



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسول ﷺ
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ
میں نے جنت میں جھانک کر دیکھا تو اس
کے اکثر رہنے والے غریب لوگ تھے
اور میں نے دوزخ میں جھانک کر دیکھا تو
اس کے اندر رہنے والے اکثر عورتیں تھیں۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 5198)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

UN to launch fresh appeal for Pakistan flood victims

Julien Frederic Morcom-Harneys, the United Nations resident coordinator and humanitarian coordinator in Pakistan said the United Nations will launch a fresh appeal next week for Pakistan flood victims, saying its initial \$160 million appeal was insufficient to meet the country's needs. Devastating floods engulfed large swathes of Pakistan this month, killing more than 1,600 people and devastating the country's infrastructure to cause damages estimated nearly at \$30 billion.



Pak-China ties strengthening: Saif

Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information and Public Relations Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that Pak-China friendship was time-tested and the ties between the two neighboring countries were getting stronger with each passing day. He said that today's ceremony was a reaffirmation of the commitment of longstanding cordial relations based on mutual love and friendship between the two peoples. "We need to benefit from China's experiences."

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Rabi-ul-Awwal 4, Saturday, October 1, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 178 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

China announces over \$90m assistance for Pakistan: envoy

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: China's Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong has reaffirmed his government's continued support to Pakistan to help flood affected people. In a video statement on Friday, he said since the devastating floods occurred in Pakistan, among all countries, China has announced over 90 million dollars assistance for Pakistan. He said the announced assistance is the biggest till dates. He said China stands with Pakistan.

Sanjrani for further strengthening ties with Kyrgyzstan

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has called for further deepening economic and trade linkages between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan for mutual benefit of the people of two sides. He was talking to the Ambassador of Ulanbek Totuiaev who called on him in Islamabad on Friday. He said that Pakistan via Gwadar port provides shortest access to the landlocked central Asian Republics. The Chairman Senate highlighted the importance of strong multi-faceted ties with Kyrgyzstan and said that huge investment opportunities exist in Pakistan. He underlined the need for frequent exchange of delegations to promote people to people contacts. Chairman Senate said the government and people of Pakistan highly value ties with Kyrgyzstan and desire to further expand and diversify the linkages in different sectors. APP

Development priority

Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on Bara Kahu Bypass Project on Friday.



Photo: PID

Cabinet meeting

Special committee to probe audio about diplomatic cipher

PM says Imran's concocted lies in fact a 'conspiracy against nation'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMADAD: The Federal Cabinet has approved constituting a Special Committee of the Cabinet to probe into the recently leaked audio regarding the diplomatic cipher. The decision was taken at the Cabinet meeting, which met in Islamabad on Friday with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in the chair. The cabinet held detailed discussion on the audio leaks and fully supported the decision of the National Security Committee to completely probe this matter. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the false narrative of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Imran Khan declaring the incumbent

PM invites Japanese investors to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif says Pakistan wants Japanese investment in solar energy, clean drinking water, wastewater and logistics sectors. He was talking to a delegation of Japanese companies in Pakistan led by Parliamentary Deputy Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Satomi Ryuji who called on him in Islamabad on Friday. The Prime Minister said Pakistan is rapidly moving towards harnessing renewable energy sources like solar, wind and hydel, as the huge foreign exchange spent on importing oil, gas and other expensive fuels is an unbearable burden on our economy.

government a 'product of conspiracy' had totally busted and urged the nation to distinguish between truth and fraud.

"Imran Niazi wasted five months of the nation by concocting lies and propaganda about his successor government, however his own audio leaks exposed his fraudulence," he said in his address

said, stressing the need for people to understand the reality of a liar.

PM Sharif, who recently represented the country at the forums of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the United Nations General Assembly, said the leaders of some friendly countries during the sideline meetings conveyed him their annoyance over the irresponsible foreign policy of Imran Khan.

The prime minister said his government was steadfast in dealing with the immense challenges after the previous government pushed the country to the brink of economic collapse.

He expressed his commitment to rebuild and develop the country that was bearing the brunt of Imran Khan's tenure in the government.

Petrol price slashed by Rs12.63 per litre

Govt announces significant decrease in petroleum prices, extends date to file tax return

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The government has announced a significant decrease in the prices of petroleum products.

Addressing media in Islamabad on Friday, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said the price of Petrol, High Speed Diesel, Kerosene Oil and Light Diesel Oil has been decreased by 12.63 rupees, 12.13, 10.19 and 10.78 rupees respectively.

After reduction, the new per liter price of petrol will be 224.80 rupees and high speed diesel 235.30.

The Minister also announced the extension of one month for filing income

tax returns. He said the extension has been given on the requests of business community, income tax practitioners and considering the prevailing post-flood conditions. The new deadline for filing income tax returns is 31 of the next month.

Finance Minister said the government has successfully achieved the revenue collection targets for first quarter of the current fiscal year. He said FBR collected 1635 billion rupees in first quarter of current fiscal year while the set target for this period was 1609 billion rupees. He said during the current month FBR collected 685 billion rupees.

Will soon give protest call against oppression: Imran

Says societies cannot prosper without rule of law in the country

PESHAWAR:

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan said on Friday that he would soon give the nation call to come out against there would be no return oppression and there would be no return.

Addressing the students at Peshawar Edward College on Friday, he thanked the principal of the college for inviting him and urged him to invite "Melo" and "Diesel" and question "Diesel" for standing with the crooks.

The PTI chairman said that the thieves have been given NRO after reaching a deal with them today, thieves are returning to the homeland and their cases are being dismissed. He said today, Pakistan is in

the grip of worst inflation, the nation is going down, adding that Maryam is making money for her son-in-law.

"I am preparing the nation but I would come out alone against them if I would have to because I am not afraid of jail," Imran Khan said and urged the nation to wait for his call.

The former prime minister said societies cannot prosper without rule of law in the country. The law and justice system should be the same for rich and poor, he added.

On the economic situation, Imran Khan said the rupee has devalued over 30pc against US dollar since the ouster of his government and said the masses are facing the worst inflation in the history of Pakistan. Agencies

FM Bhutto comments attest to Pak-China ties: Mao Ning

The Chinese govt to provide 400m RMB of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan

BELJING: Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Friday said that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's comments on China's assistance to Pakistan for flood relief efforts attested to mutual trust and friendship between the two countries.

FM Bhutto's comments attest to mutual trust and friendship between our two countries, Mao Ning said in response to a question during her regular briefing.

According to reports, Foreign Minister Bhutto took an interview with Foreign Policy. In response to comment that China had not come to Pakistan's aid in a big way this year when flood hit, he said it was absolutely incorrect.

The spokesperson said that China and Pakistan were linked by mountain and rivers and both the countries shared the same future.

From the major floods in 2010 in Pak, 2021 locust disaster, Wenchuan earthquake 2008, Luding earthquake, the two countries



外交部例行记者会 2022年9月7日

To help Pakistan, she said that China offered emergency cash assistance and shared real time weather forecast with it by air, land and sea, we sent tents, vegetables and other supplies to Pakistan.

Mao Ning said that that the Chinese government and the entire society worked together to help. Chinese enterprises and charitable people and sub-national organizations and governments raised more than 125 million RMB donation and supplies to help Pakistan and civil rescue teams also went to Pakistan to help. Even primary school students donated their pocket money to help.

All this show that the two countries are a community of shared future sharing will and woe and our friendship is deeply rooted in our people's heart and has strong vitality, she added.

The spokesperson informed that currently the two sides were working in close coordination to implement follow-up work and reconstruction. Agencies

IK played with country's fate for 4 years: Maryam



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Friday lambasted Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, saying that the person [Imran] continued to play with the country's destiny for four years.

"Even the worst enemies of the country could not compete with the breach you [Imran] has done as well as your secretary and disciples by conducting the biggest breach of security," Maryam wrote on Twitter.

"He [Imran] continues to do what he has done for years because he has the audacity to do so," said the PML-N vice president. Agencies

Martyrdom of Kashmiris by Indian troops grave concern: FO

Pakistan condemns terrorist attack on educational institution in Kabul

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office said on Friday that it was matter of grave concern that the Indian occupation forces had martyred five more Kashmiri youth in extra-judicial killings and fake encounters in Kulgam and Kupwara areas in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) in the past week.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing here, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "We also continue to draw attention of the international community to the deteriorating situation particularly the health of Kashmiri political prisoners including Hurriyat leaders languishing in different jails of India and in IIOJK and we demand their immediate release."

"We also condemn India's illegal and unprovoked, literally unjustified economic assault on IIOJK manifested by the recent halting of fresh fruit laden trucks from Kashmir valley by Indian occupation forces. This is kind of an undeclared economic blockade of Kashmiri fruit growers, and a deliberate attempt in our view to destroy the economy of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and to punish the Kashmiri people for their struggle for right to self-determination," he added.

On the floods and the ongoing international assistance and relief efforts, he



said, "As we transition from rescue and relief phase of response to this unprecedented climate catastrophe, to the more challenging rehabilitation and reconstruction phase that is upcoming, we are grateful to the unparalleled generosity and resilience of the Pakistanis who have contributed in cash and kind to help their brethren."

He said Pakistan was also thankful to international friends and partners for sending 133 relief flights, besides ships, trucks, and goodness trains to help the flood victims.

"We are determined to overcome this adversity with determination, grit, perseverance, and mobilization

of national and international efforts." Meanwhile, Pakistan on Friday condemned in the strongest terms, the dastardly terrorist attack on an educational institution in Dasht-e-Barchi, Kabul, in which precious innocent lives were lost and many were injured.

"The government and people of Pakistan extend their profound and heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and pray for early recovery of the injured," Foreign Office said in a statement issued here.

"We stand in complete solidarity with our Afghan brethren in the fight against the scourge of terrorism," the statement added.

Pak-Saudi Cooperation

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Nawaf bin Saeed Ahmad Al Malikiy, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwana-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Friday.

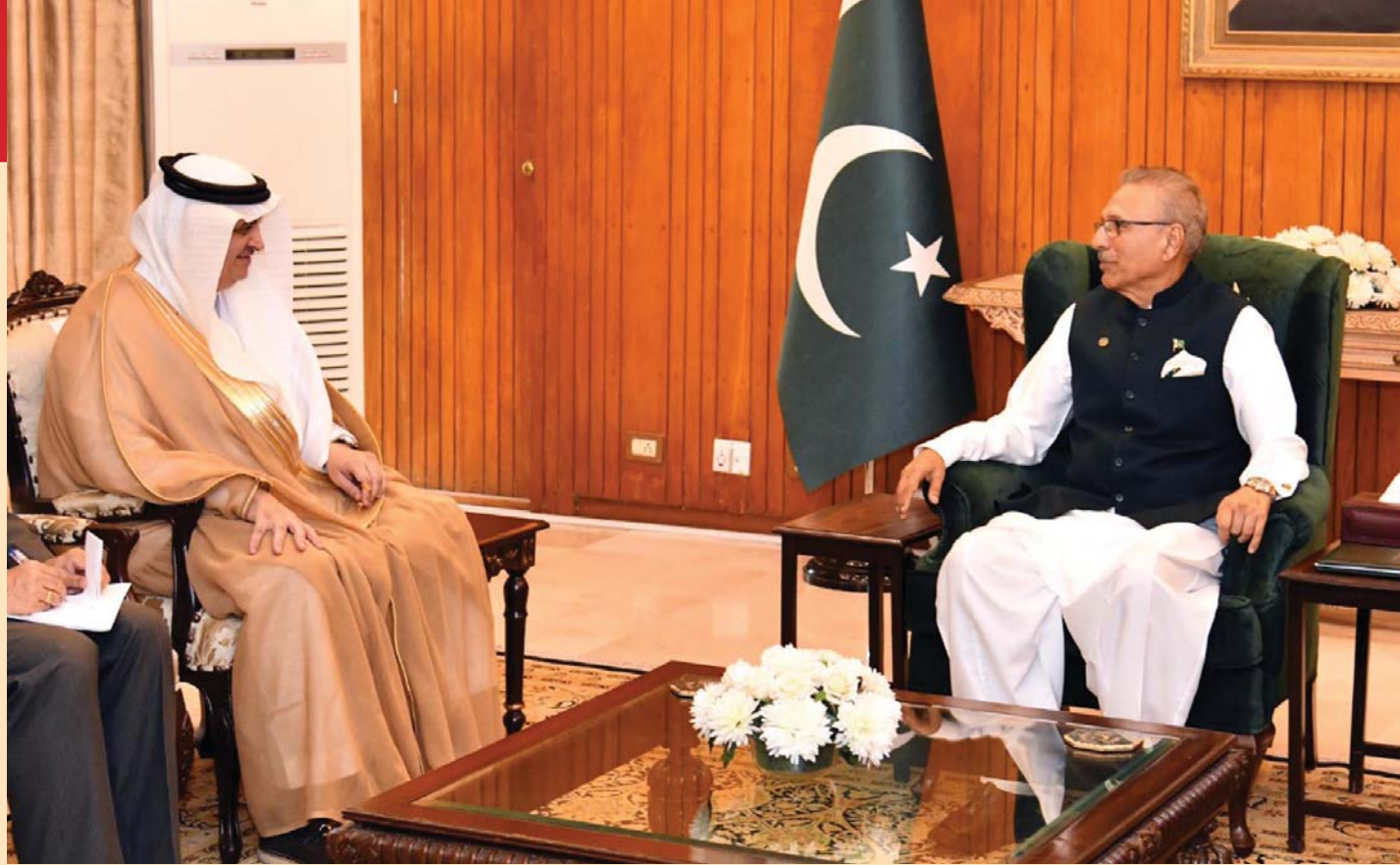


Photo: PID

ECC approves transfer price on imported urea at Rs2150 per bag

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the cabinet here on Friday approved the Dealer Transfer Price (DTP) of 50 kg imported Urea bag at Rs. 2150/bag.

