz Hayat Campus under the chairmanship of Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Shabbar Ateeq. In addition, in the Syndicate meeting various administrative and teaching matters of Gujarat University were discussed, various proposals and decisions of the Academic Council, Selection Boards and Finance.

And the decisions of the Planning Board were also approved. Effective suggestions were made by the members for further improvement while discussing the important issues of different departments of Gujarat University. All the members who participated in the meeting appreciated the teaching and administrative performance of Gujarat University. Gujarat University is an emerging university of Pakistan and every year thousands of students benefit from the academic, practical and research activities of this university in various fields of life.

I am doing my duty to serve my country. In the syndicate meeting, plans and initiatives to be implemented for the



development and promotion of Gujarat University were also mentioned. In the meeting, syndicate members Samira Elahi, Safia Javed Chaudhry, member of the provincial assembly Muhammad Abdullah Waraich, Professor Dr. Kausar Jamal Cheema, vice chancellor.

UET Taxila Professor Dr. Inayatullah Khan, Former Member PPSC Muhammad Anwar Rashid, Divisional Director Audit Sher Ali (Representative Secretary Finance Government of Punjab), CEO Education Gujarat Chaudhry Muhammad Aurangzeb, Member Provincial Assembly Khadija Umar, Additional Secretary Universities HED Shahid Zaman, HEC Pakistan Representative Vice Chancellor PU Lahore Professor Dr. Niaz Ahmed Akhtar and Secretary, Department of Law and Parliamentary Affairs Punjab, Representative Director LA Chaudhry Mudassar Ishaq participated online. Dean Profes-

or Dr. Muhammad Mushahid Anwar, Dean Professor Dr. Shahid Iqbal, Director ORIC Dr. Adil Rashid and Director QEC Dr. Rashid Saeed were also present in the meeting.

Prof. Dr. Shabbar Ateeq told the syndicate members that transparency and assurance of financial matters introduces balance and moderation in the performance of institutions. It is the important duty of universities to open educational and research avenues for students through proper use of resources. Jamia Gujarat is providing academic and research training on modern lines to the under tehsil students by putting all its efforts into practice.

The development of sustainable and quality education and research is the key to the development of the beloved country of Pakistan. In the modern world, universities are a metaphor for social and economic development.

South Punjab Police launch special drive

MULTAN: Additional Inspector General of Police South Punjab Dr Ehsan Sadiq ordered crackdown against drug peddlers, dealers and drug addicts by launching two weeks special campaign.

He directed all regional and district heads to get assistance of narcotics, intelligence bureau and special branch for getting better results by making the special campaign a success. Additional IGP South ordered to identify the drug addicts in collaboration with deputy commissioner concerned and admitted the people with drug addiction to the rehabilitation centers.

He also directed to share information regarding the awareness campaign with the media and also submit performance report with south Punjab police office regularly. Strict action would be taken against the officers over not following the orders, he warned.

A regular control room has been established in south Punjab Police office regarding drug control.

The public is requested to inform the South Punjab police office if they have any information about drug dealers or drug addicts through telephone numbers 061-9210520, 0323-6298269 in order to get rid of the curse of drugs.

Nestlé Pakistan, NFEH commemorate World Cleanup Day

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Nestlé Pakistan commemorated World Cleanup Day with a beach cleaning activity at Sea View Beach, Karachi, under its global employee volunteer program Nestlé Cares, in partnership with National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH).

Highlighting Nestlé's global vision for a waste-free future, Waqar Ahmad, Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability, Nestlé Pakistan said, "We are accelerating our actions to reduce the environmental impact of various kinds of packaging waste. Our vision is that none of our packaging, including plastics, ends up in landfill nor in oceans, lakes and rivers."

"Over the years, thousands of Nestlé employees worldwide have donated their time in supporting activities focused on having a positive impact on individuals and families, our communities and the planet. 'Nestlé Cares' is one of the ways we bring our purpose and values to life. Initiatives under the Nestlé Cares' volunteer programs provide employees the opportunity to



make an impact by engaging and assisting local communities," he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Saleem Hassan Wattoo, CEO, Clifton Cantonment Board said, "We are delighted at the way Nestlé Pakistan is playing a responsible role, we encourage corporate and private sector entities to come forward so that we can facilitate them on such initiatives."

Naem Qureshi, President, NFEH said, "This cleanup initiative with Nestlé

is in line with our long-term ambition and commitment to stop waste seeping into the environment and avoid further accumulation of packaging waste in environmental landscape."

Karachi District Municipal Corporation South Administrator Dr Afshan Rubab, Additional Commissioner Karachi, Jawwad Muzaffar, government officials, members of civil society, and community volunteers also participated in the activity.

Governor urges students to contribute towards flood relief

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman Friday urged students to play their role in relief efforts for the flood-affected people as even small help was of vital importance.

Talking to a delegation of students from a (non-governmental organisation) NGO-run school at the Governor's House he said the flood victims were passing through very difficult times, adding that the floods have affected hundreds of schools and disrupted education of millions of children. The governor Punjab said this was time to stand with our flood-stricken brothers and sisters.

Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said bright future of the country was linked with education, adding that Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) had always prioritise the education sector.

Sugary drinks posing major threat to health, economy

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Pakistan's economy is facing various challenges. The annual cost of management of diabetes is skyrocketing to \$ 2.6 billion US Dollars estimated by International Diabetes Federation in 2021.

