



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسول ﷺ
عبداللہ بن مسعود رضی اللہ عنہ نے بیان کیا کہ مجھ سے رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ مجھے قرآن مجید پڑھ کر سناؤ۔ میں نے عرض کیا: کیا میں سناؤں؟ آپ پر تو قرآن مجید نازل ہوتا ہے۔ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ میں کسی سے سنا محبوب رکھتا ہوں۔
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5056)
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RAWALPINDI

NA Speaker urges nation to help armed forces in rehab activities

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has urged people from all walks of life, especially politicians and religious leaders, to help forces in relief and rehabilitation activities in flood hit areas. He said Kalabagh Dam, Bhasha and other small dams must be constructed in consultation with and consent of provinces.



Govt utilizing all resources to rescue flood victims: Farah Azim

Spokesperson for government of Balochistan, Farah Azim Shah says provincial government is utilizing all available resources to rescue people affected by recent monsoon rains and floods. She said performance of Pak Army, PDMA, and Frontier Corps Balochistan remained outstanding in rescuing people during monsoon rains in the province.

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Govt to conduct forensic audit of leaked audios: Sana

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday said that the government will conduct a forensic audit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and PTI Chairman Imran Khan's leaked audios.

Earlier, a sound bite of the former prime minister allegedly telling his then-principal secretary Azam Khan to "play" with the US cypher has come to the fore. In the audio allegedly featuring Khan, a man can be heard talking about the cypher which Khan time and again has claimed mentions the "threat" to remove his government.

Following the leaked audio, Sanaullah — during a press conference in Islamabad — said that if Khan's audio is real, then he should be exposed before the nation. "Khan has created a narrative of an American conspiracy to mislead the nation and divide it," he added.

Criticising the PTI chief, the interior minister said that Khan has caused "irreparable damage to Pakistan and destroyed the country's economy and political culture."

"I will show students Imran Khan's awful face," said Sanaullah with reference to a university lecture that Khan delivered, adding that this "political fitna" has to be ended in a political way.

The PML-N leader further said that the audio talks about changing the minutes of government meetings. "This player is playing with the nation and is working on a specific agenda," he added. Sanaullah also said that Khan's political narrative will be exposed. Last week, two audios allegedly featuring Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had leaked. The first audio contained a discussion regarding PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz asking for a power plant from India to be imported for her son-in-law.

High-level discussion

Prime Minister Muhammed Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

NSC meeting

High-powered committee to probe audio leaks

Federal Cabinet approves import of 300,000 metric tons of urea for Rabi season

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC), in its meeting held here Wednesday with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in chair, approved the constitution of a high-powered committee led by Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to probe the issue of audio leaks.

The meeting, which besides Federal Ministers was attended by Services Chiefs, heads of intelligence agencies and other senior officials, pondered over the audio leaks matter.

After consultation, the meeting also decided to prepare "Legal Framework" about cyber-security and in that respect directed the

Ministry of Law and Justice for the preparation of legal framework. The meeting agreed to review the security, safety and the protection of official communications in view of current changed environment of modern technology and cyberspace so as to check any interruption in the security system.

The heads of intelligence agencies gave a detailed briefing about the security of importance places including the PM House, cyberspace and other related aspect. The meeting was told that investigations about the audios circulating on social media were underway. It was also told about the fool-proof security arrangements at PM House, after the identification of some aspects regarding security. The meeting was apprised of emergency steps being taken to ensure the security of important places and buildings including the PM House and Ministries so as to avoid any such situation in future. Meanwhile, the Federal Cabinet, which met in Islamabad on Wednesday with Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif in the chair, gave this approval on the recommendations of the Ministry of Industrial Production. The Trading Corporation of Pakistan has been tasked to import the commodity under Government to Government mode. The PM also directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Flood Response and Coordination Center (NRFCC), the provincial disaster management authorities, provincial government and other relevant authorities for chalking out an immediate comprehensive strategy and taking of practical steps to drain out flood water from different districts of Sindh.

PM directs relevant authorities to take steps for draining out flood water in Sindh

Resurgence of terrorism not to be tolerated: COAS

Gen. Bajwa expresses satisfaction over operational preparedness of formations

RAWALPINDI: The 251st Corps Commanders' Conference presided by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa held here at GHQ on Wednesday resolved that the resurgence of terrorism would not be tolerated.

The forum was briefed in detail on external and internal security situations with a particular focus on the flood situations and ongoing relief efforts being undertaken by Army Formations across the country, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Forum undertook a comprehensive review of the security environment with a special focus on situations along the borders, internal security, and other professional matters of the Army.

The Forum expressed solidarity with flood victims who were braving great difficulties and resolved to extend maximum assistance for their relief

and rehabilitation. Expressing satisfaction over the operational preparedness of the Formations, the COAS directed all the Formations to maintain strict vigil to guard against any threat. "Formations must leave no stone unturned to take action against terrorists in coordination with all LEAs."

The Army Chief also commended the Formations for reaching out to people in distress and helping them to mitigate their sufferings.

The COAS praised Army Doctors and Paramedics for provision of emergency medical care to flood affectees, particularly children and women including measures to check the spread of diseases in flood-hit areas.

The COAS also appreciated Army Engineers and Frontier Works Organization (FWO) for restoring accessibility of critical routes and communication infrastructure on an emergency basis.

IK demands to public cypher after 'audio leak'

PTI chief's alleged audio on US cypher leaked

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan has demanded the government to release the America cypher to the public, after an audio leak of him discussing the cypher with his Principle Secretary surfaced.

Imran Khan said that he has not yet started 'playing' on the American cypher yet. Shehbaz Sharif and gang have leaked the audio, he added.

He demanded the govern-

ment release to cypher to the public so that people can know the reality behind the cypher. He added that he wishes that the cypher itself gets 'leaked' so that they can 'play' freely on it.

If the cypher is released, people would come to know that grand conspiracy that was hatched to oust him. Alleged audio of former prime minister Imran Khan and his key aide Azam Khan discussing US cypher. Agencies

Blinken defends sale of F-16 maintenance package to Pakistan

US Secretary of State says to be very clear, this is a sustainment program that Pakistan long had

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Antony Blinken, America's top diplomat has stoutly defended the sale of F-16 aircraft maintenance package to Pakistan, as India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who had sharply criticized the Biden administration's move a day earlier, listened silently while his US counterpart justified the deal, saying it was aimed at bolstering the country's capacity to fight terrorism.

Standing next to Jaishankar at a press conference following their bilateral talks on Tuesday, Secretary of State Blinken was pointedly asked by Indian journalists whether the sale was justified as, they alleged, Pakistan had used F-16 aircraft against India.

"To be very clear, this is a sustainment programme that Pakistan long had. These are not new planes, new systems, new weapons. It's sustaining what they have. We have a responsibility and an obligation to whomever we provide mili-



tary equipment to make sure that it's maintained and sustained," Blinken said.

On Sunday, Jaishankar had said that the US argument that the \$450 million F-16 fighter jets maintenance package to Pakistan was for counter-terrorism was "not fooling anybody".

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met Secretary Blinken on Monday, discussing a range of problems, mainly floods.

Noting that the Pakistani F-16 programme bolsters "its capability to deal with terrorist threats emanating from Pakistan or from the region", Blinken added, "It's in no one's interests

that those threats be able to go forward with impunity."

To another query from an Indian journalist asking how the F-16 jets will be used in counter-terrorist operations, Blinken replied, "Whether it is TTP that may be targeting Pakistan, whether it's ISIS-Khorasan, whether it's al-Qaeda, I think the threats are clear, well-known, and we all have an interest in making sure that we have the means to deal with them. And that's what this is about."

While Jaishankar had made the jibe about the F-16 sale on Sunday, he didn't add any comments at the press conference.

Imran destroyed country internally, externally: Maryam

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan had left no stone unturned to destroy the country both at internal and external fronts, but ironically, he was still roaming scot-free.

Maryam, in a series of tweets, alleged that Imran Khan's ultimate aim was to create chaos and anarchy in the country as he had received millions of dollars from abroad for accomplishing the task. It was worrisome that he had "received foreign funding and got training from abroad, and then played havoc with the country's future", but no action was taken against him, she added.

She said 'all the crimes' committed by him had been proved and he was still playing with the people's sentiments as he himself claimed.

Dar vows revival of economy

Senator Ishaq Dar takes oath as federal minister

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar said Wednesday that his government would try its best to revive economy, which has been critically damaged during Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government's tenure of quarter to four years.

Talking to the media, after taking oath as Finance Minister, he said regaining the deserving value to the country's currency, bringing down inflation and reducing interest rate were among the priorities. Earlier, President Dr Arif Alvi administered the oath to Senator Ishaq Dar as Federal Minister.

Dar said Pakistan was facing a severe economic crisis currently due to quarter to four years' mismanagement by the PTI government, which had pushed the economy to the critical place, which even enemies could not have done.

The minister lamented that the PTI government had not only damaged the economy but had wasted five precious years of the country and pushed the country behind 30 years.

However, Dar was optimistic that the country would be put back on growth path as the Pakistan Muslim League (N) had the history of correcting economy during crisis in the past.

"As a nation we had challenges, we have faced them with success in the past," he said while citing the examples of economic restriction following nucle-



ar tests of 1998 and declared macro-economic instability of 2013.

"I will not make verbal promises only," he said and reminded of the past history of PML which had left the government in 2018 with lowest Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation of 4 percent, food inflation 2 percent, highest growth rate of 6.3 percent, highest reserves, interest rate at 6.25 percent and stable exchange rate of Rs104.50 against dollar.

He said, this all was done despite three sit-ins during the period which had affected the growth rate, otherwise the figures could have touched 7.5 percent. He said, had the country been allowed to grow with the same pace, it was poised to become 18th largest economy by 2025-26 instead of 2030, leaving behind Italy and Canada. However, it was pushed to 54th position, he said.

He said, becoming the 18th economy, the country could have enjoyed becoming part of G-20 world premium club, however everything was ruined.

To a question, the minister said that former finance minister, Miftah Ismail was the part of PML(N) economy team who had played good role in saving the country from default. He said, since the damages of around four years were very huge so could not be corrected in just six months. He said, the rupee has already started gaining its value adding that the country was facing imported inflation.

The minister clarified that the case against him for not filing income returns for twenty years (1981-2001) was fake as he has been regularly filing the same for more than last forty years. He lamented that the culprits were roaming freely whereas right persons were facing difficulties.

Power project

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira pressing the button on occasion of formal inauguration of Gulpur Hydropower Project in Kotli Azad Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan wants enhanced trade ties with Kazakhstan: Qamar

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment Syed Naveed Qamar on Wednesday said Pakistan wants enhanced economic and trade relations with Kazakhstan. The minister said brotherly relationship with Kazakhstan should be translated into enhanced trade, connectivity and evolved into a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership.

This was said by Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar in a virtual meeting with Mr. Serik Zhumangarin Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Trade and Integration of Kazakhstan.

The minister said Pakistan and Kazakhstan's relationships are historical and based on mutual respect for each other.

Pakistan values its ties with Muslim countries

President Dr. Arif Alvi for further consolidating brotherly relations with Syria

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for further consolidating the existing brotherly relations between Pakistan and Syria, promoting people-to-contacts and establishing linkages between the private and public institutions of the two countries. He added that the potential of bilateral relations between Pakistan and Syria should be fully realized for the mutual benefit of both brotherly countries. The President gave these remarks during a meeting with the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Syria, Air Marshal (Retd) Shahid Akhtar, who called on him here on Wednesday.

Talking to the Ambassador-designate, the President said that Pakistan accorded high priority to its relations with all Muslim countries, including Syria, adding that cultural, religious and historical ties bound the people of the two countries together. He also emphasized the need for frequent exchange of business, trade and

President calls for strengthening Pak-Afghan bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for streamlining the clearance of consignments at the border crossing points along Pakistan-Afghanistan frontiers. He expressed these views during a meeting with Pakistan's Head of Mission in Kabul Ubaid ur Rehman Nizamani in Islamabad on Wednesday. The President said Pakistan and Afghanistan had relations based on commonalities of history, culture and faith which needed to be further strengthened by focusing on enhancing bilateral trade and building greater networks with the Afghan business community. He said peace in Afghanistan would pave the way for Afghanistan to become a trade and energy connectivity corridor in the region and would also accelerate the transit trade between Central Asian Countries and Pakistan.

investment delegations between the two countries to evaluate each other's strengths and identify complementarities for further boosting the relations.

