



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ابن عباس رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا
ایو جہل نے کہا تھا کہ اگر میں نے محمد صلی
اللہ علیہ وسلم کو کعبہ کے پاس نماز پڑھتے
دیکھ لیا تو اس کی گردن میں چل دوں گا۔ نبی
کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کو جب یہ بات پہنچا
تو آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا کہ اگر
اس نے ایسا کیا وہ جہنم سے فرشتے پڑھ لیتے۔
(کنز الدقائق، حدیث نمبر 4958)
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RAWALPINDI

200 houses to be built for flood victims: Hadiqa Kiani

The renowned singer turned activist Hadiqa Kiani has announced to build 200 houses for flood victims. Hadiqa Kiani has announced the construction of 200 houses for the flood victims in the coming weeks. "Alhamdulillah we finally have a way for overseas Pakistanis to donate! With your help, we will begin construction on 200 sustainable homes in the coming weeks.



Agriculture sector is backbone of country: CM Balochistan

Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of our country's economy and the government is committed to bring reforms in this sector. He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Zamindar Action Committee who called on him at CM Secretariat. News on Page 2

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Germany enhances financial support to €56m for flood victims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador to Pakistan Alfred Grannas has announced that Germany scaled up financial assistance to €56 million for families affected by floods.

In his tweet, the German Ambassador said the aid was increased to help families and deal with the devastating effects of recent flooding, adding, "We will continue to stand by the brave people of Pakistan and extend our help and support during this tragic time."

The aid will supply food, hygiene products, medical supplies, etc., to the flood victims in Pakistan.

"Our thoughts are with the victims' families, as expressed by President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and federal chancellor Olaf Scholz in their letters of condolences to their respected counterparts.

Federal Minister Svenja Schulze held a video conference with the minister for climate change Sherry Rehman, on 7 September, he added.

He said that the homeless would be able to return to their home regions as quickly as possible.

Pakistan has asked for international help, and Germany is coordinating its support towards Pakistan with other donors.

It is pertinent to mention that several projects of bilateral support for Pakistan have been implemented already, e.g., for Baluchistan, or announced. In close cooperation with the government of Pakistan, Germany has expedited its short-term humanitarian assistance and middle-and long-term cooperation for Pakistan in this difficult situation.

The total amount of German support for Pakistan currently adds up to approx. € 56m.

Contribution to UN peacekeeping

Chief of Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa (L) stands next to United Nations Military Adviser Gen Birame Diop in New York, United States.



Photo: ISPR

Masood invites US companies to invest in Pakistan

Robust Pak-US trade partnership could transform recent crisis in Pakistan into an opportunity for the US business community

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Masood Khan has invited US companies to invest in climate resilient infrastructure in Pakistan.

Talking to President US Chamber of Commerce Suzanne Clark during his visit to the Chamber's headquarters, he said a robust Pak-US trade partnership could transform recent crisis in Pakistan into an opportunity for the US business community to invest in building green and climate resilient infrastructure that would withstand future natural calamities.

He said recent floods in Pakistan and the Hurricane Ian in Florida and adjacent states have reinforced the need for the two countries to work hand in hand

Timely investment in building climate resilient infrastructure would help securing our future

for mitigating impacts of erratic climate change.

The Ambassador also conveyed his heartfelt sympathies over the havoc caused by Hurricane Ian in Florida and adjacent states.

He said timely investment in building climate resilient infrastructure would not only help securing our future but also preclude climate induced global migration, food security crises and



a cascade of similar challenges.

Masood Khan said that the US remained an important economic and trading partner of Pakistan over the years. He said it is important to give trade a boost with mutual efforts and collaboration between the private sectors of the two countries and policy support of the government.

Referring to the existing busi-

nesses of US multinational companies, the Ambassador said that Pakistan's strategic location, tech savvy young population, large middle class, phenomenal growth of Pakistan's tech sector and Special Economic Zones offers tremendous investment opportunities to the U.S. companies.

The Ambassador highlighted that bilateral trade between Pakistan and the United States in the preceding financial year has crossed 12 billion dollars which itself reflects the ample scope of enhanced trade between the two countries.

He said U.S. corporate sector could reap tremendous dividends by manufacturing its products in Pakistan and exporting them to greater Middle East, Central Asia and even North Africa, said the Ambassador.

COAS lauds role of office of UN Military Advisor

Pakistan's contribution in UN peacekeeping Missions acknowledged

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa met with Military Advisor to Secretary General United Nation (UN) Birame Diop (Senegal) during an official visit to United States (US).

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, overall regional security situation including natural disaster caused by flood across the country came under discussion, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release received here.

The Army Chief appreciat-

ed the role of the office of UN Military Advisor in promoting UN core values and their response during crises.

The UN Military Advisor expressed his grief over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in Pakistan due to climate change and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. He assured full support to the flood victims.

The UN dignitary acknowledged Pakistan's contribution in UN peacekeeping Missions and extraordinary achievements in counter terrorism. APP

IK's fake narrative stands exposed: Marriyum

Info Minister terms Imran Khan as 'misogynist' having no respect for women

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb says PTI leader Imran Khan's fake narrative of imported government has been exposed through audio leaks.

In response to Imran Khan's statement on Sunday, she said Imran Khan is the real foreign-funded conspiracy against Pakistan, who aims to weaken the nuclear power country.

The Minister said Imran Khan played with national interests of Pakistan and breached national security and Kashmir. She said the real foreign agent Imran Khan deceived the whole nation and violated country's constitution.

Meanwhile, Minister for Information and Broadcast-



ing Marriyum Aurangzeb says PTI Chief Imran Khan has no respect for women as he considers women folks to be nothing more than objects to be harassed.

In a series of tweets on Sunday, she said Imran Khan has encouraged and inculcated this behaviour and mind-set both in his party members and his followers.

The Minister said it is especially disappointing that the female party members and followers of PTI not only condoning such behaviour but take part in it and celebrate it.

Agri products export to China to further grow: Qadir

Pakistan has rich potential of the export of agricultural products to China

Spokesman Report

BELJING: Pakistan has rich potential of the export of agricultural products to China and the present government is taking concrete measures to take advantage of huge demand of fruits and vegetable in the Chinese markets, said Commercial Counsellor, Pakistan Embassy Beijing, Ghulam Qadir.

"I think, the increase in the agricultural products exported to China this year is still tip of iceberg. The potential is much more and we are working hard to further enhance our exports to China," he told APP on Sunday.

According to the data from China Customs, Pakistan's agricultural products exported to China from Jan to Aug 2022 reached US\$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59 percent. Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of US\$ 1 billion in 2022.



He informed that both Pakistani and the Chinese authorities were satisfied over the increase but they expressed a need to improve the trade balance between the two countries.

"So, we are working hard with the Chinese authorities for making more cooperation and we're expecting some good news about exports of different products, he added.

Ghulam Qadir hoped that more export could also start and having US\$1 billion worth of agricultural products' exports to China was still not enough as compared to the overall potential of the Chinese market. He said that more efforts were needed to enhance exports and he

vowed to continue to work with the relevant authorities in this regard.

The Commercial Counsellor said that at present, agricultural products including fruits, vegetable, sesame seed, pine nuts and seafoods were being exported to China. These are over-all products, but we need to increase that basket and we are working on it, he added.

As per official data, Pakistan's trade surplus with China in agricultural products also reached US\$ 527 million with a year-on-year increase of 48.38 percent in the same period. The trade surplus of agricultural products for the whole year of 2021 was US\$ 640 million with an increase of 13 times.

Trains resume operations b/w Karachi-Peshawar

KARACHI: Over a month after they were suspended due to floods, Pakistan Railways Sunday resumed trains from Karachi to the rest of the country. However, the resumption comes with an associated increase in fares.

The first train to leave Karachi's Cantt Station was the Khyber Mail and Rehman Baba Express, which hauled four extra carriages laden with a total of 1,500 passengers towards Peshawar.

The train will pass over flooded tracks in Nawabshah while it will move slower than usual from Nawabshah until Sadiqabad as per safety precautions. This means that it takes the train around 31 hours to complete the journey. While Rehman Baba Express has departed, Khyber Mail is expected to depart Karachi at 10 pm.