Pakistan is now top country globally with new people becoming diabetic every year. The consumption of sugary drinks increasing 30 percent risk of diabetes. This was said by Speakers during a workshop held at KP Food Safety and Halal Authority on Friday 23 September. The workshop was jointly organized by Pakistan National Heart Association and KP Food Safety and Halal Authority. The workshop was attended by health experts, media, senior management of KPFSHA and civil society.

The KPFSHA has already passed regulations to ban sales and availability of sugary drinks in education-



al institution of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said by Dr. Abdul Sittar, Technical Director KPFSHA. He said that sugary drinks are among the major contributors to obesity, diabetes, heart diseases and several types of cancers. The sodas, energy drinks and juices are major source of sugar intake and we must take all measures to stop its consumption he added.

Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that there are four high impact interventions to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks and related diseases. Progressively increasing tax on sugary drinks, front of pack warning sign, marketing restrictions and removing beverages from public institutions especially schools are help-

ful to countries curbing the obesity and related NCDs. He said that increasing tax on sugary drinks will reduce hospital expenditure on NCDs and generate revenue for government which can be spent on the rehabilitation activities in flood affected areas.

Husna Khattak, a representative from PANAHA informed the participants about their efforts to curb the harms of sugary drinks. She said that PANAHA is not only working to raise public awareness about the health hazards of sugary drinks, but it is also working with policy makers to reduce its consumption, so that the disease burden of the country is reduced. She said that water and unsweetened milk is most healthful drink which people should consume, instead of sugary drinks.

The data from survey in 2014-15 by World Health Organization shows that 41.3% of people in Pakistan are obese or overweight.

One killed, 27 injured in road mishap

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: One person was killed and 27 others injured when a passenger van fell into a ravine on Wana Gomal Zam road in the tribal district of South Waziristan.

FC officials reached the accident site and rescued the injured by performing first aid operation. The injured were shifted to Tank Hospital. According to the officials, the injured included women and children. The officials further added that the accident occurred as a result of over speeding. The dead body was also shifted to the hospital and will be handed over to his family.



Mondelez Pakistan's Hub Plant wins Environmental Excellence Award



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Mondelez Pakistan achieved another milestone in establishing greener, more sustainable operational infrastructures by bagging the coveted Environmental Excellence Award 2022 presented by the National Forum for Environment & Health (NFEH) Pakistan.

The prestigious accolade is presented to organizations that are dedicated towards the mission of effective implementation of local as well as international environmental standards at their work facilities. Mondelez Pakistan's Hub Plant was declared a winner after careful considerations by the NFEH jury.

The 19th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards were hosted in Karachi. For almost 2 decades, the awards have recognized substantial contributions made by various organizations to promote environment-friendly practices.

Mondelez Pakistan competed for the honor from a group of more than 200 companies whose efforts were scrutinized by a panel of NFEH auditors on the basis of continuous improvement initiatives taken to reduce environmental impact. The steps and improvements implemented at the Mondelez Pakistan Hub Plant, stood out to the auditors.

Commenting on the development, Mondelez Pakistan representative, stated: "Sustainability and environment conservation is one of our priorities at Mondelez Pakistan. We continuously strive towards optimizing our business operations in a way that it can reduce the harmful footprint that these activities leave on the environment. Being awarded with the Environmental Excellence Award this year is an honor for us and it will motivate further initiatives in this regard."

From cutting deforestation and waste generation to preserving water and mitigating CO2 emissions, Mondelez Pakistan has been actively launching initiatives that support its objectives of reducing environmental risks posed by its operations.

Dengue larva found in 39 places in Sargodha

SARGODHA: Chief Executive Officer Health Authority Dr Khaliqdad Niswana said anti-dengue teams found larva at 39 places, including 23 indoor, three commercial and 13 cemeteries and on highways yesterday.

Talking to APP on Friday, he said there was currently a dengue patient in Sargodha who belonged to Lahore.

Anti-dengue teams had carried out activities at 1,144 hotspots in a day while three FIRs had been got registered against owners of commercial points over the presence of dengue larvae, he added.

KPRA imposes fine on restaurants, hotels for tax evasion

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) South Region imposed a penalty on several restaurants and hotels during a crackdown launched against sales tax evaders here on Friday.

A team comprising Deputy Collector Muhammad Munir, Audit Officer Wasif Rehman, Inspector Abdul Khaliq and Admin Officer Mohammad Ejaz paid a visit to hotels and restaurants in Dera Ismail Khan area, in line with directives of Additional Collector KPRA South Region Masood Shah and checked their invoices and tax record.

DG NLC reviews progress of infrastructural work at CBD Punjab

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Director General National Logistic Cell (NLC), Major General Yousaf Jamal visited Central Business District (CBD) Punjab to review infrastructural work in progress. Chief Operating Officer of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority (PCBDDA), Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Mr. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical, (PCBDDA) and the support staff of CBD Punjab were also present at the site visit.

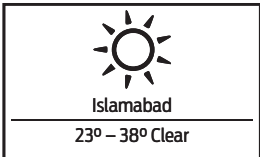
DG NLC was given a detailed briefing about the progress of the ongoing construction work by Mr. Riaz Hussain, Executive Director Technical, PCBDDA. During the briefing, he talked about the completion of the excavation, column work, steel fixtures and concrete pouring for the raft of the under-construction parking plaza along with the overall infrastructural work in progress.

