



### Khurram urges PTI to hold protest in peaceful manner

Federal Minister for Energy Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan on Tuesday urged the PTI Chairman to hold a protest in a peaceful manner and avoid agitation with the government. "We have given permission to PTI for organizing peaceful demonstration but creating chaos is not allowed at any cost".



### Uzbekistan has strong ties with Pakistan: Rana Tanveer

The Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training on Tuesday in his office. Senior officials of the ministry also attended the meeting.

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Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

### CRBC donates \$100,000 in PM's Flood Relief Fund



#### Spokesman Report

BELJING: China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), a key Chinese State-owned company Tuesday donated US\$ 100,000 in Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims in Pakistan.

President of CRBC, Wang Lijun presented the donation cheque to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin Ul Haque in a simple ceremony held at the Embassy here.

Sharing his condolences with the bereaved families, President Wang Lijun said, his company would continue to support the flood affected victims in Pakistan who were facing the havoc created by the torrential rains and floods that destroyed their houses and livelihoods.

He expressed his good wishes for Pakistan's government efforts for the post-flood rehabilitation and infrastructure development in the affected areas. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Moin conveyed gratitude and sincere appreciation of the government and the people of Pakistan to the company's leadership for their generous assistance.

The ambassador said that Pakistan and China had always stood together in difficult times and Chinese assistance to the flood victims' rehabilitation had once again proven the unique nature of fraternal ties between the two countries.

### Partners

A delegation of MQM (Pakistan) headed by convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

## 'All measures in place to safeguard nuclear assets'

Pakistan has taken all measures necessary to strengthen its nuclear security regime, at par with int'l best practices, says ISPR

#### Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Army commanders on Tuesday reposed full confidence in the country's robust nuclear command and control structure and security arrangements related to strategic assets, the military's media wing said in a statement after the 252nd Corps Commanders' Conference held at GHQ.

Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa presided over the conference.

The military top brass met today and took a "comprehensive review of the prevailing internal and external security situation and operational preparedness" of the army.

US President Joe Biden's statement about Pakistan's nuclear programme also came under discussion during the conference.



"As a responsible nuclear weapon state, Pakistan has taken all measures necessary to strengthen its nuclear security regime, at par with international best practices," the forum was informed.

The meeting was also apprised of the army's assistance to civil administration for relief and rehabilitation efforts in the flood-affected areas and post-flood situation, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan.

While expressing satisfaction over the operational preparedness

of the formations, the COAS reiterated Pakistan Army's resolve to defend the motherland against all threats.

He lauded formations' operational readiness and sustained efforts during flood relief duties.

It is pertinent to mention that last week, US President Joe Biden's off-the-cuff remarks on Pakistan's nuclear programme at a private Democratic Party fundraiser in California had caused an uproar.

"And what I think is maybe one of the most dangerous nations in the world: Pakistan. Nuclear weapons without any cohesion," Biden had said, according to a White House transcript.

Since then, the United States has said that it had confidence in Pakistan's ability to control its nuclear arsenal.

"The United States is confident

of Pakistan's commitment and its ability to secure its nuclear assets," State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters.

"The US has always viewed a secure and prosperous Pakistan

COAS reiterates resolve to defend motherland against all threats

as critical to US interests and, more broadly, the US values our long-standing cooperation with Pakistan," he said.

Pakistan had also summoned US Ambassador Donald Blome to lodge a protest over Biden's remarks.

### OPEC decision

## Pakistan expresses solidarity with KSA

#### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia in the wake of statements made against the Kingdom in the context of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decision.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Foreign Office said Paki-

stan appreciates the concerns of Saudi Arabia for avoiding market volatility and ensuring global economic stability.

Reaffirming Pakistan's long-standing, abiding and fraternal ties with the Kingdom, the Foreign Office said Pakistan encourages a constructive approach on such issues based on engagement and mutual respect.

## ECP postpones LG polls in Karachi

Elections were scheduled in seven districts on Oct 23.

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday announced the postponement of the local bodies election in Karachi scheduled for October 23, saying that it will review the situation again after 15 days.

The decision was taken by ECP today after the Sindh government informed the body about the unavailability of the police force for security during polls due to floods.

"Election Commission made every effort to hold local bodies polls in Karachi and a meeting was held with the secretary interior a day prior in this regard," the ECP said.

It said that the ministry was asked to ensure the availability

of the army and Rangers for security but was informed that due to a lack of police personnel the Rangers and army cannot be deployed at polling stations and will only be available as a Quick Response Force when needed.

"The ECP had no option but to postpone the local government elections in Karachi for the time being."

The Sindh government had informed the electoral body that there is a shortage of 16,785 personnel and recommended that the federal government be requested to fulfil the requirement from the army and Rangers. It also requested to the postponement of the polls for another three months. Agencies

### IK conspiring to weaken state institutions: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said the people wanted freedom from PTI Chairman Imran Khan, a "Foreign Funded Fitna" (FFF) as he was conspiring to weaken the state institutions. The "Foreign Funded Fitna and his gang have become a threat to the national security," she posted on her Twitter handle in response to a tweet of PTI leader Chaudhry Fawad Hussain. She said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), which in its four-year rule had made the lives of common men miserable, was thrown out of the parliament by a popular referendum of 176 members of the National Assembly. Staff Reporter

## Will never accept weak govt again, says Imran

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday admitted to weakness within his government and said that he will never accept a weak government again.

These views were expressed by the PTI chief [Imran Khan] while meeting the delegation of the Rawalpindi-Islamabad Union of Journalists (RIUJ) and National Press Club Islamabad. During the meeting, the former premier said, for the last 26 years, he has been doing politics of justice for the sake of democracy and people. Talking about his long march, Imran reiterated that the party's long march for actual freedom (real freedom) will take place this month.

Talking about the country's development back in the 1960s, Imran went on to say that in the 60s, Pakistan was economically ahead of Singapore and South Korea, now Singapore's per capita income is \$70,000, while Pakistan's per capita income is only \$2,000. The PTI chief added that Singapore developed on the basis of transparency and justice.

"When our government came, Pakistan was bank-



rupt, the incumbent government has bankrupted Pakistan in six months. When our government was overthrown, the growth rate in Pakistan was 6 per cent. I had only five days off, that too when I contracted the coronavirus", said the former prime minister [Imran Khan].

Taking a swipe at PM Shehbaz Sharif, Imran Khan said, "After coming to power, he [Shehbaz Sharif] was acquitted of the cases. When I was in government, the pressure on me increased. NAB and courts were not under my control. Now, the mafias took over the system in Pakistan. They are trying their best to disqualify me, that's why they are filing cases against me."

Reiterating that early and transparent elections are the only way out of the current

political and economic crisis, Imran said that preparations should be made to carry the movement to its logical conclusion vigorously within the framework of the constitution and law.

The PTI chairman, Imran Khan further said that the political struggle of the PTI is for the supremacy of the constitution and the law, adding that it is impossible to create a prosperous society without the rule of law and justice.

Talking about PTI leader and Senator Azam Swati, Imran said that the culture of lawlessness has flourished and the shameful tradition of violence against Senator Azam Swati and other political activists for mere expression has been revived. Agencies

### PSX turns around to bullish trend, gains 83 points

#### Our Correspondent

KARACHI: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turn around to bullish trend on Tuesday, gaining 83.82 points, a positive change of 0.20 percent, closing at 41,839.27 against 41,755.45 points on the last working day.

A total of 190,311,688 shares were traded during the day compared to 144,312,641 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs5.809 billion against Rs4.667 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 350 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 175 of them recorded gain and 163 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 12 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were: Worldcall Telecom with 29,860,500 shares at Rs1.57 per share, F. Nat. Equities with 11,670,500 at Rs6.00 and Sui Northern GasXD with 8,417,065 at Rs33.81 per share.

### To overcome line losses

## Cabinet okays expansion of advanced power metering project

#### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet in its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday approved, in principle, the expansion of the current installation of advance meters project in Islamabad to other areas of the country to overcome the issue of line losses.

The cabinet also approved the installation of advance meters on power transformers. The prime minister directed for preparation of a list of corrupt officers in the power distribution companies and deputation of well-reputed officers on different posts to improve the functioning of the companies, reduce the line losses and ensure better public delivery.

He observed that such performing officers should be encouraged with appreciation and awards.