The committee also approved incidental charges at Rs. 620.47/bag with sharing subsidy on imported Urea at 50:50 basis with provinces.

Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting of the ECC, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

ECC approved the proposal containing request of M/s Zaver Petroleum Corporation (Pvt) Limited (ZPCL) for assignment of its entire 10% Working Interest (WI) in Bannu West Block to M/s Orient Petroleum Inc (OPI).

The ECC granted five years extension with effect from April 2, 2022 in the validity period of development and production lease of Zamzama D&PL, on the existing terms and conditions.

The ECC granted extension in the validity period of the eighteen (18) exploration licenses.

The ECC also approved tariff rationalization by way of adjustments for K-Electric to maintain the uniform tariff across the country at Rs. 0.5087/unit.

The ECC approved summary for Ministry of Commerce and allowed release of consignments of previously banned items for which Goods Declaration (GDs) have been filed on or after 22 August, 2022.

For early elections

President for dialogue among political parties

Dr Arif Alvi condemns recent audio leaks

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Friday reiterated that political parties should undertake discussions on the holding of early elections.

In an interview with a television channel, he said at one time everybody including political parties in the sitting government wanted early elections.

However, the President said now the government and the business community was more concerned about the economic conditions.

He said latest technologies were being used to tap into the conversations of people.

He was of the view that the taping of phones should be discouraged. It was mindset of humans to try to know about others, he said adding audios were taped all across the world.

Conversations were taped by the state apparatus in the past as well, he noted.

He condemned the recent audio leaks

Pak-Saudi ties must be enhanced: President Alvi

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for taking effective steps to increase trade between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Talking to Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki in Islamabad on Friday, he said the existing bilateral trade volume of 4.6 billion dollars does not reflect the depth of relations between the two brotherly countries. The President appreciated Saudi Arabia's role in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to highlight the issues of Palestine and Kashmir as well as the matters related to Afghanistan. He also appreciated Kingdom's support in providing an air bridge for delivering relief assistance to the flood affectees in Pakistan.

and recalled in the past former president Farooq Leghari removed a government after allegedly listening to some audio tapes.

To a question, he said during a recent meeting, he had a discussion with the prime minister on the situation after floods and prevailing economic conditions.

However, he clarified that he did not have an exchange of views with the prime minister on the issue of leaked audio tapes.

He said a procedure was laid down in the constitution for the appointment of the army chief. He supported the idea of consultation between the prime minister and opposition leader Imran Khan for the appointment of the army chief.

He said Pakistan was faced with many crises including COVID 19, floods and polarization in politics "I have been making efforts to resolve issues faced by the state of Pakistan." Agencies

Devastating Floods

Pakistan urges mobilization of world support

For crises-hit developing countries to fight poverty, hunger

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan has called for the mobilization of all possible resources to help developing countries eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to offset the devastating impact of the increase in food, fuel prices and the decline in economic growth on the large segment of the world's population.

Speaking for the Group of 77 (developing countries), Ambassador Munir Akram said the international community and institutions should revitalize global development cooperation and invest in sustained growth for reducing inequalities and enhancing the well-being of all.

The Pakistani envoy was addressing the UN General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitari-

an and Cultural), which opened its 77th session Thursday, with the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a resurgence of conflicts and the climate emergency driving its general discussion.

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

WB to provide \$323m to Sindh govt for farmers

Special unit would be established under chief secretary to start project

Bureau Report

KARACHI: The World Bank will provide \$323 million to the Sindh government for the farmers of the flood-hit areas in a bid to alleviate their plight and help them reclaim their lands ahead of the upcoming Rabi crop season.

Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah, in a meeting with World Bank's Country Director Najy Benhassine, said that he has prepared a scheme worth Rs30 billion to provide subsidies in the heads of fertiliser and certified seed. "We have to revive our flooded agro-industry by giving them some incentives," he said, adding that farmers were not in a position to purchase certified seeds, fertilisers, and other inputs.

To kick-start the project, a special unit would be established under the chief secretary.

During the meeting, CM Murad said that he has already deputed

teams to clear water from the flooded towns and villages.

"The dewatering process is in progress and hopefully within one and half months water would be evacuated," he said, adding that construction of houses will begin once water is disposed of.

CM Murad added ahead of the arrival of the winter season, housing arrangements would be required for the people impacted by floods and urged the world bank to finance the housing project.

Following thorough discussions and deliberations, the chief minister and World Bank's Benhassine decided to launch the project.

The provincial chief secretary would be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the unit with the support of the public and private sector, after which construction of the houses will start. A survey to assess requirements for the housing project is currently underway.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 114 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around Friday to bullish trend, gaining 114.81 points, a positive change of 0.28 percent, closing at 41,128.67 against 41,013.86 points on the last working day.

A total of 205,699,969 shares were traded during the day compared to 127,449,289 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.9.499 billion against Rs. 5.518 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 324 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 145 of them recorded gain and 154 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were TRG Pak Ltd with 30,193,074 shares at Rs128.86 per share, TPL Properties with 18,654,163 at Rs20.84 and K-Electric Ltd with 15,653,000 at Rs2.98 per share.

Bata (Pak) witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 106 per share price, closing at Rs 2395 whereas the runner up was Sanofi-Aventis with Rs 49 rise in per share price to Rs.1198.

Premium Tex witnessed maximum decrease of Rs 44.99 per share closing at Rs 700.01 followed by Bhanero Tex with Rs 35.01 decline to close at Rs 1125. APP

Soldier martyred thwarting terrorists' attack in Kurram

Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: A Pakistan Army soldier embraced martyrdom while fighting back a terrorist attack from inside Afghanistan across the international border on Thursday.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Friday, the terrorists from inside Afghanistan opened fire on the Pakistan Army troops in general area Kharlachi of Kurram district.

The army troops responded in a befitting manner, and as per credible intelligence reports, the terrorists suffered heavy casualties, ISPR said.

Sepoy Jamshed Iqbal (27), resident of Chiniot, fought gallantly and was martyred during the exchange of fire.

"Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that the interim Afghan Government will not allow conduct of such activities, in future," the ISPR said.

The Pakistan Army, it added, was determined to defend Pakistan's borders against the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of its brave soldiers further strengthened their resolve.

AJK President hopes UNGA president to play role in resolving K-dispute

Abdul Majeed Tahir

NEW YORK: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry expressed the optimism that the newly elected president of the UN General Assembly Mr. CSABA Korosi would play his due role in resolving the Kashmir dispute that happens to be one of the oldest unresolved issues pending on the UN agenda.

While congratulating the newly elected President Mr. Korosi on assuming charge as the President of the General Assembly, the AJK president said, "We hope that the president Korosi will redouble his efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue and help Kashmiris achieve their fundamental rights promised to them by the UN through a dozen



of its resolutions".

The Kashmir dispute, he said, was not only one of the oldest unresolved issues but also an unfinished agenda of the partition of the Indian subcontinent.

Referring to Kashmiris' decades long struggle for right to self-determination, the president said that it was high

time that the newly elected president should use his diplomatic clout to get the dispute resolved on the universally accepted principle of right to self-determination that happens to be the cardinal principle of the UN charter.

While urging Mr. Korosi to take notice of the stepped-up human rights violations in the Indian occupied Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Chaudhry said that India's August 5, 2019 unilateral decision had only led to further violations and deterioration of the human rights situation in the UN recognised disputed territory.

Meanwhile, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry who is already present in New York is scheduled to address a rally in Brooklyn, New York on Sunday.

Int'l inflation, floods minimize economic outlook for FY2023

"The economic outlook for Pakistan in current fiscal year has become uncertain and will likely remain below the target"

ISLAMABAD: In the backdrop of international price-hike and recent exceptional floods, the economic outlook for Pakistan in the current fiscal year (2022-23) is likely to remain below the target, says 'Economic Update and Outlook for September 2022' released by finance ministry here Friday.

"The economic outlook for Pakistan in the current fiscal year has become uncertain and will likely remain below the target," says the report adding the macroeconomic imbalances may ease with the expected slowdown in the economic growth.

It says, in March 2022, international oil and food prices broke out the upper bound of the margins observed in the last two decades, which impacted significantly inflation in Pakistan.

"Even if international commodity prices would mean-revert in the near future, domestic

inflation may still suffer from delayed adjustments and second round effects. Also, the depreciation of the rupee continues to exert upward pressure on domestic prices," it says.

At the same time, recent exceptional floods have destroyed human, physical, and livestock capital and deprived many families of their assets and incomes. Besides the cost in terms of lost lives and capital, these events will certainly affect the creation of gross value added and hence economic growth.

The growth was already under pressure due to unstable economic conditions in the rest of the world and due to the necessary fiscal consolidation, high rates of interest, and inflation.

According to the report, the fiscal deficit is budgeted to reduce to 4.9 percent of GDP, while the primary balance is a surplus of Rs 153 billion.

The budget for FY2023 was prepared to achieve the goals of stabilizing economic growth, increasing revenues, rationalizing expenditures through prudent expenditure management, enhancing exports, and protecting the vulnerable segments of society through relief measures and pro-poor initiatives.

However, the economy of Pakistan has been affected severely by widespread destruction brought by flooding. Consequently, there will be a detrimental impact on the government's fiscal situation from both the revenue and expenditure sides. The trade deficit in goods and services declined marginally in July as both exports and imports gained strength, it says adding the exports are expected to stabilize. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), during July-August FY2023, exports increased by 3.3 percent to \$ 4.7 billion (\$ 4.6 billion last year).

Remittances are expected to stabilize at around current levels. This together with the expected path of the trade balance and other primary and secondary income transactions would guide the current account balance.

According to the report, the agricultural outlook was still not clear as the output of both important and other Kharif crops has suffered significantly due to recent floods and unprecedented heavy monsoon rains. The stay of water in the cropping area may also affect the sowing of Rabi crops. Meanwhile, the Inflation has started reverting as the MoM price increases have been on a declining path during the last two months. Though the YoY inflation has shown significant acceleration from June till August. CPI inflation is recorded at 26.1 percent during Jul-Aug FY2023 as against 8.4 percent in the same period last year. CPI inflation for August FY2023

is recorded at 27.3 percent as compared to 8.4 percent in the same month last year.

Therefore, Pakistan's external environment faces rising challenges keeping in view the geopolitical conflicts as well as global and domestic uncertainties. In Jul-Aug FY2023, workers' remittances were recorded at \$ 5.2 billion (\$ 5.4 billion last year), decreased by 3.2 percent, however continued to remain above the \$ 2 billion mark since June 2020.

Int'l inflation, floods minimize economic outlook for FY2023

The Large-Scale Manufacturing was affected by monetary tightening, and uncertainty in the financial market while flood has further aggravated the supply chain disruptions and dragged down it to negative growth of 1.4 percent in July FY2023 against 4.4 percent growth in the corresponding period last year.

Govt providing best healthcare facilities with private partnership: Punjab CM

Says patients will be given free medicines in the government hospitals

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi has said that the provincial government is providing the best healthcare facilities in partnership with the private sector, and added that patients will be given free medicines in the government hospitals.

He said this during a meeting with a delegation of Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust (RTEHT) and Indus Hospital, which met him at his office. The delegation consisted of Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust Mian Muhammad Ahsan, Chairman Indus Hospital Health Network Abdul Karim Paracha, President Dr Abdul Bari Khan, CEO (North) Dr Tasman, and marketing



head Salman Hamid were included in the delegation.

Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, MPA Hafiz Ammar Yasir, Raasikh Elahi, former principal secretary GM Sikandar, former BoP President Hamesh Khan and others were also present.

The CM approved handing over of hospitals in Mianwali and Talagang to Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust and Indus Hospital. The operational management of mother and child hospital Mianwali will be given to Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust to be run on Indus Hospi-

tal modal while the management of THQ hospital Talagang would also be handed over to Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust.

The Indus Hospital would ensure operational management of both the hospitals while mother and child hospital Mianwali and nursing college would be operationalised in partnership with Indus Hospital and Health Network, the CM added.

Mian Muhammad Ahsan assured to early operationalise the Mianwali hospital while the CM was told that Recep Tayyip Erdogan Hospital Trust and Indus Hospital are managing nine hospitals and regional blood centres while providing free treatment to 3.5 million patients annually.