The President urged the need to expedite the implementation of the MoU on the establishment of a Joint Working Group on Trade and Economic Affairs. He further advised the Ambassador-designate to remain in close contact with the Syrian authorities for the successful implementa-

tion of the Zaireen Policy and also expedite the process of signing an MoU between the two countries regarding Cooperation in the Sphere of Zaireen Hospitality.

The President said that Pakistan could offer online courses and educational packages of Allama Iqbal Open University and the Virtual University of Pakistan in various disciplines both in online and recorded forms for providing quality education to Syrian students.

Hina meets US Congresswoman Ilhan

Int'l community should equitably share burden of climate crisis, says Minister of State

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Congress can play an important role in helping vulnerable countries deal with climate crisis, noted the Minister of State Hina Rabbani Khar in her meeting with US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar in Washington DC.

The Minister of State apprised the Congresswoman of the widespread devastation caused by the climate-induced floods in Pakistan. She appreciated the timely assistance already provided by the U.S. government, noting that additional support from the U.S. and the international community would be required to help Pakistan build back better, greener and in a resilient manner.

She said that despite being one of the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases, Pakistan was facing the major brunt of the climate change. She emphasized that the international community must equitably share the burden of climate crisis as it was a global challenge requiring a global response and collective action.

Congresswoman Omar expressed sympathy on the loss of life and destruction caused by the unprecedented floods. She assured her support for provision of more assistance to Pakistan to cope with the devastating floods.

Both sides also discussed the need for sustained engagement in diverse areas including agriculture and climate change.

COPHC set to bring 50 more Chinese firms to GFZ

BEIJING: The China Overseas Ports Holding Co (COPHC), the operator of Gwadar Port and developer of Gwadar Free Zone, was all set to bring 50 more Chinese companies to Gwadar Free Zone in a year or two, said an official.

He said that the 60-acre Phase I of the Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) had already attracted 38 Chinese and 12 Pakistani firms. The North Free Zone (Phase II of the GFZ) has also been fully developed and two Chinese firms have already started construction activities there.

We are all set to bring 50 more companies to the North Free Zone within a year or two, the official said. The Chinese companies coming to Phase II are large and prominent enterprises, which will give a big boost to industrialization in Gwadar, he added.

The official, however, highlighted the scarcity of water and electricity in the port city as an impediment to future development. The COPHC is doing everything in its capacity to end the two major problems, China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

We have already installed a desalination plant of 1 million gallons per day capacity, which we intend to enhance up to 5 million gallons per day in next 5-8 years. Also, we are ready to provide 5 megawatts of electricity from our 15MWs thermal power plant to the residents of Gwadar, he said.

The Balochistan government is spending Rs2.5 billion on a 1 million gallons per day desalination plant in the city. APP

China sends more tents, blankets to flood victims

BEIJING: China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) has so far delivered 13,000 tents, 10,000 blankets and 1,000 boxes of compressed food by air to help flood-hit people in Pakistan.

The follow-up materials have been shipped by sea in three batches, which will arrive in early October, an official of CIDCA said in a statement. He informed that CIDCA will soon dispatch two separate teams to Pakistan to carry out medical rescue and guidance as well as disaster assessment in the flood hit areas. "CIDA connected Guangxi to send a medical team to carry out medical rescue and guidance, as well as disaster assessment team organized by the Ministry of Emergency Management," according to Director, CIDCA, Yang Meng.

In addition, China appealed to the international community to provide more helps and works with relevant organizations to use the Global Development and South to South Cooperation Fund to provide more support, he added. He said, after the floods in Pakistan, the Chinese government immediately announced 100 million yuan of emergency humanitarian assistance, including 25,000 tents and other materials urgently needed.

Considering the huge losses, the Chinese government provided an additional 300 million yuan. In conclusion, the total amount is 400 million yuan, ranking first in the world, he added. APP

Pak-EU agree on multifaceted dev cooperation agenda

12th Pakistan-European Union joint commission, sub group on development cooperation held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and European Union agreed on multifaceted development cooperation agenda in a number of sectors such as smart agriculture, economic growth, sustainable infrastructure, technical and vocational education, climate and green development, digital transformation and health at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Sub-Group on Development cooperation of the Pakistan European Union (EU) Joint Commission at Ministry of Economic Affairs Islamabad on Wednesday.

The meeting of the sub-group was co-chaired by Ian Hoskins, Deputy Head of South and South East Asia of the Brussels based European Commission and Mr. Islam Zeb, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. With an emphasis on cooperation in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of flood-stricken areas and people of Pakistan both sides discussed the level of present development cooperation and resolved to deepen their relation for the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

"We are here to commit that the European Union will, under

its Multi Indicative Programme (MIP) support the economic and social development of Pakistan and integrate post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction into the existing plan, which we consider of paramount importance for the people of Pakistan" said Ian Hoskins during the meeting. While welcoming the support of the EU the Co-chair for Pakistan said "We appreciate and hugely value the support being provided by the EU over decades and are very thankful to the immediate relief assistance of the EU during the recent climate calamity".

FM Bilawal warns of consequences to Taliban isolation

Bilawal cautions against creating "parallel governance"

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's foreign minister wants the world to engage the Taliban, warning of dangerous consequences if Afghanistan's rulers are again isolated.

In an interview with AFP on a visit to Washington, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari cautioned against creating "parallel governance" after the United States, distrustful of the Taliban, put Afghanistan's frozen assets in a professional fund in Switzerland.

"We've learned from the past that when we wash our hands and turn our backs, we end up creating unintended consequences and more problems for ourselves," Bilawal said Tuesday.

"I believe that our concerns of an economic collapse, of an exodus of



refugees, of a threat of new recruits for organisations such as Daesh and others, outweigh concerns that there may be about their financial institutions."

The Taliban returned to power last year after the United States ended a two-decade war. Relations had soured with Pakistan, whose powerful military and intelligence apparatus was accused in Washington of quietly nurturing the

militants despite providing logistical access to US forces.

In contrast to some previous Pakistani officials, the foreign minister — whose mother, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, was assassinated in 2007 — offered no warm words for the Taliban.

But he said the militants needed "political space" on concerns such as women's rights, which have been sharply curtailed.

"Throughout history, theocratic, autocratic regimes haven't exactly tended to expand rights at times of economic strife," he said.

"In fact, they tend to hold on to cultural issues and other issues to engage their population." Agencies

Pak envoy expresses concern over terrorism originating from Afghanistan

Pakistan urges Taliban to stop terrorist groups from using Afghan territory for attacks against neighbours

NEW YORK: Expressing "serious" concern over terrorism originating from Afghanistan, Pakistan Tuesday called on the Taliban to prevent the Afghan territory from being utilized for attacks by terrorist groups, such as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), against neighbours or any other country.

"In particular," Ambassador Munir Akram told the UN Security Council, "eliminating the threat posed by ISIL-K that is Da'esh, the TTP, ETIM (East Turkestan Islamic Movement) and IMU (Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan), as well as Al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups, is of vital importance for Pakistan."

Speaking in the 15-member Council's debate on the situation in Afghanistan, the Pakistani envoy said the recent rise in high profile targeted killings and bombings, including against the Russian embassy is a cause for "special concern."

"Should we fail to provide the necessary and continued long-term economic solutions to the Afghan people and to the authorities in Kabul, there is a risk of anti-Taliban groups, particularly ISIL-K (Da'esh) gaining further strength in the country," he warned.

"We expect the Taliban to prevent Afghanistan's territory from being utilized for terrorism against neighbours or any other country," Ambassador Akram, adding that Pakistan will support all sincere efforts to neutralize and eliminate these terrorist groups while fully respecting Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity. But, Ambassador Akram said, the role of spoilers — an apparent reference to India — who wish to aid and abet terrorism against Pakistan from Afghan soil must also be checked and the terrorist networks they have established must be eliminated in Afghanistan



and the region, as Islamabad has a vital stake in peace and stability of the neighbouring country.

Pakistan, he said, would like to see an Afghanistan that is at peace with itself and the world, and which respects and nurtures all its citizens, without regard to gender, ethnicity and religion. "A peaceful, prosperous and connect-

ed Afghanistan is in our collective interest," the Pakistani envoy said, pointing out that Pakistan has led the humanitarian efforts to help Afghan brothers and sisters in their present situation.

The Pakistani envoy urged the international community to respond positively to the UN Secretary-General's appeal for \$4.2 billion in humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan and release the country's financial reserves, held by the United States, to revive its banking system.

The early resumption of reconstruction activities and implementation of regional connectivity projects with central Asia, as well as the extension of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan can provide a pathway to economic growth and stabilization in the country. However, it requires funds and financial stability. Afghanistan's frozen

national reserves should be released and channelled through Afghan institution; doing so can contribute to reviving the Afghan economy and its banking system. However, without this, trade cannot take place, nor can investment be expected.

"In the absence of such conditions, Afghanistan shall continue to remain on external life support and in constant danger of economic collapse," Ambassador Akram warned.

The countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), including Pakistan, he said, remain engaged through conversation between the Taliban and delegations of Islamic scholars and Ulema to find ways and means to address questions of Sharia and its interpretation, particularly with a view to facilitating education prospects for Afghan women and girls.

South Korean ambassador hands over first batch of flood relief items

Suh Sangpyo appreciates the role being played by NDMA

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Ambassador of Korea, Suh Sangpyo on Wednesday, at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi, held a ceremony to hand over the first batch of urgently needed relief items for flood victims with the Provincial Minister for Relief Rehabilitation, Rasool Bax Chandio.

Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Saqib Rauf, Consul General of the Korean Consulate in Karachi, Kim Haksung, and Senior officials of the National Disaster Management Authority were also present at the ceremony.

The Ambassador stated that this first shipment of relief items donated by the Government of Korea arrived in Pakistan on 17th September and it consists of approximately three hundred thousand water purification



tablets, thirty thousand emergency blankets, and various other essential relief items. He went on to say that a second shipment of relief items consisting of family sized tents, collapsible water bags, and thermal blankets is also on route via a cargo ship that

will be docked at Karachi Sea Port no later than 16th October.

The Ambassador apprised the media that in addition to the in-kind donations by the Government of Korea, which amounts to USD 300,000 and Korean private sector companies

and associations working in Pakistan, have collectively donated over USD 500,000 so far for the flood victims.

The Ambassador whilst greatly appreciating the crucial role being played by the NDMA and the Government of Pakistan to alleviate the suffering of the flood victims, also extended his sincere appreciation to the Korean Association of Pakistan, Jogye Order, K-Water, Mira Power, LH, KOAK, KA-Power, PK International Food, KEPCO Plant Services & Engineering, Samsung Electronics Pakistan, Lotte-Chilsung Beverages, Lotte Engineering & Construction, and Lotte Chemical, who in addition to their cash donations, have also continued to distribute essential food items, shelters, and medicines directly to the affected local populations and to the non-governmental organizations involved in the relief efforts.

UK Aid relief items arrive at Karachi Port

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: As part of the UK's aid package, £2 million worth of relief items for the most vulnerable people affected by the devastating floods arrived in Pakistan from the UAE on Tuesday.

The relief items include emergency shelters for up to 194,300 people, and blankets and mats for up to 10,000 people. The emergency shelters include coverage and fixing kits, poles and peg sets. The UK will also provide water filters and hygiene supplies for 32,495 people to mitigate health risks. The first shipment of 19 containers arrived at the Karachi port on Tuesday with another 26 scheduled to follow in the coming days and weeks.

To date, the UK has committed a total of £16.5m to support flood relief efforts and the British public have donated over £25m via the Disasters Emergency



Committee's Pakistan Appeal. This appeal has notably been supported by the England men's cricket team, who are currently touring Pakistan for the T20s, with the team making a personal donation which was then matched by the England Cricket Board.

In addition to this, earlier this month a UK Royal Air Force flight delivered 8 boats and 10 portable generators gifted in kind by the UK's Ministry of Defence for use in flood relief operations. Meanwhile, British Airways

and Virgin Atlantic are also offering free relief shipments in their cargo.

British Deputy High Commissioner, Karachi, Sarah Mooney, said: "This UK aid shipment is the first of multiple consignments addressing the immediate needs of the people of Pakistan affected by the devastating floods. The UK will continue to provide assistance both in cash and in kind to ensure that communities not only rebuild but are also resilient to future calamities."