The cabinet was given a detailed briefing by the Power Division regarding electricity theft, line losses and the comprehensive strategy to reduce them, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The meeting was also apprised of the power theft, line losses, bills and recovery in the DISCOs with the presentation of all the relevant data, besides issues in the way of recovery from those feeders which had been running into losses and the steps and proposals in that regard.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet meeting in Islamabad on Tuesday. Photo: PID

### PM, MQM delegation discuss political situation

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) led by Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, the party convener, called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Tuesday. Minister for Overseas Pakistanis' Affairs Faisal Sabzwari, Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Tessori and Waseem Akhtar were also part of the delegation. Besides, Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah and Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafiq were also present in the meeting, a press release issued by the PM Media Wing here said. The MQM delegation lauded the Prime Minister for the measures taken by the federal government for rescue and rehabilitation of the flood affected people. Staff Reporter

The prime minister directed the Power Division to present in the next meeting a comprehensive report on the vacant posts of essential staff in the DISCOs and stressed that the employment process should be held transparent while bringing it at par with the best global practices. Expressing his dissatisfaction over the average 7 percent line losses, the prime minister set up a committee headed by Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif for the formulation of a comprehensive plan to reduce the line losses average under phases and in line with the global practices immediately, besides submission of recommendations to bring reforms in the power distribution companies.

## Strong ties

Islamabad: A delegation of visiting Saudi Security Team accompanied by Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan His Excellency Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki calling on Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sana Ullah in Islamabad on Tuesday.



Photo: PID

*Reko Diq: President Arif Alvi files reference in SC*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Tuesday filed a reference in the Supreme Court to seek its opinion in the Reko Diq case.

The reference has been filed in the SC on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif after the president approved the summary under Article 186 of the Constitution.

The reference will seek the opinion of the apex court on the settlement agreement on Reko Diq. Earlier, the federal cabinet approved sending a presidential reference on Reko Diq case to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

In March 2022, the then finance minister Shaukat Tarin announced that an agreement for the development of Reko Diq mine had been reached with a foreign company Barrick Gold, according to which Balochistan will have a 25% share.

For prosperity

# President for investing on human capital

*Dr. Alvi says some impregnable powers emerging in world by combined using engineering and AI*

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said that the investment on human resource was inevitable to accomplish the forefathers' vision for a successful and prosperous Pakistan, by exploiting the immense potential in the fields engineering and technology.

The president, addressing the distribution ceremony of Pakistan Engineering Council's Engineers' Excellence Awards 2020 and 2021, said some impregnable powers were emerging in the world by combined using engineering and the artificial intelligence. He said it was the responsibility of the institutions like Pakistan Engineering Council to create an atmosphere of excellence. At a time when huge quantum of information and teaching material was available in the cloud technology, the countries like Pakistan had no excuse to miss the bandwagon.

He questioned as how long Pakistan would continue to bank on others'

consultancy for development projects and emphasized the need for producing quality human resources in all required fields.

The president said through brain drain, Pakistan had suffered a lot and called for the an atmosphere to persuade the skilled workforce to serve in the country out of no compulsion.

He said to their credit, Pakistani engineers had the development of Middle East and upkeep of Harmain Sharifain, therefore it was essential to look into the factors which led to missing the targets.

Investment on human capital inevitable for a successful, prosperous Pakistan: President He said it were the Pakistani engineers and scientists who made the country achieve the nuclear capability within the span of few years.

The president, who earlier distributed excellence awards among prominent engineers, urged the Pakistan Engineering Council to make efforts for making the country achieve self-sufficiency in modern technology like chip manufacturing to

protect the country against cyber attacks.

He said being a precious asset, the engineers should play their role to build a generation which should have the global recognition for their success and credibility.

He said Pakistan should also tap the potential of youth bulge which otherwise could become a burden.

The president also appreciated PEC for its several initiatives, which included entrepreneurship, training of engineers, development of matchmaking portal, development of green energy building code, upgradation of PEC's bidding documents and re-activation of Pakistan Institute of Cost and Contracts for enhancing the role of engineers in the socio-economic development of the country.

Earlier, Chairman of Pakistan Engineering Council Najeeb Haroon said the being a powerhouse of professionals and a think tank, the Council was determined to promote real professionalism and discourage pseudo-intellectualism.

## US says 'confident' of Pakistan's ability to secure nuclear assets

WASHINGTON: "The United States is confident of Pakistan's commitment and its ability to secure nuclear assets," a State Department spokesperson has said, five days after President Joe Biden questioned the safety of Islamabad's nuclear programme.

The statement came shortly after a meeting on Monday between Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, and the State Department Counselor, Derek Chollet, who serves as a senior policy advisor to the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to a press release of the Pakistani embassy.

"The U.S. has always viewed a secure and prosperous Pakistan as critical to U.S. interests," State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel said while responding to a question at the daily news briefing.

He said that the two countries "enjoy a strong partnership" and that "the United States valued its longstanding cooperation with Pakistan."

The spokesperson recalled the recent high-level visits on both

sides, including the trip to the US by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and the visits of Counselor Chollet and USAID Administrator Samantha Power to Pakistan.

"This is a relationship we view as important and it's something that we are really deeply engaged on," the spokesperson added.

President Biden's remarks about Pakistan nuclear programme, made at a Democratic Party congressional campaign committee reception on Thursday, were described by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif as "factually incorrect and misleading", and the Foreign Office summoned the US Ambassador in Pakistan, Donald Blome, for an explanation.

In his tweet after meeting with Ambassador Masood Khan, Counselor Chollet said he discussed with him US-Pakistan longstanding partnership and to "further grow our ties in so many areas including health, agriculture, education, entrepreneurship, energy & more for the benefit of our peoples & the region." APP

*Musadiq expresses concern over David Fenton's hiring by PTI*

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Tuesday expressed serious concern over the hiring of David Fenton, founder of the anti-nuclear programme in the world, by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) as a lobbyist to improve its image and relations with the United States of America.

Addressing a news conference here, he said it was beyond his understanding why PTI chairman Imran Khan hired David Fenton, who was known as the founder of the denuclearization programme in the world.

"How strange it is that Imran Khan, who had access to state secrets as prime minister, hired such a person (David Fenton) whose goal in life was to weaken and even end Pakistan's nuclear programme," he said.

The minister cast serious doubt on the hiring of David Fenton's Company, saying behind the scene motives could be against the national interest of Pakistan.

Nowadays, he said, a secret video attributed to Netflix, a streaming service, was being circulated in WhatsApp groups, which was against the PML-N leadership and Pakistan. APP

*Imran Khan is playing with state: Javed Latif*

LAHORE: Federal Minister Javed Latif on Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was playing with the state and its consequences would not only affect the institutions but also the nation.

Talking to the media at the Lahore High Court (LHC), he said: "We are sacrificing our politics for the sake of state and even we can lay down our lives for it."

He claimed that Imran Khan was blue-eyed even today as he was being given relief in cases despite not appearing before the courts.

The minister said that he had been appearing before the courts for the last two years in such a terrorism case, wherein, he only said that threats to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz should be stopped, adding that instead of taking action against the responsible, he was made accused.

He alleged that facilitation had done in the by-polls like it was done in the 2018 general elections. Imran Khan spent billions of rupees on 30 by-polls and public gatherings during the last four months, he said and questioned whether any one could ask the PTI chief about the sources of money spent on by-election. Agencies

## Court issues stay order against Lal Haveli eviction

*Rasheed sought stay order against eviction notice*

RAWALPINDI: After Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad challenged a notice asking him to vacate his residence of Lal Haveli, a district and sessions court in Rawalpindi Tuesday issued a stay order to the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB), directing it to temporarily stop the eviction of the structure.

The board, on October 16, issued directives to AML chief Rasheed and his brother Sheikh Siddique to vacate the residence within seven days. However, the former minister challenged the notice in court on Monday. It should be noted that October 24



was fixed by the court to hear the case, while the last date for vacating Lal Haveli was October 19.

Considering this, the former interior minister filed a fresh petition in the same court seeking a stay order against the eviction notice. During the hearing, Rasheed's counsel Abdul Razaq apprised the court and mentioned that

Lal Haveli's name was used under the guise of rental shops.

