



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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عدي بن حاتم رضی اللہ عنہ نے نبی کریم
ﷺ سے عرض کی کہ وہ شکر تیرے
ماتے ہیں پھر دویا تین دن پر اسے تلاش
کرتے ہیں تب وہ مرده حالت میں ملتا ہے
اور اس کے اندر ان کا تیر گھسا ہوا ہوتا ہے۔
نبی کریم ﷺ نے فرمایا کہ اگر تو چاہے تو
کھا سکتا ہے۔
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Prince Mohammad bin Salman named KSA's first PM

Saudi Arabia on Tuesday appointed Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman as the country's inaugural prime minister. The announcement came amidst major restructuring in the Saudi council of ministers - the top-most decision-making body of the country after the royal court. As prime minister, Prince Salman will lead the council of ministers.



Bismah confident of a good show in ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup

Pakistan women's team will fly out from Lahore for Bangladesh via Dubai in the wee hours of 28 September to feature in ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup. The seven-team tournament will be played in Sylhet, Bangladesh from October 1, the final of the tournament will be played on 15 October.

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Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 1, Wednesday, September 28, 2022 www.dailyspokesman.net @daily_spokesman Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 175 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Ties with India, Pakistan independent of each other: US

WASHINGTON: The United States has responded to India's objections to Washington's move to provide Pakistan \$450 million for refurbishing the country's F-16 fighters fleet to deal with terrorist threats, saying both South Asian nations are "our partners."

"We don't view our relationship with Pakistan, and on the other hand, we don't view our relationship with India as in relation to one another," State Department Spokesman Ned Price told his daily press briefing.

"These are both partners of ours with different points of emphasis in each," he said, amid warming US-Pakistan relations.

Earlier, Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar criticized the US decision, saying his government had conveyed that the fighter jets were allegedly used for operations against India. "We look to both (India and Pakistan) as partners, because we do have in many cases shared values. We do have in many cases shared interests. And the relationship we have with India stands on its own. The relationship we have with Pakistan stands on its own," Ned Price remarked.

Early this month, the Biden administration approved a \$450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan, reversing the decision of the former Trump administration to suspend military aid to Islamabad.

In a notification to the US Congress, the State Department said it had made a determination approving a possible foreign military sale for sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of \$450 million, arguing that it would sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counter-terrorism threats by maintaining its F-16s fleet. Agencies

Consoling flood victims

Dadu: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets flood affectees of District Dadu at Tent city established at village Jakhro.

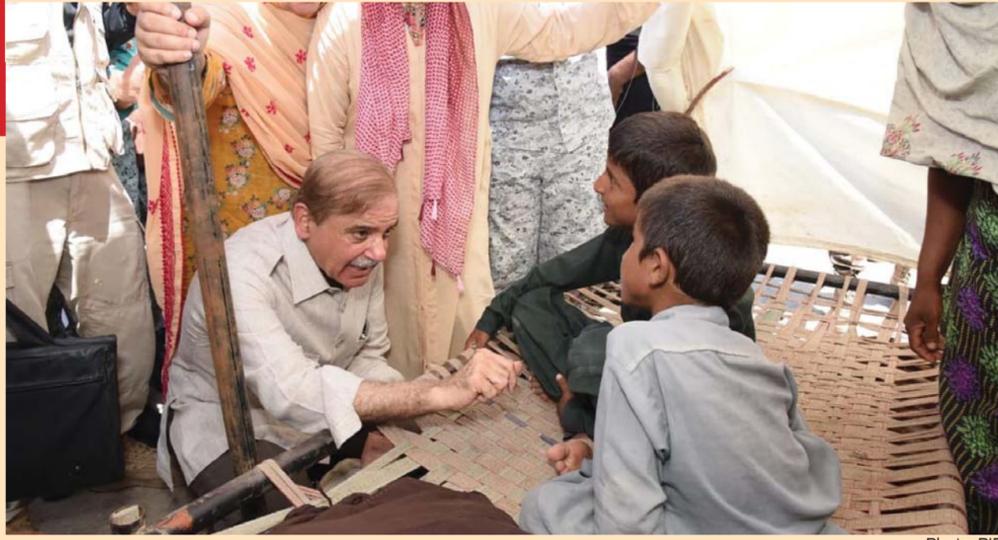


Photo: PID

'Audio leak of PM House, a serious security lapse'

PM Shehbaz says world has assured support to flood-hit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday while terming the purported surfacing of an audio leak of the Prime Minister House as a 'serious security lapse', resolved that it would be thoroughly investigated.

While talking to media in Islamabad on Tuesday, the prime minister agreed that a big question mark was posed over the audio leak and informed that he was taking a notice and would be forming a high-powered committee to fully probe it and unearth facts.

The prime minister further said that visitors from the foreign countries would also feel uncomfortable if the conversations were bugged in the official places and such breaches of cyber secrecy were related to matter of respect of 220 million Pakistanis.

PM lauds KSA for flood relief assistance

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday thanked the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for their strong expression of support for the flood victims in Pakistan, including provision of relief assistance through establishing an air bridge between the Kingdom and Pakistan. The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with Ambassador of the KSA to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy who called on him.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that the world leaders have assured its support to help Pakistan for rehabilitation of people affected by the devastating floods. The Prime Minister said UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, while acknowledging the scale of destruction in Pakistan, committed to arrange an international donor conference for contributions.

The Prime Minister said during his stay at Washington D.C, he

made every effort to seek the attention of world community towards the adverse impacts of climate change and its havoc in Pakistan. The Prime Minister said he also highlighted the Kashmir and Palestine issue at the United Nations effectively. He said the issue of Islamophobia was also highlighted as due to this rising issue Muslims in India are facing life threats.

The Prime Minister said with the efforts of our coalition govern-

ment, Pakistan has come out of isolation phase and our relations with brotherly countries and other world nations are improving. He regretted that the previous government put Pakistan into international isolation due to its arrogant behaviour.

To a question, the Prime Minister said PTI government looted the national exchequer under Toshakhana case by selling foreign gifts and through Sugar and wheat scandal. He said through black-mailing PTI government pursued illegal cases against other parties while getting amnesty on its own criminalities.

The Prime Minister said Imran Khan left made every effort to make the country default but with the efforts of coalition government we are out of that risk. He said efforts are being made to put the country out of crisis. APP

China reiterates to support flood-victims in Pakistan

China to help rebuild flood affected Pakistanis homes: Wang Wenbin

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China will continue to do utmost efforts to help rebuild homes of Pakistan flood affected people, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Tuesday.

"Since floods hit, as Pakistan's friend and brother in time of need, China has rushed to Pakistan's aid.

The Chinese government has provided RMB 400 million worth of humanitarian assistance while China's civil society has also lend a helping hand, he said during his regular briefing held at the International Press Center (IPC).

The spokesperson remarked that China and Pakistan have had fruitful economic and financial cooperation. The Pakistani people know it best.

He said that instead of passing unwarranted criticism

against China-Pakistan cooperation, something real and beneficial should be done for the people of Pakistan.

Responding to a question about a joint statement delivered by Pakistan on behalf of nearly 70 countries at the 51st session of the Human Rights Council, expressing support for China's position on issues related to Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet, he said that some countries used so called human rights issue against China but have failed time and again.

"The overwhelming majority of the international community have long been clear eyed about this," he added.

He said that China has unwavering resolve to uphold national sovereignty, security and development interests and the criticism would not stop its journey towards development and progress.

Marriyum strongly criticizes PTI chief

Says Imran doesn't need to cry over leaked audio of Maryam Nawaz

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief Imran Khan did not need to cry over the leaked audio of Maryam Nawaz, which did not have any mention of Farah Gogi and the economic corridor.

The minister, in a tweet, said nothing illegal was found in the leaked audios. Neither any change in the government policy nor trading of diamonds was pointed out in them.



Calling Imran Khan a "foreign agent", she said his politics did not complete without naming Maryam Nawaz in his speeches.

Forthcoming long march, sit-in to be decisive one: IK

Sharif family importing machinery from India 'to make money', claims Imran Khan

PESHAWAR: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has said that the forthcoming long march and sit-in will be the decisive one before heading towards fresh elections.

While addressing ulama and mashaikh convention in Peshawar, Imran Khan said that he will give a call to the nation for coming out of their homes for real independence.

Imran Khan said that he is devising a plan to deal with the government's expected reaction against the PTI protesters in the next long march.

He said that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had allegedly ordered to target PTI peaceful protesters through teargas shelling. Sanaullah should be prepared to get a place to hide, he added.

The PTI chief said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had returned to Pakistan with a 'proclaimed offender' yesterday. He added that Ishaq Dar had fled from Pakistan



through the prime minister's plane. "Dar has returned to dissolve corruption cases. We will not allow them to get a place to hide anywhere. My young activists are fully prepared everywhere."

Challenging the interior minister, Khan said, "Rana Sanaullah, your police, teargas shells and rubber bullets cannot stop us. Nobody knows about what the skipper is planning right now. This will be my last long march and sit-in. I have firm belief on Allah Almighty that the country will head towards transparent elections after the long march."

Khan reiterated that PTI encourages friendship with all countries but it will never accept slavery.

On September 24, Imran Khan asked his supporters

to prepare for the upcoming real independence march onto Islamabad and warned Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah that he will enter the capital with "full preparations" this time around.

Addressing the participants of the rally, Imran Khan said that he would soon give a call to his supporters to steer the country out of the quagmire. Imran Khan while reacting to the recent alleged audio leak saga said that the Sharif family is secretly importing machinery from India to make money.

"Rana Sanaullah used massive teargas shelling against PTI women and children on May 25 as we were not fully prepared," he said and added that the minister will not find a place to hide this time around. Agencies

No objection in returning passport to Maryam: NAB

LAHORE: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has no objection in returning the passport to PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz, the graft buster body said in its reply submitted in the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Maryam Nawaz filed a plea in the LHC seeking the return of her passport. NAB in its written reply submitted in the LHC said they don't have any objection to returning the passport to the PML-N leader and added that criminal cases are currently under-trial against the accused.

The court also showed resentment over late appearance of Maryam's counsel Amjad Pervez. Later, the hearing was adjourned until October 3.

PML-N vice president Maryam Nawaz in her plea noted that her passport was in judicial custody for past four years. "Till now, NAB failed to submit challan in Chaudhry Sugar Mill case," the petition stated, pointing out that the court granted bail to PML-N leader on merit. Agencies

Era of nuclear blackmail must end: UN chief

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive power ever created

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has, in a speech, condemned "the rattling of nuclear sabers" and called for the end of "nuclear blackmail" and recommitment to peace.

The UN chief's call comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin made a veiled threat to use nuclear weapons last week, though the UN chief did not specifically name Russia or Putin.

Guterres was speaking at an event to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, held as the annual debate in the UN General Assembly Hall ended Monday.

Nuclear weapons are the most destructive power ever created. They offer no security just carnage and chaos. Their elimination would be the greatest gift we could bestow on future generations, he said. The UN chief recalled that the Cold War had brought humanity within minutes of annihilation. Yet decades after it ended, with the fall of the Berlin Wall, we can hear once again the rattling of nuclear sabres, he said.

Let me be clear. The era of nuclear blackmail must end. The idea that any country could fight and win a nuclear war is deranged. Any use of a nuclear weapon would incite a humanitarian Armageddon. We need to stop back.