WEWA distributes oral hygiene kits to 4000 students



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: "WEWA" for the first time conducted oral hygiene awareness campaign in various schools of tribal district of South Waziristan Wana in collaboration with Coalgate Pakistan

In 14 different schools, including Cadet College Wana, free oral hygiene kits were distributed to 4,000 students for dental cleaning.

On this occasion, the students appreciated the services of Waziristan "In Lightning Welfare Association" and Coal Gate Pakistan and said that for the first time we got free oral hygiene kits from this welfare organization, and excellent lectures on dental hygiene, had a chance to listen and put it to good use.

The students further said that we have no words to express our gratitude to "WEWA" as awareness campaign can reduce dental disease to a great extent.

Later, Chairman of "WEWA" Waziristan in Lightning Welfare Association Dr. Saddam Wazir told the media that it has always been our endeavor to provide basic facilities of life to as many students as possible and inform them about various diseases in time.

He said that we are trying to solve the problems faced by the common people and especially the students and will continue to serve the poor people in the tribal district of South Waziristan Wana in terms of health.

China National Day celebration event held in Karachi

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: The Karachi Editors Club with the collaboration of AdPulse IMC private Limited celebrated 73rd anniversary of the Founding Day of the Republic of China.

This Auspicious Event was held at a local five star hotel in Karachi. President Editors club, Mubashir Mir while welcoming the Council General of China Li Bijian said that Chinese Nation is fortunate to have a revolutionary leader like Mao Zedong the founder of the People's Republic of China, who led his nation from inception until his death in 1976. And under His sincere and dynamic leadership Chinese Nation was able to get its desired destination.

Besides, large number of renowned businessmen builders, members of corporate sector, Chairman of HMR Water Front Haji Rafiq Pardesi, CEO AdPulse Khurram Jaffrani and other renowned corporate and business community people also attended this exciting event. Council General of China Mr. Li Bijian while addressing on this occasion said that 1st October always brings the message of immense festivities, joy and happiness for the people of China.

The Chinese people living both in China and across the world celebrates its National Founding Day with traditional fervor, zeal and enthusiasm. Li



Bijian said that Chinese Leadership follows the divine principles of National Coexistence, enhancing friendship and cooperation among peoples of various countries, and promoting world peace and development.

China is among one of those countries which maintained its economy despite severe global financial stress which only became possible due to its substantial industrial growth strategy and reserved foreign exchange policy.

Chairman HRM group Haji Rafiq Pardesi in his address said that China today has become the largest economic power of the world and it is truly said that nations achieve is goal under its dynamic leadership. CEO GFS Irfan

Wahid while expressing his views said that Pakistan was the first country of the world to recognize China after its independence and this relationship has built on has become formidable with each passing day and year.

Indeed, Pak-China friendship is higher than Himalayas, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey. The prestigious ceremony was also followed by cake cutting to mark the he 73rd National Day of China.

The Secretary General of KEC Mr. Manzoor Naqvi on this occasion felicitated the Chinese Consul General Li Bijian over China's founding day and thanked all the guests who attended the memorable event.

Landmark Development

SNGPL announces momentous Q2 and Q3 profits for FY21-22

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: In a historic development, Sui Northern Gas has announced its highest ever half-yearly and nine monthly profits for the period ended December 31, 2021 and March 31, 2022.

Profit after tax of Rs. 6,887 million was declared for second quarter of FY 2021-22 as compared to profit after tax of Rs 5,917 million during the corresponding period of last year. EPS of Rs. 10.86 was achieved as compared to EPS of Rs. 9.33 during the corresponding period.

For third quarter of FY 2021-22, profit after tax of Rs. 9,437 million was achieved as compared to profit after tax of Rs 8,939 million during the corresponding period of last year. EPS of Rs 14.88 was achieved as compared to EPS of Rs 14.09 during the corresponding period of last year. The Company has also proposed interim cash dividend of 25% in 2nd quarter of FY 2021-22.

The historic increase in the Company's profitability came as a result of implementation of UFG Reduction Plan in true and letter spirit under the esteemed leadership of Managing Director SNGPL Ali J. Hamdani. It is pertinent to mention here that SNGPL was able to bring down UFG both in volume and percentage from 15,011 MMCF (7.56%) and 24,755 MMCF (8.45%) to 13,286 MMCF (7.22%) and 21,248 MMCF (7.79%) in the respective 2nd and 3rd quarters of FY 2021-22.

Business community collects Rs10m for flood affectees

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Ajumane-e-Tajran Branderth Road Rehman Galiyan and Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association joint fund raising and collected Rs.10 million for flood affectees in which Rs. 5 million was donated to Pak Army.

The ceremony was held at Corps Headquarter. Out of 10 million, Rs 5 million was donated to Pak Army for the help of flood affectees while Rs 5 million was donated to Akhuwat Foundation for the construction of houses and rehabilitation of flood victims.

The Presidents of Anjuman-Tajran Branderth Road Rehman Galiyan, Lahore and Sheikh Abdul Rab and Sheikh Younas where as Central Chairman Pakistan Hardware Merchant Association Ch Sultan Mehmood and Central Vice Chairman Tariq Rasheed lead the front.

On this occasion Sardar Usman Ghani, M Aslam, M.Mukhtar, M



Bilal, M.Asad Lateef, Mehmood, M.Zahid Qadri, Qaiser Mukhtar, Bilal Mubashar, Hafeez, Badar, were also present. Central Chairman Phma Ch.Sultan Mehmood and Presidents Anjuman-Tajran- Branderth Road Rehman Galiyan, Lahore Sheikh Abdul Rab and Sheikh Younas Presented the cheque 5 million to the highest Army Officer Brigadier M.Aslam. On this occasion Central Chairman Phma Ch Sultan Mehmood said that this is our duty to help the flood affectees in this

difficult time. He further said that i really appreciate the role of Anjuman-e-Tajraan Branderth Road Rehman Galiyan Presidents Abdul Rab and Sheikh Younas who are playing dianamic role in this difficult situation and helping the flood victims. He said that Phma will continue a part of this mission in the difficult time for Flood victims. He said that Trade Association is also playing vital role for solving the problems of Tajran.

Getz Pharma partners with NADEP-BIDE to improve clinical skills

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: In continuation of its mission to support initiatives that benefit the community and healthcare system, Getz Pharma has joined hands with the National Association of Diabetes Educator Pakistan (NADEP)-Baqai Institute of Diabetology and Endocrinology (BIDE). Under this partnership, informative workshops will be organized for healthcare providers to improve their clinical skills in treating diabetic foot ulcers among patients.

Jumman Khan, Chief Commercial Officer-Pakistan Business, Getz Pharma, and Dr Zahid Miyan, Consultant Diabetologist/Endocrinolo-



gist from BIDE-NADEP, signed the MoU at Getz Pharma's Head Office in Karachi. Both organizations showed commitment to reducing the diabetes burden in the population through this initiative. Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Jumman Khan said, "Our initiatives include proactively fund-

ing leading charitable and government-run hospitals to upgrade medical facilities, participating in screening and awareness camps and sessions on prevalent diseases; sponsoring annual reports and advertisements of charitable health organizations to increase awareness about their positive work, and

providing lifesaving medicines at subsidized rates or free of cost to these organizations."

Dr. Zahid Miyan, on behalf of NADEP-BIDE, ensured that the institute faculty shall deliver workshops under their project 'Save Limbs' to train and educate healthcare professionals regarding foot diseases and appreciated Getz Pharma for sponsoring this academic initiative to prevent unnecessary amputations due to diabetic foot.

He also shared findings from the 10th edition of the IDF Diabetes Atlas 2021, according to which one in four adults (26.7%) in Pakistan are living with diabetes - the highest national prevalence in the world.

Great expectations from new finance minister: Dr. Shahid

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rashid Butt on Friday said the acquittal of PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz will increase political stability in the country, which will have a positive impact on the overall business environment.

Politicians should stop using important institutions and courts for political interests, he said. Shahid Rashid Butt said that the Islamabad High Court has acquitted Maryam Nawaz in the Ivenfield reference and annulled her sentence, saying that no asset case can be framed against her as she was not a public office holder.

The court observed that NAB has failed to prove the allegations and judgment cannot be given on hearsay, he added. He observed that the decision of the High Court has raised questions about the performance of NAB and the reputation of this institution has been further damaged.

Shahid Rashid Butt further said that the US is one of the largest export and import markets of Pakistan and daily blaming her for political motives is condemnable as it is against the national interests. He said that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is working according to the country's interests. He wants cordial relations with America, China and Afghanistan and does not want to make relations with one country conditional on relations with another country, which is a very wise policy.

Meta's Annual Marketing Summit coming to Pakistan

To help businesses get future-ready

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Meta is expanding its annual Marketing Summit to more countries in Asia Pacific this year, which includes Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos and Sri Lanka. The Summit will bring together global and regional leaders to explore and discuss technologies and trends impacting our business today, such as Business Messaging, Metaverse & Marketing, Discovery Commerce, Creators for Business, and many more. The Summit, which is the fourth instalment in Southeast Asia, will expand to these countries for the first time this year.

The Summit will feature opening addresses by Michelle Klein, VP, Global Business Marketing, and Benjamin Joe, Vice President for Southeast Asia and Emerging Markets at Meta who will talk

about the future of the metaverse and opportunities for businesses, and how Meta is supporting the metaverse ecosystem through collaboration with industry partners, experts and policymakers.

Following the opening session, Jordi Fornies, Director for Emerging Markets at Meta in Asia Pacific, and Rafael Frankel, Public Policy Director for Emerging Markets at Meta in Asia Pacific, will talk about Meta's core beliefs to build products that act as a bridge to help people connect, find communities and grow businesses - to be at the intersection where businesses meet communities. They will also share some of the initiatives to drive digital up-skilling and transformation for businesses in these emerging markets in APAC, and shine a light on inspiring businesses that have reinvented their business models to adapt to challenges.

PRAL getting positive feedback from taxpayers

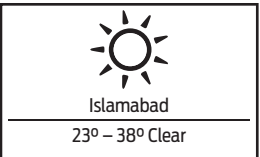
ISLAMABAD: The annual tax season is on and Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) was better prepared this time. So far, FBR Income Tax Returns filing is going pretty smoothly.

All PRAL technical teams under the leadership of the new CEO PRAL started working on the ITR module during the last financial year and resolved many known bugs in the systems.

The goal given to PRAL by FBR is about to be achieved completely on 30th September 2022, through timely implementation of new archi-

tectural changes and Infrastructure enhancements. PRAL management foresighted the need for architectural upgrades along with Infrastructure enhancements and took timely decisions for implementations which is evident from the smooth filing of this year's Income Tax Returns.

The PRAL is getting positive feedback from the taxpayers countrywide who are much more satisfied with the performance of IRIS as compared to the previous years. PRAL will further improve the tax system in order to have a taxpayers' satisfaction-oriented system in place. PR



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr | 4:38 am |
| Zohr | 11:58 am |
| Asr | 4:12 pm |
| Maghrib | 5:54 pm |
| Isha | 7:17 pm |

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Islamabad | 9222596 |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 |

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| CDA | 9221334-43 |
| CDA | 9208301-04 |
| Met Office | 9250360-6 |
| RDA | 5555864 |
| TMA | 5770886 |
| Cantonment Board | 9270151-3 |
| Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation | 9209224 |
| Potohar Town | 9209224 |
| Rawal Town | 5773343 |

COMPLAINTS

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

BISP disburses over Rs57b among flood affected families

Special Payments Campsites established in the flood hit area

ISLAMABAD: Federal government has taken timely measure in the shape of Flood Relief Cash Assistance to provide financial relief to the flood stricken in the affected areas of the country. So far, a total of Rs. 57,911,325,000 has been disbursed among 2,316,453 flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan.

According to details, in Balochistan, 172,910 flood affected families have received Rs.4,322,750,000. 1,613,673 affected families of Sindh have received Rs.40,341,825,000. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 257,496 families have received

Rs.6,437,400,000 whereas 271,994 families of Punjab have received Rs.6,799,850,000. In Gilgit-Baltistan 380 flood affected families have also received Rs. 9,500,000.

As of Friday, a total of 72,155 flood affected families have received financial assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas.

A control room has been established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments.

Violence becoming common due to intolerance: Farah Naz

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Violence is becoming common due to intolerance in the society. Any kind of violence against children is intolerable. It has been prohibited in every religion of the world. Child labor is also violence. We all have to raise our voice for children's rights together.

These views have been expressed by Farah Naz, President of International Human Rights Movement Islamabad. She said that the International Human Rights Movement acts as a shield against violence against women and children. And raises voice against all kinds of violence. She further said that he strongly condemned the increasing violence in the society, especially violence against children. Child labor or hard labor is also prohib-



ited by law.

Government and non-government organizations are working in this regard. While individually we all have a duty to keep an eye on our surroundings. And make every effort to prevent any form of violence against children.