Under the government's pressure, the deputy administrator served an illegal notice to his client, argued Rasheed's counsel. He then pleaded with the court to declare the orders null and void. Meanwhile, the court reserved its judgment on the matter and adjourned the hearing. After a brief break, the local court announced the ruling, suspending the Evacuee Trust Property Board's October 12 orders for 15 days. "The petitioner has the right to appeal within 15 days of the eviction orders," read the verdict. Agencies

## Pakistan adopts measures to completely eradicate polio: Minister

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel has said that Pakistan is adopting effective measures under a coordinated strategy to completely eradicate polio from its soil. Addressing the World Health Summit in Berlin, he said the Government of Pakistan was determined to eliminate the polio virus from the country. He said over 27 polio workers had lost their lives during polio immunization drives in Pakistan. He appreciated the role of Pakistan Army and other security forces for ensuring security to the polio workers.

The minister said despite the recent

floods that badly affected the country's health system, the government was determined to complete the task of polio eradication from the country and protecting children from the crippling disease.

He apprised that the Al-Azhar University had decreed that vaccination against the deadly polio disease was a religious and humanitarian duty.

"Pakistan has made incredible progress against polio, but recent challenges have allowed the virus to persist," said Dr Zulfi Bhutta, Chair of Child Global Health, Hospital for Sick Children, Canada, and Professor Aga Khan University, Pakistan.

"Polio, like any virus, knows no borders; its continued transmission threatens children everywhere. Stopping

this disease is not just urgently needed now, it's within our grasp."

He said, "With strong financial and political commitments, our long-awaited vision of a polio-free world can become a reality."

More than 3,000 scientists and health experts from 115 countries urged the world to fully fund eradication strategy following resurgence of the disease.

Global leaders confirmed \$2.6 billion in funding toward the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's (GPEI) 2022-2026 Strategy to end polio at a pledging moment co-hosted by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) at the World Health Summit in Berlin.

## Ashrafi for solid measures to meet climate change challenges

Spokesman Report

CAIRO: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Tuesday said the developed and financially influential countries should support the underdeveloped countries with less resources in order to cope with the challenges arising from the climate change.

Talking to the media following the 'World Fatwa Conference' in Cairo, Egypt, Ashrafi said it was high time to recognize the reality of climate change, as flash floods in Pakistan have inundated 70 percent area of the country, which has caused more than \$30 billion loss to the national economy.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council, said Islam stressed to take advantage from conventional knowledge and use of modern sciences for water conser-

vation and tree planting were the commandments of Islam.

He said the debates and discussions between Islamic scholars on the conventional issues was a very important step for resolving the problems of the present age.

Ashrafi said the Islamic scholars had invited the leaders of all the religions to move forward to resolve the conventional problems of the world.

The Makkah Declaration was result of the continued efforts on part of the Muslim World League and similarly, the 'Charter of Akhawat-e-Insania' by Sheikh Al-Azhar, and 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' by Ulema and Mashaykh of Pakistan for promoting unity and consensus in view of inter-faith dialogue, he maintained.

He said Islam was guarantor of survival and security of the humanity, and it taught us the promotion of peace, affection, and tolerance. In this scenario, it was necessary that the lead-



ership of all religions and religious sects should raise awareness about challenges of the climate change, he added.

He also informed that Prime Minis-

ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would participate in the conference in Sharm-Al-Sheikh and shed the light on the losses incurred by the recent monsoon

rains and flash floods in Pakistan.

"Pakistan alone cannot deal with the catastrophic situation caused by floods in the country," he said urging

international organizations and Islamic world to cooperate with Pakistan in this trying time.

"We are grateful for the cooperation of the international bodies and Islamic world, but it is not sufficient enough to cope with the calamity," he said adding the problems were increasing many folds with every passing day as mercury was dropping and people were forced to live under the open sky in the winter season.

Seeking world community's help to meet this national disaster, Ashrafi informed that the flood-affected people of Pakistan were also facing water related diseases.

The World Fatwa Conference, titled 'Fatwa and Sustainable Development Goals' was held under the aegis of Egypt's Dar-Al-Ifta in Cairo, and attended by the delegates of more than 100 countries from all over the world including Mufti-e-Azam Egypt and Mufti-e-Azam Palestine.

# Multiple steps taken to provide free healthcare to citizens: KP CM

Says significant resources are being spent on revamping the hospitals

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has formally approved free treatment for children suffering from cochlear disorders adding that the cognitive learning abilities are of paramount importance among children and the provincial government will go all out in helping children suffering from these diseases, said an official handout issued here on Tuesday.



According to details, a total of 127 requests have been received through Chief Minister's Cell and other welfare organizations from 25 districts of the province. Nine cases have also been received from the merged districts including District Aurakzai, Bajaur, Kurram and Khyber.

The treatment will incur a total cost of Rs 250 million and will be carried out in three phases as approved by the chief minister. In the first phase, 38 children belonging to flood hit districts of the province ie: Charsadda, DI Khan, Shangla and Swat districts will be prioritized whereas in the second phase, families having three or more children with cochlear diseases will be provided with free treatment. The remaining cases will be treated in the third phase.

The chief minister directed that families should be informed phase wise in order to ensure prior preparedness adding that youngest children should be prioritized in order to ensure that their cognitive learning abilities are restored on priority basis.

Mahmood Khan said that hearing ability is directly linked with cognitive learning and any disorder directly affects the overall learning process among children. He added that immediate treatment of children suffering from this disease is of paramount importance in order to enable them to live a complete, healthy and conscious life.

Touching upon the priority initiatives taken by his government in health sector, Mahmood Khan said that the provincial government is not only aware of the problems faced by people in the health sector but has also taken multiple steps to provide quality and free healthcare to its citizens.

The chief minister said that extension of Sehat Insaf Card to cent percent population of the province is undoubtedly an unprecedented effort of the government under which millions of people across the province have been provided with free treatment facilities so far.

Apart from this, significant resources are being spent on revamping the hospitals and healthcare centers in the province in order to provide best treatment facilities to people at their doorsteps.



MUZAFFARABAD: AJK Chief Secretary Usman Chachar chairing a meeting of Executive committee of Muzaffarabad Cadet College held on Tuesday.

## GBDWC approves 20 projects



SKARDU: The 4th meeting of GB Development Working Committee (GBDWC) was held here on Tuesday. Secretary Works GB chaired the meeting, 20 projects of public interest amounting to Rs. 544.545 million approved while 02 projects deferred owing to technical deficiencies. The meeting was briefed in details about the projects.

## 'Fly Jinnah' releases painting video of its fleet



### Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Fly Jinnah, Pakistan's new low-cost carrier (LCC), releases a timelapse video of the livery painting of its fleet. The video shows the full process of painting the aircraft from start to finish.

The current full fleet of Fly Jinnah which is comprised of three Airbus A320 aircraft have received a fresh coat of paint reflecting the livery of the brand. The special timelapse video can be viewed on this link.

Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_922QUNaX60](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_922QUNaX60)

Fly Jinnah has received its Air Operator Certificate (AOC) and Air Operating License (AOL) Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA), and the airline will start its operations from Karachi International Airport soon.

Lakson Group and Air Arabia Group announced their decision to form a JV airline in Pakistan in September 2021. 'Fly Jinnah' will follow Air Arabia's successful low-cost business model and provide its customer base with a reliable operation and value-driven product.

## Ansar Majeed visits school



### Spokesman Report

LAHORE: The Minister for Labour & HR Deptt. Ansar Majeed Niazi Secretary WWF Abdul Rauf and Director Education PWWF Khalid Amir Guniana Sial visited the school.

All the guests highly appreciated the efforts of the Principal, Staff and students on arranging "Science Exhibition with amazing models. Honourable Minister distributed trophies along with cash prizes by his pocket among the high achievers of this school in Qirat, Seerat un Nabi Speech Competition. He was overjoyed to see the cleanliness and maintenance of the School. Worthy Secretary PWWF passed appreciated remarks to the whole team especially Principal.

Director Education PWWF also paid valuable remarks for the achievers and all staff who have targeted the goals in very short span of time.

He also acknowledged the services of the Principal, faculty and students. In the end, Secretary WWF and Director Education PWWF noted the issues of School staff and promised that they will do their best to resolve the issues. The whole school staff paid thanks to all the guests specially worthy labour minister for paying a visit to the concerned school.

## Summary ready to empower local bodies: Administrator Karachi

KARACHI: Administrator Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Tuesday said a summary had been prepared to give powers to local bodies.

The Administrator said this while addressing a function organized on the occasion of distribution of offer letters among the teachers who passed the IBA test here at the auditorium of Sindh Boys Scouts Association.