The Secretary-General also spoke of his disappointment after countries failed to reach consensus at a conference last month to review the landmark Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the only binding commitment to the goal of disarmament by States which officially stockpile nuclear weapons.

Following four weeks of intense negotiations at the UN Headquarters, delegations left without an outcome document because Russia objected to text about its control over Ukrainian nuclear facilities. The UN chief pledged not to give up and urged countries to use every avenue of dialogue, diplomacy and negotiation to ease tensions, reduce risk and eliminate the nuclear threat.

meaningful disarmament and developing a common understanding of the multiple threats facing the international community.

We need to take into account the evolving nuclear order, including all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. And we need to address the blurring lines between strategic and conventional weapons, and the nexus with new domains of cyber and outer space, he said.

As the General Assembly debate ends, the Secretary-General called for countries to leave New York with a new commitment to work towards a peaceful future.

Without eliminating nuclear weapons, there can be no peace. There can be no trust. And there can be no sustainable future, he said.

The President of the UN General Assembly, Csaba Korosi, was frank in his remarks, stating that the war in Ukraine has raised credible risks of global nuclear disaster.

"I am particularly appalled by the recurring, thinly veiled threats of nuclear strikes. Tactical strikes, it is often added, but we all know that such a conflict would never stay at the tactical level," he said.

The nuclear threat on the Korean Peninsula also continues to pose an unacceptable risk to the region and to the world, he added. Agencies

Discussing energy issues

Federal Minister for Energy Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan met the State Minister Nakatani at Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry in Tokyo.

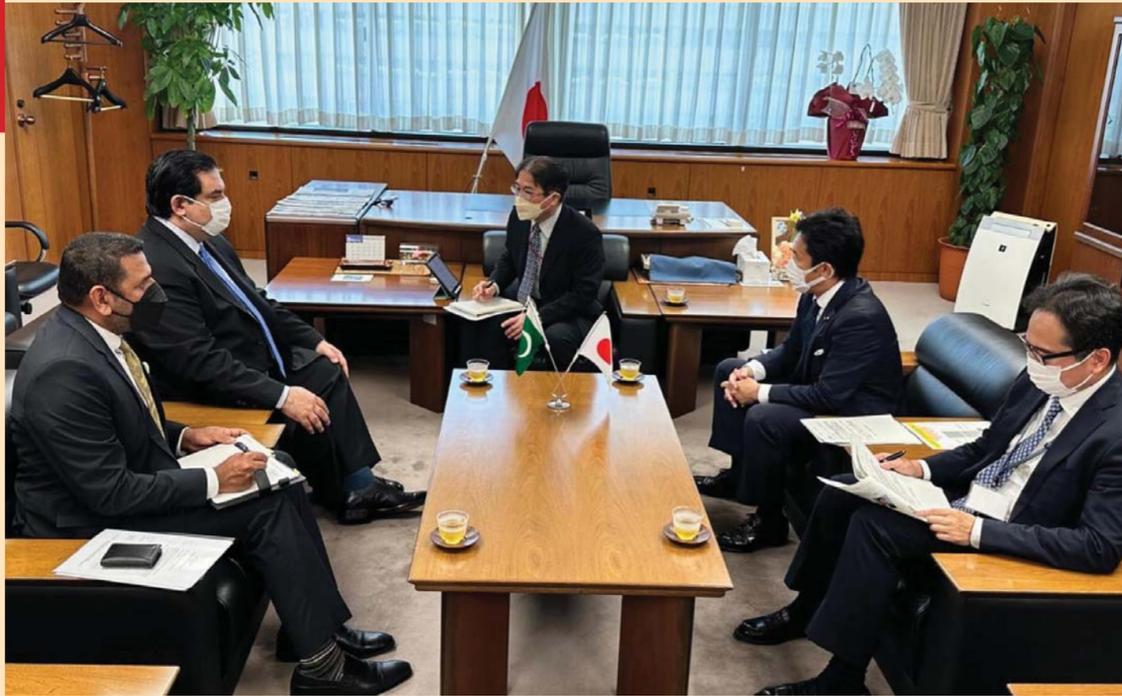


Photo: PID

CII terms Transgender Act 2018 'un-Islamic'

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) on Tuesday declared the Transgender Act 2018 as un-Islamic.

The council said that many provisions of the Transgender Act are not in accordance with Islamic teachings. The council asked the government to form a committee to review the Transgender Act and the committee should consist of legal experts and religious scholars.

The council said the Act could add to social problems in the country, adding that a number of provisions in the current Act are generally inconsistent with Sharia law.

Law Minister, Canadian HC discuss bilateral issues



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmour paid a farewell call to Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday.

Both the dignitaries discussed issues pertaining to mutual interest and further development of bilateral relations.

The Law Minister thanked the High Commissioner for her services and for promoting strong relations between the two countries.

The Canadian High Commissioner expressed regret over the flood situation in the country.

President for utilizing social media to raise issues

Arif Alvi stresses need to prepare ourselves through education and intellectual training to sift the right

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi has stressed the need to prepare ourselves through education and intellectual training to sift the right information which is abundantly available on social media.

While talking to social media influencers at Governor House, Karachi, President Dr. Arif Alvi has underlined the need to discern between fake and real news, identify the strengths of social media, and use it as a positive instrument for imparting education and knowledge, providing authentic, verifiable and credible information and discuss and provide solutions to the economic and social issues of importance to build strong progressive and informed society.

He said that social media was a useful tool for highlighting the grass-root level issues and socio-economic problems faced by the people and generating healthy, constructive and useful discussion on strengths, weaknesses,

opportunities and threats faced by the country and the people which would help the country to make meaningful headway toward creating an informed and resilient society. The President said that social media can be an effective and powerful instrument to defuse political polarization by diverting the attention

Social media can be effective and powerful instrument to defuse political polarization

of the people towards real issues faced by the nation by encouraging the resolution of political, economic and social issues through the process of negotiation, deliberation and democratic means and by adhering with the relevant constitutional provisions, laws and rules and

acceptable social and cultural norms and avoiding mudslinging and character assassination, and curbing the propagation of fake and fabricated news and information.

The President stressed the need to prepare ourselves through education and intellectual training to sift the right, useful and apt knowledge and verified and credible information which is abundantly available on social media in most cases free of cost and build our intellectual capability to ignore the noise and sift unverified information and build our resistance against hearsay, backbiting and mudslinging and avoid social media products which were not compatible with our religious social and cultural values. He added that shutting down social media platform(s) was not an ideal solution as this would hamper our access to modern technology and science and may deprive us of neck-breaking development and innovation taking place around the world in all sectors.

Scale of destruction caused by floods is unprecedented: Ahsan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal has said that scale of destruction caused by floods is unprecedented that was not our making but due to result of climate change and emission of greenhouse gases in the developed world.

Chairing a meeting in Islamabad with cross sectional experts on nutrition to formulate response in the wake of recent calamitous floods, Ahsan Iqbal underscored that the Federal Government has been administratively collaborating with the provincial governments irrespective of

any political discrimination. He urged every citizen to take part in this national cause.

The Minister remarked that the most backward regions in the country are worst hit by the recent floods that left big challenge for us.

He further said that enormous resources are required to rebuild and restructure these backward districts and volume of expenditure to be incurred will cross the earlier estimate of 40 billion rupees for 20 most backward districts.

He said the government is committed with full resolve to rebuild these areas in order to address the sense of alienation among the people in these

regions. The Minister while urging the participants to leave at-least three possible actionable interventions in relevance of rebuilding the flood damaged Pakistan said that the government will take full benefit out of these intervention.

Moreover, participants noted that keeping in view the widespread damage to the crops and fields in the flood hit areas, there is a critical need to provide seeds to revive the growth of crops while observing that to tame the impending food security crisis vast amount of funds are required for growing the staple food crops.

FO responds to remarks by Indian External Affairs Minister

India's comments on Pakistan-US ties termed contrary to 'norms of inter-state relations'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Tuesday strongly rebuked comments by the Indian foreign minister for making unwarranted remarks about Pakistan-US ties, deeming the comments on the relationship as "unwarranted" and contrary to norms of inter-state relations.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Foreign Office spokesperson responded questions from the media about the remarks by the Indian Minister for External Affairs in New York.

Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said that Pakistan enjoys a longstanding and broad-based relationship with the United States.

The relationship, he said, has been vital in promoting peace, security, and stability in the region.

In recent months, Ahmed said that the Pakistan-US relations have become robust and multidimensional, further deepening people-to-people and bilateral ties.

"Both countries are constructively

engaged to maintain regional peace and security," he said.

"India is strongly urged to respect basic norms of interstate relations and refrain from commenting on the bilateral ties between the US and Pakistan," he affirmed, adding, "India also needs serious introspection of its diplomatic conduct."

Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar in an event in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Monday had remarked that the US-Pakistan relationship has "neither ended up serving Pakistan well nor serving the American interests."

In response to questions on Monday, the US State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said that the US does not view its relationship with either Pakistan or India "in relation to one another."

"These are both partners of ours with different points of emphasis in each," he had said. Agencies

Pakistan does not want charity but economic justice: FM

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that Pakistan does not want charity but economic justice as it produces only 0.8 percent carbon but it is the most affected country due to global warming.

Addressing a dialogue held in Wilson Centre in Washington, he said that thirty-three million people of Pakistan have been affected while standing crops at four hundred thousand acres are under water due to floods.

He urged the United Nations and International Financial Institutions to come forward for rehabilitation of flood-affected people of Pakistan.

He said that the wealthy countries should provide 100 billion US dollars a year to less wealthy nations, to help them adapt to climate change and mitigate further rise in temperature.

He stressed the world countries to provide more medicines, tents, mosquito nets and food items for flood-hit areas as diseases have been prevailed in flood-affected areas of Pakistan.

Zardari hospitalized after condition worsens



KARACHI: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari was shifted to hospital after his condition worsens.

A board of the senior doctors of the private hospital is examining the former president's condition.

Asif Zardari is undergoing medical examination. Agencies

Amid opposition protest

Ishaq Dar takes oath as senator

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader and former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Tuesday took oath as senator amid protest by opposition.

Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani administered the oath to Ishaq Dar. During the swearing-in ceremony, PTI members gathered near the rostrum and chanted slogans and tore the copies of the agenda of the meeting and surrounded the dais, in a bid to register their protest after which the chairman called in security personnel.

Leader of the House in the Senate, Azam Nazir Tarar welcomed the PML-N stalwart and expressed the hope that Dar would steer the country out of challenges.

He urged PTI members to respect the law as the accountability court had suspended the permanent arrest warrants of Ishaq Dar till October 7, in a reference pertaining to the holding of assets beyond known sources of income.

It is pertinent to mention that Dar reached Pakistan on Monday along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after a self-exile of more than five years.

Speaking to reporters at Nur Khan airbase, he said that



Nawaz Sharif and the premier had tasked him to take over the portfolio of the finance minister.

"I will try my best to fulfill all the responsibilities. We will try to take out the country from the economic swap it is stuck in [...] the way we did in 1998-1999 and 2013-2014."

Dar further expressed hope that "we will now head in a positive direction".