We all have a responsibility to prevent sexual violence against children. Be it home or school, the children should be well convinced

that should not take anything from a stranger. And children should not be sent alone especially with their relatives and friends. If the parents keep a close watch on the children, there can be very little chance of the children being arrested and abducted. The positive use of social media opens the way for development but its negative use leads to disorientation and chaos in the society.

Palestinian Flag Day celebrated in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

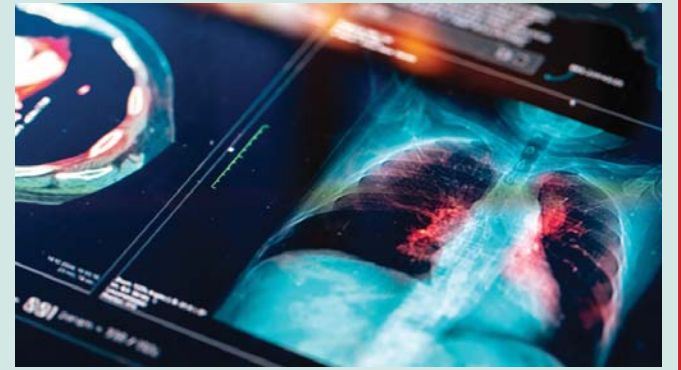
ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of the State of Palestine in Pakistan celebrated the Palestinian Flag Day, where the flag of the State of Palestine was raised in conjunction with the playing of the Palestinian national anthem.

The State of Palestine began celebrating this day after President Mahmoud Abbas raised the flag of the State of Palestine at the United Nations on September 30, 2015, following the approval of the General Assembly on the 11th of the same month to raise the flag at the United Nations building and headquarters in New York.

In his speech, Ahmed Jawad Rabi'i, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Pakistan, stressed that the flag of Palestine is baptized with the blood of thousands of martyrs and wounded and is a symbol of the Palestinian struggle for goodness and independence. In his speech, he valued Pakistan's historical position in support of the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom, independence and the establishment of their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Health Corner

Genetic discovery to improve lung cancer treatment



ISLAMABAD: Lung cancer is the deadliest form of cancer, accounting for an estimated 1.8 million deaths worldwide.

Treatment for the condition has improved in recent years -- and a new Edith Cowan University study has found how to make it even more effective. Immunotherapy has emerged as a major weapon in the battle against non-small cell lung cancer, which makes up 80-85 per cent of all lung cancer diagnoses.

Unfortunately, immunotherapy can also result in severe side effects for patients: at least 74 per cent of those treated will experience immune-related adverse reactions.

Up to 21 per cent will develop grade three or four toxicity, which can lead to lifelong complications affecting the skin, gut, liver or endocrine system. These adverse reactions can result in cancer treatment having to be discontinued, which risks allowing the disease to progress further.

But, somewhat contradictorily, people who experience these immunotherapy side effects tend to have more positive results with their cancer progression than those who don't.

Study supervisor Associate Professor Elin Gray, from ECU's Centre for Precision Health, described immunotherapy as something of a "double-edged sword" -- but researchers have made a critical breakthrough.

"Immunotherapies unleash the immune system to recognise and kill cancer cells," she said.

"But they can also unleash the immune cells to attack the body, causing toxicities. Our research shows for the first time that certain genetic features predispose cancer patients to develop side effects or toxicities to anti-cancer therapy.

"Knowing this will allow doctors to improve the treatment given to patients." The key to the research are human leukocyte antigens, or HLAs, which are markers found in most cells in the body.

The immune system uses HLAs to determine which cells do and don't belong in your body and are part of the alarm system which detects viruses, infections -- and cancer. The research team examined the HLAs of 179 non-small cell lung cancer patients and found a strong link between the genetic make-up of the HLAs and whether the person was likely to develop side effects from immunotherapy.

Study lead Dr Afaf Abed said this discovery would benefit all non-small cell lung cancer patients, regardless of whether they were genetically predisposed to adverse reactions to immunotherapy or not.

"If someone is found to not be at risk of side effects, doctors can ramp up the treatment and be more aggressive in fighting the disease," she said.

"If they are found to be at a higher risk, doctors can take it easier with the treatment, monitor it and intervene before patients develop grade 3 or 4 toxicity.

"Either way, biomarkers that predict the risk of these immune-mediated adverse events among patients may reduce the risks associated with these treatments." (Courtesy: Science Daily)

Fumigation

ISLAMABAD: Health workers are spraying mosquitoes repellent during dengue control drive at Sector G-7 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Future World College organizes Student Council oath taking ceremony

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Flagship Future World School & College H-11/4, Islamabad hosted a Student Council Investiture Ceremony 2022 in an effort to encourage young individuals to regularize Student body and become responsible citizens last day says a press release.

The student council comprising of IGCSEs, AS & A Level vowed under oath that they will be active and responsible members of the student executive council and will abide by the laws made by the college and the managing body to guarantee themselves and the student body a better campus life.

The Oath Taking Ceremony was attended by the Chief Guest Dr. Samar Mubarakmand a renowned Pakistani Nuclear Physicist, Founder & CEO of The Millennium Education Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, and Ms. Sabina Zakir; Director Communications & Outreach, Principal of Future World School & College, H-11/4 Campus; Ms. Muneez Muzaffar, in



her introductory speech expressed the purpose of student government, and clubs and societies. She stated that this will help foster teamwork and encourage them to engage in productive activities.

Dr. Samar Mubarakmand in his speech to the delegates expressed his pleasure in witnessing the event and stressed that education is the best investment concerning the future of the country. He further said that Pakistanis are capable of achieving great heights and there is no stopping them as long as they maintain commitment to excellence.

Founder & CEO The

Millennium Education Group Dr. Faisal Mushtaq appreciated the dedication of the hard-working staff of Future World School and College, H-11/4 and commended the engagement of the students in a variety of clubs and societies such as Environment & WWF Society, Pakistan Red Crescent Society, 4H Club, United Nations Girl Up, Global Entrepreneurship Club, MIT LaunchX Club, Robotics club and many more. He emphasized the importance of upholding these official positions and respecting the roles that they have promised. 64 Millennials were sworn in under the oath as part of the Student

Council and promised to strive for the betterment of not only the college but the betterment of the society in general.

The Investiture Ceremony marked the induction of the Student Council, a symbol for the youth to help shape the world based on discipline, teamwork, and mutual coordination. Future World School & College, H-11/4 Islamabad aims to be a global institution committed to meeting the needs and ambitions of a diverse range of students by providing challenging academic programs underpinned by innovative research scholarships and professional practices.

Ashrafi for celebrating Rabi-ul-Awwal as month of 'Paigham-e-Rehmatul-lil-Alameen'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday said Rabi-ul-Awwal was being celebrated as month of the 'Paigham-e-Rehmatul-lil-Alameen' throughout the country.

Addressing a Sirat-un-Nabi Conference on Friday, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said peace, affection and tolerance was the message of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and it was the responsibility of every Muslim to spread this noble message across the world. Assuring the rights of minorities living in Pakistan, he said Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) had made Muslims the protectors of the rights of non-Muslims at all levels.

He said the Prophet of Allah Almighty had given women the right to education and it was Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) to seek the daughter's consent before her marriage. There was no concept of forced marriage and forcefully conversion to religion in Islam, he added. Ashrafi said the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) had always sympathized with those who kept enmity against him as extremist attitudes are creating problems for Islam and Muslims all over the world.



ISLAMABAD: President PANAH Maj. Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiani and others are presenting appointment letter of ambassador Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at a ceremony.

PMD forecasts rain

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has indicated chances of rain-wind/thunderstorm for isolated places for upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. Mainly dry weather is likely to prevail over most parts of the country, while hot in central and southern parts. According to the synoptic situation, continental air was prevailing over most parts of the country. However, a shallow westerly wave was likely to affect the upper parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, the weather remained hot and dry in most parts of the country. The highest maximum temperatures recorded during the period were Sibi 40 C and Bahawalpur 39 C.

OGRA cuts LPG price by Rs122.05 per 11.8-kg cylinder

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Friday issued a price-revision notification of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for October, decreasing the commodity price by Rs122.05 per 11.8-kilogram cylinder. According to the notification, the authority reduced the locally produced LPG price by Rs10.34 per kilogram. After the revised price, the LPG cylinder would be sold in the open market at Rs2,374.25 in October, which was available at Rs2,496.30 in September. Whereas, the per Metric Ton (MT) LPG rate has been fixed at Rs201,207.74 for October. The commodity sale price per MT was Rs211,551.06 in September.



Welcome reception hosted by Ambassador in honor of newly appointment Consul General Eng. Sami Al Khanjari of Sultanate Oman.

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SCO: Platform for constructive dialogue in dangerous world - III

Kahramon Kuranbayev & Otabek Khasanov

The issues raised at the Samarkand summit were also reflected in Tajik President Emomali Rahmon's speech. The Tajik president suggested that a special SCO anti-drug body be established to counter the flow of narcotics from Afghanistan. The heads of state invited to the Samarkand summit also talked about the problems facing their countries and outcomes expected from cooperation with the SCO and potential of cooperation. In particular, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka emphasized that the "Shanghai Spirit" was capable of becoming the foundation of a new world architecture and noted that there is potential for cooperation with the SCO in the fields of industry, artificial intelligence, green economy, peaceful nuclear power, elimination of unreasonable trade barriers and the banking system. In addition to that, a proposal was made to hold SCO summer and winter sports competitions in 2024 and 2026. In his speech, Alyaksandr Lukashenka said "unexpectedly for us, the SCO is turning from a regional organisation into a global one. The important thing is not to miss this opportunity".

Ebrahim Raisi, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is about to become an SCO member, said it was important to develop cooperation within the organisation in the field of trade, banking and communication infrastructure. He said

that through membership in this organisation, Iran was striving to be in the centre of the creation of a fairer world based on cooperation.

Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh said that his country will continue to actively cooperate with the SCO and noted that in particular it is ready to implement large projects in the fields of trade, investment, energy, transport and logistics, tourism, information technologies, agriculture and food security.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan particularly noted that Turkey has ancient ties with Central Asia and that in 2019, the initiative to restore these historical ties was put forward. He said that Turkey was ready to support any initiative aimed at expanding cooperation with the SCO in the sphere of security and ensuring the security of food supply chains.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev emphasized the country's transit potential. In particular, he said that the transit from Azerbaijan increased by 50% in the first seven months of this year and spoke about efforts to develop the country's transport and communication infrastructure. In this regard, President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said that the SCO was interested to cooperate with Azerbaijan in the fields of transport and communication as well as trade and economy.

Turkmen President Serdar Berdimuhamedov said that he was ready to establish multifaceted relations with the SCO in politics, trade, security as well as cultural and humanitarian spheres, and to participate in the construction of transit roads and to carry out systemic energy cooperation.

SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming reiterated the need to strengthen solidarity, mutual cooperation and active actions in the context of large-scale changes taking place worldwide.

Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure Ruslan Mirzayev said that in 2021, 40 terrorist attacks and over 1,400 crimes were prevented. Noting that joint fight against international terrorism was being successfully carried out, he reiterated that there was a need for collective approach to threats.

A UN under-secretary-general for political and peacebuilding affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, noted that it was important for the UN to develop effective multilateral cooperation with regional and subregional organisations. She believes that at present the SCO is the most convenient platform in Eurasia to discuss regional security and peace issues. In particular, the two organisations are cooperating in the fight against extremism and terrorism.

The SCO summit ended with the adoption of the Samarkand Declaration. The main document of the summit reflected the common approaches of the sides to intensifying practical cooperation, ensuring regional security and stability as well as economic development, boosting transport dependence and strengthening cultural dialogue.

In order for the new pace and trends set in the development of the SCO in Samarkand to continue under the chairmanship of India next year, the Uzbek side put forward a Samarkand solidarity initiative for common security and prosperity, and it was unanimously supported.

One can say openly that the Samarkand summit was a unique example of establishing a new, inclusive dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, trust and constructive cooperation for the sake of common security and development. Of course, the place and role of Uzbek diplomacy, which has acquired a completely new look in terms of quality in recent years, is immeasurable. This situation made the state's international reputation more positive or moderate.

In short, the implementation of the initiatives put forward within the SCO states and Uzbekistan's successful chairmanship are the fruits of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's political will. Uzbekistan had the opportunity to fulfil its historical mission of achieving its all goals in a timely manner and efficiently, and solid foundations were created for ensuring security, taking multifaceted cooperation to a new level in terms of quality and for sustainable development. As a result, remaining true to its principles, the SCO did not yield to attempts to turn the organisation into a military or political bloc.

In the meantime, it is true to say that the documents and decisions adopted at the Samarkand summit as well as the initiatives put forward by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev serve to increase the organisation's prestige aimed at ensuring regional and global security for the development and prosperity of our countries and peoples.

