



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ہم سے بچیں کبر نے بیان کیا، کہا ہم سے
یٹ نہ بیان کیا، ان سے بچیں بن فرقتے،
ان سے نائے اور نہیں عبد اللہ بن عمر
رضی اللہ عنہما نے فری کر رسول اللہ صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم (قرآنی) ذبح اور غیر کا
میں کیا کرتے تھے۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5552)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

Pakistan adversely affected by climate change: Sherry

Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman says Indus River is economic, agricultural and climatic jugular vein of Pakistan. She said change in Indus River impacts economy of Pakistan. The Minister said Pakistan is adversely affected by climate change but its contribution to greenhouse gases is very little. She said citizens and provinces will be participating in climate adaptation project titled "The Living Indus".



People to witness real change in AJK in next six months: Tanveer

The PM AJK Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that Imran Khan gave an agenda of accountability and relief for the common man in AJK, which is being implemented. Accountability will be taken from those who make wealth through corruption in AJK; this is not the wealth of anyone's father but the blood and sweat of the nation. Chairman PTI Imran Khan has emerged as the leader of the Islamic world.

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Rehab of flood-hit areas

US reiterates support to Pakistan



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The United States has vowed to support Pakistan in diverse fields, especially for reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood-hit areas of the country.

This was stated by the U.S. Ambassador, Donald Blome on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Pak-US diplomatic relations at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. He said that people of the United States continue to stand with Pakistan. He said the strength of Pak-US friendship is demonstrated by more than 66 million dollars in U.S. support for flood response.

Ambassador Blome said, over past 75 years, the United States and Pakistan built a relationship based on mutual respect, shared goals and values.

He further said that over the decades, more than 32 billion dollars in U.S. support benefited Pakistan and improved the lives of the people. He said the rapidly changing world provides a pivotal opportunity to reframe relations between the two countries.

He showed willingness to advance shared interests in trade, investment, clean energy, health, security, education, and other shared priorities. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif attended the 75th anniversary of the Pak-US diplomatic relations.

Addressing energy crisis

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on Solar Energy Initiatives on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Avenfield reference terminated

Maryam, Safdar acquitted in Avenfield reference

The court stated NAB failed to establish its charges against Maryam and her husband

ISLAMABAD: A Division Bench of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday acquitted Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)'s Vice President Maryam Nawaz and her husband Capt. (retd) Muhammad Safdar in Avenfield Property Reference, dismissing the decision of accountability court.

Terminating the reference, the court stated that the NAB had failed to establish its charges against Maryam Nawaz and her husband.

A two-member IHC bench, comprising Justice Aamer Farooq and Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani announced the verdict after listening arguments from two sides at length. Maryam Nawaz appeared before the court along with her

PM congratulates Maryam, Safdar on their acquittal in Avenfield case

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has congratulated PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz and her husband Captain retired Safdar on their acquittal in Avenfield case. In a tweet on Thursday, he said Maryam Nawaz's acquittal in the Avenfield Reference is a slap in the face of so-called accountability system that was employed to target Sharif family. The Prime Minister said the edifice of lies, slander and character assassination crumbled down today.

legal team.

Earlier during the hearing, the court asked the deputy prosecutor NAB Sardar Muzafar Abbasi to read out only the relevant portion of the case record. Justice Aamer Farooq said that the Advocate on Record (AOR) had filed applica-

tion to the apex court and asked whether AOR was summoned as witness in the trial court.

Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani asked the deputy prosecutor NAB Sardar Muzafar Abbasi to also read out the miscellaneous application, filed in the Supreme

Court. The prosecutor said the application was filed by Hassan and Hussain Nawaz.

Justice Farooq observed that the court had to view whether the documents presented by NAB were based on evidence or it were mere an opinion of somebody. The court asked the NAB to inform about the cost of each flat against which it was purchased. Was there any document submitted which showed that when and against what price the flats were purchased, it questioned.

Maryam's counsel Amjad Pervaiz pleaded that neither document with such information existed nor it was mentioned in the statement of Section 342 as well. APP

PM lauds China's support for flood victims

PM Shehbaz directs to prepare plan about gas keeping in view its expected demand in winter season

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has lauded Chinese President Xi Jinping, Chinese companies and the people of China for extending all-out financial support for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims in Pakistan.

He was talking to a delegation of China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG), who called on him in Islamabad headed by Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong. Speaking on the occasion, Chairman CTG Wu Shengliang presented a cheque worth over \$650,000 to the Prime Minister for the flood relief fund.

He further informed the Prime Minister that under China Three Gorges, work on Karot Hydropower Project has

been continuing at full capacity for the past three months. The Prime Minister welcomed the initiative to complete the Karot Hydropower Project on a priority basis and fully operationalization of the project, and to create environment-friendly and low-cost hydropower in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has directed the departments concerned to prepare an urgent plan regarding gas keeping in view its expected demand in winter season. Chairing a meeting in Islamabad on Thursday, he regretted that the previous government did not take advantage of availability of cheap gas in the international market during Covid-19. He said the nation was wronged by not timely purchasing the gas.

'Audio leak' damaged Shehbaz's image: IK

PTI chief says he would fight for the Kashmir cause until he is alive

MUZAFFARABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chief Imran Khan has said that the leaked audio conversation between him and his principal secretary has damaged Shahbaz Sharif's reputation and not his.

Addressing the public gathering in Muzaffarabad, Imran Khan said that over 100,000 people have sacrificed their lives in the struggle for Kashmir's independence. He said that he would fight for the Kashmir cause until he is alive.

He added that their government ended all ties with India when Narendra Modi's government ended Kashmir's special constitutional status. Trade with India would be beneficial

but we did not prefer it over our Kashmiri brothers' struggle, he added.

Imran Khan thanked Shahbaz Sharif for allegedly leaking his audio conversation with his principal secretary Azam Khan. The PTI Chief said that Sindh is submerged in floods while Bilawal Bhutto is touring America. Shehbaz Sharif begged a female journalist for funds, he added.

Ishaq Dar, who was an absconder for five years, has returned to the country and has been appointed the finance minister, he added. If these powerful people are given NRO, then why are the poor people booked? Imran Khan questioned. Agencies

Flood aid

Beijing-Islamabad ties 'unbreakable': Munir Akram

Says our mutual friendship has a great future

Spokesman Report

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Munir Akram, has praised China's leading role at the UN, saying Beijing's policies are based on principles of the UN Charter, support for multilateralism and "win-win" cooperation.

Speaking at a virtual reception, hosted by Chinese Ambassador Zhang Jun, to mark his country's national day, he also spoke about the close Sino-Pakistani friendship, saying the flood-hit people of Pakistan were "touched" by the solidarity shown and the help provided by the Chinese people in their difficult times.

"Our mutual friendship has a great future," Ambassador Akram said.

In his remarks, the Pakistani envoy lauded China's phenomenal progress, especially in bringing 700 million people out of poverty in only 30 years.

"China's phenomenal achievements in the economic, social, scientific



and technological fields reflect the vision and sagacity of its leaders - especially President Xi Jinping - and the hard work of the Chinese people," Ambassador Akram said.

Underlining that China and Pakistan are "old and trusted" friends, he said, "Our unbreakable friendship is based on sovereign equality, non-interference in each others' internal affairs and mutual respect.

"We deeply value China's consistent and vital support for Pakistan's economic and social development and

modernization," the Pakistani envoy said.

Through the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative), the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and other mechanisms, China supports all developing countries to enlarge prosperity around the world, Ambassador Akram said, highlighting that the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) was an "outstanding example" of that cooperation.

"In 1971, as a young Pakistani diplomat, I participated in the adoption of the historic resolution restoring the PRC's (People's Republic of China's) legitimate seat in the UN," he said, referring to the Pakistan-led move that resulted in the expulsion of Taiwan, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, and seating of PRC.

"I look forward to our continued close cooperation in promoting our shared aspiration for a world united in the search for a peaceful and prosperous future for all mankind," Ambassador Akram added.

Govt to hold talks with IMF to reduce POL prices

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Thursday decided to negotiate with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over a reduction in petroleum prices to provide relief to the masses.

According to media reports, the newly appointed Finance Minister Ishaq Dar will hold talks with the IMF and the petroleum prices will be reduced after the consent of the IMF. Currently, a levy of Rs37.42 per litre is imposed on petrol, while the levy is to be increased to Rs 50 per litre by January 2023.

It is pertinent to mention that the prices of petroleum products are likely to drop by Rs16 per litre from October 1 while the Oil Companies Advisory Council has prepared a paper work to provide relief to the people. According to the reports, the price of high-speed diesel is likely to decrease by Rs16.61 per litre and the price of petrol is Rs7.24 per litre. Agencies

Post-flood relief measures

ADB to mobilize over \$2b to support Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD/MANILA: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will approve funding of over \$2 billion to support Pakistan's post-flood relief and resilience activities by the end of current year, ADB Director General for Central and West Asia Eugene Zhukov told a virtual press conference from Manila on Thursday.

Expressing sympathies and grief over the huge devastation caused by the recent floods and torrential rains in Pakistan, he said the ADB had already provided \$3 million grant for the immediate purchase of relief goods such as food supplies and tents.

The press conference was arranged as part of the 55th annual meeting of ADB.

Zhukov said the ADB was also aiming to mobilize a \$500-700 million package for the much needed immediate relief assistance, early recovery and rehabilitation, and reconstruction. The package would be approved by the end of current year.

"The ADB is processing another \$1.5 billion counter-cyclical support to mitigate the impacts of rising food prices and other external shocks on the poor and vulnerable in Pakistan," he added.

He said the ADB had been providing unprecedented support of \$100 billion to deliver climate financing to



its developing member countries from 2019 to 2030.

Responding to a question with respect to the post flood relief and resilience measures in Pakistan, Zhukov said, "We are working in close collaboration with the local government and other international development partners to finalize the damage needs assessment that might be finalized by mid of the next month."

He said in the agriculture sector, yields of major food crops (wheat, rice, and maize) in the CAREC (Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation) region had declined by 3-10%.

Disasters were increasing in intensity, as seen in the recent flooding in Pakistan, with 33 million people affected and over 600,000 in relief camps, and

1.7 million homes damaged, he said.

Earlier in a press conference at the beginning of the annual meetings, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa had said, "To reach this \$100 billion ambition we are exploring the opportunities for investments in climate change mitigation, scaling up adaptation project that focus on resilience and increasing climate financing."

He said the ADB's ambition was also to provide at least \$34 billion out of \$100 billion as climate adaptation financing by 2030.

He said the grant, financed from the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF), would help fund the immediate purchase of food supplies, tents, and other relief goods to support the flood victims across the country.

Economy in focus

Islamabad: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar presiding a meeting on the revenue performance of Federal Board of Revenue on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Patel directs strict monitoring to prevent Ebola outbreak

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Thursday instructed strict monitoring of all the people entering the country from abroad to prevent Sudanese Ebola virus outbreak and other emerging diseases.

Quoting the minister, the spokesman of the ministry said that timely and effective measures must be taken to protect the countrymen from epidemics and diseases.

The minister instructed relevant health authorities to remain alert as the Ebola virus had been declared an epidemic by Uganda after several cases were reported there.