He said, "After the signature of the Sindh Chief Minister, immediate legal action will be initiated, under the prepared summary and the Mayor will have wide powers as he will be the chairman of Karachi Development Authority, Karachi Water and Sewerage board and Solid Waste Management Board." In 2018 general elections, the National Assembly seat in Malir was taken away from PPP which has been regained.

He said that education is a game changer for any nation and PPP-led Sindh government has given appointment letters to teachers on merit in a transparent manner. Director Schools Education Karachi Region Lubna Salahuddin, District Education Officer Saba Mehmood, PPP Deputy Secretary Information Karachi Division Shakeel Chaudhry, South District President Khalil Hoot, Secretary Sindh Boys Scouts Association Akhtar Mir, senior officers of the Education Department, teachers and a large number of students were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab distributed offer letters to 201 male and female teachers who passed the IBA test and congratulated them.

He said that education plays a fundamental role in the improvement of any society and we need to further improve our educational standards. "If the education system works well, doctors, engineers, lawyers and teachers will be born in the society," he added.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the most important responsibility is with the Primary teachers as the first contact of the child is with these teachers. He said that without the distinction of rich and poor, these teachers educate and train our children.

"If (teachers) perform duties diligently and honestly, we will have an educated Karachi, an educated Sindh and an educated Pakistan and the nation will be on the path of development. Quality and excellent education is the guarantee of the country's development," the Administrator said.

# 11th session of OIC-Statistical Commission underway

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 11th Session of the OIC-Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), co-hosted by Islamic Development Bank and Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centres for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) is in progress at SESRIC Headquarters in Ankara, Turkey.



The session is being chaired by Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar. Representatives of National Offices NSOs of OIC member countries, OIC institutions and International organizations are attending the session.

The session is the best forum for member countries to share their experiences and have an insight into world's best practices for effective statistical capacity building. The current session will review the activities of the Commission since its last meeting in October 2021. Deliberations and experiences sharing on three technical agenda items from member countries will be part of two-day program.

The Agenda items are Transforming Population and Housing Census to Mitigate Effects of COVID-19 Pandemic, Monitoring and reporting Manufac-

turing and Industrial Statistics related SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) Indicators and Monitoring and reporting Research and Scientific Development related SDG 9 indicators.

The opening session was held on 18th October, 2022. The session started with recitation of Holy Quran followed by address of outgoing chair, Adnen Lassoued from Tunisia; DG SESRIC, Nebil Debur and office incharge Islamic Development Bank Group Hammad Zafar Hundal.

The main focus was past OIC-StatCom activities and implementation of 2021-2025 actions program with new measures and technologies to capture high quality statistics. The session is important for Pakistan as the chair was handed over from Arab group (Tunisia) to Asia group (Pakistan).

Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics in his address as Chairman of 11th Session of OIC-StatCom thanked OIC-StatCom, the SESRIC, Islamic Development Bank Group and the member countries for their continuous support and providing opportunity to chair the highly valuable international forum.

He said that enabling NSO to respond the changing socio-economic needs of a country requires to move beyond their traditional roles of data collection and dissemination. Communication strategies must be developed for making data and its insights obvious to stakeholders. Provision of data access in an effective and user friendly way to data users is also responsibility of NSO.

Data provision from sources other than routine surveys for availability of most recent data may also be considered.

Private sectors gather data in bigger volume and scope, such as GIS data, mobile communications, cell phone data for mobility networks etc. that can be integrated with NSO data for an efficient data providing system.

NSOs have transformative roles; first, in order to keep themselves relevant for prevailing and emergent needs for socioeconomic data and second, to provide insights on the basic question of Growth versus Development. Equity and inclusion are mainstreamed through SDGs in NSOs; however, there is a long way to go before equity and inclusion become part of national development strate-

# Over 56,000 street crime cases reported in Karachi

KARACHI: Karachi is once again gripped with more talk of street crime. A snatching incident in every social circle is becoming common news. However, the police claim that the situation sounds worse than it is. They also emphasized that they alone cannot contain or improve this situation as the need for effective policies and their implementation is the key to decreasing crime.

These days there's more talk in Karachi about street crime than anything else. However, the police claim that the situation sounds worse than it is. More than 56,500 street crimes were

reported in Karachi in the ongoing year, so far. The data showed that 58 people lost their lives while resisting street crimes and 269 residents of the city were injured in such incidents.

Last month, Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah issued directives to clear Karachi of street criminals while presiding over a meeting on law and order in the province, particularly Karachi.

Speaking Ahmed Qayyum, a part-time taxi driver said "Our parents and grandparents used to tell tales of them walking on the streets, till 3-4 am. This

would nowadays be hard to believe."

Karachi once considered the economic hub of Pakistan has decreased in its contribution to the country's revenue which can be attributed to the city's crumbling infrastructure. The situation in the city could be considered better than in a few previous eras, however, the significant increase in crime can be caused by unemployment and soaring inflation. However, those poised to win the upcoming local elections have their hands full with issues. Addressing street crime would be a good start.

# Punjab CM inaugurates Shahkam Chowk flyover

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Tuesday inaugurated Shahkam Chowk Flyover project constructed at a cost of Rs 3.91 billion.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the chief minister said it was a three-lane, dual-way flyover which would save time and ensure ease for citizens.

The signal-free corridor facility would be available for 120,000 vehicles daily. He said that a patrolling post and rescue-1122 center would also be built to ensure law and order in the housing societies adjacent to Shahkam Chowk.

The money for building these facilities would be taken from the owners of housing societies. He said that private housing soci-

eties didn't construct sewerage which created problems. Private housing societies must ensure the provision of sewerage, roads and other facilities in their schemes before advertising, he said.

He said that notices would be issued to the housing societies to develop sewerage and other facilities before construction.

Private housing societies were being given a week in this regard, he said and warned that action would be taken against those societies that don't comply.

He said that land transfer fee had been reduced by 100 percent to facilitate common man. The Lahore master plan had been approved to deal with rising population and traffic problems, added.

# Civic education serves as vital vaccine for healthy democracy: Speakers

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is the country of youth and for their meaningful participation in nations democratic processes civic education is vital, said speakers at the launch of paper, 'Political Parties and Civic Education' arranged by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung on Tuesday.



Country Director of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Dr. Niels Hegewischin opening remarks said democracy needs democrats and civic education is an effective tool to nurture them. Civic education serves as a vital vaccine for a healthy democracy as it imparts knowledge about country's system and structures besides training the young in art of dialogue, tolerance and peaceful co-existence, he added. Sidra Saheed introduced the foundations work on civic education. We have conducted trainings for the implementation of

the national civic education Act passed in 2018 and worked with legislators to enact provincial laws, she added.

Author of the paper, Zafarullah Khan said according to the last population census, 60 percent population is comprised of youth i.e. is below 24 year. Similarly, number of registered voters with the Election Commission of Pakistan confirm youthful demography of the electorate. Out of 120 million

plus registered voters, 20.35 million are between the ages of 18-25. Youth needs civic education to learn about democracy, constitution, parliamentary institutions and political parties etc. so that they can peacefully participate in country's affairs, he advocated.

The research paper has surveyed existing pledges on civic education by political parties and offers a set of suggestions for future election mani-

festos. Speakers urged public service broadcast and private channels and radios to allocate ample time for civic education. Almost all political parties have their students and youth wings but there are very limited opportunities to learn through study circles or proper trainings academics.

Speakers said, in absence of such dialogue, discussion and learning spaces, we are witnessing hate speech, increased political intolerance and occasional resort to violence. This does not auger well for the future of democracy in a 'youth bulge' country.

The research papers says the political parties must pay attention on civic education, promise legislation and its implementation. The parliament, provincial assemblies and local governments shall establish civic education desks and invite youth to watch their proceedings and learn about their functioning.

Islamabad  
23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:52 am
Zohr	11:53 am
Asr	3:51 pm
Maghrib	5:31 pm
Isha	6:54 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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Rawalpindi	9270601-20

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MH	561116
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Cantonment Board	9270151-3

# Uzbekistan has strong ties with Pakistan: Rana Tanveer

*Ambassador of Uzbekistan calls on Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training*

**Naveed Ahmad Khan**

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training on Tuesday in his office. Senior officials of the ministry also attended the meeting.