Concluded
Kahramon KURANBAYEV, the writer is *Doctor of Political Sciences, Professor*
Otabek KHASANOV, the writer is *PhD in Political Sciences*

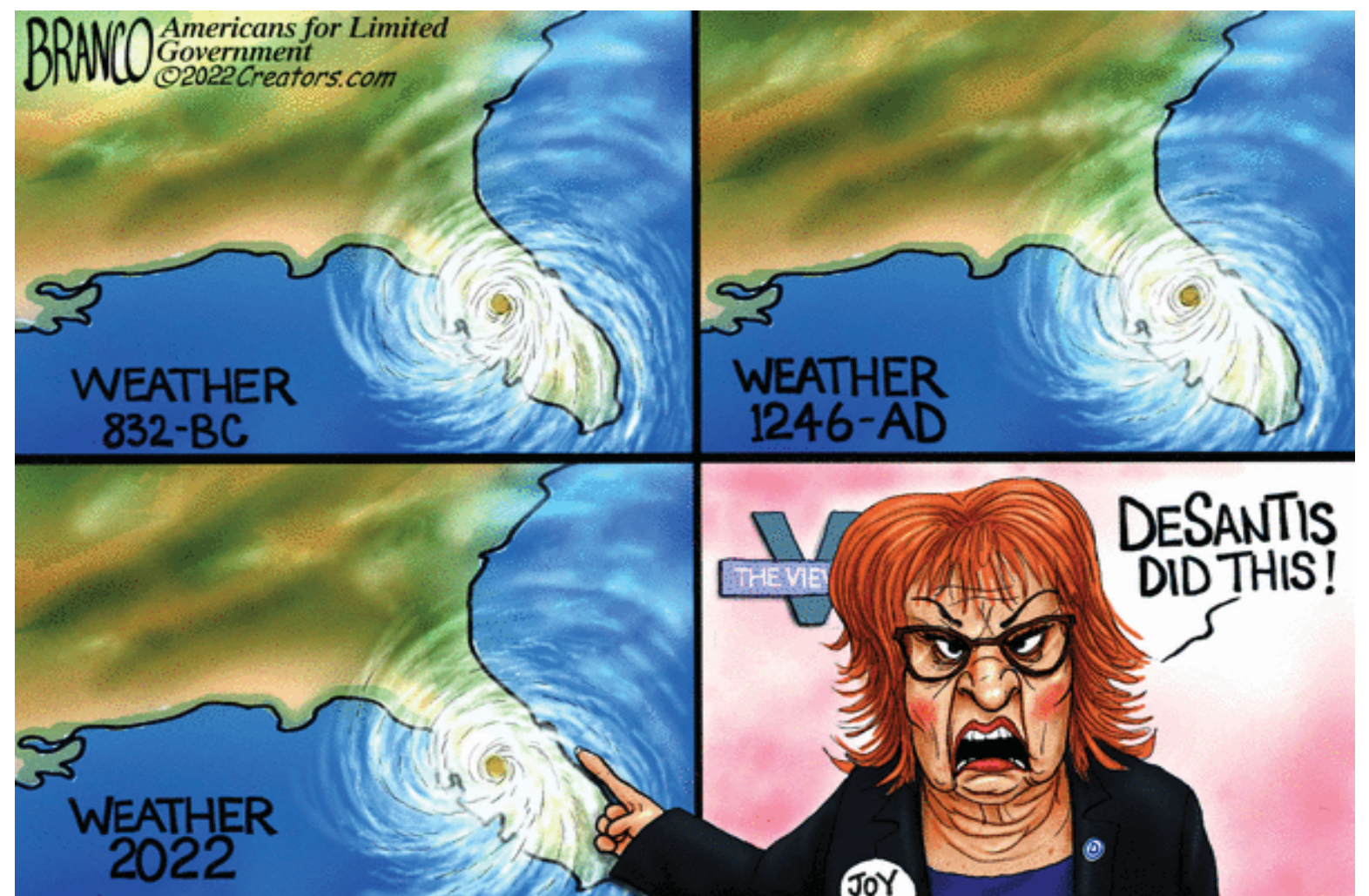
Govt steps to improve economy

There are multiple reasons for the crisis of Pakistan International Airlines. One reason is the low standards of service as compared to the other airlines. People want improved services and they are even willing to pay higher prices for it. If you do not want to work for the public entity and are not spending much on it, you have to disown it someday. A good policy framework is required to save the PIA and turn it into an asset. It also requires a lot of restructuring to run the airline in a proper manner. The restructuring reforms are talked about a lot, but we never really go for such reforms.

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

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

Previous governments also vowed to work on various reforms, but we have not seen any difference in the economy. Thirty rupees per unit price for electricity is totally unaffordable. So, we have to work in the energy sector to provide the much needed relief to the people. There are various ways to produce cheaper electricity and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has singled out solar energy to achieve this goal. We must congratulate Prime Minister for working expeditiously to revive the economy. We need efficient and timely working on this matter, before it is too late. Currently, all the productive industries require restructuring measures to strengthen the economy. We also have to work on our taxation system. We have very good policies regarding our energy sector, but we are still grappling with the issue of load-management.



Terrorism: A threat to peace

The term, Terrorism is defined as the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political or religious purpose. Terrorism is not legally defined in all jurisdictions, however, the statutes that do exist, generally share some common elements. Terrorism involves the use or threat of violence and seeks to create fear, not just within the direct victims but among a wide audience.

Terror has been practised by state and also non-state actors throughout history. During a Roman Emperors in 14-37 AD such as Tiberius and Caligula used banishment, expropriation of property and execution as a means to discourage opposition to their rule.

Terrorism against the enemy has often viewed as a religious act and suicidal person will get the reward in heaven.

The history of modern terrorism began with the French revolution. The term terrorism was also coined during the Reign of Terror; the period of the French Revolution from September 1793 to July 1794, during which the Revolutionary Government directed violence and harsh measures against citizens suspected of being enemies of

the Revolution. This was also the birth of State-Sponsored Terrorism. In-state sponsored terrorism, the major goal is to eliminate the opposition and consolidate the power.

Late 19th century, terror was adopted in Western Europe, Russia, and the United States by adherents of anarchism, who believed that the best way to effect revolutionary political and social change was to assassinate persons in positions of power. From 1865 to 1905 a number of kings, presidents, prime ministers, and other state officials were killed by anarchists' guns or bombs just like Lincoln assassination.

Terrorism also became a tool of communication and propaganda. The most common causes or roots of terrorism include civilizations or culture clashes, globalization, religious conflict. More personal or individual-based reasons for terrorism are frustration, deprivation, negative identity, narcissistic rage, and moral disengagement.

At the end of the 20th century, religious-based terrorism became more

influential and popular. Due to the advance globalization, the new techniques and tools were developed such as economic terrorism, which destroys the industry and agriculture system. In the 21st century, the most prominent groups are al-Qaeda, the Taliban and ISIL.

Terrorism is a special type of violence and Asymmetrical warfare. Asymmetric warfare is between the opposing forces which differ greatly in military power and that typically involves the use of unconventional weapons and tactics (such as those associated with guerrilla warfare and terrorist attacks). Guerrilla warfare, occurring

between lightly armed partisans and a conventional army, is an example of asymmetrical warfare. Terrorist tactics, such as hijackings and suicide bombings, are also considered to be asymmetrical, both because they tend to involve a smaller, weaker group attacking a stronger one. As a weaker group unexpectedly surprise the stronger group.

There are mostly two types of terrorism, Domestic and International terrorism.

Domestic terrorism includes those particular groups which are working within the state without foreign involvement but due to the globalization domestic terrorism activities are backed by the foreign interest. Example of Domestic terrorism is the Baloch Liberation Army. The BLA is operating mainly in Balochistan, the largest province of Pakistan where it carries out attacks against the Pakistan Armed Forces, civilians and foreign nationals. Afghan Taliban also comes in the category of domestic terrorism because they are fighting against the Afghan government and invaders and their activities are mostly inside the state. The other type is

International terrorism, which involves groups whose terrorist activities are foreign-based or directed by countries or groups outside the State. Example of International terrorism is the 9/11 attacks which were conducted by Al-Qaeda members in the USA.

The only solution to minimize terrorism is that the state should take the responsibility for not creating terrorist groups for their short-range goals.

The writer is a freelance journalist based in Islamabad, Pakistan. He tweets @furqanraja1122.



Analysis

Raja Furqan Ahmed

Security challenges to spur greater EU-GCC cooperation

Sinem Cengiz

A mid security issues related to the Ukraine crisis, Afghanistan, Middle Eastern conflicts and US-China rivalry, relations between the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council have taken on a security component that is not clearly defined.

In May, the EU adopted a "Strategic Partnership with the Gulf" aiming to broaden and deepen cooperation between these two significant regional organizations with a clear focus on economic, energy, security and institutional relations. This came amid the Russian aggravation in Ukraine and declining US influence throughout the region.

The EU's Gulf strategic partnership strategy was read as an autonomous statement, aiming to establish a new baseline for cooperation in the face of a series of major systemic security challenges. In this regard, the EU pledged to work more closely with the GCC on global security threats and to play a greater political and security role in the Gulf.

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell met with GCC foreign ministers on the sidelines of this month's 77th session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Following the meeting, Borrell announced that officials in Brussels expected the first EU special envoy for the Gulf to be appointed by the end of the year with the aim of strengthening relations, including in the fields of energy and international assistance.

However, this is not to say that Gulf countries can replace the US security umbrella with any other actor. Although America's involvement has been declining in the past few years, it still has more than 13,000 troops and large military bases in the Gulf.

There has long been a debate over European strategic autonomy, under which Europe aims to build its own defense capabilities. For some, this debate is a polarized one, while for others it is unrealistic. This topic has been raised on several occasions in the EU-GCC discussions, but there is still no clear understanding from the Gulf

side on what the EU means by strategic autonomy and what purposes it will serve.

For example, one of the questions raised is over the prospect of the EU developing its own military force. There is a debate on whether the EU's establishment of its own military force would change its "peaceful actor" image in the Gulf and the broader Middle East. The EU has, for decades, acted as a soft power force, focusing mainly on peacekeeping, mediation and diplomacy. It was the US that used to take care of European security concerns and involve its military in regional crises.

An independent EU military force may change how the Gulf views EU states, but many believe that a stronger role for the EU as a security provider or partner in the Gulf has a rationale. Varying degrees of bilateral relations have been established among members of the two blocs, in particular in the area of defense. Competition among the members of each bloc have led to bilateral commitments, rather than multilateral ties based on the EU-GCC framework. France, Germany and Greece are among the EU member states that are involved in bilateral defense cooperation with the GCC states. From the Gulf perspective, these bilateral relationships are viewed as being more effective than a collective approach.

Meanwhile, like the EU nations, Gulf states have realized that they will also eventually need to enhance their strategic autonomy. In order to achieve this autonomy, they must focus on developing their own military capabilities and diversifying their alliances with several actors, in particular the UK, France, Greece, Germany and even Russia.

Achieving strategic autonomy will take a long time and considerable resources, but it is a necessity in the face of growing security challenges. At the same time, an EU military's utility and feasibility are also likely to be debated. However, it is crystal clear that EU-GCC security cooperation is going ahead.

Sinem Cengiz is a Turkish political analyst who specializes in Turkey's relations with the Middle East. Courtesy: Arab News

Putin annexes Ukraine land; Kyiv seeks NATO entry

Zelenskyy says there'd be no negotiations with Putin

KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties Friday to illegally annex more occupied Ukrainian territory in a sharp escalation of his seven-month invasion. Ukraine's president immediately countered with a surprise application to join the NATO military alliance.

Putin's land-grab and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's signing of what he said is an "accelerated" NATO membership application sent the two leaders speeding even faster on a collision course that is cranking up fears of a full-blown conflict between Russia and the West.

Putin vowed to protect newly annexed regions of Ukraine by "all available means," a nuclear-backed threat at a Kremlin signing ceremony where he also railed furiously at the West, accusing the United States and its allies of seeking Russia's destruction.

Zelenskyy then held a signing ceremony of his own in Kyiv, releasing video of him putting pen to papers that he said were a formal NATO membership request. He called the move "our decisive step."

In his speech, Putin urged Ukraine to



sit down for peace talks but immediately insisted he won't discuss handing back occupied regions. Zelenskyy said there'd be no negotiations with Putin.

"We are ready for a dialogue with Russia, but ... with another president of Russia," he said.

In his signing ceremony in the Kremlin's ornate St. George's Hall, Putin accused the West of fueling the hostilities as part of what he said is a plan to turn Russia into a "colony" and a "crowd

of slaves." The hardening of his position, in the conflict that has killed and wounded tens of thousands of people, further cranked up tensions, already at levels unseen since the Cold War.

The U.S. announced sanctions for more than 1,000 people and firms connected to Russia's invasion, including its Central Bank governor.

Of Putin's annexation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, President Joe Biden said: "Make

no mistake: These actions have no legitimacy."

NATO and the European Union also rejected the annexation as illegal. The EU's 27 member states said they will never recognize the illegal referendums that Russia organized "as a pretext for this further violation of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called it "the largest attempted annexation of European territory by force since the Second World War." Zelenskyy vowed to keep fighting, defying Putin's warnings that Ukraine shouldn't try to take back what it has lost.