The initial UK aid of £1.55 million is being spent to provide critical lifesaving assistance in Sindh (£900,000) and Baluchistan (£650,000).

In Sindh, UK financed aid is reaching people of Shaheed Benazirabad, Mirpurkhas, Sanghar, and Jacobabad. This aid aims to support 7,600 households (approximately 63,200 persons; households are counted as

6.7 people per household) with time-critical and life-saving assistance through: access to flexible multi-purpose cash assistance, ensuring their increased access to primary health care and improved hygiene services. The assistance integrates particular focus on vulnerable population including children, women and girls, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

According to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Agency, the flooding in Pakistan has destroyed or damaged 2m houses, with 546,000 people now living in relief camps. The disaster has also damaged 12,716 km of roads and damaged 22,000 schools. In total 745 health centres have been damaged or destroyed.

The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched the Pakistan Floods Appeal and has raised over £25 million for relief efforts.

WHO supports provision of health facilities to flood-hit populations

Spokesman Report

SUKKUR: During a field visit to Sukkur division in Sindh province, Executive Director of Health Emergencies Programme, World Health Organization Dr. Mike Ryan highlighted that WHO will provide additional support to Sindh and Balochistan to support the government's effort to provide emergency health services to the stranded population.

He said this while talking to Commissioner Sukkur Ghulam Mustafa Phul at his office while attending a briefing on recovery operations in Sukkur division.

Dr Mike Ryan, who is on an emergency visit to Pakistan, arrived in Sukkur to visit and see the flooded areas and ascertain issues in the emergency rehabilitation of the flooded population. He said the catastrophe is so massive that the international organization and community had to act fast. He compared the 2010 floods and said that this is a climatic catastrophe and we need to act fast. Dr Mike Ryan said that the WHO will provide more medicines and health kits for pregnant



women to curtail malaria and water-borne diseases.

Commissioner Sukkur Division Ghulam Mustafa while briefing the WHO delegation, said that in Sukkur Division overall, 2.56 million individuals were directly affected by floods, losing their homes and crops. However, water is still standing in the fields and many villages and union councils, stranded in water where the government machinery has been unable to

reach. He said that the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) is coordinating the relief effort while deputy commissioners are focal persons for the emergency relief and recovery operations. He welcomed the WHO delegation and requested immediate supplies of medicines, health facilities, and defogging machine to avert spread of malaria and dengue and to cater to pregnant women.

Carrefour Pakistan celebrates its 13th anniversary with big rewards

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: September 28, 2022: Carrefour, owned and operated by Majid Al Futtaim in Pakistan, announced its 13th anniversary celebrations start on September 29 and will continue up until October 26.

During this period, Carrefour will reward its customers with high-value prizes through a special 'Shop n' Win' promotion, as a gesture of gratitude for their continued loyalty. Customers will also be able to enjoy special discounts and deals during this celebration and participate in exciting games and competitions to win instant prizes.

Umer Lodhi, Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, said, "We have experienced phenomenal growth during the 13 years of our operations in Pakistan and



converted millions of shoppers into loyal and satisfied customers. The secret to our success lies in our vision of creating great moments for everyone, every day. Carrefour has become synonymous in Pakistan for providing customers with unbeatable value and choices and we are proud to be continuing this tradition through our anniversary campaign."

Carrefour has been serving millions of Pakistani customers per annum since 2009. Carrefour is currently operating around ten stores in Karachi, Lahore,

Islamabad, Faisalabad and Gujranwala. While its total investment in Pakistan currently stands around 11 billion rupees, there are plans to extend Carrefour's retail presence to many more cities across Pakistan.

Carrefour has also been instrumental in supporting the local economy by sourcing 99 percent of its products from more than 700 local suppliers across the country. The brand significantly contributes to human capital development in Pakistan by creating thousands of direct and indirect jobs through its own operations and supply chain sourcing policy.

In addition to the convenience of in-store shopping, Carrefour offers its delivery service through the Carrefour Pakistan app and customers can use MyCLUB to gain instant discounts, earning and redeeming points.

PAA elects new Chairman and CEC

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Syed Jawaid Iqbal of CMC (Pvt) Ltd., has been elected (unopposed) as Chairman, Pakistan Advertising Association, the sole body representing the advertising profession and allied sectors, on national level. Others elected (unopposed) include Brig (R) Muhammad Zubair Rehan (Creative Junction) as Senior Vice Chairman and Jawad Humayun (Channel 7 Communications) as Vice Chairman.

Fahd Khan (Manhattan Communications) has been elected as Chairman Zone "A", Mr. Usman Attique Butt (Interlink Advertising) as Chairman Zone "B", and Mr. Nadeem Kabir Alvi (Oktopus 360 Media) as Chairman Zone "C" while Mr. Javed Qadeer Khan (Marksman Advertising) as Secretary Finance.

Also elected as members of Central Executive Committee (CEC) are Mrs. Seema Jaffer (Bond Advertising), Mr. Khalid Rauf (Lowe & Rauf), Mr. Ahmed Jamal Mir (Prestige Communications), Ms. Faiza Nadeem (Vantage Media), Ms. Neesha Dara Khan (Manhattan International) and Mian Mobein Shafaat (Oak Media). The newly elected Chairman, Syed Jawaid Iqbal thanked all members of PAA for reposing their confidence in him for this prestigious position. He assured that as a team and with the support of the PAA members the industry will see positive change and growth. He assured that the PAA will play its role to the fullest to overcome challenges and enhance the image of the Advertising industry and the country.

Foreign Secretary presents ECO Award to Prof. Dr. Robina



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood presented Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Award for Excellence to Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq, Vice Chancellor, Govt College for Women University, Faisalabad, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Wednesday.

The ECO Awards are conferred on eminent individuals of ECO Member States for their outstanding research work, contributions and achievements in the fields of economics; history and culture; science and technology; education; agriculture and environment, with regional character and contribution to the organization's goals and objectives.

Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq won the Award for her achievements and contributions in the field of Agriculture & Environment.

The ECO Awards were conferred on the winners during the 15th ECO Summit on 28 November 2021 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. However, the award winners could not travel to Ashgabat due to Covid-19 restrictions. Prof. Dr. Robina Farooq's award was received by the Pakistan delegation to the 15th ECO Summit.



KARACHI: Distinguished Journalist Mehmood Sham is addressing at Shura Hamdard's session at Hamdard Corporate Head office, Karachi under the auspices of Hamdard foundation Pakistan. Mrs. Sadia Rashid, President Hamdard Foundation Pakistan is also seen in the picture.

Ragzai Angoor Adda road opened for traffic



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: As per the direction of Deputy Commissioner South Waziristan Amjad Miraj, in coordination with HQ (FC South KP) & 24 Brigade, the road was cleared and opened for traffic.

The protest ended via Jirga by AC Yasir Salman & Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali along with elders Zelli Khel.

Their demands were taken up with high ups and in coordination with the high ups & competent authorities, their due demands were heard and accepted which the Tribes accepted unanimously, ending the protest and road blockade.

The Tribes appreciated the continuous efforts of the District Administration, HQ (FC S KP) and elders for their continuous efforts.

Moreover, the AC & Addl. AC Wana directed the elders of the Committee not to create any law and order situation further and cooperate with the government, otherwise stern actions will be taken if the writ of the state challenged further.

Entrepreneurs' Organisation Karachi pledges support to flood relief



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The EO Karachi board announced to pledge donations for the rehabilitation of flood affected victims of Pakistan since July. The board led by example collecting approx PKR 4 million where the chapter pledges were around PKR 4.5 Million.

Thousands of towns and villages have been destroyed due to the torrential floods with entire villages being washed away. The destructive floods have destroyed millions of homes and have left millions of people displaced from their homes, lands and jobs.

It has been recorded that the torrential monsoon rains triggered the most severe flooding in Pakistan's recent history, leaving around 30 million adults and 3.4 million children in need of assistance and at increased risk of waterborne diseases.

Homebridge by Beaconhouse partners with Cambridge International



Spokesman Report

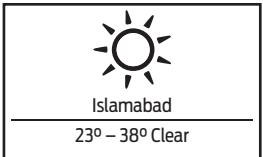
ISLAMABAD: Beaconhouse, Pakistan's largest network of private educational institutions, under its A Level school, Homebridge, has signed an exclusive partnership agreement with Cambridge International to offer AS and A Levels qualification through the Homebridge online school programme for students.

Homebridge by Beaconhouse is Pakistan's first hybrid Cambridge International A Level school, offering students an opportunity to study their Cambridge programme with online lectures, teachers and all the facilities required for an uninterrupted learning journey. Through the hybrid model, students have access to Beaconhouse campuses for extracurricular activities, libraries, and labs.

The signing ceremony was held at Cambridge International's head office, in Cambridge, UK. Speaking at the ceremony, Nassir Kasuri, Chief Executive Officer, Beaconhouse Group

commented on the partnership saying, "As the world goes through a digital transformation, it is an opportune time for both organisations to work together on a hybrid school that will make A Levels accessible to a new group of students, breaking social barriers, as well as the widely prevalent gender gap in education in Pakistan. This collaboration is a source of social mobility in the country and we are confident that it will help open up new avenues and opportunities for the youth."

Rod Smith, Group Managing Director, International Education, Cambridge International said, "Our relationship with Beaconhouse is close to 50 years old and continues to grow to offer new opportunities to learners. The number of students taking Cambridge qualifications and using our resources in Pakistan is phenomenal, and we greatly value our relationships with schools in Pakistan. I think the more we can do to strengthen these relationships, the more we can do to impact education for the benefit of the country."



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:37 am
Zohr 11:59 am
Asr 4:14 pm
Maghrib 5:57 pm
Isha 7:20 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

Minister lauds PRCS, IFRC services for flood victims

Red Crescent will expand its relief operations in flood-hit areas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister NHSR&C Abdul Qadir Patel said that the humanitarian services rendered by PRCS and IFRC in the flood-hit areas are highly commendable, people are in dire need of food, non-food, shelter and rehabilitation and the government looks forward to the support of international organizations in mitigating the sufferings of the distressed people in flood-hit areas of Pakistan.

Abdul Qadir Patel expressed these views when PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari and IFRC delegation headed by Under Secretary General Xavier Castellanos called on him at Parliament House here on Tuesday.

Matters of mutual interests, flood situation in Pakistan and future plans regarding the provision of relief and rehabilitation services to the flood-



affected families were discussed during the meeting.

Speaking on this occasion, Abdul Qadir Patel stressed upon developing cohesive strategies and plan for providing health and care services to the flood victims suffering from water-borne diseases and especially for the pregnant women who are in dire need of health and care support. "The flood-hit areas were already under

privileged and we all have to work together to overcome these challenges, Red Crescent has been a great partner and we are hopeful that together with the support of PRCS and IFRC we will be able to support the affected families in much efficient way", he added.

PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari briefed the Minister about PRCS rescue and relief services

in flood-hit areas. He said that PRCS together with the support of IFRC and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners would expand its relief operation in flood-hit areas to help people in all operational phases from relief to rehabilitation. He said PRCS has installed 8 water treatment plants in different districts of the country that are providing thousand liters of safe and drinkable water to communities in flood-ravaged areas.

Speaking on this occasion, IFRC under Secretary General Xavier Castellanos said that IFRC reaffirmed its commitment to support PRCS and government of Pakistan in its humanitarian endeavors. Xavier said that IFRC will expand its support to PRCS for the relief and rehabilitation of flood-hit population through Health, WASH and other interventions.

COMSTECH organizes seminar on women's health

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH organized a seminar on current trends in virology and epidemiology in the context of women's health at COMSTECH.

Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants. He said that this multidisciplinary international event is focused on Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) infection and associated cancers in women. He informed that this program is designed to not only deliver an inventory of recent scientific research, but also to provide awareness and sensitization in health care workers, opinion makers, and general public. Prof. Choudhary said that the objective is to help all stakeholders to be better prepared to fight against the diseases related to HPV.

Prof. Choudhary mentioned that according to a recent article in prestigious science general Lancet Oncology, Pakistan is becoming the hotspot of HPV which is still overlooked as a major risk factor for cervical cancer in over 86 million women 15 years and older. Actual prevalence of HPV infections and related morbidity and mortality remain to be investigated in systematic manner. He said only a few epidemiological and molecular studies have been conducted on this topic. He said that among the general public, HPV is perhaps the most under-rated viral disease in OIC region.