Pakistan Railways has increased fares for trains between 19-23%. Fares for Karakoram, Karachi and Business Express have been particularly increased, with the price of their cheapest tickets - economy class have been increased by as much as Rs950 to a whopping Rs3,000 per head. Agencies

PM world leaders congratulate China on National Day

PM Shehbaz says China offers a promise of hope to the developing world

BELJING: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other world leaders have delivered their messages, warmly congratulating on the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and wishing the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) a full success.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif extended hearty greetings to China and the Chinese people. China, as the world's second largest economy, is a source of stability in a perpetually changing world, the prime minister said on Sunday in his message on Twitter.

China offers a promise of hope to the developing world, which is beset with multiple crises related to climate, finance, food and energy, Sharif said, adding that the Chinese template of inter-state relations prioritizes cooperation over confrontation, a governing principle in the formation of a community of common destiny.

"Personally, I am deeply touched by the Chinese adherence to remarkable work ethic and national discipline. This explains how China has been able to lift 800 million people out of acute poverty," he said.

Kim Jong Un, General Secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) and Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), sent a message in



which he hailed China's achievements over the years.

Kim said that under the leadership of the CPC with the comrade General Secretary at its core, the Chinese government and the people have built a moderately prosperous society in all respects and embarked on a new historical journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects. The upcoming 20th National Congress of the CPC will become a new milestone in China's socialist construction, said Kim, he added.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong and Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc, on behalf of the Vietnamese party, the government and the people also extend-

ed the warmest congratulations, adding that they look forward to promoting the healthy and steady development of the Vietnam-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and bringing tangible benefits to the people of the two countries.

Thongloun Sisoulith, General Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and the Lao President, said under the wise leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Chinese people have continuously made new achievements in building socialism with Chinese characteristics and opened up new chapters in the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, adding that China's international status keeps rising. APP

Deliberation

Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman addressed the event organised by CPNE and 4th pillar as a special guest on the topic of "increasing incident of harassment against women".



Photo: PID

KSRelief
continues relief efforts in flood-hit Pakistan



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia's King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) is continuing its efforts to provide humanitarian aid to flood-hit Pakistan.

The team distributed 2,095 food baskets, 40 tents, and 400 mosquito nets in various provinces to 14,665 people.

The aid comes within the Saudi Relief Land Bridge, directed by King Salman, to support Pakistan and its people following the disastrous floods that struck the country, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported on Sunday.

The torrential rains and flooding, which began in mid-June and lasted for weeks, has killed over 1,600 people and affected nearly 33 million people in Pakistan.

PTI playing politics on prevailing flood situation: Ahsan

NAROWAL: Minister of Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that it is unfortunate that PTI is busy in doing politics in these testing times instead of making concerted efforts to reduce sufferings of the flood-affected people in the country.

Addressing a ceremony in Narowal on Sunday, the Minister said Imran Khan is playing with Pakistan's interests to keep his politics alive.

The Minister said Imran Khan's audio leak has 'shattered' foreign conspiracy narrative. Agencies

'Cypher is a reality'

PTI reacts to cabinet's decision on audio leaks

Shah Mahmood Qureshi says PTI never took a step that harmed national security

ISLAMABAD/MULTAN: Reacting to the government's decision on audio leaks purportedly featuring former prime minister Imran Khan and other PTI leaders, the party's Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that the cabinet summary has proved that the US cypher is a reality.

His reaction came after the federal cabinet formally approved the decision to launch legal action against PTI Chairman Imran Khan over his recent alleged audio leaks about the US cypher. Addressing a press conference in Multan, Qureshi said that the government has accepted their stance on the cypher. He maintained that they never took a step that harmed national security. "The government is in a frenzy," the PTI leader said, adding they were not afraid of an investigation.

Meanwhile, sharing a copy of the summary prepared by the sub-commit-

tee of the cabinet, Fawad Chaudhry pointed out the date of the cypher received to the then government and said that he hoped that PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz "will not change her position on

Federal cabinet formally approves decision to launch legal action against PTI Chairman Imran Khan

cypher investigation from independent commission".

"The date of cypher says it all," wrote Fawad Chaudhry. On his part, PTI leader Shibli Faraz said, "Cypher is a reality." He maintained that it was shared by

PTI's government with the then National Assembly speaker and Chief Justice of Pakistan amongst others.

Criticising the coalition government, he said, "Current govt is result of its contents." "What is the discussion about? Is it to divert the attn from tanking economy or smoke screen Dar's & Maryum NRO?" he asked.

Meanwhile, in a major development, the federal cabinet on Sunday formally approved the decision to launch legal action against PTI Chairman Imran Khan over his recent alleged audio leaks about the US cypher.

In the two audio leaks that took the internet by storm and shocked the public across the country, former prime minister Imran Khan, Asad Umar, and then-principle secretary Azam Khan could allegedly be heard discussing the US cypher and how to use it in their interest. Agencies

UN to seek \$800m more in aid for flood-hit Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations will launch a fresh appeal for another 800 million dollars on Tuesday for flood relief and rehabilitation activities in Pakistan.

This was informed at a meeting between a six-member delegation led by Deputy Executive Director of World Food Program, Ramiro Lopes da Silva and Sindh government officials, including Provincial Health Minister Dr. Azra Pechuho, Chief Secretary Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput and others in Karachi.

The WHO Deputy Executive Director said the fresh appeal is being

launched as the initial 160 million dollar appeal was insufficient to meet the needs of flood victims.

The meeting discussed the latest statistics on food security and nutrition in Sindh.

Chief Secretary Sindh said the flood has caused a lot of damage to crops in twenty three districts of the province.

He said Sindh has been exporting rice, but this year due to rain and floods, the rice crop in the province was badly affected and will not be sufficient even for domestic need.

The WHO delegation assured to provide all possible assistance to help the flood victims in this difficult time.

Govt claim over cypher's missing a 'drama': Imran

The former PM said he showed the cypher to the whole nation

TAXILA: Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan on Sunday rebuffed a claim of the government over disappearance of the cypher, saying that the government is pretending that the cypher is lost while the original copy is in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Addressing a public rally in Taxila, the former PM said he showed the cypher to the whole nation, and the message was clear in it to oust Imran Khan's government, adding that he took the matter to the Assembly and before the National Security Committee.

"I want to thank Maryam Nawaz who never tell truth to give new life to cypher. I want to thank you for proving my statements [regarding the cypher] true," Imran said

"They stage a new drama now that the cypher is missing. Maryam Bibi! The cypher is not missing but you should ask the foreign ministry as the copy of the cypher is still there. The master copy of the cypher is still present in the foreign office," the PTI chairman added.

The former PM challenged the rulers to arrest him instead of giving threats. "This is the movement of real independence and we are ready to face jails. I am ready to go to jail and my nation as well. We are not afraid of jail."

He said that the nation is ready to sacrifice their lives for real independence.

Imran Khan blamed the rulers for coming into power to dissolve their



corruption cases. He criticised that the current rulers amended laws to get legal relief for continuing corrupt practices.

He once again alleged that the current rulers received another NRO after they had been given an NRO by former military ruler Pervez Musharraf in 2007.

Imran further alleged that the chief election commissioner (CEC) was acting like a servant of the current rulers. He added that they could not defeat PTI in the fair and free elections.

The PTI chairman challenged PM Shehbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to be prepared for the upcoming PTI protest as he is completing his preparations. "I knew about their plan, but they are completely unaware of mine. I am preparing for it and I will soon give you a call. You have to be prepared." Agencies

'Khalistan-Pakistan Zindabad' slogans in AAP's stronghold

ISLAMABAD: Secessionist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) has released a raw footage of "Khalistan-Pakistan" Zindabad and "Muslim-Sikh Bhai Bhai" slogans inscribed at Divisional Forest Officer Bathinda, a stronghold of Aam Admi Party (AAP).

The walls of the government office is also painted with slogans "Hindu-stan" Murdabad and "Punjab Hul Khalistan" with the Khalistan Referendum Voting Process starting from January 26, 2023 coinciding with India's 74th Republic Day.

Calling upon the People of

Pakistan to support Punjab Independence Referendum to welcome new neighbour Khalistan, the SFJ General Counsel Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in a video message stated that "Lines were drawn between Sikhs and Hindustan after June 1984 attack on Sri Darbar Sahib and over 100,000 Pro Khalistan Sikhs laid down their lives for Independence".

"SFJ's global Khalistan Referendum with November 6, voting in Toronto is a step towards liberating Punjab from Indian occupation" added Pannun.

Meanwhile, the timeline of various Khalistan referen-

dums and the number of Sikhs who voted in favour of an independent Khalistan reflect that the demand of Sikhs for an Independent homeland in India is gradually being accepted globally.