Rana Tanveer Hussain welcomed the Uzbek delegation and said that the two countries have always had friendly and cordial relations. He said that Uzbekistan has strong ties within Central Asia and Pakistan should enhance its ties with Uzbekistan to further enhance cooperation with Uzbekistan and Central Asia as well. Rana Tanveer discussed exchange of expertise and knowledge regarding Vocational and Technical Training. He said that the two countries should benefit from the experience of each other.

Rana Tanveer Hussain welcomed the exchange of students to further mutual cooperation especially for Skilled Vocational Training. He said that there is significant potential in cooperation between the two countries.



Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov invited Rana Tanveer to the World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education. Ambassador, informed Rana Tanveer that the Republic of Uzbekistan will host the Second World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE), co-organized with UNESCO from 14 to 16 November 2022 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

He informed the minister that The World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education (WCECCE) is a UNESCO intergovernmental meeting (Category II) that aims to reaffirm the right of every young child to quality

Technical Institution to Technical Institution collaboration is the way forward.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that the institution is in Vocational Training of the population of Pakistan. He said that it provides the best opportunity to the people to find jobs. He said that Pakistan and Uzbekistan through NAVTTC should exchange teachers and students to learn from the expertise of each other.

Rana Tanveer praised the current government's efforts in modernising the education system of Pakistan. The Federal Minister thanked the Ambassador and highlighted the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries.

At the end the Ambassador of Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan Aybek Arif Usmanov stressed to further enhance cooperation between the two states in the field of education. The Federal Minister said that our relations have always been marked by trust, mutual understanding and close cooperation and Pakistan attaches high importance to its relations with Uzbekistan and is desirous of further enhancing these relations in all fields of mutual interests.



ISLAMABAD: Former Senior Police officer Jamil Hashmi held a farewell dinner in the honor of Dedy Faisal Ahmad Salleh acting High Commissioner of Malaysia. Chairman of Aims Education System / Board of Governor institute of Southern Punjab Almass Ayoub Sabir and others posing for a group photo. Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

## 5 IUI faculty members among top 2pc scientists of world



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: In the evaluation sheet of the top two percent researchers of the world prepared by Stanford University California, five faculty members of International Islamic University Islamabad (IUI) have been ranked among the best researchers in the 'World Ranking Top 2% Scientists' list, 2022.

The Stanford University every year releases its global list that represents the top 2% of Scientists

over 100,000 top-scientists in various disciplines in October.

The five IUI Professors include 4 professors from Department of Mathematics Dr. Rahmat Ellahi, Dr. Ahmad Zeeshan, Dr. Nasir Ali and Dr. Tahir Mehmood. The fifth Faculty member is Dr. Abdul Rasheed from International Institute of Islamic Economics (IIE).

IUI Rector Dr. Masoom Yasinzai and President Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi have felicitated the faculty members on this achievement.

# Safe City Project to cover commercial areas for high vigilance: IGP

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that cameras installed in commercial areas and markets would be connected with the Safe City Project to ensure high vigilance and improved security in the city.

He said this while addressing the business community during a visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan said that all markets and commercial areas

should try to install security cameras that would be connected with the safe city project to ensure better monitoring of the business areas. He said that the installation of new cameras would increase the coverage of key locations and help improve law and order situation in the city.

He said that intolerance in society is one of the reasons for increasing crimes and stressed that better education of society is needed to improve tolerance that would bring down the crimes. Later on, he along with President ICCI visited F-10



Markaz to inaugurate the installation of cameras in the market. He appreciated TWA F-10 Markaz for installing cameras

on a self-finance basis. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that along with installation of cameras, police patrolling in markets and industrial areas should be increased and added that ICCI is ready to donate motorbikes to police for this purpose.

During a visit to F-10 Markaz, he lauded the efforts of Traders Welfare Association, F-10 Markaz, Islamabad for installing cameras in the market with their own resources and said that other markets and commercial areas should follow this good precedent to improve security.

# Strengthening employment prospects for retuning migrants

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: For smooth integration and economic empowerment of returning migrants, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) organized a ceremony where returning migrants were presented toolkits in the trades of electrician, plumber, carpenter, motor cycle mechanic and mason as an In-Kind support to help them start sustained self-employment.

The activity is part of OPF efforts to support returning migrants to make a new start in Pakistan and achieve a sustainable employment. OPF is implementing a program on economic reintegration of returnees in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Pakistan. It is commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development Germany, (BMZ) and is part of BMZ support for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration.

A Pakistani-German Facilitation & Reintegration Centre (PGFRC) has been established in OPF premises, Lahore with an advisory desk in OPF head office



Islamabad. PGFRC is supporting and assisting returning migrants and the local population to have a sustainable source of income.

The ceremony (یک آواز نیا آغاز) which was attended by the Chief Guest, Syed Mustafa Haider, Director welfare OPF, trade specific toolkits were handed over to 80 returning migrants as an In-Kind Support. These migrants have also completed a comprehensive business development training from PGFRC.

Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, Head of PGFRC, GIZ officials, members of Senate and National Assembly Stand-

ing Committees on Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, Members, OPF Board of Governors, senior government officials, representatives of international organizations and civil society representatives also attended the ceremony.

Syed Mustafa Haider, Director welfare OPF said that today's ceremony is a testament to the commitment of Government of Pakistan which considers overseas Pakistanis as its roaming ambassadors abroad and is actively engaged in resolving their reintegration issues in Pakistan. Ministry of OP&HRD, through OPF is working in a focused manner on this

issue.

Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, Head of PGFRC is informed that PGFRC is open to all Pakistani's and all our services are free of charge. PGFRC is providing advice on training and skills development, technical and vocational training, advice on job market trends and opportunities, advice on finding a job in Pakistan, entrepreneurship and start-up support, psychosocial support, and information on the health system in Pakistan, information on living conditions and advice on getting microfinance and loans.

He mentioned that more than 800 returning migrants in the trades of electrician, plumber, carpenter, and mason will benefit from this capacity building leading to In-Kind support intervention.

Several Pakistanis migrate abroad to work, but at some point, in their lives, they return to Pakistan and struggle to re-establish themselves and make a respectable living. Furthermore, the COVID19 pandemic impacted Pakistanis living in other countries, resulting in huge layoffs and the return and repatriation of tens of thousands of migrants from their intended destinations.

## PAC organizes Mehfil-e-Ghazal with Aqdas Hashmi



**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized a Sham-e-Ghazal in the honor of famous Ghazal and Sufi singer Aqdas Hashmi.

Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed was the chief guest of the event. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Ghazal singing is a difficult task, which requires immense practice. Aqdas Hashmi had captivated people with his art while studying at the Arts Council. He believes in hard work, thanks to which he can easily sing difficult ghazals today.

At the end of the ceremony, Waqar Ahmed also awarded Sahib Sham with honorary shields. Assistant Director Arts Council Muhammad Sulaiman expressed his views on this occasion and said that ghazal singer Aqdas Hashmi is a proof of the promotion of art and culture by Punjab Arts Council.

Aqdas Hashmi has received music education from the Punjab Arts Council and is making his name and the name of the institution known throughout Pakistan.

The Punjab Arts Council is still offering more than a dozen courses for non-traditional education, with hundreds of students enrolled.

## Seminar titled 'Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World' held



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Arms Control and Disarmament Centre (ACDC) and the Centre for China-Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) in collaboration with the Institute of Policy Research Institute (IPR) organised a Seminar on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World."

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and delivered introductory remarks.

Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow, IPRI, expressed his views on the "Grand National Dialogue."

The chief guest, former Foreign Minister and Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr Inam ul Haque, gave a detailed presentation on "Pakistan's Foreign Policy in a Changing World." The presentation was followed by an interactive session.

Key takeaways from this seminar would be shared in a "Grand National Dialogue" being sponsored by the National Security Division (NSD) and organised by IPRI.

Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman BoG ISSI, presented the ISSI memento to the chief guest and the distinguished speaker of the occasion.

## Initiatives under PM Youth Program to enable students job creators

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Certificate awarding ceremony under Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Program was held at NUTECH.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Government initiative programs like business loans and skills scholarships under Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Program will enable students to become job creators and independent entrepreneurs."

The certificate awarding ceremony for the Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Program and joint international certification with Finland /Japan was organized at the National University of Technology (NUTECH) on 18 Oct 2022. Earlier on arrival at the National University of Technology, Chief Guest Federal Minister of Education and Professional Training, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain was received by the Rector of the University Lt Gen (Retd) Moazzam Ejaz, HI (M).