Dr. Mughal nominated as Friend of Al-Shifa

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Al-Shifa Trust Major General (Retd) Rehmat Khan has nominated Dr Murtaza Mughal as "Friend of Al-Shifa".

The decision was taken keeping in view the social services of Dr Murtaza Mughal who is Group Country Head of United International Group (UIG).

Dr. Mughal has remained a motivational speaker at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society for three years and served as convener of the FPCCI Central Standing Committee on Insurance in 2020.

In this regard, a simple but impressive ceremony was held in which Major General (Retd) Rehmat Khan gave away a certificate to Dr. Murtaza



Mughal. He said that we need guidance from distinguished individuals who have been blessed with knowledge and experience, especially those who have achieved position and status in their own careers with integrity and selfless devotion.

Major General (Retd)

Rehmat Khan added that he is pleased to nominate Dr. Mughal as a "Friend of Al-Shifa" and he hopes that Al-Shifa will benefit from his experience.

He said that the trust will try to get their staff to listen to the motivational speeches by Dr. Mughal who also visits military

colleges and different universities to deliver speeches.

At the occasion, Dr. Murtaza Mughal, who is also President of Pakistan Economy Watch said that he is very thankful to the management of the trust for the confidence reposed in him. He said that he will try his best to serve humanity and boost the morale of the staff of the trust which has gained the trust of the people of Pakistan and the international community in a short span through selfless and devoted services.

Dr. Mughal said that hats off to the AL-Shifa Trust is serving millions of people to lead a better life which is a very noble cause. Executive Director Al-Shifa Trust Brig. (Retd) Rizwan Asghar and noted columnist Baig Raj were also present at the occasion.

'Online Chinese Culture Talk' lecture series launched

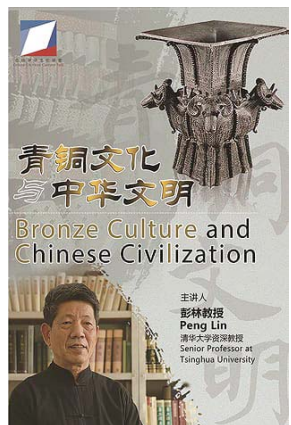
Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: China Cultural Center in Pakistan launched a series of lectures on "Online Chinese Culture Talk".

The first lecture, "Living Transmission" by Yuan Li, researcher at Chinese National Academy of Arts, provided a new window for Pakistani netizens to learn more about the profound Chinese culture.

In his lecture Yuan Li gives an in-depth introduction to the preservation, protection, inheritance and dissemination of intangible cultural heritage in China, especially the important role that the "living inheritance" method of intangible cultural heritage plays in the development of civilization.

In the long history, the Chinese nation has created a rich and splendid material



cultural heritage and precious and colorful intangible cultural heritage. These tangible and intangible cultural heritages are historical witnesses of the development of Chinese civilization and cultural resources of great value.

There are twelve lectures in

total which includes "Living Transmission" by Yuan Li, researcher at the Chinese National Academy of Arts, "Chinese language, characters and culture" by Professor Shi Dingguo, professor at Beijing Language and Culture University, "Gallantry in Tenderness: The Momentum and Spirit of Chinese Wushu" by professor Meng Tao, associate professor at Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, "Appreciation of Peking Opera Art" by Zhang Jianguo, "Chinese Literature and the World - a brief history on the Merge of Foreign and Chinese Literature" by Lu Jiande, eminent scholar and research fellow in the Institute of Literature at CASS.

Other lecture series include "Get to know China through a few iconic dishes" by Chen Xiaoqing, "Bronze Culture and

Chinese Civilization" by Peng Lin a senior Professor at Tsinghua University, "Spring Rain at Dusk: Telling the Story of Chinese Medicine" by Doctor Song Ping from China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences. "Chinese Clothing: Its Past and Present" by Chu Yan, an associate professor of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, "The Art of Traditional Chinese Architecture" by Liu Tuo, architect researcher at the Chinese National Academy of Arts.

"China's Tourism Resources and Industry Development" by Jiang Yiyi, Director of the Leisure Sports and Tourism School, Beijing Sports University. "The Chinese way and the Belt and Road Initiative - a Civilizational State Perspective" by Zhang Weiwei, a famous scholar of China.

Health Corner

Major step forward for organ biofabrication

ISLAMABAD: Heart disease — the leading cause of death in the U.S. — is so deadly in part because the heart, unlike other organs, cannot repair itself after injury. That is why tissue engineering, ultimately including the wholesale fabrication of an entire human heart for transplant, is so important for the future of cardiac medicine.

To build a human heart from the ground up, researchers need to replicate the unique structures that make up the heart. This includes recreating helical geometries, which create a twisting motion as the heart beats. It's been long theorized that this twisting motion is critical for pumping blood at high volumes, but proving that has been difficult, in part because creating hearts with different geometries and alignments has been challenging.

Now, bioengineers from the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) have developed the first biohybrid model of human ventricles with helically aligned beating cardiac cells, and have shown that muscle alignment does, in fact, dramatically increases how much blood the ventricle can pump with each contraction.

This advancement was made possible using a new method of additive textile manufacturing, Focused Rotary Jet Spinning (FRJS), which enabled the high-throughput fabrication of helically aligned fibers with diameters ranging from several micrometers to hundreds of nanometers. Developed at SEAS by Kit Parker's Disease Biophysics Group, FRJS fibers direct cell alignment, allowing for the formation of controlled tissue engineered structures.

"This work is a major step forward for organ biofabrication and brings us closer to our ultimate goal of building a human heart for transplant," said Parker, the Tarr Family Professor of Bioengineering and Applied Physics at SEAS and senior author of the paper.

This work has its roots in a centuries old mystery. In 1669, English physician Richard Lower — a man who counted John Locke among his colleagues and King Charles II among his patients — first noted the spiral-like arrangement of heart muscles in his seminal work *Tractatus de Corde*.

Over the next three centuries, physicians and scientists have built a more comprehensive understanding of the heart's structure but the purpose of those spiraling muscles has remained frustratingly hard to study.

In 1969, Edward Sallin, former chair of the Department of Biomathematics at the University of Alabama Birmingham Medical School, argued that the heart's helical alignment is critical to achieving large ejection fractions — the percentage of how much blood the ventricle pumps with each contraction.

"Our goal was to build a model where we could test Sallin's hypothesis and study the relative importance of the heart's helical structure," said John Zimmerman, a postdoctoral fellow at SEAS and co-first author of the paper. Courtesy Science Daily



ISLAMABAD: Senator (R) Ghulam Ali, Former President FPCCI and Secretary General Businessman panel (BNP), Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari newly elected president Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Khalid Iqbal Malik (chairman), Zubair Ahmed Malik Former President FPCCI, Khalid Javaid, Tariq Sadiq, Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Akram Fareed, Atif Ikram, Nasir Quresi, Zafar Bakhtawari Secretary General United Business Group (UBG), Riaz Khattak, Iftikhar Khan and Ch. Masood in a group photo of the ceremony to congratulate Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on his election by Senator (R) Ghulam Ali.

Ph.D. scholar to defend her dissertation on Oct 5

ISLAMABAD: Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Business Administration Iqra University, Islamabad Campus H-9, Ms. Nosheen Adnan Registration No. 123880 will defend her Ph.D. dissertation titled "Understanding Employee Work Engagement in the Presence of Ethical Leadership and Workplace Spirituality: A Phenomenological Study" on Wednesday October 05, 2022 at 03:00pm. Ms. Nosheen Adnan has completed her Ph.D. dissertation under supervision of Dr. Omer Khalid Bhatti.

PIDE generating ideas and policy debate through documentary series

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Under the initiative of PIDEAS (PIDE IDEAS), Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA) program is producing documentary films based on the evidence-based research produced at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) on pertaining public policy issues. In this regard, PIDE-RASTA has organized a documentary film screening event at the Islamabad Club. This was the first session in the documentary film series.

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiative Professor Ahsan Iqbal graced the event as the Chief Guest and acknowledged the role of PIDE in generating policy-informed debates on these critical yet neglected topics.

Professor Ahsan Iqbal also highlighted the significant role of the current government for youth by encouraging innovative ideas, providing opportunities, and creating an enabling environment for distinctive skills. The Youth Affairs Wing is playing an active and assertive role in materializing these objectives

The event was attended by relevant stakeholders, including academicians, policymakers, practitioners, development partners, civil society, and public and private sector representatives. "Research without debate is useless," said Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor, PIDE. "PIDEAS initiative will help us to generate and disseminate research-based ideas, inform policy debate, and suggest actionable solutions for change and growth in Pakistan," he added further.

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. Therefore, three films were screened at the event: Rethinking Urban Mobility in Pakistan based on PIDE research titled 'Rethinking mobility (urban transport policy) in Pakistan'; An Unending Wait for Car: Own Money based on PIDE research titled 'The Issue of Own Money'; and No Country for the Youth based on PIDE research titled 'Opportunity to Excel: Now and the Future.'

Speakers urge viable public policy to increase investment

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Centre for Strategic Perspective (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with URTASKER organized a panel discussion titled "The Economic Potential of E-Commerce in Pakistan: Strategies to Consider".

URTASKER is a New York based global e-commerce consulting and marketing agency. The keynote speaker of the event was Haroon Sharif, Former Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment.

Other speakers included: Muhammad Shahrukh Khan, Creative Content Strategist, Urtasker; and Mr. Zeeshan Riaz, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Urtasker. The discussants included: Dr Usman Chohan, Director, Economics & National Development, CASS; Mr. Usama Nizamani,



Assistant Research Associate, IPRI; Ms. Komal Salman, Advocacy Lead for Web 3.0, IPRI.

In her introductory remarks, Dr. Neelum Nigar, Director CSP highlighted the significance of the discussion on the economic potential of Pakistan's e-commerce industry and the underlying challenges to it.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, DG ISSI, in his welcoming remarks, emphasized the necessity of documented economy and the positive impact of e-commerce in this regard.

Ambassador Aizaz further highlighted the growing acceptance of technological use in our daily lives, especially among youth, post-pandemic.

Muhammad Shahrukh Khan explained the challenges to the e-commerce industry in Pakistan such as lack of trust and underdeveloped distributive and logistic networks. Furthermore, Mr. Shahrukh stated that we have Buyer to Buyer (B2B) potential but we lack a B2B platform. In the end, he emphasized the economic impact of e-commerce at both micro and macro

level. In his keynote address Haroon Shareef provided an insight into the broader public policy domain with regard to e-commerce market in Pakistan. Haroon further illustrated the conundrum of insufficient production and lack of investment in the country. To increase investment, he suggested, Pakistan needs a viable public policy and contract enforcement measures.

In the discussion segment, some significant comments and issues were raised by the participants. Dr. Usman Chauhan highlighted the lack of innovation in Pakistan's e-commerce industry. Mr. Usama Nizamani signified the need for transparency, cyber security, and data protection measures to foster the e-commerce industry in Pakistan. Ms. Ahsa Komal pleaded to fill the gap between technological needs and policymakers' incompetence in its adaptation.

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 Whatsapp: 0346-5008408

SCO: Platform for constructive dialogue in dangerous world - I

Kahramon Kuranbayev & Otabek Khasanov

On 15-16 September this year, the city of Samarkand hosted the 22nd summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. It is not by chance that the city which has been the centre of interethnic dialogue, cultural and spiritual cooperation as well as trade and scientific exchanges was chosen for the comprehensive and prestigious event, which attracted the attention of the entire world. This way the emphasis was placed on the Uzbek statehood and its historical potential.

At a time when complex situations are observed in the world, the spirit of diplomacy is changing and the space and opportunities for constructive dialogue are shrinking, the SCO is emerging as an efficient and practical mechanism for cooperation, which is free from political games and avoids conflicts.

Under the chairmanship of Uzbekistan, the SCO has become a truly multifaceted organisation of cooperation, mutual trust and free dialogue, rediscovering its potential. At the same time, the open and constructive diplomacy of New Uzbekistan, which has become unprecedentedly active in recent years, has been able to demonstrate its capabilities on a wide regional scale.

The major conference, which was held

in the form of dialogue for the first time in the past three years since the beginning of the pandemic, was attended by the leaders of 14 countries, high-ranking representatives of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt as well as the heads of international and regional organisations.