Talking on the occasion Brigadier (R) Mansoor Janjua, Chief Operating Officer of PCBDDA said "the pace

of the construction of parking plaza and infrastructure work of phase 1 is very encouraging. We have a healthy working relationship with NLC and our other consultants onboard, with their continuous support we will deliver a world-class amenity to the residents of the district."

While sharing his views during the visit DG NLC said "I can witness the progress in the construction of the parking plaza and infrastructure development. The synchronization between the consultants and CBD Punjab site support team is laudable which has made the construction work flawless". He further added that as a contractor NLC will ensure that international standards are being implemented throughout the construction process.

High-end quality standards and procedures are being observed during the construction of the parking plaza and infrastructure development at the CBD Punjab site, which is a step forward in turning the dream of an economically stable Pakistan into reality.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 6:33 am
Zohr 12:20 pm
Asr 4:20 pm
Maghrib 6:28 pm
Isha 9:08 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

Edhi Ambulance 115
PIA Flight Info 114
PIA Cargo 9280979
Railway Inquiry 117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi 555489
CAA 9281092

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 921334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

75 more dengue patients reported

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: As many as 75 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 1,654.

District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Friday said that, among the new cases, 38 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, eight from Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonments area, six from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi, five from Potohar rural, and two each from Taxila Cantonment and Gujjar Khan.

Dr Sajjad said 241 patients were admitted to the city's allied hospitals, including 98 to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital (BBH), 72 to the District Headquarters Hospital and 71 to the Holy Family Hospital (HFH). He added that out of the total admitted patients, 152 tested positive, with 112 belonging to Rawalpindi.

The health officer informed that four patients were in a critical position at BBH and one in HFH. Dr Sajjad cautioned that September and October were crucial for dengue spread and all departments were fully alert to cope with any situation.

Students urged to play role towards energy conservation

Seminar titled "Children's Role in Energy Efficiency and Conservation" held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: At a seminar organized by the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (NEECA) at Fazaia Education System School E-9 Islamabad Campus, speakers urged the children to adopt best practices in Energy Conservation and play their role in making Pakistan an energy-efficient country.

The title of the seminar was "Children's Role in Energy Efficiency and Conservation" and its purpose was to raise awareness among school students regarding energy efficiency and conservation in the country.

The seminar was addressed by eminent speakers from the energy sector including representatives from the Fazaia Education System School.

They highlighted the importance of energy efficiency and conservation and its relation



with innovation and climate change mitigation. NEECA team briefed the students with help of animated series built on the character 'Captain NEECA' about building interest amongst the children and Pakistan's youth, to conserve energy in their houses and convince their families to do

the same. Representative FEES suggested that there is a strong need to change people's behaviors toward energy consumption and its effect on our environment in the shape of Climate Change. In addition, it was suggested that we should reduce the unneces-

sary consumption of energy in everyday use.

The NEECA team distributed participation certificates among the students and the seminar ended with the pledge from students to save energy in the future. NEECA presented the commemorative shield to the principal of the school.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Girls taking keen interest in hand made dolls during Ignite's Culture Fest-22 at Lok Virsa, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

'Pakistan has huge potential for digital transformation'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Google for Education team along with Tech Valley Pakistan visited the Federal Ministry of Education and Professional Training to understand the current challenges of the education sector of Pakistan and discuss the execution plan for Pakistan's first Educational Innovation Centre of Excellence in Pakistan (EICE).

EICE is a part of a larger digital education transformation journey that has been previously launched in 9 countries across the globe. The experience, research, output, and challenges accumulated from different countries will be duplicated in Pakistan with the help of the local country partner of Google for Education, Tech Valley Pakistan. The program will contribute to promoting skill sets for teachers and students with respect to the digital transformation of the education sector.

Aamir Ashraf Khawaja Secretary -



Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training appreciated the Educational Innovation Center of Excellence provision in Pakistan and mentioned it can transform the educational ecosystem of Pakistan by empowering teachers with professional development and equipping schools with technology.

Chris Malone, Education Specialist, Google for Education said, "I am excited to visit Pakistan to discuss implementation of Educational Innovation Center of Excellence at a school, Islamabad that will be transformed with the help of Google for Education tools and Chromebooks.

He also added that Pakistan has a huge potential for digital transformation in the educational ecosystem.

A detailed research will be conducted in this center with the help of an academic partner where researchers will test different practices to develop a localised content and promote technology adoption at teachers and students level. Such centers were previously launched in Indonesia, Japan, Korea and Vietnam for successful digital transformation and professional development of teachers, students and administrators involved in education.

Health Corner

Most long Covid patients recover within a year

ISLAMABAD: Most people infected with the SARS-CoV2 virus recover within 12 months, irrespective of the severity, said researchers.

The study, published in the European Respiratory Journal, showed that although 75 per cent had recovered at the 12-month mark after becoming ill with the virus, 25 per cent of patients still had at least one of the three most common symptoms, including coughing, fatigue, and breathlessness.

"Generally, one should not worry if they are feeling unwell right after their infection, as the chances of recovering within 12 months is very high, and just because you have typical long-Covid symptoms at three months does not mean they will stay forever," said senior author Manali Mukherjee from McMaster University.