Even though, Patel said, there were no direct flights from Sudan, the monitoring and screening of transit passengers needed to be ensured.

Economy matters

Dar reaffirms govt's resolve to undertake IMF reforms

Nathan Porter expresses IMF's support for Pakistan in this hour of need

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has reaffirmed the government's commitment to undertake reforms envisaged under the IMF program.

Talking to IMF Mission Chief Nathan Porter in a virtual meeting on Thursday, he said that the government will take measures to reduce burden on the economy while protecting the vulnerable sections of the population. He said that the government aims to address structural issues to help country end its fiscal deficit and move towards sustainable growth.

The Finance Minister recalled the meeting of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with IMF Managing Director during his recent visit to the United States in which IMF MD vowed to support Pakistan in this difficult situation caused by the flash floods and reconsider the program conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, the IMF Mission Chief extended felicitations to the Finance Minister on assuming the Finance Ministry and shared IMF's assessment of the challenges facing the economy. He also expressed IMF's support for Pakistan

in this hour of need and in this context mentioned the meeting of the MD IMF with the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The IMF Mission Chief also discussed the support of international lenders for the country to mitigate the effects of flash floods. The Finance Minister thanked the IMF Mission Chief for IMF's support at a difficult time for global economy.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar visited the FBR and presided over a meet-

Finance Minister appreciates FBR team for their efforts in meeting targets

ing on the revenue performance of FBR. The Chairman FBR and Members of the Board (FBR) attended the meeting. Asim Ahmad, Chairman FBR extended a warm welcome to the Minister on behalf of the FBR team.

The Finance Minister appreciated the FBR team for their efforts in meeting the

targets. He assured the team that he will extend full support in the performance of their duties and will engaged with them frequently. He advised the FBR team to position themselves to the quick changes in economic outlook. He further advised the FBR to increase its efforts to achieve the true tax potential.

He especially appreciated the work done by FBR in terms of increasing the share of direct taxes (income tax and capital value tax) in the total share of taxes as compared to last year through important tax measures taken this year for taxing the rich. The Finance Minister also highlighted the importance of taxpayers' engagement in devising tax policies and revenue collection efforts.

Earlier, the FBR Chairman gave the presentation and explained various revenue initiatives taken by FBR and issues currently being faced in revenue administration. It was briefed to the Minister that FBR has successfully achieved its monthly targets for the months of July and August, 2022 and In Sha Allah will also achieve the quarterly target up to September, 2022.

Bilawal seeks sustained US assistance for flood victims

FM renews call for urgent debt relief, aid to meet unprecedented climate challenge

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in a meeting with Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman US Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington DC has lauded the United States' assistance for flood relief, saying that magnitude of the disaster necessitated sustained and long-term cooperation.

The Foreign Minister shared with Chairman Menendez impact of the devastation caused by floods. He underscored that it was a compound crisis with humanitarian, health, food security and economic dimensions.

He urged Chairman Menendez's personal leadership in mobilising support in the U.S. Congress, which historically had stood by the people of Pakistan during such natural disasters.

The Foreign Minister said that the flood crisis provided an opportuni-

ty to Pakistan to build back better, greener and resilient infrastructure. Given the huge investment required, Pakistan viewed the US government and private sector as important partners in this task.

Chairman Menendez conveyed his condolences and sympathies to the people and the government of Pakistan on the devastation caused by the floods.

He assured of his support in enabling Pakistan to overcome this challenge. He said the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic ties between Pakistan and the US was an important milestone.

Both countries had achieved a lot working together. Chairman Menendez praised the Pakistani diaspora's role in strengthening Pakistan-US ties. He underscored the importance of Senate Foreign Relations Committee's regular engagement with the Foreign Minister.

Pak-China agree on early launch of ML-1 project



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China Thursday agreed on early launch of much awaited Mainline-1 (ML-1) project, aimed at revamping and modernizing the country's age-old railway infrastructure.

The agreement was reached between the two countries during a dinner hosted by the Chinese Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong for Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafiq here.

Railways Chairman, Additional Secretary, Secretary Aviation and Chief Executive Officer Pakistan

International Airlines (PIA) accompanied the minister.

The minister invited the Chinese Ambassador to consider a partnership of budget airlines with PIA in order to make Pakistan's small airports functional and provide better travel facilities to the passengers.

The Chinese ambassador assured the minister to discuss his desired issue with the Chinese private airlines. The envoy also assured of taking initiatives to allow direct flights from Pakistan to Beijing and Guangzhou for Pakistani airlines at the earliest.

Avenfield reference verdict

Truth is in front of whole nation: Nawaz

LONDON: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif on Thursday while reacting to the court verdict acquitting his daughter and party vice president Maryam Nawaz in the Avenfield reference said that by the grace of Almighty Allah, the truth is in front of the whole nation today.

Speaking to the media in London on Thursday, he said that he had left all his matters to Almighty Allah and HE showed the truth to whole nation because if a man is true and on the right path, then God does not abandon him adding that God had today sided with the truth.

Earlier, a court quashed the conviction of Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, in a corruption case that had seen her sentenced to seven years in jail, her party and defence lawyer said, lifting curbs on her contesting elections.

A two-judge panel found there was no evidence to prove the prosecution case that Maryam Nawaz abetted any corruption in buying high-end apartments in London, the lawyer Amjad Pervaiz said.

She was convicted by an anti-graft court in 2018 along with her father who was sentenced to 10 years in prison for not being able to disclose a known source

of income for buying the properties.

The prosecution had charged Maryam Nawaz with abetment for concealing information about the properties owned by her father.

She was on bail, and had appealed in the Islamabad High Court to overturn the conviction, which she and her party said was political victimization.

Under Pakistani law, a convicted politician is disqualified from contesting elections for five years. "The lies have a shelf life, it could be some years, but it had to end, like it did today," Maryam Nawaz told reporters after the ruling. "I humbly thank God," she said. Agencies

Ahsan urges Nation to lend helping hand to flood victims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said the rehabilitation activities in the flood-affected areas may continue for two years in view of the scale of the devastation caused by the calamity. He was talking to the media anchorpersons at National Flood Response and Coordination Center in Islamabad on Thursday.

The Minister for Planning said the nation should stand united to lend a helping hand to the flood victims. He said the provincial governments are leading the relief efforts. The armed forces while using their resources have actively participated in the relief activities.

Dawar says 'Engage Africa' is Pakistan's strategic pivot to Africa

To expand economic, Parliamentary and diplomatic relations with Africa

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Moshin Dawar stated that 'Engage Africa' is Pakistan's strategic pivot to Africa to expand economic, Parliamentary and diplomatic relations with Africa. He remarked that diversity of the resource rich African continent, market size, shared values and strategic convergences stimulates Pakistan's interest to elevate bilateral relations and exchanges with Africa to a new era of friendship and cooperation. He made these remarks while meeting ambassador of Ethiopia, Jamal Beker Abdula, at Parliament House on Thursday.

Mohsin Dawar, appreciating the opening of the Ethiopian embassy in Islamabad, stressed that Pakistan attaches immense importance to its relations with Ethiopia and takes pride in the mutual support to each other at



various multilateral forums including the UNGA, UNSC and UNHRC. He remarked that Ethiopia is an emerging linchpin in Pakistan's strategy to expand trade with Africa. Both Pakistan and Ethiopia are promising markets for each other, he remarked. Mohsin Dawar also proposed close coordination between Permanent Missions in New York and Geneva. He also wished continued & uninterrupted peace and prosperity in Ethiopia.

The Ethiopian ambassador, Jamal Beker Abdula, remarked that the world should not see Pakistan through a Western media's lens. Pakistan is a peaceful, culturally rich and diversified country with immensely strong social values and huge economic potential, he remarked. He stated that Pakistan's contribution to the UN Peace Keeping Missions is a testimony of the country's enduring commitment to global peace.

World at serious risk of 'food availability crisis': UN

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: As the war in Ukraine stokes a crisis for countries that are struggling just to access the food they need, the world community needs to ensure that doesn't spill over into a "food availability crisis", the head of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a Rome-based UN agency, said Wednesday.

FAO Director-General QU Dongyu told a meeting of agriculture ministers from the G20 industrialized nations in Bali, that with access to Ukrainian grain, cooking oils and other vital food-

stuffs for the most vulnerable countries restricted by seven months of conflict, "we must increase the resilience of global agrifood systems."

He lauded the UN-brokered Black Sea Grain Initiative as "an important step forward", and it has now freed-up more than five million metric tonnes of food, with well over a quarter of shipments going directly to lower income countries.

"But still it needs to be complemented to improve the food access of most vulnerable countries", he said.

Overall, wholesale food prices have been heading down for five months

now, but consumer food prices and inflation are soaring, "with devastating implications for global food security and nutrition."

And beyond the crisis sparked by conflict, an increase in extreme weather is also fuelling to crop destruction and failure worldwide.

"While we witnessed improvements in the forecasts for wheat and soybean markets, the outlook is less positive for maize and rice, and fertilizer markets remain supply-constrained and volatile...Much needs to be done to ensure that all people can afford safe and nutritious food in sufficient quan-

ties to meet their dietary needs and preferences and have a healthy life."

QU said key steps must be taken, to boost resilience for now, and in the future: Improve early warning and early action systems; Increase productivity sustainably; Accelerate trade; and find innovative solutions to tackle inorganic fertilizer supply constraints; Increase productivity sustainably; and, Accelerate trade; and find innovative solutions to tackle inorganic fertilizer supply constraints.

In the medium-term, he told ministers it was crucial to boost innovation, invest in infrastructure to reduce

inequality, reduce food loss and waste, and in the short-term, improve food access.

"For that FAO proposed the Food Import Financing Facility - which I am happy the IMF has now taken over and it is calling it the 'food shock window' within the IMF emergency lending instruments."

The idea of the financing facility is to provide funds for 62 lower-income food importing nations that are home to around 1.8 billion people, in order to meet their most urgent needs.

He said it was important to accelerate exports from Ukraine and Russia

People to witness real change in AJK in next six months: Tanveer

Says Imran Khan has emerged as the leader of the Islamic world

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The PM AJK Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that Imran Khan gave an agenda of accountability and relief for the common man in AJK, which is being implemented.

Accountability will be taken from those who make wealth through corruption in AJK; this is not the wealth of anyone's father but the blood and sweat of the nation. Chairman PTI Imran Khan has emerged as the leader of the Islamic world. Claimants of Kashmir as an ethnic group started trading with India and did not discuss Kashmir in the UN.

A real change will be seen in AJK in the next six months. He expressed these views while addressing a public meeting of Chairman PTI Imran Khan at the University Ground here on Thursday. Chairman Pakistan PTI Imran Khan, former federal minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, government ministers and PTI leaders also addressed the public meeting.

On this occasion, former Minister of



Kashmir Affairs Ali Amin Gandapur, former Minister of Health Amir Mahmood Kayani, Ministers of AJK, Members of Assembly, ticket holders of PTI women participated in the public meeting. The Prime Minister of AJK while speaking said that the people of Azad Kashmir have given a warm welcome to the leader of Pakistan, Imran Khan, and have proved that Imran Khan is the center of the hopes of Kashmiris.