His return comes a day after PML-N leader Miftah Ismail tendered his resignation to senior party leaders in London. Subsequently, a statement released after the meeting confirmed that Nawaz Sharif and PM Shehbaz had nominated Dar as the finance minister.

Despite threats

Pakistan committed to goal of peaceful South Asia: Munir

NEW YORK: Pakistan Monday told the United Nations that it had made several proposals for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons following India's first nuclear in 1974, but regretted none of them drew a favourable response.

Speaking at an event to commemorate the 'International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons', Ambassador Munir Akram reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the goal of a nuclear weapons free world that is achieved in a universal, verifiable and non-discriminatory manner, with assurances of undiminished security for all States.

"Despite continuing provocations and threats," Ambassador Akram said, "Pakistan remains committed to the goal of a peaceful and stable South Asia," pointing out that Islamabad, over two decades, proposed a number of

initiatives to promote peace and security and prevent the emergence of nuclear weapons in South Asia. But, he said, none of those proposals elicited a positive response.

The event was held as the high-level annual debate in the UN General Assembly Hall came to an end.

"In South Asia, nuclear weapons capability was introduced by one state in 1974," the Pakistani envoy said, without naming India.

"That state also initiated the South Asia nuclear weapons explosions in 1998. Pakistan was compelled to follow suit in order to restore strategic stability and deter the aggression with which Pakistan was threatened immediately after our neighbor's nuclear weapons explosions of 11th May 1998."

Following the South Asia nuclear tests, he said, Pakistan proposed the establishment of

a Strategic Restraint Regime (SRR) in South Asia, to be premised on three interlocking and mutually reinforcing elements of conflict resolution, nuclear and missile restraint and conventional arms balance.

"The proposal remains on the table," he said, adding that Pakistan's security policy continues to be defined by restraint and responsibility and avoidance of a mutually debilitating arms race in the region.

Backing all international efforts seeking to promote fair and equitable solutions to disarmament and non-proliferation challenges, the Pakistani envoy said, adding that meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament can only be achieved through fulfillment of the obligations undertaken by leading nuclear weapon states; resisting global or regional dominance by any state or group of states; addressing the threats



to peace and security; resolving outstanding regional conflicts; building structures of regional stability; Avoiding military blocs; and, ensuring equal security for all States.

At the outset, Ambassador Akram referred to a number of global challenges — including Covid-19 pandemic, climate crisis; proliferating conflicts; expanding military blocs; new arms race and deployment of huge arsenals of advanced conventional and strategic weapons, Ambassador Akram said that the world security and disarmament regimes were in danger of collapse under the weight of these development.

"The danger of nuclear war is today closer than it has been since the (1962) Cuban missile crisis," he noted.

"Discriminatory approaches, double standards and selectivity in the application of global norms not only weaken global disarmament efforts; they also undermine the non-proliferation regime and the international order based on the principles of the UN Charter and International Law." APP

Punjab CM announces colonies, free medical facilities for lawyers

Says always prioritized welfare of the legal fraternity

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Tuesday announced that lawyers' housing colonies would be established in every tehsil and district of the province and their families would be provided free medical facilities equal to gazetted officers.

He was talking to a delegation of Supreme Court lawyers led by Barrister Ali Zafar, Abid Zubairi and Imtiaz Rashid Siddiqui who called on him at CM's office to discuss different matters. Former Federal minister Moonis Elahi,

Advisor Amer Saeed Raan, and Hasaan Niazi Advocate were also present.

The chief minister announced the restoration of public defender act without any delay and added that around 1500 lawyers would be accommodated through this act. He announced the construction of a parking plaza near the Shah Chirag building and a service structure for the public prosecution department. He announced to repair the Punjab Bar Council (PBC) and hostel buildings and said that the

PBC building was completed in his last tenure.

"I have always prioritized the welfare of the legal fraternity and issues of Supreme Court lawyers will be resolved on a priority basis" he said. Practical work would be visible in the next few days while his doors were always open to the lawyers' community, he added.

The delegation thanked the CM for the solution to their problems and noted that the work done by Parvez Elahi in his last tenure was still remem-

bered by the people.

Jahangir Jhoja, Arshad Jehangir Jhoja, Asif Cheema, Manzoor Warraich, Saqib Gondal, Sardar Tariq, Safdar Shaheen Pirzada, Basharat Gul, Muhammad Jahanzeb, Rana Zulfiqar, Nadir Dogal, Mukhtar Ranjha, Safdar Bosal, Ch. Munawar, Ameer Abbas, Waheed Raja, Agha Usma, Sahibzada Amjad Nawaz, Shamshad Malhi, Mudassar Warraich, Muhammad Nawaz and others were included in the delegation.

MD SLS College meets former Lord Mayor Manchester



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: MD SLS College Sarfraz Malik met former Lord Mayor Manchester Councilor Abdul Latif Chauhan at his office in Manchester UK. During the meeting Councilor Abid Latif appreciated the educational services of MD SLS College Sarfraz Malik. He advised the students to learn the English language and become proficient in it. Before coming here, students should research the culture and lifestyle of UK so that they can come here and make the name of Pakistan shine. He said that SLS is a leading institute of IELTS.

He appreciated the excellent results of IELTS and UK Marriage English test.

Play "Ae Gallan Changiyan Tay Nahi" staged at PAC



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A play titled "Ae Gallan Changiyan Tay Nahi" was staged at Punjab Council of the Art. The Play was written by Muhammad Aslam Bhatti, while Ramiz Raja was the director.

Director arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the chief guest of the play. Rizwana Khan, Arshad Khan, Abbas Ninha, Jhalak Ali, Liaquat Shah, Khawar Ayub, Waseem Raja, Alisha, Sophia Ali and Babar Abbas were prominent among the performers of the play. The play tries to highlight the importance and sanctity of human relationships. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that due to wealth, relationships have become weak today.

Wealth is a material thing that can raise the standard of life of a person. But it cannot compensate for the lack of blood relations. In today's modern age, we are giving priority to wealth over relations, which have destroyed our family system. In the end, he also congratulated the artists for presenting a wonderful play. Assistant Director Muhammad Sulaiman said that Punjab Arts Council has always adorned the stage with only standard plays. Providing the best entertainment to the public is the top priority of the Arts Council.

RASTA's documentary film screening event today

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PIDEAS (PIDE IDEAS) is an initiative of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA).

The visual format has always remained one of the most engaging and key conversational tools for producing research, and in the wake of using this as an instrument for knowledge production and dissemination, RASTA is producing documentary films based on the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) research.

In this regard, RASTA is organizing a documentary film screening event today in Cinema Hall of Islamabad Club, from 04:00 PM-08:00 PM. Under the PIDEAS Initiative, this will be the first session in the series of documentary films based on PIDE's research.

Subsidized flour

KARACHI: People stand in a queue for purchasing wheat flour at a sale point on subsidized rate near Radio Pakistan, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

PTDC hosts conference to celebrate World Tourism Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) hosted a two-day conference to celebrate the World Tourism Day around this year's theme "Rethinking Tourism", at Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) and Marriott Hotel Islamabad on 26th and 27th September, respectively.

The first day event included a photography competition, painting exhibition, display of tourism stalls, heritage crafts exhibition, youth painting competition, Islamabad sightseeing tour for students and youth at PNCA, followed by a panel discussion on a variety of topics around Tourism in Pakistan.

Mr. Asim Ibrahim, Senior Vice President Operations, Hashoo Hotels, was part of the panel discussion regarding Tourism development and promotions in Pakistan.

COMSTECH organizes seminar on food insecurity

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER) organized an international virtual seminar on "solutions to combat food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel".

The Seminar was hosted by COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER) in cooperation with the Sahel Coalition based in Brussels (Belgium), Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control (CILSS) based in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and Sahel-AGRHYMET based in Niamey (Niger) and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), based in Nur Sultan City, Kazakhstan. The event was held during the United Nations General Assembly Science Summit on September 26,

2022.

COMSTECH Advisor (Climate Change), Ambassador Shahid Kamal welcomed the participants of the seminar. He said that food security is in great interest of global community. Ambassador Kamal said that the degraded soils can no longer produce enough food.

Brussels based High Representative of the Sahel Coalition, Dr. Djime Adoum addressed the session and suggested the nations to increase investment and regional cooperation for equitable land distribution and food security.

Policy officer of European Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation with Africa and ASEAN countries, Dr. Vincenzo Lorusso gave a comprehensive presentation in the session on AU-EU R&I partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture & the AU-EU innovation agenda.

COMSTECH Forum seminar has highlighted the critical food security crisis in West Africa. The event coincided with the global food security summit held last week at the United Nations which was organized jointly by African Union, European Union and United States during the UN General Assembly Session in New York.

COMSTECH has signed a memorandum of cooperation with CILSS permanent interstate committee for drought control in the Sahel based in Burkina Faso. This agreement has linked COMSTECH with its two specialized institutes - regional center in Niger and Sahel institute in Mali. Two OIC institutions - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan, and Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) based in Morocco are partners in this endeavor.

IFRC to extend relief operations in flood-affected areas



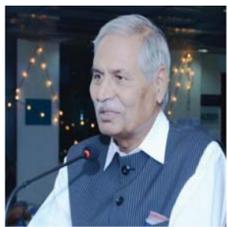
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan Red Crescent Society is engaged in multifaceted response in the flood affected areas of the country in collaboration with International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, the National Society is providing clean drinking water, food items, tents, hygiene kits and medical facilities to the affected population in an efficient manner and we are thankful to the support of our Red Cross Movement partners in alleviating the sufferings of the vulnerable people".

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari expressed these views in a meeting with IFRC Under Secretary General Xavier Castellanos at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters here on Tuesday.

World Heart Day

Major General (R) Masud Ur Rehman Kayani



Speaking of heart, for those with a heart, now is the time to start taking care of our heart the way it take cares of our body. Approximately, this tiny heart, which plays an important role in the whole body, about three weeks after a woman becomes pregnant, the heart begins to feel its presence, which reminds us to take care of myself, because I am life. Although your heart is a strong part of the body, but a little carelessness is enough to make you suffer from heart disease.

If risk factors such as smoking, excessive consumption of sugar, unhealthy diet, stress will dominate your life, you are, in fact, weakening your heart. The purpose of "World Heart Day" which is celebrated around the world including Pakistan, National Heart Association (PANAHA) on September 29, 2022, is to raise aware-

ness about heart diseases globally and to prevent the causes of heart disease.

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are called cardiovascular diseases, heart diseases named world number one killer. Cardiovascular awareness is important for everyone. CVD is a class of diseases that affect the heart or blood vessels (veins and arteries). Cardiovascular diseases kill more than 18.6 million people each year. Eighty-five percent of these deaths are due to coronary heart diseases (such as heart attack) and mental illness (such as stroke) and mostly affects low and middle income countries.

Smoking is commonly linked

to lung and cancer diseases, but did you know that smoking significantly increase the risk of heart diseases. Tragically, smoking is on the rise among men as well as women, especially young girls. Women who smoke have a 25% higher risk of heart disease than men who smoke.

On World Heart Day, it is important to mention a few basic factors that cause heart disease, one of which is smoking called the "Silent Killer" by the World Health Organization. It is a major cause of heart disease. Globally, more than 1 in 10 deaths are caused by smoking, according to the World Heart Federation, while approximately 1.1 million deaths are caused by second hand smoke. Smoking damages blood vessels, temporarily raises blood pressure and impairs exercise tolerance, reduces the amount of oxygen in the body.