Researchers also found that patients with persistent symptoms also had antibodies associated with autoimmune illnesses, as well as raised levels of cytokines, which cause inflammation, Medical Daily reported.

For the study, the team gleaned the results by surveying 106 people recovering from Covid-19 infections at three, six and 12 months after contracting the disease. All patients surveyed were otherwise healthy and had no pre-existing autoimmune conditions or any other underlying diseases pre-pandemic.

Mukherjee said that patients with persistent long-Covid symptoms should see a rheumatologist, as they specialise in autoimmune disorders and can better assess development of rheumatological complications and the need for an early intervention.

She said that most patients with long-Covid are currently assessed by respirologists or infectious disease specialists, who do not specialise in autoimmunity.

Mukherjee said that of the patients who recovered, a reduction in autoantibodies and cytokines was matched by their symptoms improving. Those who had elevated antibody and cytokine levels after one year were those whose symptoms persisted. APP



22 suspects held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers, bootleggers and illegal weapon holders on Friday arrested 22 accused besides recovering over three kg narcotics, 20 liters liquor and weapons from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Rattaamral police held Sajjad and Tariq for having 300 grams heroin and 160 grams charras. Bani police rounded up Danial Zafar and recovered 1240 grams charras. Similarly, Sadiqabad, Dharmial, Rawat, Kalar Syedan, Kotli Sattian, New Town and Civil Lines police held Hamza, Niaz Khan, Fazal, Mazhar Iqbal, Yasir Ilyas, Bashir, Umar, Akram Hussain and Irfan on recovery of 1350 grams charras and 20 liters liquor. In other raid, conducted in different areas, nine accused namely Zain Ali, Saeed, Bashir, Abid Aziz, Qasim, Zahir and others as police recovered seven 30 bore pistols, a Kalashnikov and ammunition from their possession. The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway.

CSOs urge effective coordination for flood relief, rehabilitation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Population Coalition of Civil Society Organisations has called on the government to mobilise increased domestic and international financial support for flood relief and rehabilitation in Pakistan.

The Coalition has also urged provincial governments to institute effective coordination mechanisms and enhance public-private partnership to restore reproductive health services for women, pregnant women and children. Joint actions to optimize humanitarian assistance through evidence-based policy measures, digital technology, increased advocacy for enhancing space for civil society were stressed by the Population Coalition as effective means to rehabilitate millions of shelter less children, pregnant women and the elderly currently bearing the brunt of the relentless rains and floodings across the country.

The coalition members observed that as compared to 2010 floods,



the volume of resources available for relief and rehabilitation for the current floods is less even though the magnitude of devastation is much larger. They also stressed the need for enhanced civil society space for more targeted emergency response and rehabilitation for the affected populations.

Based on the population estimates using district population projections form 2017 Population and Housing data, Population Council, which also holds the Secretariat of the CSOs Coalition shared estimates of poor and vulnerable populations particularly women, pregnant women and children in the worst affected districts across Pakistan.

Indonesian Embassy, Waheed group collaborate to raise funds for flood victims

During the Indonesian Cooking Culinary Demonstration by the famous Indonesian Master Chef Contestant

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia and the Waheed group collaborated to host a joint fund-raising event in the form of an Indonesian culinary cooking demonstration in order to show solidarity with the people of Pakistan who have been affected by the flood disaster. The Indonesian Cooking Culinary demonstration was attended by the diplomatic corps with spouses, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Director of the Waheed group, the Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, restaurant owners, the business community, the Indonesian student association in Pakistan, and the Indonesian Diaspora.

The fundraising activity with the Indonesia Culinary Demo featured the famous Chef Budiono, who is current-

ly working as the Executive Chef in Marriott, Nusa Dua Bali, and has had professional expertise in cooking for more than 28 years. He also participated as a Master Chef in the Professional UK contestant series in 2021, and the following year, in 2022, he was a guest judge in MasterChef Indonesia. Chef Budiono introduced Betawi (beef soup), Maranggi chicken satay (chicken tikka), fried noodles, and bakwan (pakora). All Indonesian cuisines were made with the spices available in Pakistan.

Ambassador Tugjo said, "many spices such as nutmeg, cloves, and pepper used in famous Pakistani Garam Masala, a combination of 11 spices, also come from Heartland of Spices, Indonesia". The Embassy has organized this event in line with the Indonesian government's program called 'Indonesia Spice Up the World (ISUTW)' to promote

local spices and cuisines, especially at the international stage to boost spice trade activities, he added.

The Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Adam Tugjo, Director of Waheed group, Mr. Fahad Waheed, Regional Coordinator of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Mrs. Efi Indriyani, and the chair of Indonesian students in Pakistan, Mr. Ibnu Fikri Ghazali presented a cheque of PKR 1.2 million (USD 5,353), while guests who attended the culinary demonstration at the embassy contributed PKR 300,000 (USD 1,300) for the flood victims. Pakistan Nahdlatul Ulama (PCINU) Special Branch Management also provided logistical assistance (tents, mosquito nets, and food packages), as well as two HemoCue machines for blood donation.

The chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society expressed his deep



gratitude to the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad for arranging a fundraising event for the people of Pakistan who have been affected severely.

The Director of Waheed Group appreciated the efforts of the Indonesian Embassy for the joint collaboration in hosting two Indonesian culinary demos in Islamabad, he also highlighted the similarities of flavor between Indonesian and Pakistani cuisines.