According to an infographic released by Islamabad Policy Research Institute, the latest trends indicate increasing separatist sentiments, particularly amongst the Sikh diaspora.

More than 110,00 Sikhs in Brampton, Canada participated in the Khalistan referendum which was held in Canada two weeks ago. APP

Audio, video leaks not in country's interest: Ashrafi

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday said audio and video leaks of any political leadership was not in country's interest anyway.

In an exclusive talk with APP, Ashrafi who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council said it had opened new Pandora's box at a time when one third land of the country was inundated by monsoon rains and flash floods.

Despite of this national emergency, he lamented that the entire political leadership and media were engaged in audio and video tape controversies.

He said Pakistan was passing through a critical phase of economic

recession and it could only be overcome by political stability in the country. The present government was making all-out efforts to revive the economic activities in a bid to bring the country on the road to progress, he added.

Ashrafi proposed to adopt the reconciliatory approach to get the country out of prevailing political and economic crisis.

Regarding Rabi-ul-Awwal, he said it was being celebrated as month of the 'Paigham-e-Rehmatul-lil-Alameen' across the country.

He said peace, affection and tolerance was message of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) and it was the responsibility of every Muslim to spread this noble message in letter and spirit on the globe.

"Islam is spread worldwide through

the best moral ethics, that is why; even the enemies of the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) used to call him Sadiq and Ameen (Truthful and Honest)," he added.

He also appealed the nation and Muslim Ummah to help the flood victims generously, especially during the holy month of Rabi-ul-Awwal.

Ashrafi said following the teachings of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him), we should extend all out support to the affected people as the flood situation had hit approximately 33 million people who are in dire need of humanitarian aid.

He thanked the Muslim countries and rest of the world for standing by Pakistan at this hour of trials and tribulations and helping the flood affected people through all possible means.

'Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tent City' for flood affectees

Our Correspondent

JAMSHORO: The Consul General of Türkiye in Karachi Cemal Sangu has said the Turkish government and the people would provide all possible help to the flood victims of Pakistan and in that regard, 14 cargo planes and 13 goods trains had arrived in Pakistan with relief items.

He, while inaugurating the 'Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tent City' near Pakistan Air Force Base, Bolhari in Jamshoro district on Sunday.

Turkish Consul General along with Air Officer Commanding Pakistan Air Force Southern Command Air Vice Marshal Zaeem Afzal, Bank Islami CEO Syed Amir Ali, and representatives of Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Türkiye (AFAD) formally inaugurated the tent city where 130 tents were established for flood-affected people of Sindh.

The humanitarian aid items consisting of 50,000 tents, 500,000 food packages and cleaning/ hygiene materials are planning to

be dispatched to the region under the coordination of AFAD Presidency, Consul General said, adding that 250,000 parcels consisting of food and cleaning material had so far been arrived in Pakistan through Air Bridge and Goodness Train Expeditions.

Cemal Sangu said 14 planes and 13 goods trains had been reached in Pakistan while 15th plane carrying malaria pills, tetanus vaccinations and other medical supplies would reach here on Monday [October 03].

Turkish Consul General said with the help of Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy, Pak Army, National Disaster Risk Management Authority (NDMA) and federal and provincial governments, Türkiye would extend all-out aid and assistance to the Pakistani brethren who were facing unprecedented floods and hundreds of people had lost their lives.

He said not only Turkish government but people, including children, women and showbiz stars were extending donations for Paki-



Turkish Council General Cemal Sangu addressing during inauguration ceremony of Recep Tayyip Erdogan flood relief tent city near PAF base Bholari.

stani flood victims as "our hearts beat together".

He said Turkish serials Ertugrul Ghazi and Kurtul Usman fame Abdul Rehman Ghazi had also visited Pakistan for supporting flood victims and now he had gone to Canada for

collecting donations for Pakistani flood-hit people.

Speaking on the occasion, Air Vice Martial Zaeem Afzal thanked the Turkish government, people and Turkish NGOs for providing aid

and setting up tent city for the flood victims.

He said the Recep Tayyip Erdogan Tent City was established here with the joint efforts of Turkish friends, Bank Islami, Pakistan Air Force and AFAD and other stakeholders, in which initially 130 affected families would be provided accommodation.

Zaeem Afzal said the tent city would be expanded to 500 tents in which food items and medicines would be provided to the victims along with milk for innocent children.

He further said with the coordination of AFAD, another tent city would soon be established in Thatta district for which Pakistan Air Force would provide its land so that flood-hit people would be facilitated till their rehabilitation.

About the tent city, Afzal said medical and schooling facilities for flood-hit families would be made available here in the tent city while every tent would be given water filter plant for clean drinking water.

Agriculture sector is backbone of country: CM Balochistan

Says agriculture is the main sources of income for many families

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Sunday said that the agriculture sector is the backbone of our country's economy and the government is committed to bring reforms in this sector.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of the Zamindar Action Committee who called on him at CM Secretariat.

"Agriculture is the main sources of income for many families living in Balochistan and government is striving hard to resolve the issue they are

facing." The CM said that recent rains and floods have incurred huge losses to all sectors including agriculture and livestock in Balochistan, however reiterating government resolve, he said all-out efforts were being made to provide relief to the affected people.

Hailing the immediate response of the Federal government, CM said that after the recent flood rains, PM repeatedly visited the affected districts of Balochistan and continued to review the relief and rehabilitation works.

Earlier, the Zamindar Action

Committee expressed concerns about the import of commodities from neighboring countries. They contended import of vegetables and fruits from neighboring countries have casted negative impact on the local farmers as their agricultural produce is sold at low prices in the market.

They urged the CM to waive off the electricity bills of the landowners in the affected districts of the province. Besides, every farmer should be provided with 500 hours of dozer and 250 hours of tractor for smoothing the land,"

The delegation of Balochistan Zamindar Action Committee also discussed the damage caused to the agricultural sector due to the flood and heavy rains.

Abdul Rehman Bazai, General Secretary of ZAC, while giving a briefing to the Chief Minister about the damages caused to the agricultural sector, said that according to an estimate, it caused Rs 300 billion loss and the most affected sector is agriculture.

"The canal system, tube wells and solar system have been badly damaged due to the flood," he added.

Tent city

KARACHI: Flood victims rest in a tent at a temporary housing facility set up by Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) for affectees of last month's super floods in Bholar area in Sindh Province.



Photo: Online

Air University holds Int'l moot on 'Human Factors in Cyber Security'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: International Conference on Human Factors in Cyber Security organized by Air University concluded successfully at main campus, Islamabad.

Secretary Information Technology Mohsin Mushtaq graced the occasion as Chief Guest whereas the Vice Chancellor Air University, Air Marshal (r) Javaid Ahmed HI(M), Director National Centre for Cyber Security (NCCS) Prof. Dr. Kashif Kifayat, Dr. Nida Bajwa from the University of Saarland, Germany, Prof. Dr. Bilgin Metin from Bogazici University Istanbul, and Dr. Katharina Kromholz from CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security addressed the participants, emphasizing the utmost significance of applying a psychological approach to raise awareness, understand, and curtail cyber security incidents in today's digital world.

Moreover, Director ORIC Air University, Air Commodore (r) Afzal Ahmed Khan and Dr. Nida Bajwa from University of Saarland, Germany signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and agreed to establish the relationship between two Universities to further enhance the cooperation in academic, scientific & cultural domains in the opening cere-

mony of the conference.

The Secretary IT, Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq, while addressing the ceremony emphasized that most important requirement for securing our digital assets is to have a pool of talented and skilled human capital. "I feel delighted to know that this conference is a part of the European Union-funded project ReCyP:HER (i.e. Rethinking Cyber Security In Pakistan: Human Factors Essential Role) awarded to a consortium of Universities from Pakistan, Türkiye and Germany", he expressed.

Given the borderless nature of cyberspace and cyber threats, it is quite clear that this is not just the task for any single government, he highlighted. Collaboration between cyber security experts from Germany, Pakistan, and Türkiye in the form of this Erasmus+ ReCyP:HER project is a source of encouragement for us.

Vice Chancellor Air University, Air Marshal (r) Javaid Ahmed HI(M) while sharing his views, highlighted that cyber security is a shared responsibility and each of us has a role to play. He said that Air University is committed to producing highly-trained and well-qualified cyber security experts to address the emerging cyber security threats being faced by the country. Certainly, this international event

is among the several initiatives taken by Air University to achieve the milestone of being recognized as the leading hub of cybersecurity in Pakistan, he further highlighted.