Tobacco use is a major cause of blood clots, which can lead to paralysis and sudden death. With each cigarette smoker, the risk of heart attack increases

by 5.6%. Ever since man has moved away from simple diet, walking, exercise and nature he has been suffering from various diseases. If we make exercise routine, the risk of heart disease can be reduced by 30% and the risk of diabetes by 27%. But people who stay away from physical exercise have 20 to 30% increased risk of death. At least 3.2 million deaths worldwide each year are caused by inadequate physical activity.

Tele digital health has a very important role to play in educating the general public about heart diseases. Posters should be put up in every office, educational institutions, clinics, food points and every public places, so that if someone suddenly suffers from a heart attack, they can take precautionary measures to save someone's precious life. Remember that the risk factors you have, the most likely you are to develop heart disease. So bring life to simplicity and give up the causes of heart disease in your life, so that you stay healthy.

15000 micro-sized water purifiers distributed among flood affectees



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PakVitae has distributed its Every Water branded 15,000 micro sized water purifiers through partner organizations, to flood affected people across Pakistan including Sindh, KP, Baluchistan and Punjab.

These innovative filters are now providing clean water at 15,000 points delivering 500,000 liters per hour. These off-grid purifiers are easy to maintain and purify water with 99.9999% efficiency. They carry a 2 years performance warranty.

The purifiers are developed using indigenous innovative ERM (Esoteric Resistive Membrane) technology. The technology was invented by the UET Lahore Chemical Engineering graduates and Founders of Pakvitae, Shayan Sohail and Arslan Ahmed. PakVitae ultrafilters have undergone rigorous field use providing millions

of liters of clean water from hundreds of contaminated water sources across Pakistan, India, and Africa. This far over 300,000 individuals have benefited from everywater across the globe.

Unlike centralized water purification solutions which tend to get crowded, require power, infrastructure, and supervision, these purifiers are provided to individual families who can easily maintain them and get readily available clean drinking water in their homes / camps.

Each purifier costs only Rs. 4000 and comes with a 15 liters container. This solution helps contain plastic pollution and carbon emissions as each filter saves upto 2 tons of Carbon dioxide and 400 kgs of plastic waste over its lifetime of two years, delivering 10,000 liters of clean drinking water, which is equal to the drinking water need of a 6-member family.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas Mrs. Muhammad Younass/o Abdul Hameed, allottee/transferee of residential plot No. 58-E, Block-B, Area Development Scheme-II, Gujjar Khan has appointed General Power of Attorney to Mr. Muhammad Iqbal son of Haji Faqir Khan vide registered deed No.1444/4 dated 29-12-1993 from Sub Registrar, Mansehra. Further General Power of attorney have appointed Special Power of Attorney to Mrs. Salma Anwar w/o Saleem Anwar Sheikh and the same was registered in Sub Registrar (U-II) Rawalpindi vide deed No. 27-07-2013.

Now, the Special Power of Attorney wish to transfer above mentioned plot No. 58-E, Block-B, Area Development Scheme-II, Gujjar Khan to 3rd party.

If anyone have objection of above advertisement submit their objection within fifteen days of this advertisement otherwise objection will not be entertained.

Deputy Director Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Sub Region Rawalpindi



Ahsan asks business community to explore global markets for exports

Planning Minister addresses at a dinner reception organized by ICCI in honor of foreign diplomats



Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has called upon the business community to explore the global market for promoting Pakistan's exports and bringing the foreign exchange to the country so that Pakistan can grow faster. He said that our businessmen will have to be embedded with the spirit of 21st century Columbus to go out and find new opportunities for increasing exports of Pakistan, which were vital to improve our economy. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest at a dinner reception organized by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) in honor of foreign diplomats in a local hotel.

H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps, H.E. Mohammed Karmoune Ambassador of Morocco and Dean of African Corps, Ambassadors/High Commissioners of Italy, UAE, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Palestine, Philippine, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Jordan, South Africa, Malaysia, Iraq, Nigeria, Sweden, Germany, Bangladesh, representatives of Embassies of Japan and USA as well as Zamurrad Khan Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes, senior political leader Syed Zafar Ali Shah and a large number of business community were present at the occasion.

In his welcome address, Muhammad Shakeel Munir,



Photos by Ghulam Farid



President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the flash floods have created great problems for Pakistan's economy and urged that the foreign diplomats should play role to enhance the exports of Pakistan to foreign markets that would provide important cushion to our economy. He said that Pakistan was producing many quality products including marble & granite, textiles, surgical instruments, medical equipment, chemical & pharma products, sports goods, leather products, food products including rice, fruits & vegetables, IT products and IT enabled services and cooperation of foreign diplomats was important to increase their exports.

H.E. Atadjan Movlamov Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps and H.E. Andreas Ferrarese Ambassador of Italy also spoke at the occasion and assured of their cooperation to promote the business and economic interests of Pakistan in the international market.

Newly Elected President of ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that the world had entered the geo-economic phase and economic diplomacy was very important in international relations.

While addressing a dinner reception hosted by the



ICCI in honor of foreign diplomats and the business community here, he said that in this modern age of economic wars, the smooth growth of trade and investment played a very important role in the development

and prosperity of a country. Ahsan said that this goal could be achieved in a better way by setting up new industrial estates and special economic zones, rationalizing the taxation system, facilitating the promotion of exports, and integrating the economy of Pakistan with the global economic hubs. The promotion of business, trade and investment activities in a country ensured economic stability, he added.

Therefore, he said, it was vital for Pakistan to maintain and promote cordial relations with the international world in order to explore new avenues of trade and investment promotion. He said that this gathering was the right step in the direction of developing close cooperation of their business community with the diplomatic community.

The ICCI president said that the country was currently facing great economic challenges due to which the businesses were also facing significant problems. "We believe that the best way for Pakistan to overcome these economic challenges is to further enhance trade relations with other countries," he said.

He said the business and industrial sectors were the backbone of the economy. "We believe that Pakistan would achieve better growth when our businesses and industries flourish," he added. For this purpose, he said, it was important that the government should take more steps to create a conducive environment for the promotion of business and economic activities.

He said the ICCI had always been at the forefront to connect the business community with foreign diplomats so that they could interact with them and explore new opportunities for promoting trade and exports with other countries.

The ICCI produced a number of shining stars who raised the voice of the business community at national and international forums, and played a positive role in addressing their key issues, he said.

Ahsan said that it was a source of great pride for them that former executive member of ICCI Raja Pervaiz Ashraf served as the former prime minister and was at present the Speaker of the National Assembly. He also appreciated the international community for providing generous support to Pakistan for the relief of flood victims. Ahsan said that many countries, including China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkiye, Uzbekistan, the UAE, the United States and others came forward in this crucial time to support Pakistan.

"I would like the foreign countries to focus on promoting trade with Pakistan instead. It would help our economy in the long run," he said. He stressed upon the members of the business community to focus on new markets, including Africa, Central Asia, ASEAN, South Asia, Middle East and Europe which offered great potential for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports.

He said, "I hope that the foreign diplomats would also help our private sector in such efforts. I would like to invite and welcome all the ambassadors, high commissioners, and commercial counselors to visit the ICCI during my tenure. "I want to make a new beginning for promoting Pakistan's trade ties with foreign countries for achieving mutually beneficial results," he said.

All the diplomatic communities in Islamabad were well familiar with his father Zafar Bakhtawari, who had established very friendly relations with the diplo-



matic community as a result of tireless efforts over the last 40 years.

"I hope that I will take forward the legacy of my father to further strengthen the trade and economic relations of Pakistan with potential world markets," he said.

At the end of the ceremony, shields were distributed among diplomats and senior members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari newly elected President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik and Zafar Bakhtawari former Presidents ICCI also spoke at the occasion, and highlighted the potential of joint ventures & investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy. They said that foreign diplomats should cooperate in bringing more foreign investment to Pakistan that would enable our country to achieve sustainable economic growth and address economic challenges with ease.

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‘NAB is Nabbed’



Analysis
Nisar Ahmed

tive tool? Is it overshadowed with the manipulative objective of retributive trials? Why do we witness bouts of over accountability followed by complete inactivity?

On one hand, NAB annual report 2021 highlights the achievements of the body and stakes a claim at the most aggressive attitude of adopting zero tolerance towards corruption. On the contrary, as per Transparency International, Pakistan's standing is hovering near the bottom of the list; Pakistan is stationed at 140th position out of 180 countries with a score of 28 out of 100! Certainly, both of the claims are not equally justified.

Once again, the stories involving noble watchdog are in the bulletin for September; scareheads of acquittal and indictment subject to political victimization have become an area of interest for the newshawks. In a recent proceeding, Islamabad High Court (IHC) grilled NAB prosecutor over his inability to present physical evidence in the case "assets beyond means", submitted against the former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif. Further, the honorable judge expressed his frustration over lack of physical evidence in the conviction of the daughter of former supreme, with the charge for abetment in the purchase of foreign properties. The court



Comic wisdom by Nisar Ahmed
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was adjourned until next hearing on September 29, requiring NAB prosecutor to establish a connection between the purchased properties and the former supreme, a valid trail of monetary transaction for the purchase and a testimony for putting charge of abetment against the daughter of Sharif. Will it be able to satisfy the court in such a short time frame? The precedents urge an objective answer which never allows us to answer this in affirmation!

In an interesting development, National Accountability (Second Amendment Bill) 2022 was passed annexing it to the original National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999. The tweak in NAO has stripped bureau's power to respond to the fraud by officials holding public offices, it has significantly shrunk its ambit of author-

ity; for that reason, accountability courts have released numerous cases in a hearing early in September. Noticeably, NAB raised references against the incumbent prime minister, Shahbaz Sharif; the trial pertains to the alleged misuse of public resources worth more than Rs. 200 million for the construction of a drain apparently in use of family-owned sugar business. It is pertinent to mention here that Sharif was arrested in 2018 after his indictment in the above case and was on bail following the orders of Lahore High Court. With the fresh amendments, the case file and all the developments thereon were moved out of the domain of bureau. Other notable cases accompanying the above case included the references submitted against the former public office

holders including premiership holders, Yousuf Raza and Raja Pervez. Amended NAO was kind enough to have granted immunity to these defendants in their respective trials.

Another splendor of justice was seen when the honorable IHC ordered NAB to brush off the dust on 25-years old cases against the former president, Asif Zardari. The court assigned NAB to review the acquittal in the references submitted in Ursus Tractors, ARY Gold and other cases after consulting the amended NAO until October 20. This is not the first time where the watchdog was used as a retributive tool with its nose in the hands of a puppet master. Shuffling of the political cases and their subsequent engineering through political enactments leaves the accountability at the mercy of prejudiced restitution. This not only compromises the national resources but also undermines the trust in the judicial system which is why Musharraf once remarked, "I established NAB to instill fear of God in the hearts of the mighty and the rich". Alas! the toothless accountability seems to replace the left-over fears with enkindled audacity to commit fraud.