"The entire territory of our country will be liberated from this enemy," the Ukrainian leader said. "Russia already knows this. It feels our power."

The immediate ramifications of the "accelerated" NATO application weren't immediately clear, since it requires the unanimous support of all members. The supply of Western weapons to Ukraine has, however, put it closer to the alliance's orbit.

Death toll in Florida uncertain as Ian takes aim at Carolinas

FLORIDA: Emergency crews tried to reach stranded Florida residents as a resurgent Hurricane Ian veered toward the Carolinas after cutting a path of destruction across Florida, leaving behind deadly floodwaters, downed power lines and widespread damage.

Ian, one of the strongest storms ever to hit the U.S. mainland, flooded Gulf Coast communities and knocked out power to millions before plowing across the peninsula to the Atlantic Ocean, where it regained strength ahead of another anticipated landfall in South Carolina on Friday afternoon.

Florida's death toll remained uncertain amid scattered reports of casualties. At an evening news briefing, Governor Ron DeSantis acknowledged some people had perished but warned

against speculating before official confirmation.

"We fully expect to have mortality from this hurricane," he said.

President Joe Biden, speaking earlier at Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) headquarters in Washington, said Ian could prove to be the deadliest in state history. "The numbers are still unclear, but we're hearing early reports of what may be substantial loss of life," Biden said.

In hard-hit Charlotte County, a spokesperson for the sheriff's department confirmed multiple deaths but did not have a firm figure. Authorities in Sarasota County were investigating two possible storm-related deaths, a sheriff's spokesperson said.

A 72-year-old man in Deltona in central Florida

died after he went outside during the storm to drain his pool, authorities said. More than 2.3 million homes and businesses in Florida remained without power, according to tracking website PowerOutage.us.

Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina were bracing for impact as Ian, which weakened to a tropical storm during its trek across Florida—returned to hurricane strength by 5 p.m. ET (2100 GMT) after moving into the Atlantic Ocean, with maximum sustained wind speeds of 75 miles per hour (120 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

The storm was forecast to make landfall again about 2 p.m. ET (1800 GMT) on Friday north of Charleston. A hurricane warning was in effect for hundreds of miles of coastline from the South

Carolina-Georgia border north to Cape Fear, North Carolina.

Ian was expected to bring potential life-threatening storm surges and possible tornadoes to the region on Friday, the National Weather Service said.

In South Carolina, Mercedes Benz (MBGn.DE), Boeing Co (BA.N), and the seaports that support manufacturers will suspend operations on Friday.

Charleston is particularly at risk, according to a city-commissioned report released in November 2020, which found about 90% of all residential properties were vulnerable to storm surge flooding. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper urged residents to "take necessary precautions," warning of possible flooding, landslides and tornadoes.

PUCL terms ban on PFI unconstitutional

NEW DELHI: The People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), a leading human rights body in India while calling the ban on Popular Front of India (PFI) "unconstitutional", demanded its revocation forthwith.

PUCL general secretary V Suresh in a statement issued here, said that tactics like bans, crackdowns, and arrests of the leaders and activists of PFI seem to be a ploy to inflict the sense of fear into Muslims to intimidate them, alienate them and keep them mum.

PUCL general secretary demanded immediate revocation of the ban and starting of a dialogue with the PFI. The human rights body also demanded release of all the detained persons.

It also demanded of the Indian government to stop arbitrary utilization of the power of arrest to target Muslims on grounds of membership or support of PFI and its affiliates. PUCL also demanded repeal of the unconstitutional Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) and also the NIA Act.

Thailand's constitutional court rules suspended PM can resume office

BANGKOK: Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha resumed office Friday after the country's constitutional court ruled that he has not exceeded his eight-year term limit.

The former army chief, who came to power in a 2014 military coup, was suspended last month while the court examined a legal challenge mounted by opposition parties who argued he had reached his term limit in power.

Bangkok authorities were on alert for demonstrations after the ruling, as several protest groups had earlier said they would take to the streets if Prayut won the case.

"The constitutional court rules by a majority that the respondent's premiership has not reached the eight-year limit," said judge Punya Udchaon, reading the ruling.

"The cabinet under the premiership of the respondent is counted from April 6, 2017."

Under the 2017 Thai constitution, a prime minister cannot serve more than eight years in office, but Prayut's supporters and critics disagreed about when his term began.



The ruling counts Prayut's term from when the new army-scripted constitution came into force and means he can stay in office until 2025 — depending on an upcoming national poll, which must be held within months.

Prayut welcomed the 6-3 majority ruling in a statement on his official Facebook page, saying he would use the government's remaining time in office to push ahead with infrastructure projects.

"I will try my best and work with my full capacity to change the country," he wrote.

Following Prayut's suspension in August, his deputy Prawit Wongsuwan took over as caretaker prime minister, while Prayut continued to serve as defense minister.

The suspension had been hugely damaging to Prayut, Naresuan University political scientist Napisa Waitoolki-

at said before the ruling, causing him to "lose face" in the eyes of voters.

Prayut and his Palang Pracharat Party are increasingly out of favor with voters, as an underperforming Thai economy hurts households.

A survey of 2,500 people earlier this month by the National Institute of Development Administration found that only 10.5 percent of respondents supported Prayut, who ranked a lowly fourth as a potential prime ministerial candidate.

Napisa said there could be angry reactions to the ruling going in Prayut's favor.

"I think there will be protests in the street and demonstrations in Bangkok against the ruling."

At least three protest groups — which came to prominence during 2020's massive pro-democracy rallies — said Thursday they would demonstrate should Prayut carry the day.

Deputy national police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen said officers would be deployed to provide security near the court and in Bangkok's shopping mall district, a popular location for previous protests.

WARP promoting religious peace



Spokesman Report

MALÉ: Shan Anees, a Maldives lawyer and journalist for Rajiv TV, defined peace media as "the dissemination and acquisition of important information for cooperation and coexistence between members of society and between countries." and "Peace Journalism is a relatively less well-known term in the field of journalism, but if fact-checks are used to stabilize society, peace media will be accessible," suggested Zahra Kazmi, a freelance Pakistani journalist.

The World Alliance of Religions' Peace (WARP) Offices in Mumbai, Chandigarh, Delhi, and Nagpur, India, regularly compare religious texts for religious peace, including Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Anglican church, Protestantism, Sikhism, and Islam. On September 25, these religious people will gather online to hold a "Reading and Awarding Poems and Letters of Peace with Hearts for Religious Peace."

Finnish border closed to Russians with tourist visas



COPENHAGEN: Finland's border with Russia was closed to Russians with tourist visas Friday, curtailing one of the last easily accessible routes to Europe for Russians trying to flee a military mobilization aimed at bolstering the Kremlin's war in Ukraine.

Long queues were reported until midnight at the border crossings. Among the last to enter Finland were two cyclists who arrived a little before 11 p.m., Finnish broadcaster YLE reported from Vaalimaa, one of the main border crossings between the Nordic country and Russia. Finland has the longest border with Russia of all European Union member countries.

With the exception of the one border crossing between Russia and Norway, Finland had provided the last easily accessible land route to Europe for Russian holders of European Schengen-zone visas.

The government justified its decision by saying that continued arrivals of Russian tourists in Finland is endangering the country's international relations, and cited security concerns related to Russia's war in Ukraine, the "illegal" referendums arranged by Russia in parts of Ukraine and recent sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines from Russia under the Baltic Sea.

Russian citizens can still enter Finland for family reasons, study or work. Also, Russian political dissidents may seek to enter for humanitarian purposes.

As of Sept. 1, Finland slashed the number of visas — including for tourism purposes — issued to Russian citizens to one-tenth of the typical number, in a show of solidarity with Ukraine.

Earlier this week, Finnish border guards said they want a fence along the border with Russia, deeming it "necessary due to the changing security environment" in the Nordic country. Such a fence requires the approval of the Finnish Parliament.

The fence would not run the entire 1,340-kilometer (830-mile) length of the border, but should be in "riskier areas, such as border crossings and their nearby areas," the border guards said.

"We will close the border quickly if necessary, and changes can come at short notice," Justice Minister Emilie Enger Mehl said.

Indian troops martyr two youth in fake encounter in J&K

SRINAGAR: Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred two innocent Kashmiri youth, today, in an extrajudicial manner in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The troops martyred the youth in a fake encounter during a so-called cordon and search operation in Yedipora Pattan area of Baramulla district. Local people said that the youth were arrested by the troops a few days ago and were martyred in a staged encounter, today. The troops also destroyed a residential house in the area. Separately, the troops carried out a so-called cordon and search operation and resorted to firing at Chitragram in Shopian district, creating panic in the area.

Meanwhile, the occupation authorities continued to keep senior leader of All Parties Hurriyat Conference, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, under house arrest and once again didn't allow him to offer Juma prayers at Jamia Masjid in Srinagar, today. The Mirwaiz is under house detention since August 05, 2019, when Narendra Modi-led fascist Indian government repealed the special status of IIOJK.

Senior leader of National Conference, Hasnain Masoodi, speaking in an interactive session with legal experts and lawyers in Srinagar said the NC will continue its fight using all legal and democratic means for revocation of August 5, 2019 unconstitutional decisions of the Modi-led fascist Indian government.

On the other hand, the activists of Hindutva organization, Bajrang Dal, assaulted Muslim youth in Ahmedabad city of the Indian state of Gujarat for watching a traditional dance. Videos making rounds on social media show the Hindutva goons severely thrashing the Muslim youth. The incident reportedly occurred on Tuesday night but the police have so far failed to arrest the attackers.

Russia finally makes statement about situation between Armenia, Azerbaijan

Samir Humbatov

After the tension between Armenia and Russia in recent days, Russia has finally made a statement about the situation between Armenia and Azerbaijan. On the eve of the tense situation and Armenia's accusation against Azerbaijan and Russia, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexei Overchuk made a number of interesting statements.

In the statements made by Overchuk, it is noted that "Azerbaijani citizens will have the opportunity to travel to Nakhchivan by passing through

Armenia," "The tense situation on the border is slowing down the negotiation process," "Today, Armenia is one step away from the transport blockade," "The opening of transport communications in the South Caucasus will facilitate the Azerbaijan-Armenia border."

It is possible after the determination of its legal regime" It is possible to say that there is a double game in these 4 opinions voiced by Overchuk. In other words, "Azerbaijani citizens will have the opportunity to move to Nakhchivan by passing through Armenia" and leaves a gap here, which is not voicing the idea of a corridor. If Overchuk had voiced the idea of a corridor, it would

be easier to understand what Russia's official and definitive position should be.

In the current case, Russia is again making a statement that pursues its own interests. In another statement, Overchuk says that "the tension of the situation on the border is slowing down the negotiation process." Of course, this trend exists, but Overchuk does not mention here who or who are behind the constant tension on the border. This is the next obscure statement. In another statement made by Overchuk, saying that "Today, Armenia is one step away from the transport blockade" itself reveals such dubious points.

In other words, it is both absurd and illogical to voice this opinion when the principle of avoiding peace and the constant provocations by Armenia is clear. As for Overchuk's fourth opinion, his use of the phrase "opening of transport communications in the South Caucasus is possible after the legal regime of the Azerbaijan-Armenia border is determined" indicates that they have now remembered the opinions voiced by Azerbaijan for almost two years. Why did the party not come to the border issue until now and even evaded it with various excuses.

Considering that after the Brussels meeting, the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia decided



to create commissions for border delineation, and both parties to these commissions. Although it was formed from f, the situation

still remained on paper. The activities of the commissions were ineffective due to the statements made by Russia and

Iran, as well as regular provocations by the forces within the Armenian army who disobeyed orders or worked for foreign forces. In such a case, the sincerity of the statements made by the Russian side is questioned. It should also be taken into account that there are already several international actors in the struggle for Armenia. In other words, Russia has to fight with the USA, France, Iran, Greece, India and other powers to keep Armenia in its hands. It seems that Pashinyan's team is trying to break away from Russia and escape to the West.

Samir Humbatov, head of Center the International Relations and Diplomatic Studies.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

| Current | Prev. Close |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 41,128.67 | 41,013.86 |
| Day's High | Day's Low: |
| 41,134.99 | 40,753.94 |
| Index Value | Change |
| 8,235,594,657 | +114.81 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.28% | 30 Sep, 2022 5:00 pm |

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

| Index Value | Change |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 6,893.81 | +12.22 |
| Percentage | Time |
| +0.18% | 30 Sept, 4:35 pm GMT+1 |

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

| Index Value | Change |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 29,124.89 | -100.72 |
| Percentage | Time |
| -0.34% | 30 Sept, 1:27 pm GMT-4 |

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

| Index Value | Change |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 25,937.21 | -484.84 |
| Percentage | Time |
| 1.83% | 30 Sept, 3:15 pm GMT+9 |

Open Market Forex Rates

| Currency | Buying | Selling |
|-------------------|--------|---------|
| Australian Dollar | 150.71 | 151.96 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 615.53 | 620.03 |
| Canadian Dollar | 169 | 170.35 |
| China Yuan | 32.17 | 32.42 |
| Danish Krone | 30.14 | 30.49 |
| Euro | 218 | 220.5 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 29.5 | 29.85 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.84 | 2.92 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.2 | 1.25 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 746 | 751 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 50.02 | 50.47 |
| New Zealand \$ | 131.4 | 132.6 |
| Norwegians Krone | 21.57 | 21.87 |
| Omani Riyal | 601.35 | 605.85 |
| Qatari Riyal | 63.61 | 64.11 |
| Saudi Riyal | 60 | 60.6 |
| Singapore Dollar | 161.12 | 162.42 |
| Swedish Korona | 20.61 | 20.91 |
| Swiss Franc | 236.36 | 238.11 |
| Thai Bhat | 6.2 | 6.3 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 61 | 61.7 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 245.5 | 248 |
| US Dollar | 225 | 227.5 |

KCCI Managing Committee elects Office Bearers for 2022-23



Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The Managing Committee of Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), in its meeting held on Wednesday, unanimously elected Mohammad Tariq Yousuf as President KCCI for 2022-23 while Touseef was also elected as Senior Vice President KCCI and Mohammad Haris Agar as Vice President.