Director NCCS, Prof. Dr. Kashif Kifayat, in his speech, highlighted that the goal of the Project ReCyP:HER is to create comprehensive capacity building in Pakistan for the area of cybersecurity and the connection with psychological know-how.

"I believe this international event shall prove to be instrumental in encouraging and developing a talented pool of students and cyber security enthusiasts to engage in interdisciplinary research by applying a psychological lens to address cyber security", he stated.

The event consisted of a series of presentations, keynotes, panel discussions and research talks given by renowned cyber security experts and leading psychologists from LUMS, IBA Karachi, Air University, and NUST. A significant number of industry executives, leading academicians, and key representatives of the government and relevant stakeholders attended the conference and lauded this initiative of Air University and the National Centre for Cyber Security as part of the Erasmus+ ReCyP:HER project funded by European Union.

IUB organizes 2nd Pre-conference Workshop



BAHAWALPUR: Department of Applied Psychology, the Islamia University of Bahawalpur successfully organized 2nd Pre-conference Workshop on Qualitative Data Analysis with the theme of Mental Health for All: Social Determinants, Challenges and Sustainable Remedies in connection with 2nd International Conference on Interdisciplinary Approach in Social Sciences 2022 by Prof. Dr. Steven Eric Krauss from Universiti Putra Malaysia.

The honourable Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Prof. Dr. Rubina Bhatti graced the event and distributed certificates among participants. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saleem, Chairman Department of Applied Psychology acknowledged the contribution of Resource Person and all the participants of workshop. The Islamia University of Bahawalpur also shared a link: <http://icoiass2022.iub.edu.pk/> where more details about the conference are available.

AJK PM constitutes committee to resolve problems faced by contractors

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has constituted a committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi to resolve the issues faced by contractors in Azad Kashmir.

The decision to this effect was taken after a delegation of Contractor Association Azad Kashmir met the Prime Minister and informed him about the problems faced by the people engaged in the construction sector of Azad Kashmir here on Sunday. The meeting was also attended by Government Ministers Abdul Majid Khan, Dewan Ali Chaghtai, Chaudhry Azhar Sadiq, Principal Secretary,

Additional Chief Secretary, Secretary Services, Chief Engineer and other government officials.

On the occasion, the PM constituted a committee to solve the problems being faced by the contractors in Azad Kashmir. The committee comprised of Additional Chief Secretary Development, Secretary Services, Chief Engineer and representatives of the Contractor Association has been tasked to present its recommendations in 10 days.

While talking to delegates the PM said that his government was trying to solve all the problems relating to construction and development in Azad Kashmir. Terming Contractors Association as an important stakeholder in the development

process of Azad Kashmir, the PM said that the government was fully aware of the problems being faced by the contractors' fraternity.

He said that construction and development in the state, good governance, promotion of tourism and highlighting the Kashmir freedom movement were among the important priorities of the government.

President Raja Qaiser Majeed, Raja Mohsin Majeed, Sabteen Gilani, Mir Adil, Asif Mustafai, Aamir Rafiq and others were part of the Contractor Association delegation.

Meanwhile, the AJK PM appointed Parliamentary Secretary Taqdees Gilani as the focal person to complete the much-delayed Kohala Hydrel Project initiated

under CPEC on an urgent basis.

For the completion of the \$250 billion project, the focal person Prof. Taqdees Gilani will be given a team of highly capable bureaucrats who will work painstakingly to get the project completed as soon as possible.

Pertinently, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan would personally supervise this project. The PM has also issued instructions for removal of all the obstacles in the way of the project and has decided to continuously review the performance of the project.

Professor Taqdees Gilani is also one of the members of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Energy and Water Resources, Social Welfare and Women's Development.

Shazia Marri visits flood-hit areas of Sanghar district

SANGHAR: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Sunday visited various flood-affected union councils and villages of her constituency (NA-216, Sanghar district).

The villages she visited to review overall flood water situation, rehabilitation and relief works include Taluka Sanghar and Taluka Sinjhor as well as Karim Dad Marri, Imam Bakhsh Talpur, Dil Shakh, Bobhi, Qaisar Khan Jalalani, Nasir Khan Jalalani, Hasil Marri, Perumal and other affected areas of the district.

She also inspected the sewerage drains located in villages of Imam Bakhsh Talpur and Nawaz Malookani areas. On the occasion, concerned officers briefed her about ongoing relief and rehabilitation activities. The minister gave strict instructions to relevant officers for making serious efforts for speedy drainage of flood water from some areas of the district.

Marri said Sanghar was severely hit by the recent flash floods and thousands of people were affected.

She said thousands of ration bags, tarpaulins, tents, and mosquito nets had been distributed among the flood victims of Sanghar district.

Barrister Sultan, Masood discuss Kashmir issue



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and Pakistan's ambassador to America Sardar Masood Khan during a meeting here on Sunday held detailed discussions on the way forward to promote Kashmir cause effectively at international forums, especially at the United Nations.

On the occasion, the duo expressed satisfaction over OIC's joint declaration in which the Muslim body had voiced its serious concerns over the continued violence, bloodshed and human rights violations committed by the Indian occupation forces in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

President Barrister Chaudhry and Ambassador Khan also reiterated their commitment to further amplify their efforts to sensitize the world about the worsening human rights situation in Kashmir and importance of the early resolution of the lingering conflict.

Secretary Punjab Workers Welfare Fund visits school



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Secretary Punjab Workers Welfare Fund Abdul Rauf and Director Education Khalid Amir visited Worker Welfare Higher Secondary School (Girls) Defence Road Campus Lahore.

Both Personalities appreciated the efforts regarding quality Education improvement and the fantastic results (BISE) Lahore by the Girls students of Class 9th & 10th and presented the certificates of honour to teachers showing 100 percent results and students securing positions in the institution and acknowledged the true spirits and enthusiasm at all levels. Dengue elimination and safety measures were also admired.

Awareness among students were also highly gratified. After visiting the science labs and computer lab, Abdul Rauf & Khalid Amir planted a tree in the campus ground. Students were appreciated on their positive and encouraging responses during campus visit.

Chaudhry Ensar meets Nawaz Sharif



KHARIAN: Chaudhry Ensar Mehmood Advocate met former Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, congratulated Maryam Nawaz on her acquittal. According to the details, the president of Muslim League N Lawyers Wing UK, Chaudhry Ensar Mehmood Advocate, met the former Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif at his London office yesterday.

Chaudhry Ensar Mehmood Advocate congratulated Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on the acquittal of Vice President Muslim League N Maryam Nawaz and Captain (ret'd) Muhammad Safdar in the Avenfield Reference by the Islamabad High Court and discussed other political issues with him. Muslim League N Pakistan and other party leaders of Britain were also present on this occasion.



ISLAMABAD: Children are enjoying while shooting photos at Lake View Park as a number of families have emerged to Parks after the mercury has slipped down in Islamabad.

TDC aims to fight against Diabetes with care & resolve

The Diabetic Centre, A Ray of hope for people suffering from Diabetes

Interview By Amjad Mehmood

Diabetes is one of the most common and ever-increasing, silently killing diseases in the world. According to the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) 10th Edition report published in 2021, about 537 million adults are living with diabetes worldwide. The report says globally more than one in 10 adults are now living with diabetes. Moreover, there is a growing list of countries where one-in-five or even more of the adult population has diabetes.

The IDF report noted that the countries with the largest numbers of adults with diabetes aged 20-79 years in 2021 are China, India, and Pakistan. Pakistan stands at 3rd number with 33 million diabetic people (in 2021) and considering the current increasing trend, this number is likely to reach 62.2 million by 2045. The data collected by the IDF show, about 8.9 million people in Pakistan are living with undiagnosed diabetes. The report also depicts the fact that in 2011, about 6.3 million people were affected by diabetes and in ten years' time, this total reached 33 million mark in 2021. Diabetes remains a serious and growing challenge to public health and places a huge burden on individuals affected and their families. Globally, diabetes ranks among the top 10 causes of mortality. The countries with the highest proportion of total deaths associated with diabetes are Pakistan (29%) and Singapore (29%). Pakistan is the country with the highest proportion (35.5%) of deaths under the age of 60 due to diabetes. IDF report calculates that total diabetes-related health expenditure will reach one trillion US Dollars by 2030.