On September 20, 2022, Chef Budi-

ono conducted the Indonesia Culinary Cooking Workshop at the College of Tourism Hotel and Management (COTHM), by introducing Balinese chicken satay and beef curry in front of COTHM students. COTHM Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Ahmad Shafiq praised the initiative of the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad to introduce Indonesian cuisine to students.

This culinary promotion activity is part of the implementation of the Indo-



nesian Spice Up The World program. The Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad is also finalizing a coffee table book, "Indonesia Spice Up Pakistan: Bringing Hearts and Minds Through Foods and Flavors". The book, which is expected to be published in October 2022, captures the opportunity to increase exports of Indonesian spices to Pakistan, and at the same time introduces the culinary arts of the archipelago to the 5 super tourist destinations in the country.

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Pakistan-Qatar connection policy review



Analysis
Malik Khan M. Talukar

The incumbent government of Pakistan has geared-up its "economic diplomacy" and tried to "diversify" its sources of seeking inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Current account deficit is widening. Foreign reserves are at the lowest ebbs.

Pak-US exchange parity (24 percent) has already created a huge economic and financial disparity in the country due to which policy makers are in the line of fire. In this regard, most recently Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif paid a two-day official visit to Qatar, during which he met high government's officials, ministers and business communities to invest in the country.

During Pakistan-Qatar Investment and Business Roundtables 2022 he invited potential investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan's energy (renewables, wind & solar), oil & gas cooperation, aviation, industrial and infrastructural

development, agriculture (food security), livestock, maritime (blue economy), tourism and hospitality sectors.

The Prime Minister appreciated the QIA's rejuvenated interest in investing in Pakistan. Consequently, it was agreed that designated focal persons on both sides would closely follow-up on the key proposals for investments. For the further strengthening of bilateral relations and gearing up of economic diplomacy the Prime Minister invited Mansoor bin Ebrahim Al-Mehmoud and Sheikh Faisal Thani Al-Thani to visit Pakistan at their earliest convenience to build on the momentum generated by the visit.

The QIA officials expressed their keen interest and readiness in actively pursuing investment opportunities in the country. Moreover, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacted with the prominent Qatari and Pakistani business leaders at a "Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable 2022", jointly organised by the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), the Pakistan Business Council Qatar and the Embassy of Pakistan in Doha.

Pakistan and Qatar on Wednesday agreed to promote cooperation in different sectors. The understanding was reached during a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani

in Doha. The two sides also discussed matters pertaining to bilateral and mutual interest during the meeting. During his stay, PM met Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, besides addressing the Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable conference.

To conclude, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's visit to Qatar is timely, strategic, and articulated. It fetched huge pledges of investment amounting to US\$2 billion along with promises of financial assistance in terms of deferment of payments of energy bills (importer of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Moreover, export of human capital, especially military personnel to World Football in Qatar is a huge economic success for cash-stripped Pakistan. Since Russia-Ukraine war has destabilized the international energy and food markets the policy makers of Pakistan should further strengthen imports of LNG from Qatar.

Pakistan has two long-term LNG supply deals with Qatar to provide up to nine cargoes a month which should be further increased. Interestingly, both sides agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties in terms of advancing energy-related cooperation, deepening trade and investment and exploring greater employment opportunities for Pakistanis in Qatar. Qatar

is home to more than 200,000 Pakistanis, who are contributing to the progress, prosperity and economic development of the two brotherly countries which should be further streamlined, systemized and strengthened.

The maiden visit of Premier Shehbaz to Doha should be termed as successful in all respects which definitely renewed impetus to deepening cooperation between the two countries in diverse fields and further strengthen their growing economic partnership. Hopefully, it will further enhance bilateral economic and investment engagement, particularly in the renewable energy including solar and wind power generation, aviation, maritime, industrial and infrastructure development, and hospitality sectors. Moreover, investments in the ongoing and CPEC Phase-II would be a game changer in the country. It seems that Pakistan-Qatar relations are promising in essence. The two-day visit of PM Shehbaz as he met the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, was meant to further the envelope of a long-lasting understanding in all walks of life.

Thus both reassured their resolve to make new strides in renewable energy, industrial and infrastructure development, as well as in tourism and hospitality. Ours is the age of globalization 3.0 where economic diplomacy plays very

important role in achieving the desired goals of socio-economic development. Pakistan and Qatar are also gearing up their bilateral relations with the help of economic diplomacy. Qatar is one of the fastest growing economies in the world. It is the world's largest liquefied natural gas producer and has become a major force in foreign investment, in addition to its achievements in political, cultural, social and legislative spheres. Despite some external challenges Qatar has succeeded to maintain and sustain economic independence and protected its national security and strengthened bilateral relations with all countries of the world. Cooperation in cotton would provide win-win position to Qatari investors because textile benefits are enormous and diversified.

Moreover, oil & gas exploration would provide comparative advantage to Qatar which needs to be further strengthened. Extended cooperation in the fields of agriculture and food security would be a game-changer in the days to come. Tourism, SMEs, chemicals and infrastructure sectors would be mutually benefited for both the countries.

The writer is Executive Director, the Centre for South Asia & International Studies (CSAIS) Islamabad, Regional Expert, Qatar & GGC.