Imran Khan is the leader of this country who challenged the "status quo" and seeing the same spirit, I also became a part of the PTI caravan. He always spoke of the common man and emphasized on the protection of the money of the nation and the transparency of the accountability process. In the UN, he spoke on Kashmir for 24 minutes and presented the case of

Kashmiris in a comprehensive manner.

The current PM of Pakistan, who calls himself a Kashmiri race, did not even mention the name of Kashmiris in UN. While Imran Khan proved to be the ambassador of Kashmiris and fought the cause of Kashmiris in every international forum in a lively manner. United Nations, America and European Union Imran Khan did not compromise on Kashmir and the honorable Prophet. Addressing the public meeting, PM AJK Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the Quaid-e-Azam had founded this country on the same principles on which PTI had founded politics. After Quaid-e-Azam, Imran Khan is the first ruler who spoke about the state of Medina. The concept of Madinah state is the welfare of the common man. He said that when you came to power in Pakistan, the country was in

dire straits.

10 lakh rupees in the form of Insaaf health card was put in his pocket. During Corona, PTI government adopted the best strategy, the examples of which were given to the whole world. The PM said that the major economies of the world were destroyed due to the Corona pandemic, but due to the best strategy of Imran Khan, Pakistan survived this crisis well.

The PM AJK said that I assure you that Kashmiris are on your back and consider you as their benefactor. If France, Germany and China can develop, why not Pakistan? He said that I assure that in the coming 6 months in AJK, people will see the fruits of the government's actions as per Imran Khan's vision. This nation will grow forward with honor and dignity, he added.

Secretary Punjab Workers Welfare Fund visits school



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Secretary Punjab Workers Welfare Fund Abdul Rauf and Khalid Ameer Dir Edu PWFF visited WWH Secondary School (Boys) Defense Road Lahore.

Secretary conducted detailed visit of the school and appreciated the efforts of the Principal/VP of the School. He conveyed his gratitude to Principal, VP and staff as well upon their excellent performance. During his interaction with students, he was more than satisfied with their response. The Secretary PWFF highly appreciated efforts of Muhammad Ashraf Principal Boys (Ex. DE) for the betterment of the school. He emphasized to develop reading habits amongst the students by using school library especially daily English newspapers like DAWN. In the end, Honorable guest planted a tree in the school. Overall it was a highly appreciable visit and a great milestone for WW Higher Secondary School(B) Defence Road Lahore.

Kaira lays foundation stone of road

Spokesman Report



KHARIAN: Adviser on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira laid the foundation stone for the construction of mega project Bhagwa Ada to Mirza Tahir Malwana Road worth one and a half billion rupees.

On this occasion, former Tehsil Nazim Kharian Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira, President PPP District Gujarat Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin, former Punjab Finance Minister Chaudhry Tanveer Ashraf Kaira, well-known political and social figures of the area, former UC Nazeems and Chairman and a large number of local people were also present.

Inauguration ceremony and public meeting was held at village Mirza Tahir, residence of Chaudhry Muhammad Sharif, Chief Executive Tulip Hotels. In which Chaudhry Qamar Zaman Kaira, Chaudhry Nadeem Asghar Kaira, Chaudhry Zia Mohiuddin, Chaudhry Muhammad Sharif, Chaudhry Irfan Malwana and others spoke. In the next phase of the mega project, the Lala Musa to Noonanwali road will be inaugurated soon. Other prominent participants of the inauguration ceremony include Chaudhry Asghar Paswal, Chaudhry Sajid Hussain Bashna, Chaudhry Farooq Paswal, Chaudhry Abdul Razzaq Dhow, Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal Chak Ikhlas, Colonel (ret'd) Imtiaz Ahmed, Colonel (ret'd) Zafar Ahmed, Chaudhry Mazhar Noor Advocate, Chaudhry Bobby Gujjar, Maher Khalid Sahna and other local people were included.

Federal Ombudsman visits office of Ombudsman Punjab

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi visited the office of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan and discussed matters of mutual interest.

On this occasion, Azam Suleman Khan apprised the federal ombudsman about the performance of the provincial ombudsman office and the steps taken to ensure the protection of the legal rights of the people. He also described that proficient use of information technology has created ease for the people seeking relief from government departments. Applicants can get certified copies of their decisions online and free of charge.

The complainants can online submit their applications through the official website <https://ombudsmanpunjab.gov.pk> or they may use the state-of-the-art bilingual mobile application OPMIS for this purpose, he mentioned.

Commissioner Karachi promises four rapid bus systems

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In a statement, Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has said that Commissioner Karachi should play his role in the commercial & economic development of the city through productively utilizing his enormous powers and putting multitude of departments under his supervision to work.

He added that dilapidated infrastructure; deteriorated water & sewerage system; poor solid waste management & disposal; insufficient civic amenities and ever-worsening law & order situation has discouraged and disheartened the business, industry and trade



community of Karachi like never before.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, as President FPCCI, has demanded that the road on which the Federation House is situated in Clifton should be named after the legendary business leader Late Tariq Sayeed to honor his life-long, self-less services; who passed away last year & was the undis-

puted pioneer of trade politics & policy advocacy - not only in Pakistan, but at many other regional & international forums. We must acknowledge our heroes like a civilized society, he added.

Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, expressed his profound concerns that despite being the contributor of upwards of 60 percent of

the total revenue, the metropolitan city is still deprived of a decent public transportation system and roads are chronically ill-maintained. He demanded that commissioner of the city should take charge of all the developmental work of the city to ensure timely completion of ongoing projects.

Shabbir Mansha called for forming an official liaison committee for better coordination between the office of Commissioner Karachi and FPCCI; as, being the apex body, FPCCI is in a unique position to relay the concerns, issues, complaints and proposals of the entire business community in a collective, unbiased, merit-based & synergistic manner.

First RPO of Gujarat takes charge



Spokesman Report

KHARIAN: The first RPO of Gujarat Division Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Abbas took charge of the post and started work.

According to the details, Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Abbas, the first appointed RPO of Gujarat region, has taken charge of the post and started working. Before that, Dr. Akhtar Abbas was DIG Punjab Constabulary, DIG Traffic Police Lahore, DIG District Police Officer Gujarat Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah, who has been Pakistan's Welfare Attaché in Sargodha and Italy, welcomed RPO Gujarat on his arrival at the police lines along with the officers. A troop of young men saluted.

On this occasion, RPO Gujarat Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Abbas along with DPO Gujarat Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah visited the martyrs' memorial, laid wreaths and recited Fatiha. Later RPO Gujarat RPO Office Gujarat visited RPO Gujarat Dr. Muhammad Akhtar Abbas said on this occasion that the establishment of law and order throughout the region and the protection of lives and property of the citizens is the first priority.

Media's role decisive in educating public: Mehmood Sham

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: A socially responsible valued loaded, enlightened and fearless media can play a decisive role in educating the public about current affairs, paving the way for transparency, and uplifting the spirit of the nation, these views were expressed by renowned journalist and writer Mehmood Sham at Shura Hamdard meeting, held yesterday on the title: "Responsible Journalism and Ethical Values" at Hamdard Corporate Head Office.

The meeting was presided over by Speaker Justice (r) Haziq-ul-Khairi. Mehmood Sham further said the media should play an effective role in spreading the right kind of consciousness and awareness among the people concerning the goals and limitations of national planners.



He further said that ethical and moral values were compromised in the age of social media, as it was heavily used by pressure groups to push their negative and anti-societal narratives.

"This is a matter of serious concern in the post-truth era, they are taking unethical means to reach out to the people. We must build social cohesion which is the most important outcome of sharing news and views," he said. "Editors, as leaders, may possibly have a significant

impact on the functioning of reporters and their output. Therefore, the editorial and the post of editor of both print and electronic media should be independent, only then societal reforms and uplift may take shape," he concluded.

Abu Bakr Shaikh was of the view that the media was partially responsible alongside political parties for the prevailing political chaos and uncertainty. Pakistan is in a state of war, as its enemies have been engaging

the country from multiple fronts through fifth-generation warfare. "There is a need to create unity in the nation through media. Journalists themselves have to realize this fact." He said.

Senator Abdul Haseeb Khan said: "The rise of fake news is alarming as it causes panic and uncertainty among the general public. Corruption's roots are now deep in society affecting every sector. Journalism was supposed to be the alarm and eyes of the nation, unfortunately, that too succumbed to bribery and political influences."

Shaikh Usman Damohi said: "The media also plays an effective role in opening up debates among the people and policymakers in deciding the priorities and decision-making principles, and determining the possible fallouts in the process of implementation.

L'Oréal Paris's 'Stand Up' initiative joins hands with foodpanda

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: L'Oréal Paris and Foodpanda Pakistan partner to Stand Up Against Street Harassment in Pakistan. The partnership, which was announced via an MoU signing event in Karachi recently, includes training of foodpanda riders on this initiative. The event was attended by L'Oréal Paris spokesperson "Iqra Aziz" alongside teams of L'Oréal Pakistan and Foodpanda.

Foodpanda Pakistan, with a registered base of around 50,000 riders, is Pakistan's largest ecommerce and online food delivery platform, which offers flexible economic opportunities to thousands of delivery riders and other freelancers such as homechefs across the country.



L'Oréal Paris will be setting a record for the highest number of trainings to be conducted through this partnership. L'Oréal Paris launched Stand up in Pakistan with the help of a local NGO partner, 'Bedari' on the 25th of November 2021. As part of this initiative, L'Oréal Paris has also partnered with Foodpanda Pakistan to offer

training to their riders across different cities. With this partnership, L'Oréal Paris & Foodpanda Pakistan will develop a mechanism that aims at upskilling a large part of the communities, thus helping the streets and work environments become safer.

Stand Up Against Street Harassment is an ambitious program which

launched internationally by L'Oréal Paris and aimed to train 1 million people by the end of 2021 with The Right To Be's 5D methodology, focusing on self-defense techniques and other important tactics to deal with sexual harassment on the streets. The 5Ds (Direct, Distract, Delegate, Document, Delay) are five simple and effective tools to help people safely intervene when they witness or experience street harassment. To date, more than 180,000 people have been trained with Stand Up.

Sharing his thoughts, Qawi Naseer, Country Managing Director of L'Oréal Pakistan said, "It is indeed a proud moment as we celebrate the collaboration between 'Stand Up' by L'Oréal Paris and Foodpanda with its vast network of independent riders.

Naseerullah directs to expedite work on development projects



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: South Waziristan Chairman DEDAC and PTI MPA Wana Naseerullah Khan Wazir has said, that the pace of development work in South Waziristan should be accelerated, slowness and lapses in development projects will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

All departments should improve their performance. He expressed these views while addressing the dyadic meeting held at the Political Compound Tank, the officers of all the line departments of South Waziristan participated in the meeting and reviewed the annual performance of all the departments.

Addressing the meeting, PTI MPA and Chairman DEDAC Tribal District of South Waziristan said that any shortcoming in the pace of development work will not be tolerated and South Waziristan will be made a model district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said that the flood affected

people in South Waziristan should be paid the compensation of their houses soon so that after the terrorism, the tribes affected by the rains and floods can settle in their areas peacefully.

He emphasized on improving health, education and roads in South Waziristan. Chairman DIDAC said that special attention should be given to agriculture and livestock sector in South Waziristan, dairy farms should be active while distribution of animals should be done fairly.