The figures are alarming and demand immediate attention from the governments and concerned departments of the health sector. The situation becomes more worrisome in a country like Pakistan where basic health facilities are inadequately available to the public. In such a scenario, a poor diabetic patient sacrifices over deteriorating health and reaches to quacks in the market. Thus, their disease and miseries manifolds and life feels like doom.

Amid this challenging situation, The Diabetic Centre (TDC) provides a sigh of relief by offering quality treatment of international standards to diabetic people in Pakistan. This aesthetically fabulous Centre is situated on the Murree Expressway near Phulgran Toll Plaza, Islamabad. Daily The Spokesman, arranged an exclusive interview of Mr Tahir M. Abbasi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and member Board of Directors of The Diabetic Centre (TDC).

Mr. Naveed Ahmad Khan, Editor Daily The Spokesman and Shahzad Lodhi, Head of Marketing and RM, The Diabetes Centre were also present during the interview.

Recalling his childhood aim to serve humanity, he said the idea to establish an international standard health facility for diabetic people in Pakistan was the brainchild of Dr. Asjad Hameed, (a British Pakistani) and he got the opportunity to join hands in this noble cause by donating the land for Centre and rendering his services. He said Dr. Asjad Hameed, Chairman of TDC, has envisioned the establishment of a Centre-of-Excellence to offer free treatment to diabetic people in Pakistan who are unable to afford the costly treatment.

Introducing The Diabetes Centre (TDC), Mr. Abbasi said TDC is a non-profit company registered in SECP under Section 42 of the Companies Act 2017 of Pakistan and certified by Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP). TDC provides compassionate and value-based treatment for diabetes and its related complications with a mission to be recognized as a global leader in improving the lives of people with diabetes, irrespective of their ability to pay, through medical care, education, research, innovation, and advocacy for cure and prevention of the disease. He said there are 11 members of the Board of Directors including expat Pakistani who

“TDC offers Int'l quality health facilities under one roof to diabetic people

are looking after the TDC functions on a volunteer basis. TDC is also registered as a Charity Organization in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. Mr. Abbasi informed that hundreds of generous Pakistani nationals are funding TDC regularly every year. He also added that TDC runs donation drives at national and international levels to meet the operational costs of the Centre. He said TDC partners providing medicines to the Centre also contribute to the cause and there are organizations which are aiding the TDC through their Corporate Social Responsibility (SCR) drives.

He briefed about the historical development of TDC, which started in 2012 as a Clinic with four doctors, a lab and a pharmacy. The current facilities at TDC have been fully functional since April 2018 and the Centre is providing quality health services to thousands of people suffering from this dread disease. He informed that TDC has Diabetes/ Endocrinology Consultations facility, kidney Care Clinic & Dialysis Centre, Foot Care Clinic, Cardiac Care Centre, Pregnancy Care Clinic, Eye Care Clinic, Orthotics & Podiatry Clinic, Tobacco Cessation Clinic, Male Healthcare Clinic, Peads Clinic, Laboratory & Radiology, Operating Room, Research & Development Centre, Education Centre, Pharmacy and Emergency Centre.

He said TDC is functioning on a 60% free and 40% paid model and all income is transferred to charity funds to provide the maximum free health facilities. Introducing further about treatment facilities at TDC, he said treatment protocols at TDC are equal for people who are paying the charges or availing of free health facilities on a charity basis. Talking about availing free treatment facilities, he said the needy people are required to pass through a friendly verification process, where a 'Mufti' is stationed at TDC who guides the patients about availing of 'Zakat' in the light of Islamic principles. After verification of genuineness, the patients are registered with TDC for treatment which includes consultations, pathology and medicines as long as people continue to visit



Photos By Ghulam Farid

the TDC. He said at TDC, we start treatment with complete body screening of visiting patients for a

Talking about expansion, Mr. Abbasi said TDC is following the 'Hub and Spoke' model and they have



real-time assessment of the disease. Then on a quarterly basis, we repeat the essential tests of patients and reprise the body screening on yearly basis. He said since diabetes is a silent killer and carries associated complications, TDC ensures to provide all essential treatment and guidance to maintain the patient's health quality.

On a question about the compatibility of prices with other hospitals, he said TDC ensures to keep the prices affordable in terms of consultancy charges, lab tests and

earmarked the major cities and towns to extend the facility. The next coming-up Centres would be established at Lahore and Sahiwal in the next 2-3 years. He informed that TDC has a land donation in Charsadda as well while they are working on the feasibility to establish similar facilities at Rawalpindi, Faisalabad, Karachi, Quetta and in the other major cities in Pakistan.

On a question about the audit of funds, Mr. Abbasi said transparency of funds is paramount at TDC and they have a defined mechanism of internal and external audits of funds annually. Regarding funding management, he said TDC management plans to give maximum facilities to poor patients where sustainability and recovery of health are optimum and we identify the areas where TDC can offer treatment facilities within

“Generosity of Philanthropists for TDC would help in the mission of helping needy patients

these attributes as without matching the pace of modern treatment methodologies, our doctors, paramedics and young trainers cannot perform well.

Mr. Abbasi said the arrangement of funds is a real challenge at TDC as recurring and operational costs are escalating every year and they aimed to continue providing charity-based free health facilities to poor patients coming from all over Pakistan. To continue this mission, he said, TDC needs continuous support from generous Pakistanis including expats.

In the end, Mr. Tahir M. Abbasi said Pakistan is passing through a testing time due to unprecedented floods and TDC, considering it a national duty planned to visit the flood-hit areas in Sindh from 5th October to provide health facilities through a team of Doctors, paramedics and volunteers.



Mr. Tahir M. Abbasi, CEO, TDC, Mr. Naveed Ahmad Khan, Editor Daily The Spokesman and Shahzad Lodhi, Head of Marketing, TDC and Amjad Mehmood Senior Correspondent, DTS posing for a group photo at The Diabetes Centre Islamabad.

medicines. Introducing the range of Physicians serving at TDC, he said we have the country's top-class Physicians who have rich experience in their specialities and extend top-class services to patients. He said TDC labs

are furnished with the world's leading tech equipment and are recognized by the College of American Pathologists, USA for their accuracy and efficiency. He added TDC pharmacy offers a flat 7% discount on all medicines.

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My Words My Talk

The determination of Dr. Ashiq Hussain to achieve higher education for students.



Mudassar Qadeer

Director of Public Instruction Punjab, Dr. Ashiq Hussain is the owner of Qalandranana personality, any questioner can come to his office anytime during office hours with his problem, he does not face any kind of hindrance there and Dr. He listens to his problem and solves it, and according to the wish of the questioner, he is also provided with the required anchor.

I have met him some time ago and I found him friendly and kind. Some time ago I filed a news regarding appointment of permanent principals in

government colleges of Punjab which was later filed by another friend. In the news, the number I mentioned was less while in the other news the number of appointment of permanent principals was higher. made me meet him and I introduced myself to Dr. Ashiq Hussain and told him the purpose of my visit He said, sir, now this number will increase because in a few days more principals will retire after completing their tenure, while the higher education department is aware of this and a board has also been formed for the appointment of permanent principals, which will be done soon.

In this regard, after completing the interview, he will appoint the qualified candidates. After this meeting, I started meeting with him regularly have qualities which I consider necessary for public awareness It was through these talks that I came to know that Higher Education in Punjab is planning to start a third shift in colleges for students who are not financially able and who are not allowed to study in

government colleges due to lack of seats. Those who are deprived should be admitted so that they can continue their education while the Department of Higher Education, Punjab Skills Development Authority and National

The number of government universities in Pakistan is 141 and the number of private universities is 96.

Vocational and Technical Training Commission are going to contract with training institutes for such students across the province. Those students who are not able to pay fees in private colleges will be admitted to selected colleges across Punjab and will be given a stipend of Rs.

Among them, computer courses, pharmacy B category courses, food courses and

e-commerce courses are worth mentioning. Being initiated into the light so that someone Students should not be unable to continue their studies due to non-payment of fees.

Recently, Punjab University has established the first organization for Women in Sciences Pakistan, which will act as a technical institution to not only bring together all such women but also a platform for technical meetings and collaboration.

In a special ceremony organized in this regard, Vice Chancellor Punjab University Prof. Niaz Ahmad Akhtar, Dean Faculty of Life Sciences Prof. Dr. Javed Iqbal Qazi inaugurated the organizational office in the Center of Excellence in Solid State Physics.