The summit emphasized the fact that the SCO's composition has been expanding and partnership relations have been developing. The memorandum on the obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a fully-fledged member of the organisation as well as the memorandums on granting the status of dialogue partners to Egypt and Qatar testify to the fact that the scope of cooperation is expanding.

A decision was also made to start the procedure for granting Belarus the status of a fully-fledged member, the Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, the Republic of Maldives, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar the status of dialogue partners of the SCO.

In his speech at the summit, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev put forward a number of important and urgent initiatives. Especially, based on the principle of "Shanghai spirit" and given the current international situation, his proposal to start drafting the development strategy of the SCO until 2040 was unanimously supported by the members of the organisation. That is because this document covers all directions of multifaceted cooperation and outlines priority areas of the SCO's long-term development.

Uzbekistan's chairmanship period: indication of the SCO's success

On 17 September 2021, Uzbekistan took over the chairmanship of the SCO. Our country's chairmanship of the organisation coincided with a time when severe consequences of the pandemic were being dealt with, when there was a high uncertainty in the world and when geopolitical contradictions and conflicts intensified. It could be for this reason that most experts and specialists thought that Uzbekistan's chairmanship of the SCO was just a formality or "just for the sake of it", and they made pessimistic predictions about this.

Uzbekistan did not make declarative statements on that day, on the contrary began to implement clearly defined actions in the conditions of an essentially complex historical period. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev developed new "Roadmaps" for the era of new opportunities. The issue of developing cooperation based on a constructive dialogue and trust was defined as a strategic task.

Over 80 events were successfully held and over 30 documents were adopted by the heads of relevant ministries and agencies to implement priority tasks set by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev within the framework of the SCO chairmanship.

For the first time, under the auspices of Uzbekistan, important events dedicated to information security, industrial development and gender issues were held. For example, if the first forum of women entrepreneurs helped bring the women working in the business circles of

the member states close to one another and discover their untapped potential, the scientific-expert forum of the SCO on information security determined "anchor points" based on the joint fight against modern challenges and common threats.

At present the world entered the era of the fourth industrial revolution. In this historical situation, the SCO countries realise that they should support the digital entrepreneurship of young people and help them realize their ideas. Therefore, for the first time, cyber-sports championships and the competition of start-up projects were held among the SCO youth.

Practical meetings were organized not only in Tashkent, but also in other regions of the country. For example, meetings of the council of the SCO national coordinators were held in the cities of Nukus and Bukhara, an international conference on poverty reduction was held in Bukhara and Khiva hosted meetings of the transport ministers, where cooperation plans were discussed in detail and the issues on the agenda of the organisation which need to be resolved were clarified.

There is no doubt that the Inter-regional Trade Development Plan, the SCO Strategy to Develop Transport Dependence and Infrastructure Development Programmes have opened a new era in strengthening cooperation.

To be concluded
Kahramon KURANBAYEV, the writer is Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor
Otabek KHASANOV, the writer is PhD in Political Sciences

Govt efforts to improve economy

Devastating floods are the biggest challenge currently being faced by Pakistan due to heavy rains in the region. The devastating situation is being observed in Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan. The destroyed bridges and unconnected roads are making it more difficult to provide relief to the affected people. People have now started returning back to their homes. In some areas, things have started to normalize. The government has to provide more employment opportunities, so that affected people can feed their families. We should wait for the impacts of improvement in economy after the induction of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, as he was out of the country and will take some time to tackle these issues. But, banking management is the area of expertise of Ishaq Dar and he will definitely work in this regard. Finance Ministry is a hot seat and whoever sits on it holds great responsibility. We have to reinvigorate our agriculture sector as well as taking steps to improve the IT sector. We have to look for economic and trade cooperation with the leading world economies such as China, Russia, and the US. The people, state and government of Pakistan are the custodian of CPEC, and we must take it forward for the betterment of the country.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar said that his government would try its best to revive economy, which has been critically damaged during Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf government's tenure of quarter to four years. "As a nation we had challenges, we have faced them with success in the past," he said while citing the examples of economic restriction following nuclear tests of 1998 and declared macroeconomic instability of 2013. "I will not make verbal promises only," he said and reminded of the past history of PML which had left the government in 2018 with lowest Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation of 4 percent, food inflation 2 percent, highest growth rate of 6.3 percent, highest reserves, interest rate at 6.25 percent and stable exchange rate of Rs104.50 against dollar. He said, this all was done despite three sit-ins during the period which had affected the growth rate, otherwise the figures could have touched 7.5 percent. He said, had the country been allowed to grow with the same pace, it was poised to become 18th largest economy by 2025-26 instead of 2030, leaving behind Italy and Canada. However, it was pushed to 54th position, he said. He said, becoming the 18th economy, the country could have enjoyed becoming part of G-20 world premium club, however everything was ruined.

Economy is a constant issue in any country of the world. Therefore, in order to save our economy we have to develop more economic and trade cooperation with other countries. We have to develop new policies and work efficiently to further strengthen various sectors which can become an asset to the country. We think a charter of economy should be signed to get the economy stable. I think the economy should be kept away from politics. There are many things which have to be worked out and it will take time to do so. The newly appointed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar understands the issue of foreign currencies quite well and he is in a position to handle it. Whether Finance Minister is Ishaq Dar or any other, permanent policies have to be developed to get the inflation in control. There are many internal and external factors involved in the fluctuation of dollar rate.



MIKTA nations determined to strengthen global order

Anibal Gomez-Toledo, Abdul Aziz Ahmad, Joon-Yong Park, Fatih Ulusoy & Mark Donovan

We, the ambassadors of Mexico, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia, are pleased to reintroduce MIKTA to the Saudi Arabian audience as a "partnership for progress" that is preparing to mark its ninth anniversary this year. As MIKTA countries, we represent the great diversity of the international community. We are geographically, culturally, linguistically and religiously diverse nations and are democracies that benefit from open economies with robust growth rates and a significant level of economic power.

During its relatively short history, MIKTA has demonstrated a common will and capability to contribute to strengthening global governance. Drawing on our strengths and our shared core values and similarities, we have established among ourselves an exemplary model of collaboration and consultation. Together, we have made active contributions in major international forums.

Each year, the MIKTA chair sets out the priorities for partnership during its term. Turkey's chairmanship priorities in 2022 include global health, effective migration management and food security.

In view of COVID-19's direct impact on our lives, societies and economies over the

last two years and apparently years to come, MIKTA will keep global health at the top of its agenda in 2022. Our aim is to elaborate on areas of cooperation in potential future crises, including through the strengthening of health systems.

Besides, the world is currently experiencing one of the largest refugee flows since the Second World War. Only recently, millions fled their homes due to the war in Ukraine. As large movements of refugees remain a global concern, with humanitarian, political, social and economic consequences, there is a clear need to improve international cooperation to respond to humanitarian needs and the root causes of displacement, and to reduce the incidence and risks of irregular migration. With these thoughts, we will feature effective migration management as part of MIKTA's activities throughout the year.

Last but not least, it would be safe to state that food security has become one of the most pressing issues on the international agenda following Russia's attack on Ukraine, as both these countries are traditionally major global suppliers of grains and agricultural products. As a matter of fact, global food prices were already at record highs and had been a source of concern prior to the war. Nevertheless, further increases in fuel, fertilizer and food prices are complicating access to food for many across the globe.

There are worrying projections that the number of people suffering hunger and acute food insecurity will rapidly grow unless comprehensive measures are immediately taken. Under these circumstances, we believe that the Russia-Ukraine deal of

July 22, brokered by the UN and Turkey to ensure safe transportation of grain and foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports, stands out as a substantial step forward to bringing relief and stability to global food markets. MIKTA countries will be holding continuous consultations, both at the technical and political levels, in order to contribute to the international efforts exerted in this regard.

As G20 members, we strongly support Indonesia's G20 presidency in 2022 and its theme of "Recover Together, Recover Stronger." We welcome Indonesia's focus on concrete outcomes in global health, the digital transformation and sustainable energy transitions that will benefit all, especially developing countries. We also support the G20's efforts, under Indonesia's presidency, to address gaps and challenges in financing pandemic prevention, preparedness and response. We thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its successful hosting of the G20 in 2020.

MIKTA will continue to play an active role in the multilateral system to demonstrate our countries' resolve to strengthen the global order and to address global challenges.

- Anibal Gomez-Toledo is ambassador of Mexico to Saudi Arabia.
- Abdul Aziz Ahmad is ambassador of Indonesia to Saudi Arabia.
- Joon-yong Park is ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Saudi Arabia.
- Fatih Ulusoy is ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Saudi Arabia.
- Mark Donovan is Ambassador of Australia to Saudi Arabia.

Courtesy: Arab News

Why the Middle East Green Initiative is so important

Dr. Suwanna Gauntlett

The Middle East Green Initiative, launched last year by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has united top leaders from nine nations to coordinate their efforts in countering climate change. Everyone agrees that the future survival of humanity depends on green solutions and each country has now taken action to create its own national strategy. We at the Wildlife Alliance are looking forward to seeing the national green initiative strategies being unveiled at COP27 in Egypt this November.

Preparing these plans requires an enormous amount of desk-based work and fieldwork, as well as precise guidelines for industries and the public for on-the-ground implementation. However, recent climate events have shown how urgent it is to push ahead with these plans and put them into action as soon as possible.

Leaders agree that we must shift to a low-carbon economy as soon as possible. However, realistically, we all know that this will take time. Therefore, the question remains: What do we do in the immediate future? What emergency intervention do we use now? Could we use new technology that allows us to extract carbon dioxide from the atmosphere (decarbonization, aka direct air capture)? Or do we use solar geoengineering, which will lower the temperature of the Earth by spraying particles into the stratosphere to block some of the sun's rays and send them back into space.

Several solar geoengineering technologies are being tested right now. They have shown an effective reduction in the amount of the sun's rays that reach the Earth and a lowering of temperatures. However, there have been undesired effects that cannot be controlled, such as the freezing of crops that could cause famine and the disruption of rainfall, which could cause droughts across entire regions.

So, what should we do?

The Wildlife Alliance thinks that the use of climate control technology and carbon extraction are part of the solution but will only work if implemented alongside massive efforts to increase the vegetation cover on the planet. Without the restoration of natural vegetation, we will be unable to restore global cool air currents.

By deforesting 60 percent of the tropical belt's forest cover, we have accelerated the warming of the planet. NASA has proven that the climate in Northern Hemisphere countries is directly impacted by the loss of tropical vegetation cover around the equator. We have ignored for too long the function of tropical rainforests in regulating the Earth's temperature. Now that we have lost most of these forests, we are paying the price.

Tropical vegetation is no longer in place to maintain cool air currents and regulate global rainfall. For example, deforestation in the Congo Basin is increasing temperatures and reducing rainfall in Europe. And destruction of the tropical forest in the Amazon has a direct impact on heat waves and droughts in the US.

The immediate and accessible solution for maintaining the Earth's temperature and rainfall at a stable level is to stop deforestation, strictly protect the forests that we still have and plant new forests as fast as we can.

As a conservationist, I understand the importance of working with governments to fast forward policies and help with on-the-ground implementation. This means, for the immediate future, mobilizing the resources needed to plant new forests faster and raising more funds for the direct protection of existing forests to stop deforestation.

Dr. Suwanna Gauntlett is the founder and CEO of Wildlife Alliance. She has dedicated her life to protecting rainforests and wildlife in some of the world's most hostile and rugged environments.

Courtesy: Arab News

Russia prepares to annex parts of Ukraine after vote

Zelensky calls allies in bid to rally support against Russia

KYIV: Russia was poised Wednesday to formally annex parts of Ukraine where occupied areas held a Kremlin-orchestrated "referendum" — denounced by Kyiv and the West as illegal and rigged — on living under Moscow's rule.



Armed troops had gone door-to-door with election officials to collect ballots in five days of voting. The results were widely ridiculed as implausible and characterized as a land grab by an increasingly cornered Russian leadership following embarrassing military losses in Ukraine.

Moscow-installed administrations in the four regions of southern and eastern Ukraine claimed Tuesday night that residents had voted to join Russia.

"Forcing people in these territories to fill out some papers at the barrel of a gun is yet another Russian crime in the course of its aggression against Ukraine," Ukraine's Foreign Ministry said, adding that the balloting was "a propaganda show" and "null and worthless."