He issued orders to speed up work on approved grid stations for South Waziristan including providing free electricity to South Waziristan from the royalty received from Gomalzam Dam.

He also instructed to speed up the activities in the sports sector to save the youth from addiction while also conducting campaign against addiction. He said that in all these sectors, he has given huge amount of money which the concerned departments should ensure distribution on merit.



Islamabad

23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:38 am
Zohr 11:58 am
Asr 4:13 pm
Maghrib 5:55 pm
Isha 7:18 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

Federal Ombudsman takes notice of dengue spread

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Taking notice of the many complaints regarding the spread of dengue fever in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad as well as other cities, Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has asked for an urgent plan of action from the concerned government departments for both preventive and curative measures.

Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation and the Ministry of Health will give an updated progress on the action plan to be reviewed in meeting which will be chaired by Wafaqi Mohtasib shortly. It may be added that the prevalence of dengue fever and its rapid spread has caused great fear in the public at large.

There are complaints pouring in regarding lack of spray in many areas as well as the quality of treatment in various government hospitals. There is an urgent need for the concerned Agencies to move fast to tackle it on a war footing. Wafaqi Mohtasib will personally monitor and chair a meeting in this regard soon.

COMSTECH-Nigeria Sci-Tech coop program launched

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: OIC's Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH) launched COMSTECH-Nigeria Science and Technology Cooperation Program today in a press conference which has also been attended by senior diplomats of various OIC countries, officers of ministries of foreign affairs and science and technology, academicians and Nigerian students studying in local universities.

Coordinator General, COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary and the High Commissioner of Nigeria, Mohammed Bello Abioye jointly addressed a press conference at COMSTECH Auditorium. Prof. Choudhary said that COMSTECH continues to serve member states in the sphere of Science & Technology as its mandate and strategic vision. He said COMSTECH has conducted a large number of activities for Science & Technology and Health Care capacity building along with fostering international linkages. He said many new initiatives have been launched including fellowship program in the OIC system, Health Africa initiative, S&T profiling of the member states, and research projects support programs.

He said that COMSTECH launches a purposeful COMSTECH-Nigeria S&T Cooperation Program for capacity building of the brotherly state. Prof. Choudhary thanked the Government of Nigeria for accepting proposed collaborative program and constituting an inter-ministerial Committee to explore the implementation of this initiative.

The Raw Materials Research and Development Council, (RMRDC), Abuja, Nigeria is focal organization to implement the program. He said that Nigeria



is a growing economy which can play a leading role in the development of the other African countries. Prof. Choudhary informed that the purpose of this collaboration is to help the Nigerian S&T institutions for capacity building for socio-economic uplift of the country making to business with.

The High Commissioner of Nigeria, Mohammed Bello Abioye appreciated the efforts of COMSTECH and offered full support from his office to COMSTECH-Nigeria S&T Cooperation. He assured that Nigeria would also help the other African OIC countries for their uplift.

Ambassador Askar Mussinov, Assistant Secretary General Science and Technology OIC addressed the session online. He said OIC General Secretariat is working closely with COMSTECH on several major initiatives and programs. He also appreciated efforts of Coordinator General COMSTECH for taking a large number of activities for science and technology and healthcare capacity building and for

fostering international linkages, specially Palestine, Yemen, Sudan, Nigeria, and Somalia. He assured that this cooperation will certainly open new avenues for the socio-economic uplift and to achieve the sustainable development goals.

The representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Pakistan Mr. Mohammad Adeel also appreciated the efforts of COMSTECH for promotion of science diplomacy in OIC region and assured full cooperation for launch of such collaborative programs with other OIC member states.

COMSTECH-Nigeria Program includes Launching of women scientist research fellowship program, institution linkages between Nigeria and Pakistan, capacity building of Nigerian scholars and students, launching of book comprising of joint research publications and patents of Pakistani and Nigerian scientists, industrial internship of Nigerian professionals in food processing and value addition, and study visit of Pakistani students to Nigeria.

Speakers urge steps for provision of maternal health services

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: "Six hundred thousand pregnant women in flood affected areas lack maternal health services and have no safe place to deliver.

Over 5 million children in flood areas have no immunization and nutrition care. Pakistan must fast track efforts to restore reproductive health services for women, pregnant women and children," said Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Aisha Ghous Pasha at the seventh meeting of the Parliamentary Forum on Population (PFPP). The meeting was organised by the Population Council and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Addressing the forum, Minister Dr. Aisha Pasha said that the international community should channel funds into priorities that support climate-hit countries like Pakistan.

Members of the Senate, legislators from the national and provincial assemblies, and regional body of Gilgit-Baltistan representing all major political parties attended the



meeting. The Parliamentary Forum on Population is a cross-party platform to raise parliamentary awareness on population and development, sustain cross-party political commitment and advocate for population stabilization.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr. Zeba Sathar, Country Director Population Council highlighted that floods in Pakistan have aggravated pre-existing vulnerabilities of marginalized population. Citing national data, she said 19 million population out of the 31 million persons living in the severely affected areas are poor. More than 22.7

million Kacha Houses where the displaced population of severely affected areas lived in are most likely destroyed. Besides women and children, around one million people of 65+ age are living in severely flood affected areas who require special care. People living in agri-climatic zones have lost their cattle and crops and have no access to health services.

Ms Samia Ali Shah Proect director Population Council shared the plight of women and children affected by the floods in the severely affected districts especially how lack of reproductive health services was impact-

ing their lives and that we must strengthen the community based providers to help them provide much needed services to their communities.

Parliamentarians called on the donor community to urgently prioritize the needs of women and girls who disproportionately bear the brunt of the devastating impacts of climate change as we are witnessing during the current floods. They emphasized the need for accelerating provision of maternal health, reproductive health and family planning services along with safe space for women and girls.

Legislators stressed that the affected districts urgently need mobile outreach services for safe deliveries, supply of essential medicine and contraceptives. Highlighting Accelerated health systems restoration and preparedness should be prioritized for responding to current and more severe challenges that climate change will bring in order to ensure continuity of all health services, including the provision of family planning, reproductive health services, during major emergencies.

Heart diseases increasing at an alarming rate in Pakistan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Diet plays a vital role in prevention of cardiovascular diseases. Obesity is among the major causes of heart diseases.

We need to adapt a healthy life style and make healthier food choices to reduce the risk of heart diseases. Smoking, Sugary Sweetened Beverages, ultra processed foods and lack of physical activities leads to heart disease.

This was said by health experts while addressing to the symposium on International Heart Day organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at local hotel in Islamabad. The symposium was attended by the senior health professionals, cardiologists, civil society and representatives of electronic and print media. Dr. Shazia Sobia Soomro, Parliamentary Secretary health was the chief guest of the occasion. The workshop was hosted by PANAHS General Secretary Sanaulah Ghuman. The guests included Maj. Gen. (R) Masud ur Rehman Kayani, President PANAHS, Dr. Anjum Jalal, Executive Director Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology, Dr. Shehzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor, Health Services Academy Islamabad, Brig. Abdul Hameed Siddiqui Consultant Cardiologist & Physician AFIC/NIHD, Dr. Saba Amjad, CEO Heart File, Professor Dr. Abdul Basit, General Secretary Diabetic Association of Pakistan, Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator, civil society representatives, health professionals and journalists.

While addressing to workshop, Mr. Sana Ullah Ghuman said that PANAHS is raising awareness among masses on prevention of heart diseases since 4 decades. PANAHS is conducting awareness walks, providing CPR trainings to ordinary people to provide first aid if someone has heart attack. Along with awareness activities, PANAHS is also working with law and policy makers to make policies to eliminate causes increasing risk of cardiovascular diseases. Today's program is also the continuation of efforts of PANAHS to increase awareness on prevention of heart diseases on International heart day.

Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that diet plays an important role in increasing cardiovascular diseases. There is a growing body of evidence suggesting a profound relationship between obesity and adverse health outcomes like hypertension, cardiovascular illnesses and diabetes most prominently.

Furthermore, there is a global public health concern the developing countries are increasingly vulnerable to its deleterious effects because of decreased awareness and access to healthcare. There is further a direct and strong association between consumption of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs) and obesity and Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like Diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular illnesses. We must be very careful about our dietary choices. Speakers emphasized that we should adapt a healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of heart diseases.

Finance Minister, Saudi envoy discuss bilateral ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue, Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar extended warm welcome to the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia and congratulated him on Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman's designation as Kingdom's Prime Minister. The Finance Minister highlighted the long-standing bilateral relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia in various areas. He further shared that both countries have exceptional relationships based on social, political, religious and cultural ties.

The Finance Minister thanked the Ambassador on allowing rollover of US\$ 3 billion deposits. He also thanked Saudi Fund for Development for their valuable investments in different sectors of Pakistan's economy. Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia congratulated the Finance Minister on assuming the charge of Finance Ministry.

He further acknowledged the long-term relationship and shared that focus of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on continuation of mutual investment projects within Pakistan. In conclusion, Finance Minister Mr. Muhammad Ishaq Dar expressed deep gratitude on unstinted support from Saudi government to pursue investment projects in Pakistan.

World Heart Day

President urges healthy lifestyle, awareness to reduce heart diseases

Dr Arif Alvi was addressing the symposium organized by Maroof International Hospital to commemorate World Heart Day

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has urged the need to create awareness about cardiovascular disease (CVD) and adopt a healthy lifestyle to reduce the death rate due to heart diseases.

He added that adopting preventive measures could help reduce the risk of disease which would also decrease the burden on the national health care system.

The President made these remarks while addressing a symposium organized by Maroof International Hospital to commemorate "World Heart Day - 2022", at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Thursday. This year World Heart Day is being commemorated with the theme of "Use Heart for Every Heart" aiming to urge people to think differently, make the right decisions, help others and reach as many individuals as possible to help achieve cardiovascular health for every heart.

Addressing the ceremony, the President highlighted that 25% of deaths in Pakistan were due to CVD and globally 18.6 million deaths were caused due to heart disease and stroke. He said that the main causes of CVD included hypertension, diabetes, tobacco use, unhealthy diet, obesity and physical inactivity. The President stated that CVD could be prevented by changing the lifestyle; consuming a healthier diet consisting of legumes, fruits and vegeta-



President Dr Arif Alvi presenting memento to the CEO Maroof International Hospital, Haroon Naseer

bles; reducing red meat, fatty and deep-fried food consumption; quitting smoking, and playing sports.

He stressed the importance of educating the patients and the general public regarding preventive means to counter disease by repeating the messages through effective, impactful and persistent awareness campaigns. The President said that Pakistan should also prioritize the mental health of its people, which was highly underserved due to the insufficient number of psychiatrists and mental health care providers.

He underscored that our population faced different levels of stress and mental diseases which had a bearing on increased incidents of heart diseases in the country. The President urged society to good care of every individual's mental health by reducing stress, avoiding and managing stressful events, eliminat-

ing hate and backbiting in our social conduct and spreading love and care for friends, family, neighbourhood, humanity and nature which would help reduce mental stress and impact of CVD.

He also urged healthcare providers to improve their communication skills and ethics while dealing with their patients. The President said that in developing countries like Pakistan provision of medical care facilities was a major challenge, adding that the government and the relevant departments were working effectively to improve the public health situation in the country with special emphasis on the prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases such as CVD.