The writer contributes to the national press occasionally & is accessible at nisarahmed2na@gmail.com

Foreign policy of incumbent Government

We are hopeful to receive further relief assistance from the world. The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif successfully highlighted the devastating situation of floods in the country during his speech at the UN and interaction with various world leaders. The Prime Minister highlighted the gravity of situation due to climate change and suffering of Pakistan. It is essential to have such meetings and to find solutions for such issues. Social media can also help raise awareness about the climate impacts. We have to make consistent efforts to provide relief to the people. The areas of Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan are heavily inundated and damaged. Various diseases have broken out in the affected areas, posing danger to the heaths and lives of people. We should not pin much hopes from international community. Rather, we should enhance our efforts to help the affected people.

A good and fortunate thing for Pakistan is that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is actively working to further develop relations with the world. He is in constant connection with the international community, or any other forum. He recently met Antony Blinken in the US and discussed economic & trade cooperation. Pakistan is in dire need of such foreign relations to develop our economy and attain stability. Foreign Minister is working in the right direction. Indian politicians are not as rational as Pakistani politicians. The resolution of Kashmir issue is of utmost priority for FM Bilawal Bhutto. The diplomacy of any country should be flexible in order to achieve peace and stability in the region. Pakistan is one of the countries whose rate of carbon emissions is less than 1% but still we are facing the severe negative impacts of the climate change.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have been making strong efforts to turn Pakistan into a credible partner of international community. The meetings with global leaders are very important. Pakistan is highlighting the issue of climate change at all global forums to raise awareness. The leadership of incumbent government is working to develop economic cooperation and trade agreements with other countries. The countries in West and East are providing assistance to Pakistan in these devastating times. Prime Minister has applauded the international community for their cooperation in providing aid to Pakistan. During his UN speech, he effectively highlighted the Kashmir dispute and importance of its resolution for regional and international peace. The situation in Rohingya and Afghanistan as well as the war on terror was also discussed during his speech.

During this devastating situation, there was a dire need of such participation from Pakistan at the international forums. The way the Prime Minister presented Pakistan's case at the UN is commendable. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with various world leaders on the sidelines of the UNGA session, where they discussed the matters of mutual cooperation. Overall, it was a great demonstration of Pakistan's narrative on regional and international cooperation. Both leaders are working hand for bilateral cooperation and growth of the country. Pakistan is an important country and our leaders have efficiently presented it to the world.



Tourism and Pakistan



Analysis
Munaza Kazmi

areas where using public toilet is the disaster, even the paid ones, moreover the sitting areas, eating desks are disgusting. I really want to see Nagarparkar, Chitral and Kalash however cannot due to the fear of non-availability of fine hotels. This factor I believe is of grave importance since it creates a very negative impression of tourist.

Third, availability of economic accommodation, food and basic necessities. Since, it is a known fact that in every tourist season, the hotel owners take advantage of the situation and charge excessive rates. Ironically there's no check on the part of concerned authorities. Let's say Pearl Continental Burban on New Year's Eve charged me 45,000 for micro room, like a train compartment. Another thing I wanted to ask from the Hotel Association, "when you guys are operating in Pakistan then why charging in dollars?" The examples can be seen almost all over Pakistan.

Conclusively, I would say in Pakistan there is completely the absence of tourism culture and it has much to do with corruption and inefficiency on the part of tourism departments in various provinces of the country who are mostly irresponsible in their duties, taking bribery from under the table and having lack proper training on providing concentrated facilities to tourists at affordable prices.

Disgracefully, that unlike India, China, the UAE and Sri Lanka, where there is a culture of tourism, one can observe the absence of proper work ethics and pursu-

ance of a professional approach to attract foreign tourists. Truly, reasoning the COVID-19 pandemic tourist industry all over the world has suffered however such a crisis should have been used as an opportunity by articulating short- and long-term policies to train those who are related to the tourism industry. In the year 2020 and early 2021, tourist places in Pakistan were closed and only reopened during the summer of 2021. It brought the rush in tourist destinations during the summer which led to the shortage of accommodation and overcharging of hotel accommodation.

For international tourists, Pakistan is an appealing destination with spellbinding attractiveness of landscape, diverse culture, historical heritage sites besides places of religious importance. Known for its extraordinary peaks, in North with silvery glaciers, heart shaped lakes, cold desert and pine forests with which not only local but international tourism can flourish. Likewise, the historical sites of Taxila, Mohenjo-Daro, Indus Civilization and glorious Lahore. The deserts of Tharparkar and Nagarparkar in Sindh and Cholistan in Punjab, as well as the coast of Gwadar and Karachi, particularly the magical sights Makran, including Spinix and Princess of Hope in Balochistan, and most importantly the regional foods.

Major requirement is the make sure that adequate facilities are provided. Along there are few more issues to reconsider. Mainly the Corruption which

give birth to "tourist mafia" that is very common practice in North, acts of cheating, fraud and overcharging have been in recorded by numerous travels, plus the inability better to say failure of providing proper infrastructure, let's say road to Khaplu in Sarkdu is more than dangerous since its broken at several places. And the road to Lake Saiful Muluk, why it's never been considered? Because of "Jeep Mafia" indeed.

Another thing I should mention is the tourism education required attention for the population, which will enhance the ideology as well as hospitality for the international travelers. As we all can understand how uncomfortable a person would be if he/she may become a center of attention for every passer, we lock our sisters and daughters behind walls and took pleasure in disrespecting the privacy of others. I wonder when Pakistanis would learn this.

In my opinion hectic efforts should be made both at federal and provincial levels to create the culture of tourism by taking measures which have been highlighted above. When there was civil war going on in Sri Lanka from 1983 till 2009 and foreign tourism dropped, the government encouraged local tourism which tried to bridge the gap in income from foreign tourism. Pakistan needs to promote homegrown tourism and take practical steps to provide safety, security, privacy, better hygienic, infrastructure and accommodation facilities so that both local and foreign tourism may uplift.

China's road to poverty eradication

Jay Ian Birbeck

Last year, China's government announced that it had eradicated poverty. Ending extreme poverty was undoubtedly one of China's signature feats of the past decade. However, the country's achievements have gone beyond just getting rid of poverty, with the past 10 years having seen China make significant improvements in its people's quality of life, such as wages, life expectancy and educational attainment.

The speed and scale of this transformation are hard to quantify. Over 40 years ago, China's economy was stagnant, inefficient and underdeveloped – poverty was the norm. Nonetheless, the country managed to eliminate poverty in a mere generation. So how did it do it? There were two main approaches.

The first step was a wide-ranging societal transformation. Economic reforms enacted in the 1980s sparked a rapid surge in growth and development that significantly improved the living standards of millions of Chinese citizens. Meanwhile, the gradual introduction of free trade zones, tariff reductions and trade deals continued to propel the enormous rise in economic activity. An upsurge in job creation and economic opportunity spread across society, benefiting countless people.

However, China's economic renaissance wasn't free of complications. While eastern coastal cities flourished, many rural areas were left behind. Therefore, the government embarked on a campaign of targeted support to alleviate persistent poverty, explicitly focusing on economically reinvigorating rural areas with direct financial assistance. The campaign was ambitious: to lift China's entire population out of poverty by 2020.

The results were so successful that the World Bank estimates that China's poverty alleviation

efforts over the past 40 years account for more than 75% of global poverty reduction in the same period.

Seeing success in sight, the campaign intensified in the lead-up to the 2020 deadline, with direct assistance, infrastructure development and economic incentives ramped up across less developed regions. For example, between 2012 and 2021, financial aid provided to China's rural residents more than doubled. As a result, since 2012, the country has managed to assist its final 100 million rural residents in escaping poverty. By doing so, the country achieved its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development poverty eradication target 10 years ahead of schedule.

There is still a lot of work to do, and China's leadership seems intent on consolidating their gains and improving living standards. Hence, the goals are no less ambitious. For instance, China's Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 have declared China's aim to become a global leader in health by 2035. Already, average life expectancy, a key gauge of fitness, reached 78.2 years in 2021. Meanwhile, also in 2021, infant, maternal and child mortality rates dropped to their lowest levels in the country's history.

And it's not just health; continuing advancements in education, infrastructure and social welfare will benefit Chinese citizens over the coming years.

Going forward, China will also need to evolve its social policies in order to support workers' mobility and upgrade their skill levels as its economy develops from low-end manufacturing to high-end manufacturing. It'll be a massive undertaking, but given the success of the enormous poverty alleviation campaign, the prospects look good.

Jay Ian Birbeck is a freelance writer based in Guangzhou. He received an MSc in Digital Humanities from UCL. Courtesy: China.org.cn

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,518.23	41,151.54
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,589.89	41,151.54
Index Value	Change
7,894,632,302	+366.69
Percentage	Time
+0.89%	27 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,031.57	+10.62
Percentage	Time
+0.15%	27 Sept, 3:39 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
29,488.40	+227.59
Percentage	Time
+0.78%	27 Sept, 10:39 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,571.87	+140.32
Percentage	Time
+0.53%	27 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	154.59	155.84
Bahrain Dinar	635.78	640.28
Canadian Dollar	173.95	175.3
China Yuan	33.73	33.98
Danish Krone	30.94	31.29
Euro	222	224
Hong Kong Dollar	30.45	30.8
Indian Rupee	2.93	3.01
Japanese Yen	1.35	1.41
Kuwaiti Dinar	770.02	775.02
Malaysian Ringgit	51.96	52.41
New Zealand \$	135.45	136.65
Norwegians Krone	22.17	22.47
Omani Riyal	621.33	625.83
Qatari Riyal	65.67	66.17
Saudi Riyal	61.2	61.9
Singapore Dollar	166.44	167.74
Swedish Korona	21.1	21.4
Swiss Franc	240.92	242.67
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	62.8	63.4
UK Pound Sterling	251	254
US Dollar	232.5	235

Summit in Norway highlights development in Pakistan's startup ecosystem

Event provides valuable opportunity to delegates from both the countries

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Pakistan in Norway, in collaboration with private sector, held a 'Pakistan Norway Future Summit 2022' in Oslo as an effort to build bridges between emerging startups, IT, software and technology companies from both the countries.

The event was organized by Ejad Labs on the sidelines of Oslo Innovation Week, said a press release received here Tuesday. Speaking at the event, Ambassador Babar Amin appreciated the efforts of Ejad Labs and its CEO Arzish Azam for creating a very useful networking opportunity for Pakistani and Norwegian counterpart companies.

He highlighted the significant development in Pakistan's startup ecosystem as well as opportunities and tax incentives offered to information technology and information technology enabled services (IT&S) in Pakistan.

The keynote speakers included CEO Ejad Labs Arzish Azam, BDM Oslo Business Region Kristin Anderssen, Global Chapter Success

Lead, Pakistani Women in Computing (PWIC) Mahum Khan, Founder Fori Dr. Musstanser Tinauli, CEO Maidaan Raja Mehtab, Director Penumbra Habibullah Khan, UE Business Lead MENAP Epic Games Muhammad Fasih Mehta, CEO Thehash.io Mudaser Iqbal.

CEO Ejad Lab invited the Norwegian companies to participate in the "Future Fest 2023" – the next big tech conference that would take place at Expo Centre Lahore, on January 6-8, 2023.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to the delegates from both the countries to introduce their businesses and explore mutual synergies.

The event saw participation of above 30 delegates coming from Pakistan as well as a similar number of Norwegian companies. The representatives of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Abelia (Association of Norwegian technology and knowledge-based companies) and Oslo Chamber also participated in the meeting.