The ballot was "falsified" and the outcome "implausibly claimed" that

residents had agreed to rule from Moscow, the Washington-based think tank Institute for the Study of War said.

Pro-Russia officials in Ukraine's Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions said Wednesday they would ask Russian President Vladimir Putin to incorporate their provinces into Russia. Separatist leaders Leonid Pasechnik in Luhansk and

Denis Pushilin in Donetsk said they were leaving for Moscow to settle the annexation formalities.

According to Russia-installed election officials, 93% of the ballots cast in the Zaporizhzhia region supported annexation, as did 87% in the Kherson region, 98% in the Luhansk region and 99% in Donetsk. Western countries, however, dismissed the ballot-

ing as a meaningless pretense staged by Moscow in an attempt to legitimize its invasion of Ukraine launched on Feb. 24.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said Washington would propose a Security Council resolution to condemn the "sham" vote. The resolution would also urge member states not to recognize any altered status of Ukraine and demand that Russia withdraws its troops from its neighbor, she tweeted.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called the vote "illegal" (amid) systematic abuses of human rights," he tweeted.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry statement asked the EU, NATO and the Group of Seven major industrial nations to "immediately and significantly" step up pressure on Russia with new sanctions and by significantly increasing their military aid to Kyiv.

APHC concerned over surge in Indian state terrorism in IIOJK

SRINAGAR: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has expressed serious concern over the surge in Indian state terrorism in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir to suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for securing their right to self-determination.

The APHC leaders including Yasmeen Raja, Zamruda Habib and Dr Musaab in their separate statements in Srinagar condemned the killing of youth, harassment and arrest of innocent people and continued illegal detention of political prisoners by Indian troops and police in the territory.

They said the atrocities by Indian forces' personnel are aimed at creating a sense of fear among the masses. However, they made it clear that such brutal tactics cannot subdue the Kashmiris' freedom sentiment and they will continue their struggle till it reached its logical conclusion.

The APHC leaders denounced the undeclared economic blockade of Kashmiri fruit growers by the Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government. They said Modi regime is crushing the economy of Kashmiri people the same way Israel did in Palestine and called upon the international community to put pressure on India to ensure unhindered access of fruit-laden trucks to the markets outside the occupied territory.

They paid rich tributes to the illegally detained Hurriyat leaders and activists including APHC Chairman Masarrat Aalam Butt, Muhammad Yasin Malik, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, Aasiya Andrabi, Naveem Ahmad Khan, Dr Mohammad Qasim Fakhtoo, Altaf Ahmad Shah, Ayaz Akbar, Pir Saifullah, Raja Merajuddin Kalwal, Farooq Ahmad Dar, Shahidul Islam, Dr Shafi Shariyat, Naheeda Nasreen and Fehmeeda Sofi. They said that the Kashmiri prisoners were facing victimization at the hands of Indian authorities for their affiliation with the sacred cause of freedom of their homeland from India's illegal occupation.

They urged the world human rights organizations to take cognizance of the plight of the Kashmiri detainees and play an effective role in their immediate release. They also appealed to the United Nations Secretary General to force India to settle the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions and Kashmiris' aspirations for ensuring durable peace in South Asia.

Journalist Mehboob Shaikh holds interactive session



Spokesman Report

TORONTO: A session on 'Present, Past, and Future of Technology and Innovation' was held in Toronto, Canada for university students of Smart Information Technology, Nano-Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The event was organized by noted journalist, writer and humanitarian, Mehboob Ali Shaikh with Dr. Naveed Imam Syed, who is a Professor at Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. Dr. Syed, a neuroscientist, is the inventor of world's first neuro-chip, which attaches brain cells with the silicon chip.

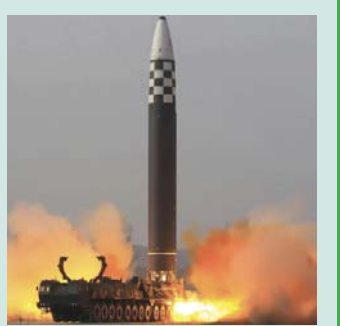
A large number of students and other professionals attended Dr. Naveed Imam Syed's presentation on brain cells, future inventions and technological advancement, which was followed by a Q&A session. Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Brampton, Canada commended the inventions of Dr. Naveed.

Acting Counsel General of Pakistan in Toronto, Yasir Iqbal Butt, appreciated Mehboob Ali Shaikh for organizing such a prestigious event. He also dragged attention of the audience towards the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and underlined the importance of relief efforts.

Addressing the ceremony, Mehboob Shaikh said Pakistan is faced with severe challenges and stressed upon the national harmony in dealing with the catastrophe. Mehboob Shaikh said the purpose of the event was to apprise the young students with the trends in technological advancement and innovation in a healthy environment. Mayor Patrick Brown, Pakistan Counsel General in Toronto Yasir Iqbal Butt and Mehboob Shaikh presented a shield to honor the services of Dr. Syed Naveed Imam Syed.

North Korea fires ballistic missile off east coast: Seoul

SEOUL: North Korea fired a ballistic missile off its east coast on Wednesday, South Korea's military said, as South Korea and the United States staged joint naval exercises involving an aircraft carrier.



Japan's coast guard also reported a suspected ballistic missile test.

The launch came two days after South Korea and US forces launched their military exercise in the waters off South Korea's east coast involving an aircraft carrier.

US Vice President Kamala Harris is set to arrive in the South Korean capital, Seoul, on Thursday after a visit to Japan.

North Korea also fired a ballistic missile toward the sea off its east coast on Sunday.

North Korea has been subjected to UN sanctions since 2006, which the Security Council has steadily — and unanimously — stepped up over the years to cut off funding for its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs. North Korea rejects UN resolutions as an infringement of its sovereign right to self-defense and space exploration, and has criticized military exercises by United States and South Korea as proof of their hostile intentions.



NEW YORK: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi delivered his speech at the 77th General Assembly of the United Nations which was one of the most crowded meetings of the UN General Assembly.

Israeli raid leaves 4 Palestinians dead in West Bank camp

WEST BANK: At least four Palestinians were killed and 44 wounded during an Israeli military raid Wednesday into the Jenin refugee camp in the West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry reported, marking the deadliest episode since Israel escalated a crackdown on the occupied territory earlier this year.



Israeli forces said they fatally shot two Palestinians they had been sent to arrest in the camp over their suspected involvement in recent shooting attacks. When soldiers surrounded a house in the camp, an explosive device detonated, a gunfight ensued and Israeli troops killed the two Palesti-

tinians, the military said. During the raid, armed clashes broke out in the camp as they hurled rocks and opened fire at arriving troops. The violence killed another two Palestinians and wounded at least 44 others,

the Palestinian Health Ministry said.

"This was the bloodiest day this year," said Jamal Huweil, a 52-year-old Fatah official and camp resident. "People are killed, wounded. There's destruction. Every

time (Israeli forces) come into the Jenin camp, our resistance becomes stronger and stronger."

It was chaos as Israeli troops exchanged fire with Palestinians on nearly every street of the crowded camp, sending bullets in all directions. Young protesters rushed to hurl stones and hand grenades at Israeli soldiers and scrambled from gunshots they received in return. Israeli armored vehicles and bulldozers rumbled down the battered roads. The clashes escalated as angry crowds of men marched through the camp's narrow alleys holding the shrouded bodies of killed Palestinians aloft.

Modi govt bans PFI, eight other Muslim associated organizations

NEW DELHI: Narendra Modi-led fascist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has banned the Muslim organization Popular Front of India (PFI) and its eight other associated Muslim organisations for five years under draconian law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).



The moves came after two rounds of country-wide raids and arrest of over 240 leaders and functionaries of the PFI in a week. The Modi regime has declared the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates or affiliates or fronts as "unlawful associations" under draconian law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Rehab India Foundation (RIF), Campus Front of India (CFI), All India Imams Council (AIC), National Confederation of Human Rights Organization (NCHRO), National Women's Front, Junior Front, Empower India Foundation and Rehab Foundation, Kerala, have also been declared unlawful associations.

"PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts have been indulging in unlawful activities, which are prejudicial to the integrity, sovereignty and

security of the country and have the potential of disturbing public peace and communal harmony of the country," according to the allegations leveled in the gazette notification from the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ministry alleged that some of the PFI's founding members are the leaders of Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and PFI has linkages with Jamat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh.

There had been a number of instances of international linkages of PFI with Global Terrorist Groups like Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), according to the notification. "Some activists of the PFI have joined Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)

and participated in terror activities in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of these PFI cadres linked to ISIS have been killed in these conflict theaters and some have been arrested by State Police and Central Agencies," the MHA alleged.

Meanwhile, PFI's official handle tweeted, "Massive arrests are going on in BJP-ruled states in the name of preventive custody. This is nothing but prevention of the Right to democratic protests against the Central government's witch-hunt targeting PFI is quite natural and expected under this autocratic system."

However, these are only allegations from the government which are yet to be proved in courts. The leaders of PFI denied the allegations consistently and they said they would fight democratically and legally.

It is worth mentioning here that victimization of Muslims and their representative organizations in India have increased manifold since BJP came into power in 2014. They are being treated as second class citizens and even not being accepted as Indians.

Austria to launch checks at Slovak border to stop migrants

BERLIN: Austria announced Wednesday that it will start checks at its border crossings with Slovakia, following a similar decision by the Czech Republic, in a move that's aimed at keeping migrants from entering.

The measure becomes effective at midnight Wednesday, the Austrian government said.

The Austrian interior ministry said the border controls are a response to the Czech Republic's announcement, a day earlier, of controls on its border with Slovakia starting Thursday, and aim to ensure that human traffickers do not use Austria as an alternative. "We have to react before

the smugglers react," Austrian Interior Minister Gerhard Karner told public broadcaster ORF.

Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia all belong to the European Union's visa-free Schengen zone where people can normally cross borders without getting checked. However, temporary border controls have repeatedly been reinstated in the past, whether to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the early days of the pandemic or to stop migrants from entering illegally.

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer told reporters later on Wednesday that he



would meet Hungarian President Viktor Orban and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic next week to discuss the issue of migration.

"The states are not doing

this for their own sake, but to fight organized crime and smuggling and to reduce the pressure from the borders," Nehammer said in Vienna.

Austria introduced controls

along its borders with Hungary and Slovenia in 2015, when more than 1 million migrants from war-torn countries like Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan entered the European Union. The Alpine country has repeatedly extended those controls, which remain in place.

Back then, only about 8,500 migrants were detained in the Czech Republic, while this year so far 12,000 migrants have been detained, the Czech interior ministry said, adding that most of them were Syrians. A total of 125 human smugglers have been arrested in the Czech Republic this year, a significant increase compared with the previous years.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,435.13	41,518.23
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,820.95	41,391.18
Index Value	Change
6,218,475,131	-83.10
Percentage	Time
-0.2%	28 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,005.39	+20.80
Percentage	Time
+0.30%	28 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
29,484.21	+349.22
Percentage	Time
+1.20%	28 Sept, 11:58 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,173.98	-397.89
Percentage	Time
-1.50%	28 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	152.77	154.02
Bahrain Dinar	629.98	634.48
Canadian Dollar	172.52	173.87
China Yuan	33.01	33.26
Danish Krone	30.65	31
Euro	220	222
Hong Kong Dollar	30.17	30.52
Indian Rupee	2.9	2.98
Japanese Yen	1.3	1.35
Kuwaiti Dinar	762.28	767.28
Malaysian Ringgit	51.37	51.82
New Zealand \$	133.92	135.12
Norwegians Krone	21.98	22.28
Omani Riyal	615.2	619.7
Qatari Riyal	65.07	65.57
Saudi Riyal	60.6	61.2
Singapore Dollar	164.78	166.08
Swedish Korona	20.89	21.19
Swiss Franc	239.56	241.31
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	62	62.7
UK Pound Sterling	248	251
US Dollar	230	233

SECP working towards improving doing business climate: Aamir Khan

SECP Chairman says financial inclusion, market development at forefront of regulatory regime

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) Chairman Aamir Khan visited the Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI), Karachi, for an interactive session with the senior officials of OICCI and representatives of the industry.

OICCI Vice President Amir Rasool Paracha and Secretary General M. Abdul Aleem welcomed him to the Chamber. The session started with a brief presentation by the OICCI officials about the chamber's profile and the industry situation.