President said that with relentless and coordinated efforts, we had managed the COVID-19 pandemic effectively and we could reduce the blow

of CVD by adopting a similar approach. The President stressed the need to improve surveillance of CVD and its risk factors and redo health policies in line with the challenges faced by the nation.

He also stressed expanding the availability of resources, such as equipment and medicines, and developing open spaces for public use, besides urging the need for undertaking indigenous medical research, and the local development and manufacturing of machinery and equipment to reduce the cost of the treatment and lessen the burden due to the import of expensive machinery. He said that congenital cardiovascular diseases were widespread which resulted in health conditions in infants and young children.

He stressed the health sector of Pakistan to conduct indigenous research and development within the country

in gene editing and manipulation and embrace the developments taking place in the developed world to replace faulty genes with healthy ones to cure congenital diseases.

The President also called upon the health sector to simplify the treatment procedures of CVD so that marginalized and low-income strata of society could also benefit from such facilities.

He reiterated that the Pakistani nation had repeatedly demonstrated its resilience in the wake of massive natural disasters and external shocks like earthquakes, floods and COVID-19, adding that the nation is fully capable of displaying the same passion and efforts for raising awareness to prevent

CVD. CEO of the hospital, Haroon Naseer, CEO Maroof International Hospital also addressed the occasion, whereas Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon, Dr Mahim Akmal Malik, and Medical Director of the hospital, Dr Mir Waheed, briefed the participants about World Heart Day and cardiovascular health. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Mir Waheed explained the importance of commemorating "World Heart Day - 2022" and said that awareness regarding CVD was important to reduce the CVD load on the nation. Earlier, the President distributed mementos amongst the doctors of the Maroof International hospital for effectively and compassionately serving their patients.

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SCO: Platform for constructive dialogue in dangerous world - II

Kahramon Kuranbayev & Otabek Khasanov

Uzbekistan also supported the efforts to pay special attention to the effective use of transport potential of the SCO region and to identify it as one of the main strategic tasks. For these purposes, the construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan and Termez-Mazar-i-Sharif-Kabul-Peshawar railway lines, which are of special strategic importance in the geoeconomic situation, creates a historical opportunity to provide the Central Asian countries with a short route to the world markets.

The period of Uzbekistan's chairmanship was able to enrich in terms of content the SCO development strategy by boosting cooperation. According to international experts, Uzbekistan goes down in the SCO history as the most enterprising country. In one year alone, many international documents were agreed upon, and a total of 44 documents—agreements, blueprints, programmes and other decisions—were adopted at the Samarkand summit. This is a record figure in the organisation's history.

A venue for specific proposals and practical initiatives

The SCO's Samarkand Summit unlike other summits in the world has become a venue where practical solutions are

found to problems, and this can be seen in the initiatives and ideas put forward in it. These initiatives are in line with the goals and interests of the SCO's "big family" in terms of peace and sustainable development.

The initiatives of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev are exactly of this nature. The proposals with regard to forming common space of industrial and technological cooperation, holding an international conference on food security, supporting beneficial railway corridors, setting up an SCO climate council, adopting comprehensive practical measures to prevent young people from involvement in extremist organisations, creating a joint platform to combat cyber-crime, establishing a special fund to provide humanitarian support to Afghanistan and declaring next year as the "Year of developing tourism in the SCO space" are not only in line with the SCO goals and principles, but also serve to ensure security and stability in the broader Eurasian space.

In line with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's initiatives to create a common space for industrial and technological cooperation, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted the need to develop reliable and diversified supply chains in the region and ensure the right to mutual transit in the face of energy and food shortages. A proposal was made to set up a working group for SCO start-ups to share India's experience in developing start-ups.

Speaking at the meeting of the Council

of the Heads of the SCO member states, Kazakh President Kasym-Zhomart Tokayev noted that the difference of the present time was the acute shortage of mutual trust, and thanks to the absence of contradictions and division into blocs in the SCO ideas, with every passing year the organisation's prestige has been increasing and its geography expanding. It was also proposed to develop cooperation between the defence bodies and security services of the SCO member states.

President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping emphasized that the world was in a state of turbulence, and in this situation, it was necessary to strengthen unity and turn the SCO into a community with a common destiny. To this end, the need was noted to strengthen mutual support, expand cooperation in the field of security and counter efforts by external forces to interfere in the internal affairs of the SCO member states. Proposals were made with regard to establishing a SCO development bank and a China-SCO cooperation centre in the field of "big data" in order to expand practical cooperation.

In his speech, Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov once again said that the SCO is an example of the coexistence of countries with different cultural and humanitarian traditions, which is an attractive organisation for many countries wishing to become its members. The Kyrgyz president put forward the initiative to open in Bishkek an international centre for fighting crime.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif noted that peace in Afghanistan also affects the situation in Afghanistan and called for the lifting of restrictions on Afghan assets. Expressing gratitude to the SCO countries for the assistance provided to Pakistan following the heavy floods, he said that he has not seen such a disaster in his 40 years of public administration.

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's proposal to appeal to the world community on behalf of the SCO to help Pakistan has once again shown that this organisation is a venue of practical steps.

Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that new power centres, cooperating in keeping with the principles of international law and the UN Charter, had emerged in world politics and economy, and focused on the priorities of the organisation's activities – fighting terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking and illegal armed groups, resolving the Afghan issue through political and diplomatic means and developing trade and investment relations. He made a proposal with regard to developing cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian spheres, creating an association of SCO sports organisations and signing agreements on tourism and museum issues.

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

Challenge of climate induced flooding

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has asked the world community to come forward and help the Pakistan flood affected people, his Chinese counterpart second him and said that these devastating situations can be observed anywhere in the world. Unfortunately, Pakistan became the first country to be hit by such a natural disaster. The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, when visited Pakistan along with his team to stand along with the flood affectees in these devastating times, analyzed the damages and estimated 30 billion dollars will be required for reincarnation. Therefore, it can only be done by the assistance from international community, if they add their share in this humanitarian cause. A motion has been moved in the UN, that it's not only in Pakistan but such a situation could prevail in a leading country of the world. So, a committee should be established to foresee any of such devastating situations in the world with the assistance of technical as well as climatic experts. Pakistan can utilize its all available resources, but we require a lot of assistance, to stand on our feet again.

Climate change is main focus of the discussions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari with world leadership. The country suffered badly from the flash floods in major parts of the century. It is the consequences of the global environmental changes which are essentially taking place by the pollution caused by the leading countries of the world. Pakistan has no input to the carbon emission in the world population, yet we became first victim of it.

The international communities have to focus on his issue. It is responsibility of world to stand with Pakistan for assistance. It is not only about Pakistan, any other country could be hit by such a disaster. Therefore, it is a global responsibility that has been pointed out by our Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Bilawal Bhutto and has been very concerned for the rescue and relief operation. The United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres has been very helpful to Pakistan in these devastating times. Pak-US has very strong relations and cooperation among them. The US is showing it is in such need of the hour by sending as much humanitarian assistance and enhancing economic cooperation. Whereas, different regional, European and Middle Eastern countries have provided humanitarian assistance. The mutual cooperation between the US and China will be a great development for world peace and security as both are the biggest countries of the world.

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



The Rising & Shining China



Syed Ail Nawaz Gilani

1st October 2022 is 73rd Founding Day of the People's Republic of China. While greetings and leadership of Peoples of China, it is fitting to look on the seven plus decades journey of rising and shining China.

China become first country at the world stage by bringing down poverty and defeating major developed at zero level economies.

China declared foundation of new China in October 1949 no one could imagine once China will be amongst the richest economies of the world. In just seven plus decades that was not an easy, it was the communist party of China (CPC) which under the leadership of Chairman Mao Zedong, great Deng Xiaoping and followed by President Xi Jinping makes it possible and now the China is standing in the row of great nations like the Great Wall of China.

Through BRI, China wants to change the globe into one economy and leads the world. It has become an unchanged fact that

China conquered the economic market of Europe and Asia, China is the second reserved holder's country by beating Japan, Germany, France and other big economies. To understand BRI, let's have a look at it.

The BRI is actually a project of mass transactions for boosting Chinese economy in world but its fact that through that whole region on will have the opportunities to help their economies.

The BRI, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by Chinese Government in 2013 to invest nearly in 150 countries and international organizations. It's the result of President Xi Jinping policy that world knows that massive project as 21st century Maritime silk road, referring to the indo-pacific sea routes through southeast Asia to south Asia, the middle east and Africa and through Africa it could be easily linked with Europe.

The success rate of that giant project could be realized by that till August 2022, 149 countries were listed as having signed up to BRI. The BRI will increase flows of international trade facilitating closer economic integration with China's inland core, but it is more useful for the under developing countries like Pakistan. Through that enormous project Pakistan and Afghanistan can also pave the way for their developments. China has a special project of

the history, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is flagship project of BRI.

The iron brother of Pakistan, China invested more than \$46 billion that was announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 during his visit to Pakistan. China signed an agreement to commence the project, which is roughly 20% of Pakistan's annual GDP, with approximately \$28 billion worth of fast-tracked "early harvest projects" to be developed. so that narrative is totally wrong that china wants it supremacy actually china believes on combine journey of trade and development that she proved through history.

The above discussion can be conclude like that China is the big hope for the development and prosperity of Asian continent, China want to help the developing countries through its bank like AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) the goal of the bank to provide funds for the development projects. Its slogan is "infrastructure for tomorrow" The AIIB open new ways of development and technologies which address climate change and connect Asia with the world.

The people's republic of china is trying to help the mankind by changing their life style and income. Its means to build the accessible, digital or commercial, medical, educational and other social infrastructures.

Through AIIB China wants its member countries to work together to finance infrastructure development, turning aspirations to reality.

Finally we conclude our arguments that China in now day's single country who wants to unite the regain into one economic belt, for that China formed Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) with The objective to overcome on the political, economic and security issues of South and Eurasia, in terms of geographic scope and population. it is the largest regional organization, which is covering approximately 60% of the area or Eurasia, 40% of the world population and 30% of global GDP.

We believe Chinese development is not based on other countries rivalry but it's based on the socioeconomic development of the world.

The world need to complement China as raising and shining for the betterment and prosperity of the globe, we are confident that China will continue its journey under the leadership of Xi Jinping and wish our iron brothers long live and sustainable prosperity the People's Republic of China.

The Writer is Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and senior Media Consultant. He can be reached at syed.gilani@gmail.com.

Lots of talk but little action as global crises grow

Ishtiaq Ahmad

How talk and empty promises by world leaders on critical global issues like climate change, poverty, hunger and disease are the norm at international gatherings. The 77th session of the UN General Assembly, which concluded on Tuesday, turned out to be no different. Even worse, its thematic general debate on finding "transformative solutions to interlocking challenges" was overshadowed by the war in Ukraine, leaving the world more divided than ever.

This divide complicates the urgent task of dealing with the unprecedented rise in global energy prices and food shortages, which are a consequence of this war. The progress on persisting global crises such as climate change — whose disastrous implications are increasingly visible in continental heat waves, crippling droughts and catastrophic floods — also looks bleak. On other global issues like gender equality, the trend is visibly in reverse. Ongoing protests in Iran over the hijab follow the familiar tale of the denial of women's rights in Taliban-led Afghanistan and elsewhere.