The Ambassador of Finland with leading industrialists also graced the occasion. Rector highlighted the needs of our industry and explained to the honorable guests, a roadmap of NUTECH. Later on, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain accompanied by Rector visited NUTECH labs, library, and classrooms.

While interacting with students, parents, and faculty, the Minister Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain said that Government initiative programs like business loans and skills scholarships under Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development Program will enable students to become job creators and independent entrepreneurs.

He also appreciated the students who gained certifications in international collaborations. He added that NUTECH is a great platform, which would enable youngsters to not only learn hi-tech skills but also create employment opportunities and economic activities by starting their own businesses.

In the end, the Chief Guest and congratulated all the students on successfully completing their certification courses. Around 244 students successfully completed certification courses under Prime Minister's Youth Skills Development international certification, which aims to prepare Pakistani youth for the local and international market.

## Capt (R) Shoaib Ali appointed as new DC Rawalpindi

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: Capt (R) Shoaib Ali, a BPS-18 officer of Pakistan Administrative Service (PAS), has been appointed as the new deputy commissioner Rawalpindi. Capt (Retd) Shoaib Ali was earlier serving as DC Narawal.

According to a notification, issued by Chief Secretary Punjab, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Abdul Rauf Mahar has been transferred and posted as Chief of Section, Planning and Development Board, Punjab Lahore.

The notification reads as, "Capt (Retd) Shoaib Ali (PAS/BS-18), Deputy Commissioner Narawal, is hereby transferred with immediate effect as Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi in his own pay and scale." The newly appointed DC Rawalpindi Capt (Retd) Shoaib Ali assumed his charge following orders of Chief Secretary Punjab.

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Alex Jones case a stain on American society

Yossi Mekelberg

Considering Alex Jones' callous behavior toward the families of the 26 people — among them 20 children — slain in a mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in 2012, he should count himself lucky following last week's verdict in his trial for spreading the false theory that this massacre was a hoax.

After all, all he was ordered to do was pay \$965 million in damages. Unlike these grieving families, he did not experience sending a child to school, only for them to never return home because a deranged murderer massacred them at random. The killer was armed with weapons that Jones believes every American has the right to possess.

Despite torturing these families for more than a decade and causing them immeasurable extra suffering on top of their terrible losses, all that he might lose is some money. He will still be free to continue spreading other baseless conspiracies. He was even vile enough to try to delegitimize the verdict in his case live on air while it was read out in court.

This is no criticism of the court or the members of the jury, as they did their job with great courage, ordering a degree of monetary compensation well beyond what the families' representatives had requested. By the sheer amount awarded to the families, they expressed their indignation at Jones and his behavior.

This is where legislation must be tightened and enforced to combat the spread of such hugely damaging lies, combined with educational measures that enable people from a very early age to discern between what is well substantiated and reliable knowledge and what is

merely the figment of someone's distorted imagination. It is easy to dismiss many of these conspiracies, but in a recent YouGov survey more than 40 percent of Americans said they believe in a shadow government secretly ruling the world;

Radicalization is taking place through the spread of conspiracy theories, as exemplified by Dylann Roof, a white supremacist who went on a racially motivated shooting spree at a South Carolina church, killing nine Black people. Roof was radicalized online by conspirators spreading racist ideas about a need to protect white people from others.

The freedoms of speech and of the press remain among the most important pillars of a free society, but we have learned since the ascendancy of social media that what should be the most empowering tool of a global democracy can very quickly turn into a toxic swamp. Only last week, a coroner in the UK investigating the death of 14-year-old schoolgirl Molly Russell, who ended her life in November 2017 after viewing suicide and self-harm content online, called on social media firms and the government to take urgent action and put the necessary measures in place to prevent children from accessing harmful content.

Jones' response to the jury's decision showed the same vile defiance and complete lack of integrity or empathy for the grief-stricken families that he paraded throughout the trial. The jury rightly decided this could not go unpunished and maybe the hefty compensation they have ordered him to supply will banish him from the public sphere. But this is not enough, and the fact that it took a decade for this to happen and was only due to the parents themselves taking legal action, while the state not only failed to protect their children but also themselves in the aftermath of their painful loss, is a stain on the entire society.

Tossi Mekelberg is professor of international relations and an associate fellow of the MENA Program at Chatham House. He is a regular contributor to the international written and electronic media.

Courtesy: Arab News

Pakistan's nuclear program is in safe hands

The statement by US President Joe Biden is shocking as far as Pak, US relations are concerned. This was uncalled for and unfair statement on the part of the US President.

It shows that there is something seriously wrong at the Pak, US relations. Our government should insist that Joe Biden come out with a public statement to retract his remarks. He used the world 'cohesion' in his remarks regarding Pakistan, but political instability is also common in many other countries.

The government of Pakistan already communicated to the US its response regarding statement of Joe Biden. Pakistan is confident of the safety and security of its nuclear arsenal which has also been acknowledged by all the countries as well as international organizations.

We should understand the fact that the controversial statement of the US President Joe Biden cannot dent the relations between the US and Pakistan. As the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said the other day we need to see the context of his statement. The State Department has now made a calculated statement expressing confidence on the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal which is a welcoming development.

'Galloping Dollar'

A girl in a tuck shop started squalling in front of her mother as the shopkeeper told them about the unavailability of an imported item of her choice. It was amusing to see the way he was exhausting his attempts to explain the economics behind the ban on imported items to that little girl, where even the well known economists have kneeled down to this dark alley.

It is not the only Pakistani rupee (PKR) that is experiencing the shock waves of brutal thunderclap of dollar. Dollar index, a barometer for gauging dollar's strength, touched its climax at 115 points in September, highest in the last 20 years; this is an indication that the currency is gaining momentum against other anchor currencies in the wake of policy stance adopted by those in Washington D.C.



Analysis

Nisar Ahmed

We will keep at it until we are confident the job is done. The statement came straight from the chair of the Federal Reserve (Fed) of the United States (US), expressing his resolution to douse the smouldering inflation in the U.S. He was explicit in his statement that he does not fear hiking interest rates any further, even if this means pushing the U.S. into recession. On September 21, for the third consecutive time Fed spiked the benchmark interest by 75 basis points to 3.25% and this figure is forecasted to rise to 4% before entering into 2023.

An aggressive hawkish stance is in line with the expectations, keeping in view the present hike in global energy

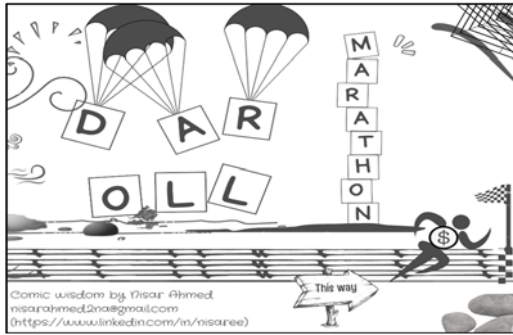
and food prices amid Russia-Ukraine crisis. Global competition has lost its strength following sanctions over Russia thus knocking down its trade activities with the European Union that lifted the lid on prices of oil and other products. As a consequence, the U.S. reported YoY inflation of 8.3% for August, the worst in the last 40 years. Fed officials are determined to bring down this to a targeted figure of 2% by keeping a tight monetary policy ahead!

Fed is raising policy rate since March 2022; however, inflation has been persistent and moved sideways only, a red alert that a disaster of epic proportions is in the offing, beyond the Atlantic region especially for heavily indebted economies.

Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Asia witnessed detrimental effects of this dollar drive. Dollar gaining momentum, is a double-edged sword that withers away foreign exchange reserves and at the same time inflates the outstanding loans of heavily indebted economies. In a period of less than three quarters of CY 2022, foreign exchange reserves of countries within the Asia-Pacific region have fallen by \$590 billion! Notably, reserves with Bangladesh, India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka have fallen by \$7.2 billion (16%), \$59.4 billion (9%), \$9.9 billion (43%) & \$1.3 billion (42%) respectively. This fall is witnessed for two reasons; obvious of the two is the strengthening dollar and the second is attributable to the efforts

made by central banks of some of the APAC countries to preserve their currency position by injecting funds into their markets. Talking about Pakistan, it is plunged into a wall of death with no signs of mercy from external shocks; in the first week of October, Moody's downgraded Pakistan's credit outlook from B3 to Caa1 marking it an extremely vulnerable country for investment, considering the increased financing needs with limited avenues of assistance. Likewise, the situation is not comforting internally too, it is in a never-ending episode of capital outflows and a weakening rupee. Poor rupee has experienced the worst plummet in history over a grim outlook of the economy, it found a thin support at a rock bottom level of PKR 240 against dollar in August 2022.