Aamir Khan informed the meeting participants that SECP is working towards improving

doing business climate for registered entities, and undertaking measures to promote digitalization and inculcation of technology in the corporate sector.

He highlighted the six main aims of SECP in terms of its regulatory role as well as a supporting force for the industry. He said that the overriding thoughts at the start of his journey as the Chairman of the apex regulator includes financial inclusion, market development, effective & transparent enforcement, promoting innovation & entrepreneurship, ease of doing business and improving internal governance of SECP. He mentioned the importance of digitalization, cutting down regulatory web, reducing cost of doing business, and increased competition by reduction in barriers to entry, for sustainable

growth and expansion in the corporate sector and capital markets in Pakistan.

SECP Chairman also mentioned some of the notable measures taken by the Commission towards the achievement of all these goals, including launch of Digital CTCs, online banking portal, Secured Transaction Registry, establishment of Business Center, amendments in the Companies Act, 2017 as well as launch of WhatsApp and WeChat services. He said that as a result of SECP's efforts, during the fiscal year 2021-22, over 99 percent of companies were incorporated online.

In terms of measures for improving liquidity and product development, he mentioned the introduction of seven ETFs, issuance of over 1,000 EWRs, as well as the launch of REITs.

Aamir Khan also spoke on the new regulations issued by SECP including Guidelines for digital distribution and Robo Advisory of Mutual Funds, Regulatory framework enabling micro and digital only insurers & AMCs, and Draft Asset Fractionalization Regulations.

Talking about the reforms within SECP, Khan shed light on focus on outcomes and the transformation towards a function-based regulator from a sector-based regulator. He also informed the attendees about the formation of dedicated Supervision and Adjudication divisions, supported by strengthened litigation department, risk-based supervision, creation of centralized licensing department, and the digitalization of functions like promotion, appraisal, loan management and payroll.

Trade promotion

ISLAMABAD: Dean of the group of African Ambassadors and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Pakistan Mohammed Karmoune, President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Shakeel Munir and others cutting ribbon during inauguration of the Africa Facilitation Desk at ICCI Office in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

African diplomats keen to promote trade ties with Pakistan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) opened an Africa Facilitation Desk that would work to facilitate the business community in exploring opportunities of trade, exports and investment with African countries. Mohammed Karmoune, Dean of the African Corps and Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan inaugurated the Africa Desk as Chief Guest. Jemal Beker Ambassador of Ethiopia, Salih Mohamed Ahmed Mohamed Siddiq Ambassador of Sudan, Mohammed Bello Abioye High Commissioner of Nigeria and Philip Riley Counsellor of South African High Commission were also present at the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking at the occasion, Mohammed Karmoune,

Dean of the African Corps and Ambassador of Morocco to Pakistan lauded the initiative of ICCI for opening Africa Desk as it was the first Chamber in Pakistan to open such a desk. He said that Africa was the continent of the future and there was a huge potential for Pakistan to enhance trade & exports with it as well as explore joint ventures and investment in African region of 55 countries.

The Ambassadors of Ethiopia & Sudan, High Commissioner of Nigeria and Counsellor of South Africa also spoke at the occasion and said that Asia and Africa should come together for promoting trade and economic ties to achieve progress and prosperity. They said that Pakistan should focus on Africa for exports as it was still an untapped market for Pakistan.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry briefed the Afri-

can diplomats about the aims and objectives of opening Africa Facilitation Desk at ICCI. He said that the Desk would work to provide business related information to the business community so that they could be facilitated in capitalizing on opportunities of trade, exports, business and investment in African market.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari newly elected President ICCI, Zafar Bakhtawari former President ICCI and others also spoke at the occasion. They appreciated that Ethiopia was going to start direct flights with Pakistan and stressed that other African countries should also start direct flights with Pakistan that would help in promoting trade, tourism, people to people contacts, business and investment relations between Pakistan and African region.

PHMA elects Chairman, SV Chairman, Vice-Chairman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA) Election results were announced in its Annual General Meeting whereby Muhammad Babar Khan, Naseer Ahmad Butt and Khizer Mehboob have been elected as unopposed as Central Chairman, Senior Vice-Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively who will serve the Association for tenure 2022-2023.

The PHMA Executive Committee Members elected unopposed from Southern Zone are Khizer Mehboob; Altaf Hussain; Ifikhar Ashraf; Saleem Parekh; Mohammad Riaz Ahmed; Mahmood Nara; Ayaz Ali. The other Executive Committee Member who shall continue for their second year term are: Abdul Rehman; Mohammad Babar Khan; Saqib Bilwani; Fawad Usman; Faisal Arshad Sheikh; Ali Murtaza Panju; Irfan Zakaria Bawary.

Khizer Mehboob, Vice-Chairman (Central) will also head the Zonal Committee as Zonal Chairman while, Altaf Hussain and Ifikhar Ashraf has been elected Zonal Senior Vice-Chairman and Zonal Vice-Chairman respectively. From Northern Zone newly elected PHMA Executive Committee Members are Izhar ul Haq; Shaqfat Mahmood; Khawaja Mushraf Iqbal; Muhammad Zanoon Nazir; Hazar Khan; Amjad Khawaja; Shaheen Tabassum.

FFC wins best CSR award for Year 2021

Our Correspondent



KARACHI: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited once again secured top ranking in the 'Best Corporate and Sustainability Reports for the Year - 2021' maintaining its traditional corporate excellence.

In recognition of transparent reporting, good governance practices and to promote integrated thinking within the organization considering both financial and non-financial information adopted by the FFC, these awards were announced by a joint committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan (ICAP) and Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Pakistan (ICMAP).

FFC's Annual Reports have been awarded: First position in Best Overall Corporate Report Award for the 14th time. First position in Best Corporate Report in the Chemical Sector Award for the 18th time. First position in Best Sustainability Report Award for the 6th time.

Award was received by Azhar Khan, representing the Company at the Award Ceremony held at Marriot Hotel, Karachi.

Etisalat delegation visits PTA

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Etisalat visited Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Headquarters here on Wednesday. The delegation which comprised of Mikhail Gerchuk, Etisalat International Group CEO; Dr. Kamal Sameer Shehadi, Chief Strategy Officer Etisalat Group; Hatem Bamatraf, Group CEO PTCL. Abdul Rehman Al Raheem Al Noor-iyani, CEO Etisalat International Pakistan met with Chairman PTA, Maj. Gen. Amir Azeem Bajwa (R). The two sides discussed the future plans of Etisalat Group, PTCL & Ufone for enhancing connectivity, improving infrastructure and future investment opportunities in Pakistan.

e& International delegation meets key govt stakeholders

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation from e& International comprising of top management held meetings with Federal Secretary IT, Federal Secretary Privatization, and other key government stakeholders in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The delegation led by CEO International, e&, Mikhail Gerchuk met with the Federal Secretary IT, Mohsin Mushtaq, Federal Secretary for Privatization, Dr. Iram A. Khan and Chairman PTA, Major General (R) Amir Azeem Bajwa HI (M). The delegation from e& was accompanied by President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf.

During the meeting, Mohsin Mushtaq welcomed the dele-



gation from e& International to Pakistan. Matters of mutual interest were discussed with a focus especially on Telecom Sector and its significance on the national economic growth. The agenda of discussion also included e& International and PTCL Group's incredible support in developing a strong infrastructure in Pakistan that would surely transform the country into a digitalized economy.

The management and govern-

ment officials exchanged their views on the ongoing crisis in the country by the recent floods and ways to extend joint support for the people during these tough times. The discussion also included the issue of telecom companies in Pakistan requiring import of communication equipment for their network up-gradation and expansion as well as to maintain the quality-of-service requirements mandated for the sector.

Low forex reserves worry business community

Mian Zahid Hussain says remittances are not increasing as per expectations

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday expressed concern over falling forex reserves and asked the authorities to take steps to boost reserves.

The current account deficit CAD for August is 42 percent less as compared to the CAD of July but the reduction is insufficient, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that remittances increased by 7.9 percent in August as compared to July but it remains inadequate.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that exports and remittances can slide due to fears of a recession in western countries.

He said that foreign investment was 1191 million dollars in the first two months of the last fiscal which has come down to 144 million dollars which should be increased.

The reason behind fall in the foreign investment is political instability in the

country which is repelling the investors.

The foreign exchange reserves are below the accepted limit and sufficient for imports of one month which is also hurting the local currency, he observed.

The CAD has been reduced but not as per the target of the IMF for which government will have to increase exports and reduce imports.

Floods have damaged crops which will result in imports of wheat, cotton and other items and it will also damage textile and rice exports which will push up CAD.

SM Muneer lauds Dar's appointment as Finance Minister

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer and President Salman Aslam have welcomed the return of Ishaq Dar and his appointment as Finance Minister.

SM Muneer said that Pakistan was economically stable during Ishaq Dar's tenure and he kept the dollar value under

control. It can be estimated that Ishaq Dar will once again prove to be the best finance minister for the country. He said that the business community has a lot of expectations from Ishaq Dar, it is hoped that Ishaq Dar will take strong steps to reduce the production cost.

President KATI Salman Aslam said that Ishaq Dar has also expressed his commitment that he will take steps to strengthen the economy, from which it can be



expected that Pakistan will come out of the current economic crisis soon. Decline in price of electricity and petroleum products will be a big challenge for Ishaq Dar. Increasing Pakistan's exports by providing uninterrupted gas supply to industries and solving other problems should be his priority.

He said that it is hoped that the economy will improve after Ishaq Dar takes office as Finance Minister.

Pak vs Eng

Bowlers help Pakistan thump England in fifth T20I

Hosts take a 3-2 lead in the seven-match series

LAHORE: Pakistan defeated England by five runs in the fifth T20I at Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday.

Debutant Aamer Jamal was handed the responsibility to defend 15 in the last over and he did so against the dangerous Moeen Ali.

Resultantly, the hosts have taken a 3-2 lead in the seven-match series. In the first innings, England fast bowler Mark Wood's express pace helped the tourists bowl out Pakistan for a below-par 145 in the fifth T20 international in Lahore on Wednesday.

Wood — playing only his second international since undergoing elbow surgery — took 3-20 after the home team were sent in to bat at Gaddafi Stadium.

Wood's fellow pacers Sam Curran (2-23) and David Willey (2-23) also bowled with hostility as Pakistan were dismissed in 19 overs. Amid a middle-order collapse from 42-1 which saw Pakistan lose six wickets off 48 balls for just 58 runs — opener Mohammad Rizwan held on with a defiant 46-ball 63.



Wood dismissed Pakistan skipper Babar Azam in the third over for nine before David Willey removed Shan Masood and Iftikhar Ahmed to derail Pakistan.

Mohammad Nawaz, for a duck, and Shadab Khan fell to injudicious runouts

to leave Pakistan tottering at 100-7. Rizwan completed his 20th T20I half-century before hitting Curran straight into the hands of Adil Rashid at deep square-leg in the 18th over. Rizwan struck three sixes and two fours.

Earlier, England captain Moeen Ali

won the toss and sent Pakistan in to bat.

The seven-match series is tied at 2-2 after the first leg of four matches in Karachi with England winning the first and third while Pakistan won the second and fourth. England made four changes from the side that lost the fourth game, bringing in Chris Woakes for his first game of the series in addition to Dawid Malan, Curran and Wood.

The quartet replaced Will Jacks, Olly Stone, Reece Topley and Liam Dawson.

Pakistan handed a T20I debut to 26-year-old all-rounder Aamer Jamal while also adding Shadab Khan and Haider Ali to the squad. They replaced Khushdil Shah, Usman Qadir and Mohammad Hasnain. The remaining matches are also in Lahore (September 30 and October 2).

Pakistan: Babar Azam (captain), Mohammad Rizwan, Asif Ali, Aamer Jamal, Haris Rauf, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shadab Khan, Mohammad Nawaz, Haider Ali, Shan Masood, Mohammad Wasim Junior

DeChambeau and Lahiri embracing LIV Golf's debut in Asia

BANGKOK: LIV Golf makes its eagerly awaited Asian debut in Thailand next week, and Crushers GC captain Bryson DeChambeau and teammate Anirban Lahiri have spoken of their excitement in bringing the fresh format to a new audience.

Forty-eight of the world's best golfers, including 12 major champions and four former world No. 1s, are set to tee off at the all-new Stonehill, the first stop in Asia this season ahead of a trip to Saudi Arabia for the LIV Golf Invitational Jeddah, the seventh of eight events this year.