The President Punjab University Head of MMG Department Prof. Dr. Anjum Naseem Sabri, Vice President Prof. Dr. Shazia Bashir from GC University, Secretary Prof. Dr. Saira Riaz from Punjab University, Joint Secretary Prof. Dr. Shamaila Shahzadi from UET and Lahore

College for Women University. Treasurer Professor Dr. Zahra Kayani attended. In his speech, Dr. Javed Iqbal Qazi said that Pakistani women are playing a very important and effective role in the development and transfer of knowledge in various fields of science, therefore it is the need of the hour to bring together all the Pakistani women of science on one platform.

The number of government universities in Pakistan is 141 and the number of private universities is 96. In the recent budget, a budget of 104 billion rupees has been kept for universities across the country, in which 4 billion 41 billion rupees have been allocated for development and 60 billion rupees for other purposes. Pakistan is currently lagging far behind in the race of higher and quality educational institutions. To reduce this gap, government educational institutions need to provide more resources.

The writer can be reached at mudassarqadeer579@gmail.com

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.



Liz Truss government in crisis mode

Andrew Hammond

Liz Truss was selected as the new UK prime minister less than a month ago by party members who saw her as a safe pair of hands. Yet her government is already facing a potential full-scale loss of market confidence in its economic strategy.

Last week, Kwasi Kwarteng, the new finance minister, unveiled an extraordinary emergency budget that turned on the fiscal taps, including massive levels of new spending and tens of billions of pounds of tax cuts in what was the largest program of unfunded stimulus since at least the 1970s.

The markets gave his proposals a big thumbs down in dramatic fashion, delivering the most negative reaction to any UK fiscal event in living memory.

The crisis deepened in recent days as a Bank of England decision to rule out any emergency increase in interest rates prompted fresh selling of the pound in currency markets. Financial markets remain far from clear about how the UK's central bank will now respond, as reflected by the shifts in sterling as optimism about a potential interest rate intervention gave way to disappointment at the failure to deliver this.

As of Friday, sterling was trading only marginally above parity with the US dollar — its lowest-ever rate against the US currency.

While Kwarteng must have anticipated a negative reaction by markets to his budget, he clearly did not appreciate the full extent of investor angst. This was a big oversight on his part; it had been clear for some time that his announcement could trigger a serious financial meltdown.

Take, for example, Deutsche Bank foreign exchange strategist Shreyas Gopal, who

warned on Sept. 7, the day Truss was formally appointed prime minister, that the risks of a "sterling crisis" should not be underestimated.

He said the "risk premium on UK gilts (government debt) is already rising ... a crisis may sound extreme but it is not unprecedented: A combination of aggressive fiscal spending, severe energy shock, and a slide in sterling ultimately resulted in the UK having recourse to an International Monetary Fund loan in the mid-1970s."

Gopal was far from alone within the financial market community in issuing warnings. Moreover, Truss was also very clearly warned, on many occasions, by former UK Finance Minister Rishi Sunak, her defeated rival in the Conservative leadership contest, that her economic plans were "comforting fairy tales."

It is not 100 percent clear why Kwarteng refused to listen to such warnings. Nor, indeed, why he decided to sack Treasury Permanent Secretary Tom Scholar, who might have been a key person to give the new government constructively critical counsel about its fiscal options.

Having dug himself into a deep political hole, Kwarteng now faces a massive challenge to get out of it. In recent days, he has failed to reassure jittery markets with a promise that he will outline the government's debt reduction strategy in a statement at the end of November.

Many in the financial markets appear now to believe that talking tough will not be enough, however, and that official borrowing costs will need to rise more sharply and faster than previously anticipated, in an effort to reverse sterling's slide. The irony is that this might well wipe out any boost from Kwarteng's growth push.

Politically, the budget debacle is the worst possible start to Truss's prime ministership. There is already significant angst among

Conservative MPs about the political and economic judgment of both the new finance minister and the prime minister.

In this context, Kwarteng could find his political future in jeopardy over the coming months. While Truss will not throw him overboard without a real fight, it nonetheless remains a significant possibility unless his budget package delivers clear growth dividends.

The chief beneficiary of Truss's travails is likely to be the Labour Party, which held its annual conference in Liverpool this week. The results of a YouGov poll published on Friday put the opposition more than 30 percentage points ahead of the ruling Conservatives, the highest lead Labour has had since Tony Blair's first landslide election victory 25 years ago.

While the party will take nothing for granted, given the volatile political mood, there is a growing sense within Labour that the tide might be turning against the prospects of the Conservatives winning a historic fifth-straight term in office. Indeed, some comparisons have been drawn between events this month and the so-called Black Monday crisis in September 1992, when the Conservative government of Prime Minister John Major was forced to hike interest rates after the failure of his economic strategy.

No one political era is identical to another and there are key differences, as well as similarities, between 1992 and now. However, the odds appear to be growing that the Conservatives could lose a significant number of seats at the next election, and that Labour might once again emerge as the largest party in the House of Commons for the first time since the governments of Blair and Gordon Brown.

Andrew Hammond is an associate at LSE IDEAS at the London School of Economics. Courtesy: Arab News

The current economic Kerfuffle is impacting the Construction Industry

Usman Iqbal

As the country reels from the worst flooding in the history, Pakistan is facing a trifecta of challenges. In just one spell of monsoon in Pakistan, some 33 million people have been affected and at least 1500 have lost their lives including more than 500 children. Estimates suggest that the floods have caused at least \$10bn of damages. The horrendous effects of these floods are yet to haunt us as there's a looming agriculture and energy crisis upon us. The annual inflation rate has increased to 24.9% in July 2022 which was 9.74% in June, 2020. The SBP weekly report released this week revealed that the country's total liquid foreign exchange reserves went down by \$308 million (-2.1 percent) on September 23, 2022, to \$13.76 billion, compared to \$14.07 billion in the previous week. The SBP reserves decreased \$8.005 billion, compared to \$8.346 billion a week earlier. However, these reserves increased earlier this month only, when the central bank received a \$1.2-billion tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

During the last covid peak in 2020, as Pakistan's economy needed a kick start, the then government introduced measures to promote construction industry. Pakistan's real estate sector makes a significant contribution to the country's economic development. According to World Bank reports, real estate assets account for 60-70% of the country's overall wealth. The real estate market is worth \$300 to \$400 billion. After agriculture, it is Pakistan's second-largest source of employment. It is one of the key sectors that, with the trickle-down effect, directly drives multiple sectors. These industries

including cement, steel, electrical and appliances, ceramics, glass, etc, are supported by the construction work. The incentives and support of the government resulted in a boost in the market, creating employment for hundreds of thousands of people, and a massive influx of forex as overseas Pakistanis sent money to invest in the real-estate sector. In 2020, the personal remittances received in Pakistan amounted to approximately 26.11 billion \$. However, the number is declining due to fluctuant policies.

Today, our nation is in dire need of a kick-start, with joblessness close to the 2020 levels. The stagflation has caused unrest in the populace. According to recent statistics, Pakistanis spend around \$5.2B on construction and real estate every single year. The new taxes imposed by the government through the budget for 2022-23 on the real estate sector will badly affect the growth of the construction industry and largely increase unemployment. It is a critical turning point for this government to turn the tables and implement the policies they have initiated in Covid. Also, the government should increase taxes on the non-filers of tax returns, but it should avoid imposing more taxes on the filers. A clear and strong plan is needed to energize the Construction Industry. The model that was highly successful in 2020 is evident and easily duplicable. The government must act quickly to mobilize the economy. We ask the government to review the proposed levies and ease the way for the construction industry to start with the same boom again. A thriving construction sector will not only drive multiple sectors in the country, but it will also be a highly effective way of inviting forex investors into the country.

The author is Director Marketing of AAA Associates.

Current economic kerfuffle impacting construction industry

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The tranches are not the solution for strengthening our fragile economy. The government must undertake several drastic measures to revive the country's faltering economy. The last six months have seen some of the highest prices of energy the world over. Coupled with the political instability, the rolling blackouts and extremely high prices of electricity has driven many of our export-oriented business to a closure.

The Pakistani Bonds and Sukuk, as with most world countries, are facing a steep decline as the global economy is shrinking. What was once considered an economic cool-down, is fast looking like a global recession. With the current floods damaging our agricultural produce for the coming season it appears that Pakistan will be in dire needs for forex for import of food-grain. To tackle these all-lingering dangers, the government must provide ease to the sector and industry that could be stabilize the economy.