Ishaq Dar has ability to meet current challenges

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Tuesday said Senator Ishaq Dar has the ability to deal with economic challenges and he will take the country out of the whirlpool of economic problems.

The second finance minister of the current government will face historical inflation, flood damage and instability but the biggest problem will be to improve the value of the rupee which he will manage successfully, he said.

Ishaq Dar has been the



finance minister thrice in the past but never in such a serious economic situation, he added.

In a statement issued here today, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the foreign exchange

reserves are insufficient and the revenue will also fall due to the flood while the social sector expenses will have to be increased to help the victims, which will be a test of his abilities.

He will also deal successfully with the IMF to reduce the tax of 7200 billion rupees, while the issue of inflation will have to be tackled as it will play important role in the upcoming election.

Atif Ikram further said that despite the global response after the nuclear tests in 1998, Ishaq Dar did not allow the expected increase in the value of the dollar, while in 2014, he brought

the dollar below one hundred rupees on the challenge of the opposition.

It is a fact that Pakistan has to pay a heavy price for the decision to allow free movement of dollars and even now there is an influential mafia behind the fluctuation in the value of dollars which the new finance minister will have to control.

It will be impossible for Ishaq Dar to increase exports immediately, but imports and non-developmental expenditure can be cut immediately, which will reduce the current account deficit and improve the economic situation, he remarked.

Syed IT Solution, SAB Cattle Farm distribute goods among flood victims

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: "Karachi's youth" also mobilized for the rehabilitation and relief of the flood victims, under Syed IT Solution and SAB Cattle Farm in the villages of Naushahro Firoz, a remote area of Sindh. Sami Arshad, owner of Syed IT Solution and SAB Cattle Farm, along with his team, distributed more than a dozen trucks of goods to the flood victims.

NGOs and charitable organizations should also focus on remote areas, the flood victims in the remote areas of Sindh are still facing shortage of medicine and clean water, especially women and children are facing severe difficulties.

And they are lying helpless under the open sky, he said that aid is being provided from various sources around the big cities and in the suburbs, but to the remote areas, where paved roads have been flooded and

The roads have become difficult, no one has access there, said Sami Arshad, owner of Syed IT Solutions and SAB



Cattle Farm.

Under the slogan of "Karachi ke Jawan", we in collaboration with IT Solutions and SAB Cattle Farm have delivered relief goods to the flood victims on more than a dozen trucks in the remote areas of Naushahro Firoz, including tents, food and drink items, bottles of clean water, medicines, beds and clothes etc. were included. No one has access yet.

Coca-Cola partners with foodpanda to bring exclusive deals

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: foodpanda, Coca-Cola Icéček Pakistan, and The Coca-Cola Export Corporation are creating "Real Magic" by entering a long-term partnership to bring exclusive deals and discounts for foodpanda customers.

Speaking about the partnership, Muntaqa Peracha, CEO foodpanda stated, "Consumer behaviour in Pakistan is constantly evolving, making food delivery platforms increasingly popular for the convenience and enhanced experience it provides to consumers. As Pakistan's leading online delivery service, we are extremely excited to partner with the biggest consumer brand Coca-Cola in bringing customers their favorite meals from thousands of restaurants across the country."

Fahad Ashraf, Vice President, The Coca-Cola Company Pakistan & Afghanistan said, "This partnership is a natural synergy for a growing market that increasingly depends on digital technology for lifestyle choices from food to groceries. We



want to not just expand the service delivery mechanisms but also the quality so our customers can be happier and find what they need with the ease that applications like foodpanda provide."

On this occasion, Syed Murtaza Abbas, Marketing Director of Coca-Cola Icéček Pakistan, said, "This partnership will

contribute to simplifying the lives of our customers and increase the availability of Coca-Cola products. We are not only expanding the service delivery system, but also working to standardize the service delivery for our customers so that they can use this platform in a convenient way and benefit from it."

Brainchild Communications Pakistan restructures leadership and media brands

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Brainchild Communications Pakistan, the largest media agency in Pakistan according to the latest RECMA media agency rankings report, has restructured its leadership team, to propel new avenues for growth.

Usman Qayam takes over Starcom Pakistan as the new general manager. At the same time, Saud Umar Khan was named the general manager for Publicis Media, and Urooj Hussain was raised to general manager of Media vest.

"Usman joined us in 2009 as a management trainee," said Farhan Khan, the chief executive officer of Brainchild Communications Pakistan. "His experience within the agency network spans a diversified range of businesses, including P&G, National Foods, Dawlance, KFC, HBL, KIA, Engro, TikTok, and Mondelez, to name a few. Usman has been relentless in his pursuit for agency growth and brings passion to the game when working for his clients. His forte has been hand-holding clients when they are looking for communication solutions and leading them to unlock opportunities with market-firsts avenues to test & learn from."



An alumnus of SZABIST and an adjunct faculty of management sciences at his alma mater, Qayam has inspired many young graduates to join the Starcom Management Trainee program. "He has built a robust client portfolio out of Karachi only with a multi-billion annual turnover alongside winning many awards for his clients, said Khan. "Starcom Pakistan is all about energy, drive, and passion for being the market leader in the coming years, and Usman hopes to carry that challenge moving on."

Starting his career in 2004 with Ufone, Saud Umar Khan has an extensive work experience in the telecommunications sector through the telecom growth years in Pakistan.

His last assignment in Pakistan was heading brand communications at Warid Telecom before venturing to the UAE, where he led the commercial team for a construction group. "Saud joined us in Islamabad as the Associate Director in July 2017 to manage the regional operations," said CEO Farhan Khan. "In early 2019, he was challenged to manage a more extensive portfolio in Lahore, becoming the portfolio director for the north region. He not only added new clients but also grew the region to a multi-billion-rupee portfolio, delivering the highest-ever growth. He spearheads Publicis Media across Pakistan with Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad offices. He has managed a diverse

portfolio of clients, including Coca-Cola, Fauji Foods, Packages, Samsung Electronics, Servis Shoes, Zameen.com, and Zong 4G."

Harnessing the power of the modern media landscape to drive one-to-one consumer engagement at scale, Publicis Media creates value for clients through global media agency brands and scaled capabilities across investment, strategy, insights and analytics, data and technology, commerce, performance marketing, and content.

The media brand was launched in Pakistan after the group won the Nestle media review in Q4 2021, with Publicis Media gearing up to introduce global learnings to the Pakistani market.

Starting her career with Brainchild Communications Pakistan in 2009 as a management trainee, Urooj has worked across multiple functions in media planning, buying, digital, and e-commerce across various categories such as personal care, telecom, and consumer appliances, with a core focus on the FMCG space across multiple local and international brands such as Procter & Gamble, Unilever, National Foods, Engro, Dawlance, EFU and more.

JS Bank holds medical camps



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: JS Bank, one of Pakistan's fastest-growing Banks, has set up mobile clinics and daily food ration distribution drives catering to thousands of people in flood-impacted areas.

JS Bank has joined hands with partners such as the Sindh Association of North America (SANA) to ease the difficulties being faced by people in the rain-affected areas through a team of qualified doctors, paramedic staff, and volunteers led by Jamil Memon – Head of Admin & CSR, JS Bank.

Activities are taking place in Districts Jamsoro (Sehwan), Dadu & Larkana along with surrounding areas. These include villages, Mirzapur, Bubak Band Manchar, Arazi, Warrar, Lakki Shah Saddar, Kai, Bago Sher, Nawab Khan Rind, and Hajji Khan Noohani amongst others. The estimated outreach of this program will be 20,000+ people and is expected to grow as the efforts are expanded to further areas.

Basir Shamsie – President & CEO, JS Bank personally visited the camps, along

with senior team members to review the efforts of the JS Flood Relief team, which has been working on the ground. Speaking at the location, he said, "JS Bank is committed to giving back to the community in which it operates and is actively making efforts to ease the difficulties of the affected, as it had done in the 2010 floods. We are standing by the nation and will continue to do in times to come."

"We are focusing our efforts on hard-to-reach villages in the area to provide relief to those who are in the worst impacted conditions," said Jamil Memon.

As per the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), due to the floods, some 33 million people have been affected in 116 of the country's 160 districts. Nearly 1,200 people have died and over 4,900 have been injured. Over 1.1 million houses have now been damaged or destroyed and more than 470,000 people are living in camps. In addition, at least 3.6 million acres of crops/orchards have been affected and over 733,000 livestock killed according to initial estimates.

PTA issues revised quality of service regulations for fixed broadband services

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has reviewed the existing Broadband Quality of Service Regulations, 2014 and has issued revised Fixed Broadband Regulations after due consultation with all the stakeholders. The Regulations shall be known as "Fixed Broadband Quality of Service (QoS) Regulations, 2022".

These regulations have been updated keeping in view existing and emerging fixed broadband technologies including xDSL (Digital Subscriber Line), Cable Broadband (DOCSIS 3.x), Fixed Wireless, Fiber to the Home (FTTH)/GPON, Satellite Broadband, etc. The aim is to better gauge the services agreed upon by the service providers with the end users.

The regulations include aspects such as: fixed broadband internet speeds for download data throughput should be at least 4Mbps (up from 256 kbps) and 2Mbps upload. 80% of the advertised download speeds should be available at all times to the end users. Moreover, PTA will not only conduct QoS Surveys and test the quality of services being provided to consumers, but it shall also implement and execute the recurring National Broadband Measurement Program (NBM).

For this purpose, pre-configured devices shall be placed with group of volunteers and line performance shall be measured all the time. The results shall be available on dedicated servers placed on designated places as decided by the Authority. Such testing can either be undertaken by authorized PTA officers or through designated agency hired for the purpose.

Based on technological advancements in fixed broadband networks, more stringent thresholds have been set for existing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (e.g. Latency, Packet Loss, Jitter, etc.). Furthermore, new set of KPIs have been introduced, including Voice over IP (VoIP) services, Web Page Loading Time, and Bandwidth Utilization. A special emphasis has been placed on the implementation of the concept of "Net Neutrality".

‘Memorial Day’

Azerbaijan Embassy honors martyrs of Patriotic War

Ambassador Khazar Farhadov says “Memorial Day” is a sign of deep respect for Azerbaijani soldiers and officers

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Azerbaijan Embassy here on Tuesday commemorated “Memorial Day” to honor the martyrs of the patriotic war who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in 2020.

Addressing the Commemoration Day ceremony, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan, Khazar Farhadov, said this “Memorial Day” was a sign of deep respect for Azerbaijani soldiers and officers, all the martyrs, who fought heroically in the Patriotic War, waved the Azerbaijani flag in the liberated lands and sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan.

He said that Armenia kept Azerbaijan’s territories under occupation illegally for almost 30 years. During these years, Armenia always committed provocations against Azerbaijan.

He said that on September 27 2020, a counter-offensive was launched two years back in response to Armenia’s yet another large-scale military attack on Azerbaijani Army positions and civilian settlements. The counter-offensive later became known as Operation Iron Fist, leading to the Patriotic War.

At the end of the 44-day Patriotic War, under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, President Ilham Aliyev, Khazar said, “our army liberated Azerbaijan’s territories from Armenian occupation, and Armenia was forced to sign an act of capitulation, thus acknowledging Azerbaijan’s historic victory.”