Four main driving factors that explain the jittery of PKR stem from the capital; firstly, persistent current account deficit since the start of 2021 owing to rise in international fuel prices has pressurised the rupee. Efforts are being put in to reduce the non-energy/consumer-oriented import bill but this government plan needs sensible adjustments considering the high volume of energy and other



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non-consumer imports. Secondly, the relationship with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is in shambles with prolonged delays in releasing dollar tranches. It provides a comfortable playground to the brokers mafia for artificial dollar surge, who benefit from the unannounced dollar injections by the State Bank of Pakistan. Before the disastrous effects of the pandemic could subside, the monstrous deluge challenged its economic state of affairs in the third place. A preliminary prediction of the economic loss amounts to \$12.5 billion, which is expected to increase manifold in the coming months.

Finally, an incoherent federal and provincial polity with the federation having no absolute power in any of the provinces is a threat to the economic stability. Preceding prime minister, Imran Khan, announced the political demonstration of power in the capital amid controversies around regime change which sets an optimum temperature to brood further challenges.

In a recent turn of events, a loyal aide of former supremo, Ishaq Dar, assumed the office of finance minister for the fourth time on September 28. Dar has dived into the dollar drive with the intention of snaring the galloping dollar and a commitment to bring it below the targeted level of PKR 200 against dollar. Perforce, this will be a challenging yet a fruitful effort.

The writer contributes to the national press occasionally & is accessible at: nisarahmed.2na@gmail.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/nisarave

CPC proves it can deliver policies on long-term nation building in China

Ong Tee Keat

The spotlight on the 20th Communist Party of China (CPC) National Congress in Beijing has been shining possibly far brighter than that homing in on any other ruling party convention in the world. This is an indicator of China's magnitude of influence on the world stage.

In the past 10 years, China's international role has been visibly growing through its active participation in different global organizations and its deployment of peacekeeping troops serving under the authority of the UN Security Council. It has evolved from a mere passive follower of the existing world order to a staunch defender of multilateral international cooperation based on the UN Charter.

An increasingly confident China with greater discourse power is in the making. The proactive offering of solutions to the various concerns humanity faces has characterized China's governance under the CPC's leadership.

The resounding success of absolute poverty elimination in China has made it a model to emulate in the global endeavor to achieve the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goal of poverty alleviation. The coming of age of the Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious China-proposed transborder project that aims to boost connectivity along and beyond the ancient Silk Road routes, has essentially reshaped

the global landscape of connectivity, notably through infrastructural development in the Global South. The rolling out of both the Global Development and Global Security initiatives in anticipation of realizing the vision of building a community with a shared future for humanity witnessed China's further commitment to offering more public goods to the international community in the face of escalating challenges confronting mankind.

Parallel to this, all eyes and ears are now on the new CPC leadership line-up, all of whom are mandated to chart the Party's direction for the next five years and beyond. Alongside a guarantee to observe its policy's continuity, the CPC is known for displaying resilience in its inherent nature of self-improvement to address any arising weaknesses in the process of implementation.

Time and again, this model has proven its competitive capable edge in delivering policies linked to long-term nation building endeavors in China. A case in point, and next on the agenda, here is the Party's second centenary goal of building a modern and powerful socialist state by 2049—the centenary celebration of the founding of the People's Republic of China. The new line-up is likely to begin their tenure by navigating their trajectory of governance from hereon.

The author is chairman of the Center for New Inclusive Asia, a think tank based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Follow China.org Courtesy: China.org.cn

# Xi chairs 2nd meeting of 20th CPC National Congress presidium

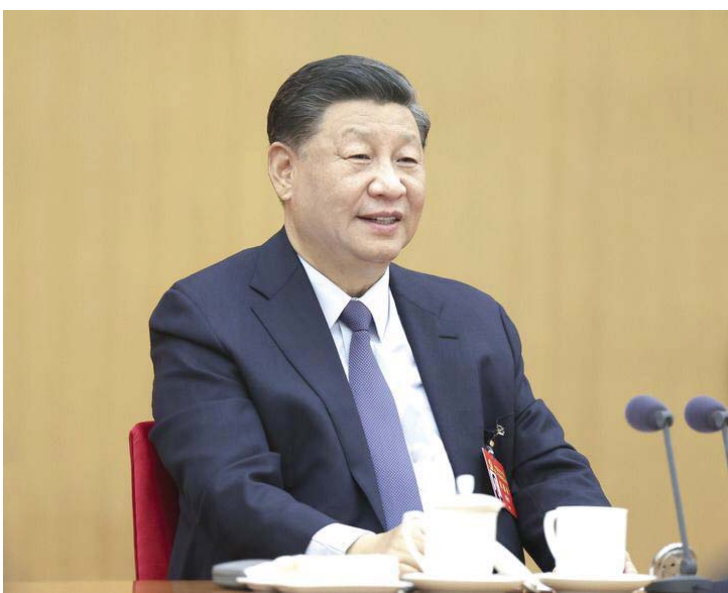
Meeting agrees to submit draft resolutions on report of 19th CPC Central Committee

**BELJING:** The presidium of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held its second meeting on Tuesday afternoon. Xi Jinping presided over the meeting.

The meeting agreed to submit draft resolutions on the report of the 19th CPC Central Committee, the work report of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, and the amendment to the Constitution of the CPC to delegations for discussion.

The meeting adopted proposed lists of preliminary nominees for the candidates of members and alternate members of the 20th CPC Central Committee, as well as members of the 20th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection. The lists will be submitted to delegations for deliberation.

In addition, election methods of the Party congress, as well as other matters, were approved. Xi Jinping on



October 17 joined a group discussion with delegates from Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region who are attending the 20th National Congress of the

Communist Party of China (CPC).

During the discussion, he stressed that the report to the Party's 20th National Congress further charts the way forward for the cause of the Party and the country, and it will serve as a political manifesto and guide for our Party to unite and lead the Chinese people of all ethnic groups to uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics on the new journey in the new era.

Xi said that, to study and implement the spirit of the Party's 20th National Congress, we need to have a good command of the importance of the work of the past five years and the great changes in the first decade of the new era, of the worldview and methodology of the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and of our mission to advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation through a Chinese path to modernization. Xinhua

# Ukraine's power, water supplies under Russian attack again

**KYIV:** Airstrikes cut power and water supplies to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians on Tuesday, part of what the country's president called an expanding Russian campaign to drive the nation into the cold and dark and make peace talks impossible.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said nearly one-third of Ukraine's power stations have been destroyed in the past week, "causing massive blackouts across the country." "No space left for negotiations with Putin's regime," he tweeted.

Depriving people of water, electricity and heat as winter begins to bite and the broadening use of so-called suicide drones that nosedive into targets have opened a new phase in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war. The bombardments appear aimed at wearing down the notable resilience Ukraini-

ans have shown in the nearly eight months since Moscow invaded.

Even far from front lines, basic utilities are no longer certainties, with daily strikes reaching far into the country and damaging key facilities, sometimes faster than they can be repaired.

The latest city shorn of power was Zhytomyr, home to military bases, industries and leafy boulevards, about 140 kilometers (85 miles) west of Kyiv. The mayor said the whole city of 250,000 lost power and also water initially. Repairs quickly reconnected some homes but 150,000 people were still without electricity hours after the morning strike, regional authorities said.

Pavlo Raboschuk, a 33-year-old computer repairman in Zhytomyr, fumed over the attack that sent smoke billowing skyward. Only small shops

that could get by without electricity were open on his route to work, he said.

"Only swear words come to mind," he said. He added that he's bracing "for a tough and dark winter," with dehydrated foods, warm clothes and batteries already stockpiled at home.

City hospitals switched to backup power after the double missile strike Tuesday on an energy facility, said Mayor Serhiy Sukhomlyn.

In the capital of Kyiv, missile strikes damaged two power facilities and killed two people, city authorities said. The attack left 50,000 people without power for a few hours, the facilities' operator said.

Missiles also severely damaged an energy facility in the south-central city of Dnipro. Some homes lost power but the operator couldn't immediately say how many.