The case of Kashmiris at UNGA

The Prime Minister in his address to the 77th session of the UN General Assembly presented the case of Pakistan before the world. The recent flooding in Pakistan has also complicated the economic situation of the country. The infrastructure, crops and properties have been completely destroyed and if the international community does not come forward, the country may suffer. There is a need to defer the international debt. The Prime Minister also highlighted the Indian atrocities and policies in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister told the world body that Pakistan looked for peace with all of its neighbours, including India. However, the sustainable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon a just and lasting solution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. "At the heart of this longstanding dispute lies the denial of the inalienable right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination. India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5th August 2019, to change the internationally recognized "disputed" status of Jammu and Kashmir and to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territory further undermined the prospects of peace and inflamed regional tensions," he remarked. He said India's relentless campaign of repression against Kashmiris had continued to grow in scale and intensity. In pursuit of this heinous goal, New Delhi has ramped up its military deployments in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to 900,000 troops, thus making it the most militarized zone in the world.

Pakistan is making all out efforts in developing consensus on the Kashmir dispute. It is an honor that the Foreign Minister chaired the Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in New York where he urged the OIC members to formulate an action plan to halt Islamophobia in India. The friendly countries have acknowledged the narrative of Pakistan on this long-standing issue and extended their support in this regard. The Kashmir issue must be resolved according to the wishes of Kashmiri people and in accordance with the UN resolutions. Afghanistan is also a country where the new Afghan government cannot sustain all alone. The Afghan people also need the support of the international community in terms of recognition and financial assistance.

In an editorial published in the Guardian it was asked why Israel and India are above the law. OIC has condemned the Indian atrocities in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The fact is that the world cannot remain silent over the Kashmir issue as it is the main bone of contention between the two nuclear states. The world is witnessing the promotion of Hindutva ideology but its silence is beyond understanding. All this is happening in the so-called world's largest democratic state. There is need to take particle measures and the world should boycott India economically in order to pressurize it to stop its human rights abuses in the Occupied valley.

We are living in a civilized world but the world is not an ideal place. The international community needs to play its role to minimize racism across the globe. Whatever our neighboring country is doing in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir should be condemned at all levels. The world is celebrating World Peace Day while around one million Indian forces have illegally occupied the disputed territory. It is responsibility of the UN member states and world organizations to play their role on resolution of Kashmir issue.



A strong Saudi Arabia a beacon of hope for the world

Hasan Al-Massloom

Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Arabian Peninsula and one of the most consequential regionally and internationally. Yet, one wonders how this land, with its unfavorable geography, heterogeneous population and long history of conflicts, changed in just a century from an isolated desert chieftaincy into a founding member of the UN and one of the most influential countries in the world.

The chronicles of the Arabian Peninsula indicate that the area between the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf has been home to more than two dozen Arab tribes. Besides, since the dawn of Islam, myriads of Muslims have come from all four corners of the globe to perform Hajj in the holy land of Makkah and Medina. Some pilgrims stayed afterward and resettled in the Hijaz region.

The currents of the Arabian Gulf carried ships of pearls and other goods and enabled the movement of people from far away to the east coast. Not to forget the trade caravans that ran from Yemen to the Levant and from Najd to Iraq, taking merchants and their merchandise all over. Specific tribes and families were famed for their trans-peninsular trade excursions. The vast stretch of desert, mostly arid with little or no rain, made living conditions in Arabia one of the harshest globally. Those fortunate enough to have a flock of sheep, a herd of camels or a piece of agricultural land stayed home to rear their livestock or tend their farms.

From the acacia forests in the Asir mountains to the olive trees of Jouf, from the palm

trees of Al-Qassim to the oil-harboring desert in the Empty Quarter and from the Gulf to the Red Sea, Saudi Arabia features diverse climates, landscapes and resources. Forests blossom in the southwest of the country.

Unlike the fake oases seen in Hollywood movies, with their serried ranks of date palms and watercourses, Asir's forests are natural, full of trees, shrubs and wild animals, which can be seen amid the peaks of the mountains.

On a recent visit to Jazan with a group of Shoura Council members, I was thrilled to venture through its diverse and fascinating terrains: The Red Sea, Fifa mountains, Tihama plains and tongues of desert scattered in between.

I tasted its homegrown mango and coffee and the local honey. It was such a delight to get acquainted with the amazing heritage of Jazan and to talk with its farmers, shepherds, fishermen, poets and artists.

Likewise, all provinces of Saudi Arabia exhibit unique historical, geographical and cultural attributes that distinguish them from one another. Yet, in spite of our diverse backgrounds, we have a consensus to honor and guard our authentic and magnificent heritage in the face of the profane, depraved and false values that are swarming us from elsewhere in the world.

As the descendants of farmers, shepherds, merchants, Bedouin tribes, urban families and all other stripes of society, Saudis take pride in their altruism, courage and compassion. We are a gracious nation that regards hospitality to strangers and charity to the poor as our topmost virtues.

As we celebrate the 92nd national day of Saudi Arabia, we should not overlook what made us a nation, namely the diversity of our

people and the unity of our homeland. Still, the country required a new vision that challenged the status quo, which was clinging to antiquated and unproductive social and economic structures.

In 2016, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched Vision 2030, which is a huge paradigm shift that is based on diversification of the economy, opening up to the outside world and tearing down the walls that kept wide swaths of society marginalized for a long time.