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Chairman Senate assures to include private sector in foreign delegations

Says business community is very important in the economic development

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate has assured that he would try to include the members of ICCI in foreign delegations so that they could explore new avenues for promoting Pakistan's exports.

He said that the role of the business community was very important in the economic development as the economy would grow and strengthen if business activities would flourish. He stressed upon the business community to focus on Africa, ASEAN and other potential regions for trade and exports.

He said this while addressing as Chief Guest a Reception organized by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, outgoing President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to pay tributes to the former Presidents of ICCI.

The former Presidents ICCI Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik, Inayat Ullah Miraz, Khalid Javed, Baser Daud, Waqar Aslam Hamdi, Mohsin Khalid, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Tariq Sadiq, Abdul Rauf Alam, Nasir Khan, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Mian Shaukat Masud, Zahid Maqbool, Yasir Sakhi Butt, Zafar Bakhtawari, Shaban Khalid, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Muhammad Ahmed and Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, incumbent President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Jams-



haid Akhtar Sheikh outgoing Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan outgoing Vice President ICCI and a large number of members of business community were present at the occasion. Wafaqi Tax Mohtasib Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, Ambassador of Turkmenistan and Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir paid rich tributes to the valuable services of former Presidents ICCI. He said that the ICCI

had taken a humble start in 2 rented rooms and today the institution owned two multi-storey buildings.

He said that every President ICCI made useful contributions in building these assets of the Chamber during his tenure and played an important role in resolving the key issues of the business community. He also highlighted the key achievements of his tenure including some mega events organized by him like national level Property, Housing & Construction Expo, All Parties Conference for Revival of Economy,

ICCI Business Excellence Awards 22, Women Entrepreneurs Expo, Environment Expo, Marble Expo, opening of Facilitation Desks of Africa and ASEAN in ICCI.

Group Leader Khalid Iqbal Malik also highlighted the role of former Presidents ICCI in promoting the cause of the business community and resolving the issues of the business community. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani gave awards to the former Presidents ICCI in recognition of their valuable services for the institution and for the business community.

Huawei launch ASAF storage solution to empower Pakistan industrials

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Huawei Pakistan successfully held the Huawei IT Summit Pakistan 2022 and launched All Scenario All Flash storage solution in Islamabad.

Federal Secretary IT and Telecommunication Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq, HEC Mr. Faisal Rafique, New Horizon Qaiser Sarwar, Nayatel Mr. Jahanzeb Arshad, Future Wei Mr. Wang Yong, Wateen Mr. Aftab Siddiqui, TechAccess Mr. Kashif Ali along with other officials and experts from IT industrials and Huawei were all present at the Summit.

In the summit key speakers and experts highlighted how data has become the catalyst for the digital economy. Such explosive data growth, however, places added pressure on traditional data centers, which provide the centralized storage, computing and data resource exchange needed for enterprise



to tap into the value of data. Huawei launched All scenario Flash storage to combat the challenges of today's world to facilitate business growth and digital transformation across industries.

As the Chief Guest, the Federal Secretary Mr. Mohsin Mushtaq appreciated Huawei effort to organize Summit and said "Huawei has worked closely with the Ministry of IT and Telecommunications on various projects and has always been extremely supportive."

Talking about the cooperation with Huawei in Pakistan, operation VP Nayatel Mr. Jahanzeb Arshad saying "We wanted to work with global providers and provide the same level of service but more cost effective to our customers. Critical components of our services is Storage, certain customers require high IO performance from storage, and Huawei help us with the storage required for us to set up our open-stack Cloud. It was a very smooth and stable integration with Huawei

Drado Storage."

COO of New Horizon Mr. Qaiser Sarwar also shared experience with Huawei "We have evolved as more of a 'Storage Expert'. Our journey with Huawei started three and half years ago and we evaluated the storage at that time and realized that it has the potential compared to other storages in the market. The supply chain is so efficiently managed, and the stable capability of manufacturing even after covid times give us and Huawei an edge in the market"

HEC IT Director Mr. Faisal Rafique stated in the Summit "Our vision is to enhance the productivity in the education sector and focus on World class learning research and development centers. Our journey with Huawei started in 2007 with 30 HEIs and now we're with 210 HEIs in 2022. I would like to appreciate Huawei for a project completed phase 2 in a much quicker way."



Fahad Barlas receives a shield after completing two years as Executive Member of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Newly elected office bearers of RCCI Saqib Rafiq, President, SVP Hamza Sarosh and VP Faisal Shahzad pose for a group photo after assuming the charge at Chamber House Rawalpindi.

Akram Farid elected as Senior Vice-Chairman of PHA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Election of PHA office bearers and Executive Committee 2022-23 of Pakistan Hotel Association (PHA) was held in Karachi, in which Mian Akram Farid Former President ICCI and CEO hotel Crown plaza Islamabad elected as the Senior Vice-Chairman of Pakistan Hotels Association (PHA).

Mustansir Zakir from Hashwani Hotels elected as Chairman Vice-Chairman Abdul Jabbar Rathod, Vice-Chairman South, Faisal Qayyum Khan from Serena Hotels as Vice-Chairman North, M. Akram Farid congratulated newly elected Chairman and members of the Executive Committee—Addressing the meeting, the newly elected Senior Deputy Chairman M. Akram Farid said that he paid tribute to the services of the outgoing Chairman Muhammad Anwar Qureshi CEO Ramada hotel and his team and said that Pakistan is rich in natural scen-



ery and natural beauty and it should be richly endowed with this gift of God. Should be used.

The recent floods and the covid-19 epidemic have badly affected the hotel and services industry due to which many hotels have closed down and thousands of employees will be unemployed, but despite all this,

the government has not provided any relief to the hotel industry. Last year, during the covid-19 epidemic, the hotel industry accommodated 15,000 foreign travelers and temporarily housed 15,000 foreign travelers in their hotels.

Domestic passengers were accommodated. Due to conflicting policies

of the government, this very important sector related to tourism is dying and no department or government is ready to listen to their grievances. Actions should be taken and immediate action taken. Provide packages and facilities to the hotel industry.

M. Akram Farid further said that the government should exempt all taxes on the income of three star and four star hotels. He said that like other business sectors, the hotel industry has also been affected but it is a pity that the government has not given any relief to this industry. Due to credit sale, hotel owners are paying sales tax and bed tax. Recent floods and covid epidemic have reduced business activities in hotels by 40%.

In Pakistan, 0.5 to 6 million people are associated with hotel industry. Gives him to abolish the bed tax in the current situation so that the industry can survive, as hotel customers are shifting to flats and guest houses due to 21 percent interest rate.

In addition to the tax, the hotels that have not yet been able to collect the tax should be given a reprieve

until the situation improves. 7.5% sales tax should be levied on hotels like restaurants and bed tax, which was earlier one rupee per bed, has been increased to five percent of room rent for hotels in Islamabad in July 2019, the government should abolish it. Apart from this, property tax and water bills for 2019 and 2020 should also be waived.

He said that hotels have supported the government in difficult times and in this regard a very important sector is being neglected.

Said that foreigners are welcome in Pakistan during tourist season from May to September. Tourist bookings and bookings are completed by March but this time due to floods and damaged road infrastructure, foreign tourist bookings are almost non-existent and what used to be done earlier is now being cancelled. Hotels are operating at barely 30% of their capacity and nearly 70% of people's jobs are at stake. He said that the government needs to take immediate remedial measures in this regard.

Dairy Processing in Pakistan

Abdus Sattar

The dairy processing in Turkey, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, and South Africa has ranged between 80 to 98 percent of milk production while provision of untreated raw milk is banned in many developed countries.

Pakistan's population is more than 220 million and about 66 percent people are living in rural areas. Milk has become the most essential daily consumable item, and more or less every household spends more than 26 percent of its budget on dairy items. Due to high population growth, urbanization and rising income levels, the demand for dairy items is hastily rising in the major cities.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) dairy items

consumption would be the highest in Pakistan as compared to the rest of the world by 2030. Approximately 1 percent of total milk production was processed in 2003. According to dairy industry estimates, only 3-5 percent of the milk is marketed through formal channels as processed milk while more than 20 dairy processing plants were operating in the country in 2007. About 2 billion liters of milk were processed in 2019 which was 7 to 8 percent of the total milk production.