The ambassador said, “I must mention that brotherly Pakistan from the first day of the former Karabakh conflict, as well as during the Patriotic War in 2020 morally and politically supported the position of Azerbaijan and the Government and Azerbaijani people have highly appreciated it.”

Explaining the details of the war, he said the Patriotic War put an end to Armenia’s nearly 30-year-long policy of aggression. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored. Azerbaijan alone



ensured the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993.

Right after the liberation, Azerbaijan started massive reconstruction and restoration works in the liberated areas. In 2021 and 2022, the Azerbaijani Government allocated nearly \$3 billion to the large-scale reconstruction and restoration activities in the liberated lands.

“I would like to inform you that Fuzuli International Airport which was built just in 8 months is operational now. 2 more international airports namely Zangilan and Lachin are under construction, and they will also be operational very soon,” he added.

Moreover, the first Azerbaijani IDPs have already returned to the liberated Zangilan region’s Aghali village, which was rebuilt based on the “smart village” concept.

Shusha, Azerbaijan’s cultural capital, has already become a venue for international events. “Pakistan Colors” group performed the “Bhangra” dance at the 5th “Kharibulbul”

International Folklore Festival, which was held in Shusha in May 2022.

The ambassador stated that Azerbaijan offered Armenia peace immediately after the war. However, Armenia was not interested in peace. The Azerbaijani side proposes delimitation and demarcation, but Armenia delays it. “We have proposed five principles for signing a peace treaty with Armenia. In words, they accepted them, but we do not see it in practice. These all show again that Armenia is not interested in peace”, he added.

Moreover, in the past few months, Armenia has committed repeated military provocations against Azerbaijan. More than 1,400 new landmines were planted in the Lachin district alone, and these mines were planted in 2021, after the war. This is a flagrant act of terror against Azerbaijan. Since the war ended, more than 240 Azerbaijani citizens have been killed or seriously injured due to landmine explosions.



Armenian armed forces committed large-scale provocations in the Dashkasan, Kalbajar, and Lachin directions of the Azerbaijani-Armenian state border on September 13 again. The Armenian armed forces’ sabotage groups, using the area’s mountainous terrain and the

existing ravine gaps, mined the territories and supply roads between the positions of the Azerbaijani Army units in different directions. But of course, the glorious Azerbaijani Army responded and put the enemy back in place, the ambassador concluded.

Indonesian humanitarian relief aid arrives in Pakistan

The humanitarian aid package weighing around 90 tons sent by two chartered national Garuda aircrafts



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Coordinating Minister of Indonesia for Human Development and Cultural Affairs Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi handed over the flood relief aid from the Government of Indonesia to Minister for Labour of Sindh Province Saeed Ghani and Minister for Social Welfare Muhammad Sajidd in a brief ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport Karachi today. The humanitarian aid package weighing around 90 tons has been sent by two chartered national Garuda aircrafts carrying logistics such as medicines, tents, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, mosquito nets, and generators for the victims of devastating flood victims in Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Head of Delegation Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi conveyed deepest condolences and sympathies to the flood victims in Pakistan from the Government and people of Indonesia. He said that both the countries enjoy special historic and brotherly bilateral relations and this humanitarian aid reflects the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation to support each other in difficult times. Noting the scale of destruction because of the floods, he said that Indonesia will also help Pakistani Government in next phase. The Minister of Labour of Province Sindh, Saeed Ghani expressed his gratitude to the people of Indonesia for showing solidarity and extending humanitarian relief assistance to Pakistani people.

The Head of National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia Lt. Gen. Suharyanto, Chairman of Commission 8 of House of Represent-



atives Ashbul Kahfi, and Director of South and Central Asia Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present on the occasion representing the delegation from Indonesia. The visiting delegation also received by Secretary of NDMA of Pakistan.

Coordinating Minister Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi and delegation accompanied by Minister Labour of the Sindh Province Saeed Ghani and Minister Social Welfare Muhammad Sajidd visited a shelter camp located in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi to distribute relief packages to 75 families who took temporary refuge in a

boys school Madu Ghod. As the two most populated Muslim majority countries, Indonesia and Pakistan have strong bonds of brotherhood and friendship. The two countries have always supported each other at the time of natural calamities whether its tsunami in Indonesia or massive floods of 2010 in Pakistan. It is hoped that Indonesian assistance will reduce the sufferings of flood affected communities and support the ongoing efforts of Pakistan government to quickly overcome the impact of large scale damage across the country”.

Korean envoy lauds efforts of Pakistan govt, its’ citizens in Climate change mitigation

2022 Pak-RoK Tree Plantation inaugurated in KP

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in its commitment to assist and encourage nature conservation held a Tree Plantation inaugural event in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aimed at supporting Pakistan in combatting Climate Change.

The tree plantation activity held near the Shah Maqsood Interchange of the Hazara Motorway in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Forest Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan.

The Korean Ambassador, Suh Sangpyo while speaking at the ceremony collectively appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan government and its’ citizens in Climate change mitigation and mentioned other green and sustainable development initiatives being under-



taken and possibilities of cooperation.

The Ambassador also mentioned the significance of such plantation activities in restoring biodiversity and ecosystem amidst devastating floods, crisis and

global warming. Senior officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest department, IUCN and Haripur University Faculty and students were present at the ceremony.

NA speaker emphasis to explore Pak-Kazakh economic potential

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Tuesday emphasized the need to explore immense economic potential between Pakistan and Kazakhstan.

The Speaker shared the remarks in a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin who called on him here.

The matters related to enhancing trade, relaxing visa policy, expanding parliamentary cooperation and support for National Assembly (NA) call for global funds through Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to combat climate catastrophe were discussed in the meeting.

Speaker while welcoming the Ambassador remarked that Pakistan attaches great significance to its ties with Kazakhstan, a key Central Asian country which shares mutual vision of regional cooperation.

He said that parliamentary diplomacy could play a vibrant role in expanding mutual cooperation, adding he said parliamentarians on both sides can promote existing bilateral ties through mutual contact.

He mentioned that Pak-Kazakh Friendship Group in NA is actively working to expand relations between



parliaments of both the countries. He added that business communities of both countries should promote trade and investment by exploring investment opportunities to further improve trade relations.

Speaker highlighted that Pakistan was witnessing unprecedented climate challenges and to combat this colossal challenge NA has moved an emergency item for 145th IPU Assembly in Rwanda from Oct. 11-15, 2022. He added that a letter & resolution on the same had been sent to the Chairman with a request to support Pakistan’s stance in forthcoming conference. He also shared a letter and resolution with the Ambassador. Ambassador while appreciating the Speaker for warm reception expressed solidarity for flood affectees and shared a condolence letter on the same from Chair of the Mazhilis.

He appreciated friendly ties between two nations and assured of future collaboration in diverse sectors.

Lahore ready to host remaining Pakistan, England T20Is

Gaddafi Stadium, Pakistan's home of cricket, promises electric atmosphere.

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: England are in the city to play their first match in Lahore since December 2005, an ODI affair they lost by seven wickets, and they play Pakistan today in the fifth of the seven T20Is.

Pakistan and England arrived in the city Monday afternoon after four riveting T20Is in Karachi. After what will go down as the comeback for the ages by Pakistan, the series stands level at 2-2 and it is upon Lahore, fondly referred to as the 'heart of the country' in the subcontinent literature, to decide the winners.

Heavy afternoon showers deprived the two sides of a first look at the ground, so they enter match five with a few unknowns, something that promises to add spice to tomorrow's face-off.

The four Karachi matches were played in front of full houses, and the Gaddafi Stadium, Pakistan's home of cricket, promises the same electric atmosphere.

Pakistan enter the Lahore leg with momentum behind them after they pulled off a miraculous three-run victory in the final over, courtesy extraordinary death over bowling from Haris Rauf and an acrobatic Shan Masood run out.



Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan – the most successful opening pair in the history of T20Is – were phenomenal in Karachi, accumulating 50 runs inside powerplay in three of the four matches.

Babar brought an end to a string of low scores in the second T20I with an incredible century in what was the highest run

chase without losing a wicket and Rizwan – who has scored the most runs in the format since the start of 2021 – comes to Lahore after smashing three half-centuries in four matches. The wicketkeeper is the leading run-getter in the series with 252 at 84 runs per dismissal and a strike rate of over 142.

Shan scored his maiden half-century in just his second innings – albeit in a losing cause. But, Shan reaching the 50-run mark in just 28 balls augurs well for Pakistan.

Babar will hope that Haris continues to do what he had done in the last four matches. The fast bowler took six wickets – the most in the series to date – at a staggering economy of 7.75, considering he bowls in the powerplay and death.

It is England's youngsters who have been one of the talking points in this series. Twenty-three-year-old Harry Brook rose to the occasion in the first T20I and helped England chase down a whirlwind 25-ball 42 not out, and he partnered with Ben Duckett in the third to set the largest total to be scored at the venue and script England's eventual 63-run win.

The fact that the series is playing the build-up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup adds more flavour as the two teams finalise their combinations ahead of the all-important tournament. Both teams fly out immediately after the seventh match – Pakistan fly to New Zealand to play the hosts and Bangladesh in a tri-series and England take on Australia in Australia.

Bismah confident of a good show in ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan women's team will fly out from Lahore for Bangladesh via Dubai in the wee hours of 28 September to feature in ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup. The seven-team tournament will be played in Sylhet, Bangladesh from October 1, the final of the tournament will be played on 15 October.

The Bismah Maroof-led side had practiced and trained for 10 days at the Lahore Country Club, Muridke. The players went through rigorous nets sessions and scenario-based matches, besides undergoing bowling and batting drills.

Captain Bismah Maroof: "Our previous series didn't go well, so we will try to rebuild our side and restart our winning streak. Our coaches have worked really hard on players in the camp



and we will try to execute the practice in the matches in the tournament.

"The tournament format is such that it provides a number of matches to the players which will ultimately help us to get ourselves ready for next year's World Cup. We will not be complacent, every team in the tournament will come fully prepared, and we will try to produce good results.

"Match against India is an

important match, but before that we have other games. We will try to gain momentum in the tournament, and once it is with us, we will look forward to the game against India."

Before the Muridke camp, right-arm pacer Fatima Sana was ruled out of the tournament due to ankle injury. When asked how much she will be missed in the tournament, Bismah replied, "Fatima has remained a

vital part of the side, her absence is a setback for us, but at the same time it is a great opportunity for other players to step up and play a role in winning matches for the side."

The seven-team tournament format is such that each team will play the other once before the top four sides qualifying for the semi-finals. The final of the tournament will be played on 15 October. Pakistan will play their opening match of the tournament against Malaysia at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on 2 October. Pakistan will take on arch-rivals India on 7 October.

Squad: Bismah Maroof (c), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Kainat Intiaz, Muneeba Ali (wk), Nida Dar, Omaira Sohail, Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shammas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Tuba Hasan.

ATP Finals remains a goal for Djokovic



LONDON: Novak Djokovic said he was bothered by a wrist problem during the Laver Cup in London and that his lengthy absence from the Tour recently could be to blame.

The three-day tournament in London's O2 Arena was Djokovic's first event since the Serb won his 21st Grand Slam singles title at Wimbledon in early July.

The 35-year-old, who missed the North American hardcourt swing and the US Open due to not being vaccinated against COVID-19, produced a dazzling performance on his return to the Tour on Saturday by winning his singles and doubles matches.