Vision 2030 is a massive social and economic reform program that pledges to purge corruption, entrench meritocracy and provide equitable opportunities across the full spectrum of the Saudi people. It behooves us on national day to celebrate our diversity and our Kingdom's vision, while doing our utmost to safeguard its secure and prosperous future, bearing in mind that we are stronger together and weaker apart.

Three hundred years ago in Arabia, incompetent governance, scarce resources and non-egalitarian societies resulted in disorder, conflicts and a prolonged period of social injustice and economic stagnation. Today, Saudi Arabia, with its bold leadership, vivacious forward-looking perspective, diverse heritage and rich resources, is much stronger than ever before. It is a beacon of hope and illumination to the whole world.

Dr. Hasan Al-Massloom is a member of the Saudi Shura Council and an expert on change management who writes passionately about its behavioral, social, and cultural aspects. He and his team were the recipients of the Ministry of Health Award for the Most Inspirational Story in 2020. Courtesy: Arab News

Misconceptions about Single National Curriculum-Way forward-II

Prof. Amer Jamil

Therefore, the content of different disciplines comprises of too much detail at early age which in fact takes away their innovation and leisure time vital for personality building. The education until class 5th should comprise of training mostly with three books; English (covering basic concepts of science), Urdu (covering Islamic Studies and Pakistan Studies) and Mathematics. Regional language at this stage is also not appropriate as we need a unified nation with integration. Already we are being divided on ethnic basis in different sects. The languages may be included at college level where students are able to understand the philosophy behind the languages rather than cramming different stories. Special attention should be given to teach manners to the students. Then from class 6th to 12th, the subjects like Science and Mathematics should be taught in English as it is the international medium of instruction. The subjects like Islamic Studies should comprise of subjects like Quranic translation of the verses dealing with daily life and Seerat-un-Nabi, and Pakistan Studies and Geography in Urdu so that the students may comprehend it in true sense. Examination is the most important part of the any education system that brings critical thinking in the students. If we prepare students for the questions like Write a note on 14 points of Qaid-i-Azam or write translation of some verses etc., the students will go only for cramming. The teachers will also teach in the similar way so that they would give maximum marks to the students who replicate the same on the paper, and this is

actually happening! We should ask the students the questions like "what was impact of 14 points on struggle of independence of Indian Muslims" etc. Similarly, problem solving approach should be followed in all science subjects. Trainings of our teachers for implementation of such educational system is mandatory. Moreover, we need to motivate and incentivize our teachers so that they may do the work with full devotion and commitment. Exploitation of the teachers is common especially in ordinary private schools where teachers are highly underpaid as compared to workload given to them.

Conclusively, we not only have failed for the last 75 years in bringing innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving approach in our students, but our education system has brought in class difference and ethnicity among them. SNC is one solution in minimizing such differences and to make a nation with uniformity. The expensive private schools are afraid of the SNC that their business will be affected due to its implementation. Whereas their business would not be affected. The difference between such private and public schools should be of the facilities such as air conditioning, co-curricular activities etc., and not based on content that is creating nothing but class difference. The one who can afford better facilities may send their children to the private schools with such facilities. But the whole nation should be given the same education. We need to bring both Professional and Personal excellence in our youth if we want to emerge as a developed nation.

Concluded Prof. Amer Jamil is Chairman, Department of Biochemistry, University of Agriculture Faisalabad.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Table with 2 columns: Current, Prev. Close, Day's High, Day's Low, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time. Includes Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index and Europe: FTSE 100 Index.

Table with 2 columns: Current, Prev. Close, Day's High, Day's Low, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time. Includes USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Table with 2 columns: Current, Prev. Close, Day's High, Day's Low, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time. Includes Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average.

Table with 2 columns: Current, Prev. Close, Day's High, Day's Low, Index Value, Change, Percentage, Time. Includes Open Market Forex Rates.

Table with 3 columns: Currency, Buying, Selling. Lists various currencies like Australian Dollar, Bahrain Dinar, etc.

Pakistani investors invited to explore UAE for investment

The UAE Ambassador says it is right time for Pakistani investors to focus on UAE

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan said that United Arab Emirates (UAE) was emerging as a hub of trade and investment activities...



He said that this year, UAE and Pakistan were celebrating 50 years of their unique brotherly relations, which should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations.

Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE gave a detailed presentation to the business community on Invest Emirates. He said that UAE was an ideal destination for investment as it has a low-tax environment...

& construction, agriculture, industrial manufacturing, renewable energy, hospitality, information & communication, professional, scientific & technical activities...

Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that UAE has emerged as one of the major trading partners of Pakistan and we would like to further strengthen trade ties with it.

He stressed that the UAE should take advantage of these products by importing them from Pakistan. He said that many UAE companies were already doing successful business in Pakistan...

Floods losses reach \$30b; external debt needs restructuring: FPCCI

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that all bilateral & multilateral external debts of Pakistan need immediate restructuring...

around 2.8 million people out of total 33 million flood-affecteds and internally displaced people (IDPs) are seriously ill due to various pandemics that have broken out - including, dengue, malaria, cholera, typhoid...

The world as a whole will be responsible as Pakistan is facing the brunt of the global misdeeds vis-à-vis climate change; if they do not listen to the cries of the dying, he added.

FPCCI Chief has proposed that the government should negotiate the restructuring of external debts with IMF, World Bank, ADB, IDB, Paris Club and friendly countries to create fiscal space for flood relief & rebuilding activities.