The rest of the 92 percent was sold in raw form. Only 10 percent of total milk production is processed; the remaining 90 percent is consumed as raw milks in 2020. The quantity of dairy processed items was 1.2 million tonnes in Pakistan in 2019. The lion's share was buffalo ghee and butter about 50 percent and 40 percent respectively in 2019 while cow skimmed milk share was 8 percent.

More than 90 percent of cow processed dairy items were produced globally in 2019. But about 90 percent of buffalo processed dairy items, while 8 percent of skimmed cow milk was produced in Pakistan in the same year.

The processed buffalo ghee production was 123 thousand tonnes in 1961 and augmented to 501 thousand tonnes in 2019, while skimmed cow milk production was 9 thousand tonnes in 2003 and escalated to 97 thousand tonnes in 2019. The Buffalo milk butter production was 569 thousand tonnes in 2014 and amplified to 626 thousand tonnes in 2019. So buffalo ghee, butter and skimmed cow milk are major dairy processed items in Pakistan.

According to some researchers, Pakistan can benefit from around US\$30 billion from dairy processing exports while one per cent increase in the market share of packaged milk business can

generate 2500 new jobs and transfer additional Rs. 36 billion into the rural economy. It will also augment taxes by Rs. 6 billion a year and save foreign Rs.22 billion is spent on imports each year.

There are many imperative factors impeding dairy processing in Pakistan. The people are habitual of consuming buffalo loose milk and other unprocessed dairy items since decades in rural as well as urban areas.

Most of them are unaware of UHT milk even in urban areas people prefer loose milk and unprocessed dairy items. About 80 percent of milk is produced by the small dairy farmers in rural areas, 15 percent in peri-urban and 5 percent in the urban areas.

The informal milk marketing is so strong that still 90 percent of milk is still marketed through middlemen in Pakistan. The average producer milk

price is Rs.90 per kg in rural and urban areas depending upon the milk quality, while middlemen sell it between Rs. 120-180 while UHT milk is sold at Rs.200 per liter. There also exists a huge price discrimination among processed and unprocessed dairy items.

Pakistan's dairy imports were about 86 thousand tonnes and 97 percent was the dried milk of total dairy imports in 2019. Dried milk is to be considered a cheap and alternative solution to coping with milk shortage. It is used in different dairy items like ice cream, yogurt and liquid milk. So the import of dried milk is also discouraging the purchase of raw milk from the local market.

The milk processing companies should highlight the importance of processed dairy items through print, electronic and social. Through training and seminars, they should create awareness in people as well as in small dairy

farmers regarding processed dairy items.

They should attract the small dairy farmers through reasonable producer prices and avoid long expiry dates of dairy processed items. They should also focus on value-added cow dairy items like casein, butter, cheese, skimmed milk powder, whole milk powder, and whey powder. Because the prices of these dairy items are 3-6 times higher as compared to loose milk in the international market.

The processing companies should establish more milk collection centers and cold chains in rural areas. About 15 to 20 percent of the total milk production which valued Rs.169 billion is wasted during transportation due to the absence of a formal milk marketing system in some areas of Pakistan.

The author is Researcher at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

Huge opportunities exist to boost Pak-Korea relations: Ch. Salik

Federal Minister for BOI was addressing the ceremony on the occasion of Korean Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day

Naveed Ahmad Khan

Federal Minister for Board of Investment (BOI) Chaudhry Salik Hussain has said that there are vast opportunities for further expansion of economic, trade relations between the Republic of Korea and Pakistan. He addressed the gathering as a Chief Guest on the occasion of Korean Foundation Day and Armed Forces Day.

Minister for Defence Production Muhammad Israr Tareen, Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri, Senator Sehar Kamran, Senator Sitara Ayaz, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Turkmenistan Atadjan Movlamov, high commissioners, ambassadors, diplomats, parliamentarians and members of civil society attended the event.

Chaudhry Salik said the diplomatic relations between the two countries are based on bilateral diplomatic and trade ties, which have deep roots in history.

He said an agreement has been reached between 'Samsung and Lucky Motors' regarding the production of smart-phones in Pakistan and this will further strengthen the economic and trade relations between the two countries.

The minister said South Korea and Pakistan have a great potential of skilled labor which has played its full role for the development not only of their country but also in different regions of the world.

He recalled the history of the start of diplomatic bilateral relations and also refreshed that in the decades of the 60s and 70s, the Pakistani and Korean workforce played a key role in the construction of today's Middle East.

"Our relations date back deep into history in 'Gandhara civilization'", he said.

He also referred to the joint venture of the Korean South East Power Company with a local company at Gullpore generating 102 MW of electricity.

Meanwhile, on the occasion, Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea to Pakistan, Suh Sangpyo said that there is



Photos By Ghulam Farid

a strong economic and trade relationship between Pakistan and South Korea which has a lot of potential.

New avenues of economic and trade cooperation will be opened in the near future in both the countries, he said.

He said people-to-people contact is very important in both the countries and there are a large number of Pakistani living in Korea. Apart from this, a

large number of Pakistani students have gone to South Korea for studies.

The Ambassador said relations with Pakistan are enhancing the due potential in all sectors and Korean companies are coming to Pakistan.

He said "We have revised our travel advisory for Pakistan and soon Korea will start group tours." Korea is standing with Pakistan in

the relief and restoration of flood-affected people.

The ambassador in his address said both of the countries have strengthened their ties in different sectors including trade, investments, education, culture and sports.

"We are going to hold more cultural events this year in collaboration with Pakistani partners."

Saif emphasizes strengthening people-to-people contacts between Pak-China

73rd Founding Day of the People's Republic of China celebrated at China Study Center, UOP

Report by : Tooba Khan

PESHAWAR: China Study Center, University of Peshawar celebrated 73rd Independence Day of the People Republic of China on 1st October 2022 at the conference hall of the Center. Special Assistant to Chief Minister KP for Information and Public Relations, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif was the Chief Guest of the event. On the Occasion the Chief Guest congratulated Chinese people on their independence day and advised students to pay attention to understanding Chinese culture, history and civilization. He said the Pakistan and China have very friendly relations and the young generation should benefit from this all-weather friendship. He particularly emphasized on galvanizing people to people contacts between the two countries. The honorable Chief Guest talked about his several visits to China since the start of the 21st Century.

The program started with recitation of the Holy Quran followed by the national anthem of Pakistan and China. Prof Dr Zahid Anwar Pro Vice Chancellor and Director China Study Center, University of Peshawar said the China Study Center, at University of Peshawar was established in 2016 with cooperation from the China Embassy in Pakistan. After his becoming the Director of the Center, the China Embassy gave PKR 23 million grant for scholarship, equipment and research which was properly distributed among the students, schools, Centers and departments of the University. For its excellent performance China Study Center University of Peshawar the only Center from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was selected by Higher Education Commission of Pakistan to promote its programs and a grant of more than 20 million was given. The Center is thankful to the Government for its support to strengthen people to people contacts between the two countries. China Study center has organized more than 300 events on BRI, CPEC, Pakistan China Relations and Regional issues and submitted its reports to the quarter concerned.

Mr Sayed Ali Nawaz Gilani General Secretary Pakistan China Friendship Association KP Chapter in his speech said that Pakistan and China Relations have strengthened with passage of time. Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary-General PCFA & President Radio China Listener's Club Peshawar while speaking on the occasion said China is now Rising and Shining across the globe due to its systems and this is a great lesson to learn which is the need of the hour. While celebrating 73rd Founding Day of the People's Republic of China today we should also follow our time tested friendly advice. There are rich opportunities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to move ahead for socio economic developments. Traditionally the relations with China are very old. Peshawar Urumqi and Abbottabad Kashgar are sister cities since 1985 and 2007 respectively. The Provincial Cabinet already approved twinning to other cities which will soon be finalized and open a new chapter of Friendship and we can benefit from Chinese experience in various fields for mutual interest.

He particularly highlighted the role of the CPC in making China a great economic and political power. After the speech of the Chief Guest the cake cutting ceremony took place which was followed by a group photo and refreshments. In



the question answer session it was suggested that to ease trade and strengthen people to people contact flights from Peshawar to Urumqi and Kashgar (Kashi) should be started.

The Director of the China Study Center thanked the Chief Guest, distinguished speakers and other participants for their sparing time on weekend to come and participate in

the Independence Day celebrations of China. A large number of officials, pro Vice Chancellors, Deans, experts on China, faculty and students participated in the event.