Chairman BMG & Former President KCCI Zubair Motiwala, Vice Chairman BMG Tahir Khalique, Haroon Farooki, Anjum Nisar, Jawed Bilwani and General Secretary BMG AQ Khalil congratulated the newly elected office bearers and hoped that they will strive hard to further improve the functioning of KCCI and work diligently to resolve the issues being faced by business and industrial community under the prevailing financial crises the country is facing with.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Businessmen Group (BMG) has been constantly winning KCCI's election since past 25 years, which clearly indicates the overwhelming support of the Business & Industrial community of Karachi. BMG has undoubtedly succeeded in restoring the trust and confidence of the entire Business & Industrial community due to its transparent policy of 'Public Service' which was strictly followed by all the Office Bearers during their tenures under the guidelines of Chairman BMG.

Chairman BMG & Former President KCCI Zubair Motiwala, while reaffirming to implement the policies and mission of late Siraj Kassam Teli, firmly believes and has been advising the same to the Office Bearers from time to time to implement motto of BMG service to business community and who ever climbs the stairs of Karachi Chamber to seek help in resolving genuine issues, must be fully assisted regardless of considering whether the individual approaching KCCI for assistance was its member or not.

Promoting investment

ASEAN Desk opens at ICCI to improve Pak-ASEAN trade ties

Pakistan, ASEAN have huge potential to increase trade ties that should be realized to achieve economic benefits

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has opened an ASEAN Facilitation Desk to facilitate the business community in exploring opportunities of trade, exports, business and investment with ASEAN countries.

Nguyen Tien Phong Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan and Chairman ASEAN Committee in Islamabad inaugurated the ASEAN Desk as Chief Guest. Adam M. Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia, Chakkrid Krachaiwong Ambassador of Thailand, Win Myint Ambassador of Myanmar, Deddy Faisal Bin Ahmad Salleh Deputy Head of Mission of Malaysia and Abdul Mubdi Osman Deputy Head of Mission of Brunei Darussalam were also present at the occasion.

Speaking at the occasion, Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan and Chairman ASEAN Committee in Islam-

abad congratulated ICCI for opening ASEAN Desk as it would play a positive role to improve trade and investment relations between Pakistan and ASEAN countries. He said that Pakistan and ASEAN have huge potential to increase trade ties that should be realized to achieve economic benefits.

Adam M. Tugio Ambassador of Indonesia said that the business community of Pakistan should focus on ASEAN countries for trade and exports as it was a huge market for business and investment activities. He said that ASEAN missions in Pakistan would help them in exploring new avenues of trade promotion with ASEAN Region.

The diplomats of Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam also spoke at the occasion and said that ASEAN was a very promising region for business relations and urged that the Pakistani business community should capitalize on these opportunities.



Economic curbs failed to tame Russia

Developing countries can stabilize their economies, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the west has failed to subdue Russia through economic sanctions in the wake of war.

Russia has used natural gas as a weapon which has damaged the EU's economy and now Europe's industries are moving to other countries to avoid bankruptcy, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Europe's industrialists are preferring countries that do not depend on Russian gas and oil for their energy and where



inflation is low.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that this situation is a rare opportunity for developing countries to stabilize their economy, which needs to be taken advantage of. The energy prices there are skyrocketing and the risk of recession

is also increasing while thousands of industries have gone bankrupt due to the policies of the EU rulers.

The industries that are running in survival mode are facing serious problems. The current situation in Europe is unlikely to improve soon, which has disappointed local investors. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Chinese, American and Arab investors who have set up factories in Europe are also either closing them or drastically reducing production.

In these circumstances, developing countries should activate their economic diplomacy and give all possible incentives to European investors to increase employment and technology transfer opportunities in their countries.

The industries that will be shifted include chemicals, batteries, clean energy, fertilizers, aluminium and general manufacturing etc. Mian Zahid Hussain said that earlier many Chinese companies had moved to other countries due to expensive labour and coronavirus.

The majority of Chinese investors ignored longtime friend and neighbour Pakistan and set up industries in countries thousands of miles away which shows the overall environment, business rules and political stability of our country. If political chaos does not end, and other economic, social and judicial reforms do not take place, then investment and employment opportunities will continue to be lost, he warned.

Waqar Bakhtawari takes oath as President CCCI



Our Correspondent

CHAKWAL: Known Businessman and Industrialist Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari has taken oath as President Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) for the year 2022-23.

The newly elected President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, while addressing his Oath-taking ceremony said that as the President of Chakwal Chamber of Commerce, he will fulfill his vision to make Chakwal

Chamber of Commerce one of the most advanced industrial hubs in the world. He said that commercial and economic development is not possible without being connected to the modern global supply chain, therefore, according to his vision, he will make the business community of Chakwal a major players in the global market by connecting the business community of Chakwal to the global supply chain, keeping in view the modern industrial and commercial principles.

Faraz-ur-Rehman elected unopposed President of KATI

Our Correspondent

KARACHI: New office bearers of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) were elected unopposed for the year 2022-2023 in the annual general meeting. According to the details, Faraz-ur-Rehman, a well-known businessman, was elected as KATI President, while Nighat Awan was elected Senior Vice President and Muslim Mohammadi was elected as Vice President.

Patron-in-Chief of KATI SM Muneer while congratulating the newly elected President Faraz-ur-Rehman on assuming the post said that all the previous Presidents of KATI have served the business community, improved the economy and voiced to higher officials and relevant authorities. The efforts and services rendered for this are commendable. He said that Salman Aslam and his team also performed well in KATI and raised the standard of as by the predecessors. SM Muneer



Group of KATI Annual General Meeting Newly elected President Faraz ur Rehman, Senior Vice President Nighat Awan, Vice President Muslim Mohammadi with Patron-in-Chief KATI SM Muneer, President Salman Aslam, CEO KITE Zubair Chhaya and Farhan ur Rehman.

hoped that Faraz-ur-Rehman, Nighat Awan and Muslim Mohammadi would play a key role in the development of the Korangi Industrial Area and the improvement of the economy.

Salman Aslam, the outgoing president of KATI, expressed

full confidence in Faraz-ur-Rahman and said that a talented person like him is needed to continue the journey of the development of the Korangi Industrial Area. He said that all the officials are highly educated and have extensive experience

in business and possess excellent management and leadership skills.

Zubair Chhaya, CEO of KITE Limited congratulated the newly elected officials Faraz-ur-Rehman, Nighat Awan and Muslim Mohammadi saying that they have fulfilled the expectations of the business community in their previous positions in KATI and now they are getting more opportunities to show their full potential for the promotion of business community and economic activities in Korangi Industrial Area.

The newly elected President of KATI, Faraz-ur-Rahman, thanked the Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer and all the members and said that he will make every possible effort to fulfill their trust. After taking over as the President of KATI, SM Muneer's vision, guidance and tradition of serving the business community will be further advanced, he will make all efforts for the betterment of the Korangi industrial area.

SECP's publishes Insurance Industry Statistics

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has released Insurance Industry Statistics for the calendar year 2021.

The statistics provide a comprehensive view of the insurance industry to the relevant stakeholders in a holistic manner which will help them in making informed policy decisions related to the insurance industry, through presentation of consolidated insurance industry information.

The report states that as of December 31, 2021, insurance industry has 41 active operators consisting of 30 non-life insurers/general takaful operators, 10 life insurers/family takaful operators and one reinsurer.

During the year 2021,

insurance industry has written gross annual premium of Rs. 432 billion as compared to Rs. 355 billion in 2020, recording year-on-year growth of 21.7%. Claims paid during 2021 were Rs. 189 billion (2020: Rs. 170 billion), out of which Rs.136 billion worth of claims were paid by the life insurance companies and remaining Rs. 53 billion paid by the non-life insurance companies.

SECP Commissioner Sadia Khan said that Pakistan's insurance market holds enormous untapped potential for growth. She added that the sector is rife with opportunities, for both local and foreign investors, considering the size of population in Pakistan and the growing demand for affordable & innovative insurance solutions.

Rizwana Asif elected president of Women's Chamber unopposed

Rehabilitation of flood-affected women should be given top priority



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prominent businesswoman Rizwana Asif has been elected unopposed as President of the Islamabad Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IWCCI).

The annual general meeting of IWCCI was held after which the election results were announced in which Rizwana Asif was elected as President while Sonia Saleem was elected as SVP and Schirish

Ahsan was elected as VP.

Federal Ombudsperson for Protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace Kashmala Tariq and MNA Sajida Zulfikar were present as chief guests. They took oath from newly-elected office bearers and assured all help to the women entrepreneurs so that they can do their business with peace of mind.

Later in her speech, Rizwana Asif said that she is grateful for the trust of busi-

nesswomen and she will try her best to fulfil the trust by serving women without discrimination and in every possible way.

She said that she will use all her energies and full cooperation will be provided to all the partners.

Rizwana Asif said that IWCCI has now emerged as a strong organization serving women and upholding the tradition and it will continue to play its role in the development and solving the problems of all business women.

Flood relief program

PepsiCo Pakistan scales up 'Millions of Meals'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of the climate-intensified devastating flooding that has ravaged many parts of Pakistan, PepsiCo and its philanthropic arm, the PepsiCo Foundation, have partnered with humanitarian actors Akhuwat, Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, and Rizq to deliver 5 million meals to impacted families in more than 20 worst-hit districts nationwide. In addition to this commitment, to further increase the scale of the program and reach more communities with life-saving food assistance, the PepsiCo Foundation has now launched a global employee matching gift program whereby donations from company employees from across the world will



be doubled.

Given the unprecedented scale of the humanitarian needs and urgent requirements for a global response to the crisis, the PepsiCo Foundation has committed to providing a 2:1 match for employees who make charitable donations to eligible on-ground humanitarian partners. The program marks a big milestone in PepsiCo's mission to leverage its global footprint and scale to address the escalating food security crisis as thousands of displaced families across Pakistan continue to face food shortages and need immediate supplies to survive.

Pak vs Eng

Salt's 'scorching' performance cruises England to victory in 6th T20I

Babar Azam joins Virat Kohli in becoming fastest batter to reach 3,000 T20I runs

LAHORE: Opener Phil Salt scored his career-best half-century as England level the seven-match series 3-3 against Pakistan on Friday.

Salt's blistering 87-run not out knock of just 41 balls helped the visitors cross the winning line in just 14.3 over with eight wickets in hand.

The right hander struck 13 boundaries and three maximums in his breath-taking innings.

He was well supported by Alex Hales (27) and David Malan (26). Ben Duckett played an unbeaten cameo of 26 runs. The series decider will be played at the same venue on Sunday.

Earlier, Babar Azam equalled India star Virat Kohli's record of the fastest man to 3,000 runs in cricket's shortest format as Pakistan scored 169-6 in the sixth Twenty20 international against England.

The Pakistan skipper, who hit an unbeaten 59-ball 87 for his 27th half century, reached 3,000 T20I runs in 81 innings as he anchored the home team's total after they were sent in to bat.

Azam hit Richard Gleeson for a six to



join Indian duo of Rohit Sharma (3,694 runs in 140 matches) and Kohli (3,663 in 108), New Zealand's Martin Guptill (3,497 in 112) and Ireland's Paul Stirling (3,011 in 114) in the milestone.

Azam hit three sixes and seven boundaries and added 48 for the fourth wicket

with Iftikhar Ahmed (31) and 47 for the third with Haider Ali (18).

Sam Curran (2-26) and David Willey (2-32) were the successful England bowlers. Pakistan, who lead the seven-match series 3-2, handed a T20I debut to 21-year-old wicketkeeper/bats-

man Mohammad Haris as they rested Mohammad Rizwan.

Fast bowler Haris Rauf was also rested, making way for Shah Nawaz Dahani. England rested the pace duo of Mark Wood and Chris Woakes to bring in Reece Topley and Gleeson.

Azam joins an elite list of T20I batters in the 3000-run club. India duo of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli head the run tally in men's T20Is with more than 3000 runs. Martin Guptill and Paul Stirling are the others in the club.