He also extended his advisory services from the platform of FPCCI in formulating the strategies to successfully negotiate with various lenders.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has called for adopting austerity measures at every governmental level and redirecting all non-developmental budgets to the relief & rehabilitation - be it provincial & federal.

Declining current account deficit is govt success: Salman Aslam

Our Correspondent



KARACHI: President Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam welcomed the decrease in the current account deficit to 700 million dollars last month.

Salman Aslam said that this deficit was 1.52 billion dollars in August 2021, which has now been reduced to half.

President KATI stressed that the exporters are still facing difficulties in exports, production costs, and LC problems including shortage and increased prices of electricity, petrol, gas and water are also adding to the problems...

Salman Aslam further said that the government has eased the ban on imports, after which there is a fear that the deficit may increase again.

Empowering Employees

MMBL announces major policy changes

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited has announced the conversion of all of its Bank Contract Employees to Full-Time Employees (FTEs).

Contractual employees will be converted to permanent employees in phases, subsequently getting medical insurance for them as well as their families.

Under this initiative, over 500 bank contract employees will be converted to FTEs in different phases. Along with flexible insurance plans, contractual employees will receive a pay continuation plan as well.

fuel/ transport/car allowance and have a monthly salary of less than PKR 50,000 will also receive an increment as part of the recent changes.

Sharing his thoughts, Ghazanfar Azzam, President & CEO, MMBL said: "Changes in the FTE policy come at the right time as the rising inflation has restricted everyone's buying power."

SECP allows listed firms to issue convertible debt

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has notified the regulatory framework for issuance of Convertible Debt Securities (CDS) through right offer.

This regulatory framework introduces a new product and way for raising capital. It also provides detailed mechanics for the same.

Presently, convertible debt is issued either by public offering or by private placement mode. Under the said Regulations, now the listed companies can also raise funds by issuing convertible debt to existing shareholders by way of Right offer.

It would provide an additional investment avenue for the shareholders and allow them to earn interest/profit, while also retaining the option to convert debt instrument into share capital.

Rights of CDS can also be renounced through Securities Exchange trading platform and can also be traded in the same manner as Letter of Right (LOR) of shares are presently traded.

OGDCL announces financial results

Net sales revenue clocked at Rs335.463b translating to profit after tax of Rs133.783b

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Oil & Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) in its meeting held here on Thursday announced the financial results for the year ended June, 30, 2022 of fiscal year 2021-22.

The Board of Directors announced final cash dividend for the year 2021-2022 on the basis of accounts for the period ended June 30, 2022 @ 2.50 per share i.e. 25 percent.

The share transfer books of the company will be closed from Tuesday, October 18, 2022 to Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

Industry Digitalization

Huawei launches innovative infrastructure solutions

Spokesman Report



LAHORE: On the second day of HUAWEI CONNECT 2022 Bangkok, Huawei launched a range of innovative infrastructure solutions to drive industry digitalization by finding the right technology for the right scenario.

They analyzed the challenges of different industries striving to go digital, and Huawei introduced solutions supported by its technical strengths to help address these challenges.

Ryan Ding, President of Huawei Enterprise BG, said in his keynote speech "Empowering Industry, Creat-

ing Value" that "Deeper digital transformation will help companies better adapt to an ever-changing world."

Bob Chen, Vice President of Huawei Enterprise BG, in his keynote

speech themed "Innovative Digital Infrastructure Accelerates Digital Transformation", said, "Data is at the core of digital transformation, and data ingestion, transmission,

storage, and analysis are key steps. "Huawei provides full-stack products and product portfolios to support end-to-end data processing, accelerating customers' digital transformation," he added.

At the event, Huawei launched the Huawei Empower Program, a global partner development plan, which is intended to help develop a thriving digital ecosystem for global partners. This program will help Huawei's partners build three types of capabilities to better serve customers: digital transformation consulting and planning, product and portfolio expertise, and solution development.

es better evaluate, design, and build data storage capabilities.

Gu Xuejun, Vice President of Huawei IT Product Line, said, "The data storage capability is currently measured by capacity. However, with the rapid development of the industry and the emergence of new, diversified data services such as AI and big data, capacity alone is not enough to measure the future development and construction of storage systems."

Falling economy makes it difficult to provide relief to masses: PEW



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Friday said it has become impossible to provide relief to the flood victims due to debt repayments, strict IMF conditions, rising inflation and a declining economy.

Electricity and oil are getting expensive, and many imports are being stopped but the rupee is depreciating due to a lack of confidence in the market, it said.

Despite grim economic conditions, the political fever is not giving the government time to plan for the rehabilitation of the flood victims and take the right economic decisions, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President of PEW.

He said that foreign loans have exceeded one hundred and thirty billion dollars, while local loans are even more; the IMF loan stabilized the rupee for a few days in the month of August but now it is falling rapidly again.

Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that the politicians who are claiming to improve the economy by putting the country's interest above all else for power, have forgotten that they have taken record loans in the history of the country without showing any progress.

Wrong decisions and mismanagement will soon result in the 24th IMF bailout package as rulers have developed a habit of surviving on loans and grants, he said.

The rulers need to understand that the time to take advantage of the superpowers' constraints is over and the economic model will have to be completely changed or the country will remain in need of loans.