For seven decades, the US-Soviet Cold War and the subsequent US unilateralism distracted the UNGA from performing its obligatory functions. The least it could do was to keep the global focus on persisting conflicts like Palestine and maintain the fragile peace in conflict zones. In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals were launched to tackle key global issues. But the results were far from impressive.

This year has also been a bad one for climate catastrophes, including a summer heat wave worse than anything Europe has seen in its recorded history. The monsoon rains have played havoc in Pakistan, which is the eighth most vulnerable country to climate change despite producing less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The US and other Western nations, which produce the bulk of greenhouse gases, are committed under the Paris Agreement to help such fragile nations. But their priorities have shifted in the wake of the Ukraine war. This unfortunate reality was on full display at UNGA 77, where the US and its European allies were more interested in settling scores with Russia than heeding the pleas of Guterres or the bulk of more than 150 leaders from Africa, Asia and South America for a better and safer world, and what it must entail.

China has its own axe to grind with the Biden administration, which has ramped up hostility against Beijing. Its recent provocation over Taiwan suggests as much. Meanwhile, Russia is indirectly at war with NATO, whose members are funding and arming Ukraine. Unfortunately, the geopolitical rivalries between the US-led West and both Russia and China are paralyzing the global response to the dramatic challenges we face today. We live in uncertain times but are facing a certain reality.

Climate change, in particular, poses an existential threat to humanity. But it is difficult to imagine that the upcoming UN climate change conference in Egypt will bridge the growing gulf between its disastrous effects and our commitment to climate action. For the same reason, the UNGA resolutions on this and the other SDGs have little value.

How the war in Ukraine ends, and the rivalry between the great powers evolves, will determine if the world emerges from this dark era or descends further into it. At least for now, the gap between rhetoric and reality in the international response to resolving critical global issues does not appear to be narrowing.

Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist who has been vice chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford.
 Courtesy: Arab News

PSX wins best Islamic Stock Exchange award for 2nd Year

CEO PSX says the exchange was proud and honored to receive the award

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) has won the Best Islamic Stock Exchange Award 2022, presented by Global Islamic Finance Awards (GIFA), for the second consecutive year. The GIFA is an internationally acclaimed platform recognizing excellence in banking and finance in the Islamic world.

Since 2011, the Awards have been presented to individuals, institutions and government departments across the world who have shown outstanding performance in promoting Islamic banking and finance and in terms of commitment to social responsibility.

According to PSX press statement issued on Thursday, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PSX, Farrukh H. Khan said the exchange was proud and honored to receive the award for the second consecutive year. "This is an endorsement of the strength and robustness of PSX in presenting a comprehensive suite of products, offerings and regulatory enhancements in the Islamic finance sector," he said while speaking on the occasion.

Khan said that with 252 Shariah-compliant companies making up more than 70 percent of the total market cap of all companies listed on the Stock Exchange, there was a strong presence of Shariah compliant products on PSX catering to investors interested in investing and companies, as well as the government, in raising capital as per principles of Islamic finance. "Today, Islamic finance products are the fastest growing in Pakistan. Paki-



stan Stock Exchange has been working for many years to bring Islamic finance offerings on the capital markets of Pakistan," he added. He said, PSX provides a platform for financial institutions to create and bring new products and offer-

ings including Sukuks, Shariah-compliant mutual funds, modarabas, ETFs and others. This Award, he said, was a recognition of excellence and achievement on part of PSX in offering Islamic finance products and offerings.

He thanked GIFA for bestowing the exchange with this honor which would not have been possible without the support of Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), PSX board and the management team.

Bank Nizwa hosts Islamic finance knowledge series in Bahla



MUSCAT: As part of its ongoing commitment to raising awareness of Islamic finance among the masses as well as sharing the latest trends, developments and achievements of the sector, Bank Nizwa, the leading and the most trusted Islamic bank in the Sultanate, conducted a session on Islamic Finance in collaboration with Bahla charitable team, in the Governorate of Ad Dakhiliyah under the patronage of Shaikh Ibrahim al Haddabi, Deputy Wali of Bahla.

Delivered by Shaikh Majed al Kindi, Chairman of the Sharia Supervisory Board, the session shed light on the benefits of Shariah-compliant financial tools and services to the attendees.

The bank's renowned "Islamic Finance Knowledge Series (IFKS)" aims to educate people about Islamic banking and its principles across the Sultanate.

With the popularity of adopting Islamic banking solutions in the Sultanate, IFKS are constantly gaining an audience by hosting induction sessions to encourage individuals to select sharia-compliant products and services and enable them to make wise financial decisions.

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



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

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

The FRA approved the issuance of "Mudaraba Sukuk" with a value of EGP 2bn for 84 months. This is the fourth version of sukuk issuances by Contact Financial.

The company directs the outcome of the issuance to finance the purchase of cars owned by its own customers or customers of its subsidiary and sister companies that carry out the same activity, bringing the total sukuk issued this year to EGP 5.251bn.

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

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



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

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

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

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

Al Rajhi Bank ups stake in Alrajhi Takaful



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

The transaction aims to strengthen the bank's role in developing the financial sector while supporting Alrajhi Takaful and its qualified cadres in achieving the company's strategy in the insurance sector, according to a bourse statement on Sunday.

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

Green sukuk market set to rise by \$30b in next 3 years



DUBAI: The market for green sukuk is set for takeoff as demand builds, but global expansion will require greater standardisation and regulation, a report by Global Islamic Finance Forum showed on Thursday.

The study, based on a survey of Islamic finance professionals by IslamicMarkets.com, found that 83% of them expect demand for green sukuk - Shariah compliant investments in renewable energy and other environmental assets - to increase over the next three years.

The decarbonisation strategies of GCC countries is expected to unlock \$2 trillion in cumulative contribution to GDP. This will provide more than one million jobs in addition to bringing in foreign direct investment in sustainable industries through green finance, the report said.

Around 87% of Islamic finance professionals agree that GCC's focus on sustainable projects provides a major boost to the green sukuk market.

Total issuance of green sukuk has amounted to \$15 billion since 2017, but the Islamic Finance Council UK (UKIFC) is forecasting the market could expand by another \$30 billion to \$50 billion by 2025.

Of those surveyed 60% Islamic finance professionals supported that estimate, with another 17% forecasting the market could go above \$50 billion. Just 23% believe the market will be worth less than \$30 billion by 2025.

Furthermore, research found that 87% of Islamic finance professionals believe now is an excellent time for investors to harness the opportunities available in green sukuk, given that COP27 and COP28 are taking place in the Arab world.

However, for green sukuk to take off globally, there needs to be greater standardisation including regulation. Islamic finance professionals are optimistic this will happen, with 88% expecting improvements over the next three years.

ahli islamic announces easy and convenient financing offers

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

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

As per the new offer, customers looking for mortgage-free auto financing can choose repayment periods of up to 10 years, with the advantage of a competitive profit rate starting from only 3.49%. Post-date cheques financing is also available with periods of up to 7 years with profit rates starting from only 4.99%. As for home and personal finance, the profit rate starts from only 4.75%.

Commenting on the new finance package and the ahli islamic's intent to partner with customers in fulfilling their commitments, Yousuf bin Salim al Rawahi, Deputy General Manager and Head of ahli islamic, said, "As a responsive and responsible corporate entity, it is our duty to engage with our customers on a professionalized basis.

Our core objective is to partner with our target group and create financial avenues for them to feel secure and bold when budgeting and taking purchase decisions. Our increased reliance on customer feedback and market trends has demonstrated the need for fiscal help in the wake of a gradual economic recovery after the protracted pandemic slowdown. While there have been significant changes in consumer behaviour brought on by the pandemic, the months following have exemplified people's desire to get back to life as they knew it, with the comfort of easy finances to realise their aspirations."

Further, underscoring ahli islamic's motto of 'truth and transparency in banking', Al Rawahi pointed out that the Bank has adopted measures and standards to enhance customers' confidence in their fiscal abilities and instil a sense of security in



their everyday dealings. "We owe our sustained growth and popularity to our customers who repeatedly used our market-specific products and services. We will continue to support customers who need that extra leverage to achieve their set targets," he added.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,013.86	41,435.13
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,435.13	40,910.82
Index Value	Change
4,686,772,778	-421.27
Percentage	Time
-1.02%	29 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
6,881.59	-123.80
Percentage	Time
-1.77%	29 Sept, 12:23 pm GMT-4

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
29,239.97	-443.77
Percentage	Time
-1.49%	28 Sept, 11:58 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
26,422.05	+248.07
Percentage	Time
+0.95%	29 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.71	151.96
Bahrain Dinar	616.8	621.3
Canadian Dollar	169.56	170.91
China Yuan	32.17	32.42
Danish Krone	30.14	30.49
Euro	217	219.5
Hong Kong Dollar	29.5	29.85
Indian Rupee	2.84	2.92
Japanese Yen	1.2	1.25
Kuwaiti Dinar	746.98	751.98
Malaysian Ringgit	50.02	50.47
New Zealand \$	131.98	133.18
Norwegians Krone	21.57	21.87
Omani Riyal	601.35	605.85
Qatari Riyal	63.61	64.11
Saudi Riyal	60.3	61
Singapore Dollar	161.12	162.42
Swedish Korona	20.61	20.91
Swiss Franc	237.22	238.97
Thai Bhat	6.2	6.3
U.A.E Dirham	61.5	62.2
UK Pound Sterling	242	245
US Dollar	227	230

Reviving the economy is difficult but not impossible

Atif Ikram Sheikh says business community will provide unconditional support to FM



Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Thursday said the recovery of the devastated economy is difficult but not impossible. Increasing the value of the dollar is a big problem which will be controlled together with the government, he said.

The business community across the country will fully and unconditionally cooperate with the finance minister for the sake of the country

and the nation, he added. Atif Ikram Sheikh said in a statement issued here on Thursday that Ishaq Dar has accepted the challenge to revive a ruined economy and we appreciate their courage.

Dar faces the daunting task of stabilising an economy that has been in a tailspin for months facing multiple threats of high inflation, a widening current account deficit and falling reserves. Even though the country's economy is in ruins and the US policies are hurting all the currencies of

the world which could result in a new global crisis, he observed.

On the one hand, the currencies of the whole world are depreciating, but on the other rupee is appreciating since the arrival of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. The rupee is still included in the weak currencies but it has started to improve, which shows that the influential currency mafia has panicked and is selling the hoarded dollars.

He said the government needs to take administrative steps to deval-

ue the dollar to teach the hoarders a lesson as Dar's main challenge is to stabilise the exchange rate in order to put the genie of massive inflation back in the bottle.

Besides, fundamental improvements in the economy, efforts should be made and all possible relief should be tried in securing the loans.

Next month, the IMF is holding a meeting regarding lending to Pakistan, during which it is necessary to try to take all possible concessions, he said.

Bestway Group raises \$2m for flood victims of Pakistan

LONDON: The Bestway Group under the leadership of Bestway Group Chief Executive Lord Zameer Choudrey CE SI Pk organised a fundraiser for the victims of Pakistan Floods at a hotel in London.