The LIV Golf Invitational Bangkok takes place Oct. 7-9. "The game of golf is global, that is first and foremost," said 2020 US Open Champion and Crushers GC Captain Bryson DeChambeau. "As I have traveled to Dubai, and won overseas, and played in the UK and did well — even as an amateur at

college, I played the World Amateur Championship in Japan, I played the Australian Masters and Australian Open as an amateur. And playing those events, you realize that golf is not just this small little thing in the States. You realize it is a global game."

This summer, LIV Golf announced that the LIV Golf League will officially launch in 2023 with 48 players and 12 established team franchises competing in a 14-tournament schedule. The full slate of events, to be announced in the future, is expected to expand LIV Golf's global footprint across North and Latin America, Asia, Australia, the Middle East and Europe.

LIV Golf has also made a \$300 million, 10-year investment in the Asian region through the creation of The International Series — a program of events with larger prize purses on the

Asian Tour in venues such as Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Egypt and Morocco, as well as England so far this season.

The Crushers GC roster has featured a broad range of international stars such as England's Paul Casey and Richard Bland, India's Anirban Lahiri, South African stars Shaun Norris and Justin Harding, and Australian Travis Smyth. DeChambeau believes that this approach will appeal to more markets and improve the game.

"I looked at this opportunity. I got Anirban on the team and Paul Casey on the team, and it is great to have international players on the team so we can grow internationally and that's my goal," said DeChambeau. "So many people don't know this great game and having created amazing relationships, I want to provide that opportunity moving forward and that's what I think team

Crushers and LIV Golf can do, and that is what we are trying to accomplish and expand, and grow this opportunity to the max."

Lahiri, a star in his native India, finished second in his LIV Golf debut in Boston following a dramatic three-way playoff with Chile's Joaquin Niemann and the eventual victor, Johnson. He spoke about the excitement that has already picked up in his home country and across Asia after being onboard with LIV Golf for just one month.

"One perception from back home is that people are looking at the golf and they are excited about having one of their own playing on this stage. People are excited about LIV going to Asia," said Lahiri. "At least 20 people I know from India are flying to Bangkok and that's just from India, not Singapore or Malaysia and everywhere. Golf is huge in Asia.

Jabeur, Raducanu confirm for Mubadala World Tennis Championship

ABU DHABI: World No. 2 Ons Jabeur, the first Arab to reach a Grand Slam final, will return to Abu Dhabi this December to defend her Mubadala World Tennis Championship crown.

The tournament organizers have confirmed the Tunisian, who reached the Wimbledon and US Open finals this year, will take on British No. 1 Emma Raducanu on the first day of the championships on Dec. 16.

Last year, Jabeur became the first Arab to contest and win the annual Mubadala World Tennis Championship at Zayed Sports City. The 28-year-old faced Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Belinda Bencic in the headline women's match and came from a set down to claim a memorable 4-6, 6-3, (10-8) victory, to the delight of a raucous crowd inside the International Tennis Centre.

"Playing in Abu Dhabi is always exciting," Jabeur said ahead of her appearance at the three-day championship, which runs from Dec. 16 to 18.

"I had a fantastic experience there in 2021 and I don't want to lose the opportunity to defend my championship title this year. Aside from the match itself, I am most excited to see my fans there. I find them extremely special as they have supported me throughout every competition I have participated in this year."

On the opposite side of the net will be Raducanu, who triumphed at the US Open last year to become the first British female to win a Grand Slam singles title since 1977. She was also the first player to win the US Open women's singles title without dropping a set since Serena Williams in 2014.

"I am thrilled to finally be making my debut in Abu Dhabi," said Raducanu. "I've heard great things about the fans and how supportive they are, and I can't wait to play in front of them all."

John Lickrish, CEO, Flash Entertainment, added: "We promised we would bring the top players to compete in Abu Dhabi once again, and in Ons and Emma we have secured two of the sport's biggest names.

"Ons is a crowd favorite and has enjoyed a tremendously successful year since winning the Mubadala World Tennis Championship last December. Likewise, I know Emma is also extremely popular and tremendously excited about making her debut here in the UAE. I'm sure there will be huge interest from the tennis community both in the UAE and the wider region."

Spain snare Nations League semis spot from Portugal

BRAGA: Alvaro Morata's late strike snatched Spain a 1-0 Nations League victory over Portugal in Braga on Tuesday and sent them into the semi-finals.

La Roja needed to win to finish top of League A Group 2, but struggled on another difficult night for the Euro 2020 semi-finalists, until Morata's 88th-minute breakthrough.

Spain have not been able to hit top form in the internationals leading up to the Qatar 2022 World Cup, but this hard-fought victory provides a welcome morale boost. Portugal had the better of the game but Spain



brightened in the final stages, with the introduction of several substitutes, including Nico Williams, who headed across goal for Morata to gleefully turn in at the back

post. "When we had to stand up, we did," Morata told TVE. "If we had lost, it had to be giving everything we had on the pitch, and that's what we did.

"I'll remember the attitude of the team, we fought until the end. And Nico Williams, in his second game for the national team, was key and I put it over the line." Spain will join Italy, Croatia and the Netherlands in the semis in June 2023, although attention now switches to the fast-approaching World Cup. Luis Enrique made wholesale changes to the side that suffered Spain's first home defeat since 2018 against Switzerland on Saturday, retaining only four starters. Morata was brought in to lead the line, while the Asturian coach rotated his entire midfield trio.

San Siro demolition on table as Milan and Inter's stadium dream put to public

MILAN: A crucial step toward the demolition of the iconic San Siro begins on Wednesday when Milan hosts the first of a series of meetings with the public necessary for the new stadium proposed by the city's two footballing giants.

AC Milan and Inter Milan both insist that they can no longer stay in the current, city-owned San Siro and have drawn up plans for a new 60,000-capacity ground flanked by sport and leisure facilities on the same site, which will be completely remodelled.

Should it go ahead the project is scheduled to be completed in 2030, with 1.3 billion euros (\$1.24 billion) being jointly invested in the development by both clubs, who say they cannot afford to build separate new grounds and need the increased revenue this project would bring.

Over three years after presenting their initial project the public will now be able to scrutinize it and have their say at 10 meetings held over a month, after which a report will be presented to the city by the meetings' independent organizers in mid-November.

The city can then decide whether to insist on further changes to a project which has had 50,000 square meters of development cut from it since it was first proposed, or proceed with approval.

The project is divided into two main sections: construction of the new stadium in the area immediately west of the San Siro currently occupied by car parking and a local park, which the clubs want finished by September 2027.

After that is built the current stadium, set to host the opening ceremony of the 2026 Winter

Olympics, will then be demolished before the new facilities — including shopping, convention and sports centers, are built around a new public park.

It's these facilities and the destruction of a symbolic stadium which have attracted the ire of some Milan residents and a sizeable portion of the city council, who are also angry at the granting of public land to private investors for a fraction of the rent the pair currently pay.

Other criticisms include the significant reduction in the number of seats — of which over 10,000 could be reserved for hospitality — way down not just on the San Siro's capacity but also the number of fans currently packing the ground.

Both Inter and Milan have been regularly getting crowds of over 70,000 as a post-pandemic wave of enthusiasm among fans

has led to supporters flocking back to stadiums in big numbers across Serie A.

Some pressure groups are pushing for the renovation of the current ground and dismiss Milan CEO Paolo Scaroni's claims on Tuesday that it would be "impossible and dangerous to get 50,000 fans into a building site," citing the redevelopment of the San Siro ahead of the 1990 World Cup which added a whole new tier to the stadium.

However, Milan mayor Giuseppe Sala has repeatedly asked critics what local authorities would be able to do with a massive, unused football stadium on the outskirts of the city should the project not be approved and the clubs decide to move in order to get the new ground built.

A source at Inter told AFP in the summer that any more bureaucratic bumps in the road



would lead to the project being moved to the site of a former factory in Sesto San Giovanni, a town just outside Milan which is on the city's metro network.

The teams abandoning the area wouldn't just leave the city with a dubious football stadium, it would also have an impact on neighborhoods which have for a long time been some of the city's

'All lights green' for 2024 Paris Olympics opening ceremony

PARIS: Organizers of the 2024 Paris Olympics intend to press ahead with an ambitious opening ceremony on the river Seine despite security concerns, a senior official said Wednesday.

"All the lights are green to organize this ceremony in good security conditions," an aide to President Emmanuel Macron told reporters ahead of a top-level meeting to discuss preparations.

There had "never been a question" of abandoning the idea which was first announced by Macron himself, the aide added. The French president is to chair a meeting with ministers, security forces, sports officials and the heads of Paris local authorities on Thursday to review the plans.

The opening ceremony on July 26, 2024, is not set to take place as is customary in the athletics stadium, but be celebrated with a flotilla down the river Seine. The original plan was for an armada of 200 boats and some 600,000 spectators, but organizers are under pressure to scale down these ambitions.

Paris' Olympics also face financial pressure, with the cost of energy and inflation rising sharply and Macron insisting "the Games must finance the Games." The aide confirmed that France was still discussing with the International Olympic Committee "if savings could be made" on some events and sites. Paris was aiming to be the most energy-efficient and cost-effective possible, creating a "new model" for the competition, the aide added.

New Karate Academy to be opened soon



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Shihan Atta Hussain Butt International karate master instructor IKO-MATSUSHIMA Japan announced that Kyokushin karate/ self defence demonstration will be held on the second week of October 2022 on the eve of opening of new karate Academy at Johar Town Lahore.

Dr Hamid subzwari President Dojo said that it is a need of time to learn Kyokushin karate/ Martial arts, by every citizen of Pakistan to meet with the challenges of daily life. Kyokushin karate training is very unique and strongest to all other branches of Martial Arts. It teaches us self-confidence and expertise in punching and kicking, save your selves as well as your loved ones in any unfavourable circumstances. All members are informed to prepare for demonstration and Belt promotion test.

F1 to double number of sprints to six in 2023

PARIS: Formula One will stage six sprint races in 2023, double the number of the format that has proved a popular addition to grand prix weekends in the past two seasons.

Which circuits will host the 100 kilometre dash held on the Saturday have yet to be determined, F1 said on Tuesday.

Silverstone, Monza and Interlagos hosted sprints when they first appeared on the calendar last year, with Imola and Austria's Red Bull Ring circuit followed by Interlagos again chosen this term.

"Sprint sessions provide an exciting dynamic to the race weekend format and have proven to be popular over the past two seasons," said Mohammed Ben Sulayem, president of the FIA, the sport's governing body. "I am sure that this positive trend will continue and am pleased that the World Motor Sport Council has today given its approval for them to go ahead," he added.

F1 chief Stefano Domenicali was equally enthusiastic at the increase in number of a format which he said "adds a new dimension to Formula 1".

US need to improve at World Cup, says Berhalter

MURCIA: United States coach Gregg Berhalter warned his team they must improve at the World Cup after wrapping up their pre-tournament preparations with a 0-0 draw against Saudi Arabia in Spain on Tuesday.

After a chastening 2-0 defeat to Japan last Friday, Berhalter's side again failed to make an impression in their final game before they open their World Cup campaign against Wales in Qatar on November 21.

The Americans registered just two shots on target in 180 minutes against Japan and the Saudis, with not even the return of Chelsea's Christian Pulisic enhancing their attacking threat on Tuesday.

Berhalter said although he believed the US performance was an improvement on the Japan defeat, his team still lacked confidence. "It was improved, but we're not as confident as I'd like," Berhalter said.

most problematic.

Two stops down the 'lilac' metro line which takes fans to the San Siro is Piazzale Segesta, which flanks a troubled council housing estate — one of several in the area.

Laura Guardiani, a former journalist at the daily Corriere Della Sera and volunteer at the local neighborhood association, says

that of the 6,000 homes on the estate almost 1,000 are squatted in, often by people involved in drug dealing and other serious criminal activities.

She says that residents in the legally occupied apartments refuse holidays and sometimes even hospital treatment as once word is out that their flat is empty squatters "kick in the doors and take over."

Silvia Cavagnari, who runs a local Italian language school for foreigners, says "the people in this area couldn't care less about the stadium project, they have much bigger problems."

And Laura Mariani, a teacher at the language school, hopes that Milan and Inter manage to get the project approved.

"I hope that the clubs do manage to build it," she says. "Because if they leave it would be a disaster for this area."