However, he lost to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime on the final day of competition on Sunday. "I have been struggling with my right wrist for the last four, five days, to be honest. I have been keeping it under control," Djokovic told reporters.

"The two matches yesterday probably had an effect. Today was not easy. I couldn't serve as fast or as accurately as I would like to. That has affected the whole game."

Djokovic said qualifying for November's ATP Finals in Turin remained his goal and that he will play a tournament in Tel Aviv this week followed by an event in Kazakhstan next week and then the Paris Masters at the end of October.

His Wimbledon victory guarantees him a spot in the Tour-ending Finals if he remains ranked in the world's top 20.

Djokovic, who is currently ranked seventh, said the wrist issue could be due to a combination of factors.

"Could be not playing matches almost three months, and then conditions here are such that the balls are really big and slow," he said. "You always have to generate a lot of wrist action and speed, which could be the case why I have been feeling soreness."

Players term PCB Pathway Programme a big success

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The first phase of the Engro Cricket Coaching Project under the PCB Pathway Programme concluded at the National High Performance Centre, Lahore today. The revolutionary cricket camp aimed at delivering world class coaching, training and grooming for the future generation of Pakistan cricket lasted one month.

The camp included 100 top performers of the PCB organized U13, U16 and U19 players. Renowned foreign coaches Gordon Parsons (fast bowling), Julian Wood (power-hitting), Julien Fountain (fielding), Nick Webb (strength and conditioning coach) and Toby Radford (batting coach) worked on enhancing the skills, temperament and technique of the participants while providing tactical awareness through various workshops and lectures held throughout the camp.

Director High Performance Nadeem Khan: "I am delighted with the progress we have made in a short span of time at the pathway level. I want to thank Engro and all our supporters who have remained aligned with us on our aims and objectives for the next generation of our cricket stars."

"The first phase of the PCB Pathway Programme has remained a big success with the involvement of Gordon Parsons, Julian Wood, Julien Fountain, Nick Webb and Toby Radford who are all proven coaches at the pathway and senior levels. I am sure that the participants would have learned a lot from these coaches and their experience and skills would have also helped our local coaches who worked with them closely throughout the camp."

"Four of these coaches [Parsons, Wood, Fountain and Radford] will now be involved in the Pakistan Junior

League from next week, their involvement will help them ascertain the development of the players they coached at the Engro Cricket Coaching Project."

"The pathway programme was linked with the PJJ for this precise reason as we wanted to provide the players both a top-class camp environment as well as a world-class tournament platform for them to test their skills alongside some of the best junior talent in the cricketing world."

The players who took part in the camp will now head home for a break. The players selected for the Pakistan Junior League will return to Lahore to join their respective PJJ sides on 1 October.

The second phase of the camp is being planned for later this year. The details will be announced in due course. All five foreign coaches will also be engaged in the second-phase of the camp.

Abu Dhabi T10 franchises assemble explosive squads ahead of Season 6

Spokesman Report

ABU DHABI: The eight franchises have put their best foot forward, assembling strong and competitive squads, packed with exciting talent from all over the world, ahead of the sixth season of the Abu Dhabi T10 which tees off at the magnificent Zayed Cricket Stadium on 23rd November, with its final being played across UAE's National Day weekend on 4th December.

Cricket's most exciting format has added two new franchises with American teams New York Strikers and Morrisville SAMP Army making it an 8-team carnival.

Defending champions Deccan Gladiators, who have Nicholas Pooran as their Icon player, have signed on some serious

talent in Andre Russell, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, David Wiese, Tom Kohler-Cadmore, Luke Wood, Odean Smith, Josh Little, Will Smeed, Zahir Khan, Curtis Campher, Zahoor Khan, Adeel Malik, Sultan Ahmed, Jason Roy and Taskin Ahmed.

The Bangla Tigers, with Shakib Al Hasan as their Icon Player, have acquired the services of Evin Lewis, Colin Munro, Hazratullah Zazai, Joe Clarke, Benny Howell, Ben Cutting, Mohammad Amir, Matheesha Pathirana, Nurul Hasan, Mritunjay Chowdhury, Rohan Mustafa, Chirag Suri, Umair Ali, Dan Christian and Jake Ball.

With Dwayne Bravo as the Icon Player, the Delhi Bulls are leaving no stone unturned in their quest for silverware and have brought on board the likes of Tim David,

Rilee Rossouw, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Will Jacks, Dominic Drakes, Najibullah Zadran, Richard Gleeson, Keemo Paul, Mitchell Stanley, Shiraz Ahmed, Karnal Zahid, Ayaan Khan, Imad Wasim and Jordan Cox.

Dasun Shanaka headlines the Chennai Braves squad, who have added some further muscle by picking Carlos Brathwaite, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Obed McCoy, Maheesh Theekshana, Ollie Stone, Ben Duckett, Sam Cook, Sikandar Raza, Ross Whiteley, Kobe Herft, Kartik Mayap-pan, Vriitya Aravind, Sabir Rao, Laurie Evans and James Fuller.

Two-time champions Northern Warriors have kept hold of Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga and bolstered the squad with the additions of Sherfane Ruther-

ford, Rovman Powell, Adam Lyth, Reece Topley, Kennar Lewis, Wayne Parnell, Adam Hose, Chris Green, Rayad Emrit, Gus Atkinson, Junaid Siddique, Usman Khan, Hamdan Tahir, Dushmantha Chameera and Mohammad Irfan.

Team Abu Dhabi, who have named Chris Lynn as the Icon Player, have snapped up the services of Fabian Allen, Adil Rashid, Phil Salt, Naveen Ul Haq, Tymal Mills, Jamie Overton, James Vince, Brandon King, Darwish Rasoofi, Alishan Sharafu, Amad Butt, Ali Abid, Ethan D'Souza, Mustafizur Rahman and Peter Hatzoglou.

Meanwhile, newcomers New York Strikers have gone in with the experienced Kieron Pollard as their Icon Player. And he will be supported by the likes of Eoin



Morgan, Azam Khan, Paul Stirling, Romario Shepherd, Andre Fletcher, Wahab Riaz, Jordan Thompson, Kesrick Williams, Izharulhaq Naveed, Tom Hartley, Muhammad Waseem, Nav Pabreja, Muhammad Farooq,

Singapore preps party for F1 return



SINGAPORE: With tickets selling fast and party suites costing up to \$70,000 a night, Singapore is putting the pedal to the metal when it hosts Asia's first Formula One race this weekend since the pandemic.

Tens of thousands of fans are expected to converge for the Singapore Grand Prix from Friday to Sunday as the night race roars back after a two-year absence because of Covid.

Adding to the party atmosphere, Red Bull's Max Verstappen could retain his world title on the floodlit street circuit around the Marina Bay district. But one of the most glamorous races on the F1 calendar has always been about more than just the racing. Away from the track, the city-state will be letting its hair down with concerts by Westlife, Black Eyed Peas and Suede, plus American rapper Fatman Scoop and Dutch DJ Oliver Heldens.

More upscale parties are boasting caviar and champagne on the menu, and diners can dig into an F1-themed "Roaring Dinner Feast" and "Fuel Up Brunch". About 25 corporate meetings and events, including the Forbes Global CEO Conference, are also scheduled, allowing executives to mix work and play.

"It signals to the world that Singapore is back in business and that our ability to stage world-class, high-quality events remains undimmed," Ong Ling Lee, an executive director at Singapore Tourism Board (STB), told AFP.

Authorities have not released numbers, but ticket sales for Singapore's biggest event since the pandemic have already exceeded 2019, when 268,000 spectators watched, said Ong. Race tickets cost from Sg\$98 (\$70) to nearly Sg\$10,000. Singapore has removed all Covid restrictions, except for mask-wearing inside buses and metro trains, after vaccinating most of its population of nearly six million and deciding to live with the virus. "From a global perspective, this is the brightest light to shine on Singapore since the pandemic," Song Seng Wun, an economist with CIMB Private Banking, told AFP.

Covid wrecked Singapore's economy with its deepest-ever recession in 2020 and in 2021 visitor arrivals plunged to 330,000, from 19.12 million in 2019.

But it shifted to endemicity earlier this year and last week overtook Hong Kong as Asia's premier finance centre in a global ranking list. Seeing Singapore emphatically open up has "put pressure" on other Asian economies such as Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong to also relax travel curbs, said Song. "Formula One is also shining the spotlight on Asia in terms of who is seriously going back to business."

Hotel bookings have been brisk, even with room rates estimated to be up to 50 percent higher than they were pre-Covid. Prices have surged past Sg\$2,000 a night, especially for those around the circuit.

"There's a lot of pent-up demand for those race enthusiasts looking forward to come back to Singapore," said Marcus Hanna, managing director of Fairmont Singapore and Swissotel The Stamford.

For many, the socialising is as important as the racing. F1 after-party specialist Amber Lounge has a "Noir Suite" for up to 25 people at the five-star Fullerton Bay Hotel costing Sg\$100,000 a night. The hotel's F1-inspired dishes include a "Pit Stop Cake".

Zhou extends contract with Alfa Romeo into 2023

PARIS: Chinese driver Zhou Guanyu has extended his contract with Alfa Romeo until the end of 2023, the Formula One team announced on Tuesday before this weekend's Singapore Grand Prix.

"Having made history as the first driver from China to compete in Formula One, Zhou announced himself on the biggest stage in motorsport by scoring points on his debut at the Bahrain Grand Prix," the team said in a statement.

"During the course of a successful debut campaign, Zhou has demonstrated levels of maturity and race craft that belie his young age."

"With a successful debut season under his belt and the experience that comes with it, Zhou will be aiming to make the next step in his progression." Zhou, 23, competed in 16 Grand Prix in his debut season with his best result the eighth place in Canada.

He currently sits 17th in the world championship standings with six Grand Prix left this season, as 33-year-old Finnish teammate Valtteri Bottas is placed 10th.

Usman Wazeer to face Thai boxer

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ace pugilist Usman Wazeer, who boasts an undefeated 8-0 record with five knockouts will take on Thai warrior Somphot Seesa for the vacant WBO Youth 147lbs world title in the Highland Boxing Show in Bangkok, Thailand on Wednesday.

Nicknamed 'Asian Boy', Usman is all set to move to the WBO's welterweight world rankings provided he defeats his 23-year-old opponent.

Already the Asian welterweight champion for the WBA after flooring down hard-hitting Phatiphan Krungklang in June, this year in his hometown in Gilgit-Baltistan, the 22-year-old Usman said he had been undergoing tough training to claim another prestigious title.

Johnson Charles, Chamika Karunaratne, George Garton, Andries Gous, Abraham Pienaar, Ibrahim Zadran, Ahmed Raza, Kashif Daud, Basil Hameed, Sheldon Cottrell and Karim Janat.

Shaji Ul Mulik, Chairman, T10 Sports Management said, "It's been very nice to see the growth of the league over the years. I'm delighted about how the Abu Dhabi T10 Players Draft panned out on this busy Monday. The success of any event depends on partnerships and the teams working on the event and the Abu Dhabi Cricket & Sports Hub is unbeatable. I am sure that this season will be even more exhilarating than the previous years. The squads are all very competitive and I would like to welcome the cricketers here once more. May the best team win."