The fundraising dinner was attended by over 650 guests including the Lord Chancellor; the Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan; UK Ministers and Members of Parliament.

The fundraiser was in continuation of the efforts of Bestway Group and Bestway Foundation both founded by Sir Anwar Pervez OBE H Pk to aid and assist the people of Pakistan as they grapple with the worst humanitarian disaster in the country's history. The recent floods have affected over 33 million people with 1 in 7 Pakistanis living without food or shelter and 1/3rd of the country is underwater. Earlier in the month Lord Choudrey on behalf of Sir Anwar Pervez had announced a donation US\$1.0 million towards the Pakistan Flood Relief, with the culmination of this successful event the total funds raised through Bestway's efforts stands at an impressive US\$2.0 million.

Lord Zameer Choudrey said: "Thanks to our local stakeholders we have been able to raise more than US\$1 million tonight.



Bestway Group CEO Lord Zameer Choudrey CE SI Pk, speaking at the fundraiser.

Through the fundraiser we have been able to showcase the generosity of our community".

Lord Choudrey in his evening's address reflected on the principles and values of the Commonwealth championed by her late Majesty the Queen and how the UK government is and more importantly will support Pakistan as this situation evolves.

During the evening Bestway Group CFO, Haider Choudrey detailed Bestway Foundation's plans to build homes or shelters for 5,000 families; provide usable water for 100,000 individuals; and provide food and medical supplies to over 20,000 people. He also announced a donation of

c.\$400,000 worth of medicine from Well Pharmacy.

The Lord Chancellor Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP said that the British Government has committed funds of £16.5 million for Pakistan and we are dealing with wider climate change issues as well and we are committing to that effort.

Dr. Murtaza Syed, Deputy Governor, State Bank of Pakistan in his remarks thanked the diaspora community for its support and urged greater support from the international community as Pakistan was going through the worst ever natural disaster.

The Rt Hon Tom Tugendhat MP Minister for Security in his address said whilst the devastation caused by the floods was incredibly sad and the destruction caused is more than many people could have thought. People are willing to support Pakistan and he urged others to follow the example set by Lord Choudrey.

Minister for London Hon Paul Scully MP said the UK public has been taking close interest in the terrible floods that have affected Pakistan. Both countries have enjoyed strong bonds. The UK was amongst the first countries to come out for Pakistan's help.

SECP further facilitates digital onboarding of investors

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 29: To facilitate seamless onboarding of investors, the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), has allowed Asset Management Companies (AMCs) and Pension Fund Managers (PFMs) to conduct investor identity verification.

They may do so either on their own, or by obtaining identification documents from the onboarding platform through which micro-savings customer is being onboarded.

This development will not only support AMCs and PFMs in smooth integration with potential branchless banking operators and Electronic Money Institu-

tions but will also assist in complying with applicable requirements of AML/ CFT regulatory framework.

The new regulation is part of SECP's efforts to usher in a new era of smart investing and to ensure provision of seamless onboarding experience for mutual fund investors onboarded through branchless banking and EMI platforms to open Sehl Sarmayakari Accounts.

SECP introduced Sehl Sarmayakari Accounts to promote micro-savings culture where a customer can be seamlessly onboarded through digital wallets/branchless banking operators without providing any additional information/ document to the AMCs.

Traders seek extension in tax return filing date: Ghulam Bilal

Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Businessmen have demanded an extension in the income tax return filing date to facilitate those who have been late in paying duty due to inflation situation in the country. Apart from this, traders are going through a very difficult time due to floods in the country.

President Traders Alliance Federation, former Executive member Sarhad chamber Peshawar Ghulam Bilal Javid requested the government to extend the last date for filing income tax returns up to January 31, 2023 as many taxpayers had not been able to file returns on time due to the floods.

"We request Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that the entire nation including taxpayers had been hit hard by the floods", he said.



Hence, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) should be directed to extend the last date for filing income tax returns up to January 31, 2023, which will be widely

appreciated by the business community."

Provincial President Markezi Tanzeem e Tajran KPK Malik Mehr Elahi & Ghulam Bilal in a joint statement urged the FBR to extend the last date for filing income tax returns up to January 31, 2023 to facilitate and accommodate the businessmen who had not been able to file the return due to critical situation in the country, delayed amendments and recent notification about simplified forms.

We appreciate if the instructions given by the FBR to its commissioners to grant extensions to hardship cases who were unable to file returns on time, Malik Mehr Elahi said, "We nevertheless urge the FBR chairman not to leave the tax return filers at the mercy of commissioners and extend the date properly to save SMEs and big entrepreneurs."

Addressing climate change

Speakers at RCCI urge govt to revisit energy policy

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Speakers at the launching ceremony of a case based study report, titled, 'Pitfalls of Restoring Energy Security with Coal Power Plants in Pakistan, urged Government and key stakeholders to revisit the Energy policy and phase out coal based power plants. They said that Thermal coal is the number one cause of global temperature rise.

The ceremony was jointly organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Fair Finance Pakistan at chamber house Rawalpindi.

The study report examines financial aspects and equity contribution from the private sector to the coal debt in Pakistan.

Speakers also urged that if the transition and eventual departure from coal to renewable energy does not happen, economic development



RCCI President Nadeem Rauf presenting memento to Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Senator Faisal Karim Kundi during his visit to RCCI

particularly in lower-income countries will be unsustainable economically, socially and environmentally.

Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Senator Faisal Karim Kundi, who was the chief guest on the occasion, has said that Pakistan is facing severe effects of climate change, Sindh and Balochistan have been affected more, the number of volunteers will have to be increased. World powers and developed countries should address the damage caused by the harmful effects of carbon and help in rehabilitation of Pakistan's flood-affected areas.

Earlier, President Chamber Nadeem Rauf said that all stakeholders have a common responsibility to adopt a comprehensive policy to deal with climate change. RCCI believed that the government must focus on renewable energy as the country has tremendous potential to generate wind, hydro and solar power.

PSO Cards, JazzCash sign digital payment agreement

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: JazzCash, Pakistan's leading fintech, partners with Pakistan State Oil, Pakistan's leading energy company, to provide DIGICASH users payment gateway and card top up facility via the JazzCash app. This collaboration will also enable JazzCash users to apply for DIGICASH directly from their JazzCash app.

PSO, pioneer in Fuel Card business, revolutionized the concept of fueling by launching the first ever Fuel card in Pakistan in year 2002. The company continues to lead the way in cards and digital solutions for its valued customers. With launch of DIGICASH as its flagship B2C card in 2019 and a number of value-added offerings, PSO is fast growing in digital payments sphere as a

major player. Agreement signing ceremony was held at PSO house whereby PSO Cards and JazzCash signed the partnership agreement.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Murtaza Ali, Chief Operating Officer at JazzCash said, "Jazz is committed to fostering a cashless digital economy in Pakistan. Our partnership with PSO is a strategic step to bring

digitization to large businesses from diverse fields, like petroleum in this case, and catapult digital payment process that cultivates higher business efficiency and ensures fast and secure transactions. We look forward to jointly introducing more services on our platforms in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, Amir Zaib Khan, General Manager Cards and Non-Fuel



Business at PSO said, "We are excited to partner with JazzCash which will enable PSO in expanding our DIGICASH

customer base. Utilizing JazzCash's platform which is the leading digital wallet in the country.

ICCI newly elected office bearers take oath



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The newly elected Office Bearers and Executive Members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry were administered oath in the 38th Annual General Meeting of ICCI. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari was sworn in as President, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar as Vice President, ICCI for the year 2022-23. Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader administered oath to the newly elected Office Bearers and Executive Members. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, former President ICCI performed the role of Stage Secretary. A large number of members attended the AGM.

After taking oath, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, newly elected President ICCI said that he would make all possible efforts to resolve the key issues of the business community and facilitate them in business development. He said that he has come with a vision to serve the business community and would try his best to deliver up to their expectations. He lauded the achievements of the outgoing team and said that he would try to exceed their performance.

The outgoing President Muhammad Shakeel Munir congratulated the new Office Bearers and Executive Members of ICCI and hoped that they would play a more effective role in serving the cause of the business community. He highlighted the key achievements of his tenure and hoped that his successor would make ICCI further stronger to promote the interests of the business community.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader congratulated the new Office Bearers and Executive Members of ICCI and was optimistic that of the new team, which was a blend of new and experienced talent, would set new standards of good performance to serve the business community.

12 Pakistan Junior League foreign players reach Lahore

Players to hold collective practice sessions at National High Performance Centre

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: A total of 12 foreign players including eight from the United Kingdom, three from Afghanistan and one from Sri Lanka have arrived in Lahore to take part in the first edition of the Pakistan Junior League which begins at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore on Thursday 6 October.

The remaining 12 foreign players are expected to reach in the next two to three days. The local players will also arrive from their respective homes to Lahore over the weekend.

The players that reached Lahore last night and this morning include Allah Mohammad Ghazanfar (Rawalpindi Raiders), Archie Lenham (Mardan Warriors), James Ross Wood (Hyderabad Hunters), Joseph Eckland (Gwadar Sharks), Ibrahim Masood (Hyderabad Hunters), Gabriel Gallman-Findlay (Bahawalpur Royals), George Thomas (Mardan Warriors), Luc Martin Benkenstein (Gwadar Sharks), Shevon Daniel (Gujranwala Giants), Thomas Aspinwall (Gujranwala Giants), Nangeyalia Kharotai (Bahawalpur Royals) and Olly Cox (Mardan Warriors).



The players expressed their excitement at playing the P.J.L in the presence of some of the greats of the game who would be working as mentors during the tournament.

The mentor roster includes legends of the game Javed Miandad (league mentor), Imran Tahir (Bahawalpur Royals), Shoaib Malik (Gujranwala Giants), Sir Vivian Richards (Gwadar Sharks), Daren Sammy (Hyderabad Hunters), Shahid Afridi (Mardan Warriors) and Colin

Munro (Rawalpindi Raiders). Nangeyalia Kharotai – Bahawalpur Royals: "This is a great opportunity for us at this new and exciting platform for young players from around the world. I aim to help my team win the tournament and work closely with my mentor Imran Tahir who is a legend of the game and has a great experience of leagues and T20 format around the world."

Thomas Aspinwall – Gujranwala Giants: "The Pakistan Junior League is a great initiative and I am thrilled to be a part of this tournament. At Gujran-

wala Giants we have Shoaib Malik as our mentor who is a T20 legend. I look forward to talking to him and taking his guidance which will help me in my future cricket. There are also some wonderful mentors with the rest of the teams and I look forward to chatting with them."

Joseph Eckland – Gwadar Sharks: "This is an exciting time for all of us and I am really looking forward to playing the Pakistan Junior League for the Gwadar Sharks. We have an all-time legend of the game Sir Vivian Richards as our mentor his presence will be a huge motivation for me and my team. There are some incredible mentors in other sides and it will be great to interact with them."

James Ross Wood – Hyderabad Hunters: "The Pakistan Junior League is a very exciting platform and I can't wait for the tournament to begin. I am delighted to be here in Lahore and look forward to joining my team. Our mentor is Daren Sammy who has won T20 World Cups, he is one of the greats of this format and I am keen on spending time with him and learning all about this format of the game."