However, Azam recorded 3000 runs in 81 innings, equalling Virat Kohli's record in the format. Kohli and Azam are the only two batters to reach the milestone in less than 100 innings.

In women's T20Is, Suzie Bates, Meg Lanning, and Stafanie Taylor have over 3000 runs. Overall, Babar is the eighth player to the landmark in T20Is.

The next Pakistan batter in the list is Mohammad Hafeez with 2514 runs followed by Bismah Maroof with 2388 runs. Shoaib Malik and Rizwan are the only others outside these three from Pakistan with more than 2000 T20I runs.

IOC to review IBA after Ukraine ban

BERLIN: The International Olympic Committee voiced serious concerns over the International Boxing Association's (IBA) surprise ban of Ukraine's national federation, saying it would conduct a full review at its next meeting in December.

The IBA is already on the brink of losing its Olympic Games spot over governance, finance and refereeing issues dating back years.

Amateur boxing's world governing body was also stripped of involvement in last year's Tokyo Olympics, and the sport is not on the initial programme for the Los Angeles Games in 2028 pending a string of reforms demanded by the IOC.

The IOC is running the boxing competitions for the Paris 2024 Olympics. "The IOC is extremely concerned about the situation in the federation (IBA)," the IOC told Reuters in a state-

ment on Friday. "Amongst other concerns, this includes the fact that the recognised Ukrainian National Boxing Federation was suspended shortly before the IBA



Congress for disputed reasons."

The board said it would review the situation at its next meeting, scheduled for Dec 5-7.

The IBA, run by Russian businessman Umar Kremlev, suspended the Ukrainian federation last week, leaving it unable to cast a vote at the feder-

ation's elections.

The IBA does not recognise Kyrlyo Shevchenko as president of the Ukrainian federation but instead considers Volodymyr Prodyvus, an ally of Kremlev who left Ukraine after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February and is now an IBA vice-president, as head.

In an unprecedented move this week the IBA also forbade the Ukrainian junior boxing team from competing under their flag and anthem at the European championships in Italy, citing the ongoing dispute with the country's boxing federation.

"The fact that the Ukrainian junior boxing team is not allowed to participate in the European Championship in Italy if they compete using national identifiers such as the national flag, anthem and any symbols of Ukraine adds to the many concerns expressed before," the IOC said.

Sevilla, Atletico battle to hold on to progress

BARCELONA: Atletico Madrid and Sevilla have cut ground on Spain's traditional giants Real Madrid and Barcelona recently, but the tide is turning again.

In 2014 and 2021 Atletico lifted the title, while Sevilla has been in contention too, finishing in the top four in each of the last three campaigns.

However Diego Simeone's Rojiblancos visit the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan on Saturday looking for a vital win to try and keep a grasp on the league frontrunners' coattails, while Julen Lopetegui's side are scrambling for points to move away from the relegation zone. Loftier ambitions will have to wait.

The Andalusians have endured a torrid start to the campaign, with just one win from six games leaving them a point clear of the drop zone and piling pressure on Lopetegui.

On the sidelines of his team's 1-1 draw with Villarreal before the international break the former Spain and Real Madrid manager paced anxiously, tersely barking instructions as his team almost caved in the final stages.

To make matters worse, Lopetegui will be sweating on the fitness of playmaker Isco and midfielder battler Joan Jordan, while Tecatito Corona and Marcao are poised to miss the game.

"There were many changes (in the summer), players who came in late, without a pre-season, these are things that impact performance a lot," Isco told Muchodeporte.

"(Lopetegui) is a coach who has always believed in me, I thank him for it. He's a coach who I believe in personally and the dressing room is with him. We are together, not just in the wins but also in the defeats, that's when you see a true team."

Visitors Atletico, seventh, arrive with pressure on them to make amends too, following their 2-1 home defeat by rivals Real Madrid in the derby.

That match was stained by racism from some Atletico supporters aimed at Vinicius Junior, leaving the club with work to do both on and off the pitch.

Simeone's side were also beaten in the Champions League by Bayer Leverkusen and aim to avoid a third consecutive defeat.

The game seems destined to be tight, tense, and potentially explosive as only victory will suffice for either team. Should Atletico fail to win, they could find themselves potentially 11 points behind league leaders Real Madrid.

"We'll keep working and looking at the Sevilla game, knowing that we have to improve and we will do that," pledged Simeone after the derby defeat.

Inter, Roma try to kick-start campaigns

MILAN: Inter Milan host Roma on Saturday with both sides looking to get their seasons back on track after bumpy starts which have left them off the pace in the Serie A title race.

Five points behind unbeaten front-runners Napoli and Atalanta, Inter have a huge few days coming up with the visits of both Jose Mourinho's team and then Barcelona on Tuesday, hugely important for their chances of making the Champions League knock-out stages.

Inter have already lost four times in nine games across Serie A and Europe and their last outing - slumping to a 3-1 defeat at surprise package Udinese - led to questions about coach Simone Inzaghi's future.

However both vice-president Javier Zanetti and CEO Giuseppe Marotta denied this week that Inzaghi's job was at risk.

"We've always had faith, when things aren't going right you need to keep that bond



between everyone," Zanetti said on Sunday.

Making Inzaghi's job harder is the continued absence of injured Romelu Lukaku, who hasn't played since August and whose muscle problems have already caused him to miss six matches. And last season's 140-million-euro (\$133.9 million) loss announced on Wednesday has increased rumours that they will be forced to sell Milan strikerin to Paris Saint-Germain, either in January or at the end of the season.

Roma meanwhile sit just above Inter in sixth and go

into the weekend with a point to prove after unconvincing results in the lead-up to the international break. A home defeat to Atalanta two weeks ago was Roma's second loss of the campaign and the latest match in which a team which has netted only eight times in seven matches failed to capitalise on chances created.

The form of striker Tammy Abraham in particular has been a worry, missed opportunities and bitty displays coming in stark contrast to the talismanic role he had at the end of last season.

Roma will also have to

do without Mourinho, who won't be on the sidelines at the club where he won a historic league, cup and Champions League treble in 2010 after a pitchside rant at officials against Atalanta cost him a one-match ban.

Leaders Napoli kick the weekend off against Torino hoping to stay ahead on goal difference from Atalanta, the only other unbeaten team left in the league ahead of their home clash with Fiorentina.

Loitering one point back in third are Udinese, who are hunting a sixth straight win at struggling Verona on Monday night.

History will be made this weekend when a woman referee takes charge of a Serie A match for the first time.

Having refereed in the third-tier Serie C last season Maria Sole Ferrieri Caputi will be in charge for Sassuolo's home clash with Salernitana, who after scraping to safety last season have got off to a positive start this time around.

Captains share excitement for inaugural Pakistan Junior League edition

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The inaugural edition of the Pakistan Junior League begins in less than a week's time (Thursday 6 October) at the headquarters of Pakistan cricket Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. The teams will be beginning their preparations for the tournament this weekend.

Before the conclusion of the PCB Pathway Programme earlier this week - almost all local PJJL players were involved in the programme, the captains spoke about their excitement of playing the PJJL, captaining their side and the life time opportunity of working with some of the greats of the game who are involved as mentors in the league.

The mentor roster includes legends of the game Javed Mian-

dad (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).

Captain Bahawalpur Royals Obaid Shahid: "Being picked and then named captain of Bahawalpur Royals is nothing less than a dream coming true. I am determined to make an impression in the tournament and lead my side with grit, determination and passion. This league is an incredible opportunity for all of us and we are all excited to participate."

"Our team mentor is Imran Tahir who despite his age remains one of the fittest players around. Having Imran in the dressing room means a lot to us, we would

surely benefit from his presence and his immense experience as a T20 player. He will also inspire us to raise our fitness standard."

Captain Gujranwala Giants Uzair Mumtaz: "I was overjoyed at my selection for the PJJL and the honour of captaining Gujranwala Giants. My parents and family is really happy for me and are praying for my success."

"Our mentor Shoaib Malik is a legend of the game and his presence will mean a lot to us. We all hope to learn a great deal from him and aspire to make the most of his experience and pedigree. Having Shoaib in the dugout would help us immensely considering his rich T20 experience."

Captain Gwadar Sharks Shamyl Hussain: "It was a big honour to get chosen for the Sharks and then being named the captain was

the icing on the cake. I am really excited to deliver for my team as a player and captain."

"Having a mentor like Sir Vivian Richards is absolutely incredible, his presence alone will make a big impact in our dugout and we will learn a great deal from his experience and stature in the game."

Captain Hyderabad Hunters Saad Baig: "I am thrilled to captain the Hyderabad Hunters in the Pakistan Junior League. I have made steady progress at the age-group level and this opportunity will help me improve my game further while competing with some of the best U19 talent from around the world."

"Our team mentor Daren Sammy is a T20 World Cup winner and has legendary status in the T20 format, we are all look-



ing forward to learning from his vast experience."

Captain Mardan Warriors Abbas Ali: "My family was overjoyed with my selection in the Mardan Warriors team. Captaining the side in the Pakistan Junior League is a fantastic opportunity for me and I want to give my absolute best in the tourna-



President Islamabad Bando Association, Dr Muhammad Afzal Babar seeing off the players ready to leave for Iran and Azerbaijan.

Newcastle sign teenage Australia striker Garang Kuol

LONDON: Newcastle have reached an agreement to sign teenage striker Garang Kuol from Australian A-League side Central Coast Mariners in January, the Premier League club announced on Friday.

Kuol, 18, made his international debut for Australia against New Zealand last week, becoming the youngest Soccerero since Harry Kewell in 1996.

Born in Egypt, Kuol moved to Australia with his family as a refugee and joined the Mariners' youth system in January 2021.

He only made his A-League debut for the Mariners in April but made an immediate impression, scoring four goals in his first seven appearances as a substitute.

Kuol told Newcastle's official website: "It's unreal. As a young boy in Australia, the Premier League is the main thing that everyone watches but nobody actually thinks they'll reach those heights. "To be one of those people, to be in the position I am, it's amazing."

"Now that I've signed for Newcastle, I want to train hard, play hard, hopefully go to the World Cup and come back here."

Newcastle United sporting director Dan Ashworth said: "Garang is a very promising young talent and we are excited that he'll be continuing his development as a Newcastle United player."

"Our philosophy is to invest in our academy and in exciting young players for the future, as well as in players required to make an immediate impact in the first team."

Ruud follows Norrie out of Korea Open

SEOUL: World number two Casper Ruud crashed out of the Korea Open quarter-finals on Friday to 56th-ranked Yoshihito Nishioka, while Britain's Cameron Norrie pulled out ill.

Japan's Nishioka had the top seed and US Open finalist on the back foot from the start, breaking his first service game without allowing the Norwegian to take a point before powering to the first set 6-2.

Ruud rallied to take the second set 6-3 but was outclassed in the third set as Nishioka won it 6-2 to take a shock victory in just under two hours in Seoul. Nishioka will face either Mackenzie McDonald of the United States or Aleksandar Kovacevic from Serbia in the semi-finals.

"It was an unfortunate result but that's how it is sometimes," said the 23-year-old Ruud, who was also the runner-up at the French Open. "I was trying to improve some things and step further into the court but, in the end, it led to too many mistakes. "Even though it didn't go well I still like to think it's going to help improve my game in the future."

Ruud had beaten Nicolas Jarry of Chile in the last 16 to secure his spot in the ATP Finals. Also out is eighth-ranked Norrie, who withdrew less than an hour before he was due on centre court to face Jenson Brooksby in the quarter-finals. Fourth seed Denis Shapovalov is the highest-ranked player left in the Korea Open.

The Canadian world number 24 beat Radu Albot in straight sets and will face Brooksby in the semi-finals on Saturday.

IPC Minister to open National Women's Basketball C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari would inaugurate the National Women's Basketball Championship starting from October 3 here at Pakistan sports Complex.

Top eight teams from around the country would be in action in the five-days championship to be hosted by Federal Basketball Association (FBA) under the umbrella of Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF).

"All arrangements have been completed for the championship where top eight teams taking part in the event have been divided into two pools," said championship organizing secretary and Federal Basketball Association General Secretary Ouj-e-Zahoor.

Ouj-e-Zahoor said Pool "A" comprise defending champion Pakistan Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Quetta while Pool "B" includes teams from Pakistan Army, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar.

He said Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Ehsan ur Rehman Mazari would be chief guest of the opening ceremony of the championship while Director General Pakistan Sports board Col (R) Asif Zaman and other dignities will also be present on the occasion.

in the Pakistan Junior League. My squad has some exciting talent and I am looking forward to leading them to success in the tournament.

"Our team mentor Colin Munro has played T20 cricket around the world and made a big name, as a batter, I am really keen on learning the art of T20 batting from him."

The teams will practice for four days leading up to the tournament opener between Gujranwala Giants and Mardan Warriors which will be played from 8pm next Thursday.

The 19-match tournament will be played on a single league basis with the six teams competing against each other once. The top four sides will compete in the playoffs, the final will be played on Friday, 21 October.