Visa launches new global version of financial soccer game

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: With FIFA World Cup™ excitement heating up, Visa (NYSE: V), the Official Payment Technology Partner of FIFA, invites soccer fans to sharpen their financial skills on the virtual pitch with the new version of the educational video game, Financial Soccer. Gamers can suit up as the country of their choice and take their best shot for the coveted trophy by correctly answering questions designed to help players make smart, well informed money management decisions. To further Visa's commitment to uplift lives through the power of sport and the global platform of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, Visa is working in collaboration with clients and non-profit organizations to make the new version of Financial Soccer available to as many people as possible. Visa and partners will host events, learning series and promote game availability in more than 100 markets around the world leading up to and following the tournament.

With only one-in-three adults estimated to have a basic understanding of financial concepts, Visa understands the critical need to foster financial literacy early to ensure a stronger relationship with financial health through adult-



hood. "Access to financial education to gain knowledge is critical to help individuals succeed in an increasingly digital world," said Michelle Gethers, Chief Diversity Officer and Head of Corporate Responsibility, Visa.

"Visa is proud to bring the power of its partnership with FIFA to the global stage of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ to provide a fun and engaging way for individuals and small businesses to begin or build upon their financial education journey." New Financial Soccer Game Features The free educational game challenges players to answer money management questions at various levels of difficulty to advance down the pitch for a chance to score a goal.

New features include: Men's and women's teams and tournaments: Players can now choose between men's and women's teams to represent any country in global tournaments, including

the upcoming FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ and FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023™.

Personal finance and small business game modes: For the first time, the game will include a second mode for small business owners that features questions on starting and managing a business, budgeting and more. With entrepreneurship growth reaching historic numbers, additional education on critical business subjects is important to entrepreneurs' growth. The personal finance track will feature questions on topics like crypto currencies and the wise use of credit.

Available on-the-go: In addition to online at financialsoccer.com, players can now download for free via iOS and Android mobile app store to play the game on mobile and tablet devices. Multiple languages: Gameplay in English, Spanish or Arabic, with more languages coming soon including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, Italian, German, Russian and Portuguese. Leaving a Lasting Impact Ahead of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, Visa will host live Financial Soccer games in the United States, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Qatar, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal to engage fans, athletes and communities with more to come.

3rd PGF Inter Club Golf to get underway

LAHORE: Third Pakistan Golf Federation (PGF) Inter Club Golf Tournament 2022 will swing into action from today at Islamabad club course.

As per format of this championship, golf club teams comprising twenty members in categories, amateurs (4), senior amateurs (4), ladies (3), junior boys up to 18 years (3), junior boys up to 15 years (3) and junior girls under 21 years (3) first took part at the provincial level and thereafter the prime one from each province becomes fittingly entitled to compete against the foremost ones from other provinces. And the golf clubs that have qualified for the finals are Karachi Golf Club from Sind, Peshawar Golf Club from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad Golf Club from Federal Territory and Lahore Garrison Golf Club from Punjab.

Golfing body of Province of Baluchistan is still in the process of assembling a twenty member team and while they are finding the exercise somewhat formidable, the likelihood is that in the year 2023 they will be energetically represented at this engrossing clash for ascendancy.

Norrie into Korea Open quarterfinals

SEOUL: Ambitious Cameron Norrie powered his way to a dominant 6-2 6-2 victory over Kaichi Uchida on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Korea Open.

The 27-year-old Briton has won two titles this year, making it into the top 10 for the first time in his career and reaching the semi-finals at Wimbledon.

He wasted no time taking down Japan's Uchida, breaking two of his serves in each set for a quick victory in one hour and three minutes.

Norrie, the second seed at the Korea Open, will face either Korean number one, Kwon Soon-woo, or Jenson Brooksby of the United States in the quarter-finals. Norrie won his first ATP title last year at the Los Cabos Open, beating American Brandon Nakashima in the final.

He has said he plans to use the Korea and Japan Open to push his way into the top eight on the Pepperstone ATP Live Race To Turin, to qualify for a spot at the season-ending Nitto ATP Finals in November.

Norrie's push to Turin got a boost on Thursday when Taylor Fritz, who was the third seed in Seoul, withdrew from the tournament due to injury.

Northern enforce first follow-on of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Southern Punjab found themselves in a spot of bother against Northern at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad, as they trailed by 117 after asked to follow-on—at the close of the third day of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23.

Southern Punjab could manage only 269 in 86.2 overs after Northern posted a mammoth 529 for five yesterday as no batter, except Zain Abbas, who made a fighting 120 in 229 balls (15 fours and a six), put up

a fight.

Zain was one of the wickets of Northern captain Nauman Ali in the first innings as the left-arm orthodox returned four for 73. Youngsters Musa Khan and Mehran Mumtaz took two wickets each for 51 and 63. Southern Punjab, 143 for two, will resume their second innings with Usman Salahuddin and Imran Rafiq unbeaten on 40 and 34. All-rounder Mubasir Khan, who played an integral role in Northern's big total smashing 170 not out, accounted for both open-

ers—Umar Siddiq (35) and Zain (32).

Northern, after bowling out Southern Punjab inside 100 overs, have now accumulated nine points (five points for crossing the 400-run barrier in 100 overs batting first, three for taking eight or more wickets and one for bowling out an opposition under 300).

At the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Fawad Alam scored his 42nd first-class century, returning unbeaten on 127 as Sindh mustered 368 all out in reply of Central Punjab's 428. The

left-handed middle-order batter smashed 14 fours in his 186-ball innings. Sarfaraz Ahmed (78 off 124, eight fours) fell 22 runs short of a century as Mohammad Ali, who took four wickets for 84 runs, dismissed him.

Central Punjab, 170 for four in the second innings, had stretched their lead to 230 with double-century of the previous innings Abdullah Shafique (72 not out off 151) on song. Abdullah had the company of Tayyab Tahir, who is unbeaten on 61, gathered in 115 balls. The two have added 111

New ICC Training and Education programmes launched

DUBAI: The ICC have further highlighted their ongoing commitment to growing the game of cricket by releasing the data from the first year of the new ICC Training and Education programmes.

The programme was initially released in October last year and the figures for the first 12 months show that since then more than 9,500 active learners have enrolled online to the ICC education courses.

As part of its Global Growth Strategy that was also released last year, the ICC is committed to providing its 108 member countries with easy access to world-class participation programmes.

The ICC Coaching Foundation Certificate—an entry-level coaching course—was the first programme made available to aspiring coaches and more than 3,200 learners have already



completed the training programme.

The free course is available in nine different languages—Arabic, English, French, German, Indonesian Bahasa, Portuguese, Sinhalese, Spanish and Tamil—and can be completed at any pace and through short, sharp modules on a computer or via a mobile device.

With the ICC Coaching Foundation Certificate having already made a positive impact, the ICC has since further expanded its coach education by offering aspiring coaches with the ability

to complete the ICC Coaching Course Level 1.

The ICC Coaching Course Level 1 was made available in March this year and allows participants to deliver coaching sessions to beginners on their own, while containing more in-depth technical information on pivotal components of the game.

The course is delivered through a blended learning approach that incorporates online and face-to-face training and more than 200 people have already been certified within the first six months of its inception.

It is forecast that more than 1,000 people will have completed the course by the end of this year, with the help of ICC Master Educators (16) and ICC Tutors (over 170) who are accredited to deliver and certify these courses in ICC Member countries.

Pakistan debutant showered in praise following final over heroics

Sixth and penultimate game of series is once again in Lahore today

LAHORE: Pakistan debutant Aamir Jamal displayed experience beyond his years by producing a brilliant final over to help his side clinch a narrow six-run T20I victory over England in Lahore on Wednesday.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam entrusted Jamal to bowl the final over of the match in what was his first international appearance and the 26-year-old held his nerve to defend 15 runs against stand-in England captain Moeen Ali.

Jamal was pinpoint with his wide yorker as Moeen managed just eight runs from the debutant's final six deliveries as Pakistan moved ahead 3-2 in the seven-match series. The hosts score of 145 was the lowest total ever defended by any side in a T20I in Pakistan and Jamal's performance at the death was a major reason behind the victory.



Moeen was full of praise for the bowling all-rounder who collected figures of 1/13 from two overs and believes he has a big future in the game. "It was a

very good last over and you can't take anything away from him," Moeen said after the match.

"I was just hoping he missed the wide yorker ... like the one I got hold of (and hit for six) on the third delivery of the final over." "With the wet ball and the ball probably being out of shape and him on his debut and nervous ... he bowled really well and sometimes you have just got to give it to him."

The sixth and penultimate game of the series is once again in Lahore on Friday, before the final match at the same venue on Sunday.

Pakistan then travel to New Zealand for four warm-up matches and a further two games in Australia ahead of their ICC Men's T20 World Cup against arch-rival India at the MCG in Melbourne on October 23.

Army Chief inaugurates newly renovated Chaklala Cricket Ground



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday inaugurated newly renovated 501 Central Workshop Cricket Ground named as Chaklala Cricket Ground.

The Cricket ground was upgraded to provide state-of-the-art sports facility to cricketers and fans especially to the youth of Rawalpindi and Islamabad, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

It added that the sports ground would be available to students and cricket clubs of Rawalpindi and Islamabad to promote the game of cricket and provide a healthy sports environment.

The COAS appreciated the efforts of Rawalpindi Corps for renovating the old cricket ground and providing an excellent cricketing facility to the city.

Women's tent pegging team accorded warm welcome



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan women's tent pegging team, which raised the Pakistani flag in Jordan, arrived in Pakistan.

The Women Team beat the 11 countries and won 3rd position in the sword pair competition. The President Equestrian Federation of Pakistan Sahibzada Sultan warmly welcomed the team.

The Pakistani Team first time participated in an international championship and won the Bronze Medal, Said Sahibzada Sultan. In the future we will perform well and raise the flag of Pakistan, The President of EFP added.

PBBF to organise training course for national referees

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) on Thursday announced a two-day training and refresher course for national referees aimed at improving their understanding of the role and rules of the game.

"The course will commence on Saturday at Pakistan sports Complex Islamabad wherein more than 30 referees and officials from across the country will participate," Uj-e-Zahoor, associate secretary of PBBF said in a statement.

He said various sessions would be organized during the course in which training would be given about the new rules and regulations of basketball and its development.

Covid vaccinations not compulsory for World Cup fans

DOHA: Coronavirus vaccinations will not be mandatory for the million-plus fans going to the World Cup in Qatar this year, authorities in the Gulf state said on Thursday.

All visitors aged over six will have to produce negative Covid-19 tests before taking flights to Qatar for the tournament that starts November 20, the authorities said in new health guidelines. The 29-day tournament will be the first major global sporting event with fans since the eruption of the Covid pandemic in December 2019.

The Qatar organisers and world football's governing body FIFA have said they want the event to be a sign that the world is getting over the devastating pandemic. But they have warned that health guidelines will change if the threat blows up again.

Fans will have to wear masks in public transport in Qatar and anyone who tests positive for Covid-19 "will be required to isolate in accordance with Ministry of Public Health guidelines", the health ministry said. The ministry added that it may force players, referees and officials to stay in a secure "bio-bubble" if coronavirus cases take off "to allow for the safe operation and continuation of the event."