Russia is also mixing up its modes of attack. Suicide drones set ablaze an infrastructure facility in the partly Russian-occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, the regional governor said.

Air-defense S-300 missiles, which Russia has been repurposing as ground-attack weapons as its stocks diminish, were used to strike the southern city of Mykolaiv. The body of a man was found in the debris of a building, the governor said.

In the eastern city of Kharkiv, eight rockets fired from across the nearby border with Russia hit an industrial area, the regional governor said.

In Zhytomyr, school director Iryna Kolodzyńska had students back at their desks within 30 minutes of the air raid all-clear. Without power for their computers, they used the class board to work on math equations.

# Vandalism at APHC office won't change ground reality on Kashmir: APHC

**SRINAGAR:** In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) and its constituent organizations have strongly denounced the assault on APHC head office at Rajbagh in Srinagar by Hindutva goons with the backing of police and paramilitary forces and the ensuing vandalism.

Illegally detained APHC Vice Chairman Ghulam Ahmed Gulzar in a message from Srinagar central jail while terming vandalism as a cowardly act said, "This shameful act depicts the frustration of fascist Modi regime." He maintained that freedom-loving Kashmiri people cannot be intimidated by such evil actions and they will fight tooth and nail to carry forward their mission of freedom.

He said killing of Pundits and other civilians is the handiwork of Indian agencies aimed at maligning the freedom movement and divide Kashmiris on ethnic and religious bases.

APHC General Secretary Bashir Ahmad Irfani while condemning the attack on Hurriyat office called upon the United Nations to impress upon India to stop bloodshed in IIOJK. He also called for materializing the Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (DFP) in a statement issued in Srinagar terming the assault as a wicked plan to defame the freedom movement said that such attempts won't change the ground reality in Kashmir. "The ground reality is that Kashmir is an internationally recognised dispute that needs to be resolved in line with the UNSC resolutions," it said adding that Hindutva goons ransacking and vandalizing attempts will not change the truth.

"APHC is a symbol of resistance against Indian repression and vandalism reflects frustration on the part of the Modi regime who has been hell bent on destroying everything that symbolizes Kashmiris' resistance against Indian imperialism."

# Australia drops recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital

**CANBERRA:** Australia has reversed a previous government's recognition of west Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the foreign minister said Tuesday, prompting consternation from Israel.

The center-left Labor Party government agreed to again recognize Tel Aviv as the capital. The Cabinet also reaffirmed that Jerusalem's status must be resolved in peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, Foreign Minister Penny Wong said.

Australia remained committed to a two-party solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, and "we will not support an approach that undermines this prospect," Wong said.

# Hindu mob breaks into historic mosque for puja

**LUCKNOW:** A Hindu mob broke into premises of a historic Masjid-e-Qutub Shahi, at the Raidugram area of Hyderabad in Indian state of Telangana to perform puja that has triggered communal tensions in the area.

A group of around 150 Hindu broke through the security wall to perform religious rituals disturbing the peace in the area.

The police in Hyderabad registered an FIR against unknown people. Meanwhile, Muslims of the area have protested against the act that has hurt their sentiments. Talking about the incident, AIMMIM MLA Kauser Mohiuddin said that they heard about the trespassing at the Masjid e Qutb Shahi and he reached the spot on instructions of AIMIM president Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi to inquire the matter.

Leaders of the Congress party also visited the spot and spoke to Waqf Board officials and chairman Mohammad Masiullah Khan.

Reacting to the incident, Prof. Ashok Swain described the intrusion as a "repeat of Babri".

"Babri repeats in South India! In Hyderabad, a Hindu right wing crowd forcibly entered Qutub Shahi mosque area and has installed an idol," he tweeted. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi met Rangareddy Collector to discuss the land row at Masjid-e-Qutb Shahi.

# UN chief condemns attack on peacekeepers in Mali

**UNITED NATIONS:** UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday strongly condemned Monday's attack by an improvised explosive device against a patrol of the UN peacekeeping force in Mali, which left four Chadian peacekeepers dead, said the UN chief's spokesman.

The secretary-general recalled that attacks targeting UN peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law.

He also called on the Malian authorities to spare no effort in identifying the perpetrators of this attack, so that they can be brought to justice swiftly, said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman, in a statement.

Guterres reaffirmed the solidarity of the UN with the people of Mali. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Chad and his sympathies to the families of the victims, and wished a speedy and full recovery to the two peacekeepers, who were wounded in the attack, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, UN Security Council has also strongly condemned an attack on UN peacekeepers in Mali, which killed three peacekeepers from Chad and injured three others.

In a press statement, the members of the Security Council expressed their deepest condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims, as well as to Chad, and wished a speedy and full recovery to those injured.

The council members called on the transitional government of Mali to swiftly investigate Monday's attack near Tessalit, with the support from the UN peacekeeping mission in Mali, known as MINUSMA, promote accountability by bringing the perpetrators to justice, and keep the relevant troop-contributing country informed of the progress.

Attacks targeting peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law, and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, they stressed.

# Haiti calls for help at the UN as world mulls assistance

**NEW YORK:** The United States and Mexico say they are preparing a U.N. resolution that would authorize an international mission to help improve security in Haiti, whose government issued a "distress call" for the people of the crisis-wracked nation.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield made the announcement at an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council as thousands across Haiti organized protests demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. The demonstrations came on the day the country commemorated the death of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, a slave who became the leader of the world's first Black republic.

The U.S. ambassador said the proposed "non-U.N." mission would be limited in time and scope and be led by "a partner country" that was not named "with the deep, necessary experience required for such an effort to be effective." It would have a mandate to use military force if necessary.

She said the resolution being worked on is a "direct response" to a request on Oct. 7 by prime minister Henry and the Haitian Council of Ministers for international assistance to help restore security and alleviate the humanitarian crisis. It reflects one option in a letter from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to the council on Oct. 9 that called for deployment of a rapid action force by one or several U.N. member states to help Haiti's National Police.

Haiti has been gripped by inflation, causing rising food and fuel prices, and exacerbating protests that have brought society to the breaking point. Daily life in Haiti began to spin out of control last month just hours after the prime minister said fuel subsidies would be eliminated, causing prices to double.

# Russian role in Burkina Faso crisis comes under scrutiny

**OUAGADOUOU:** Within hours of Burkina Faso's second coup this year, the head of Russia's shadowy mercenary outfit Wagner Group was among the first to congratulate the new junta leader in West Africa.

In a message posted on Telegram, Yevgeny Prigozhin praised the mutinous soldiers for doing what "was necessary."

That same day, pro-Kremlin political analyst Sergei Markov, posted that the Russian people had helped Capt. Ibrahim Traore, the new coup leader. And he predicted that Burkina Faso's new leadership would turn to Russia for help instead of former colonizer France.

As Traore now solidifies

his grip on power in Burkina Faso, questions are already swirling about his relationship with Russia and how much it played a hand in catapulting him and his allies to power.

The recent coup "could be a gateway to a more assertive Russian policy towards the Sahel," said Samuel Ramani, associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, a defense and security think tank.

"The Burkina Faso coup that we just witnessed could be the first example of Russia playing a part in instigating a coup rather than just capitalizing on pre-existing unrest," Ramani said.

Asked about the coup in a call with reporters earlier this month, Kremlin spokes-

man Dmitry Peskov wouldn't comment on prospects of establishing ties with the country's new leaders.

And the Kremlin denies links to the Wagner Group, though Western analysts call it a tool of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Wagner Group mercenaries already have been establishing a foothold for Russia in at least half a dozen African countries, including in Central African Republic, Sudan and Mali, which is battling an insurgency similar to the one in Burkina Faso that has killed thousands and displaced some 2 million people.

The group has been accused of committing human rights abuses. Earlier

this year, it was linked to at least six alleged civilian massacres and the extrajudicial killings of 300 people in Moura village in Mali, according to the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

"What we observe is that elsewhere in Africa today there are worrying deployments of the Wagner militias, and we have been able to see on the ground that the effects of these militias lead to abuses of the population - we saw crimes that unfolded in Mali, in the Central African Republic, in Mozambique - also the pillaging of natural resources, and most of all, zero effectiveness in the fight against terrorism," said Anne-Claire Legendre, the French foreign ministry spokeswoman.

# Proposals, initiatives of President of Turkmenistan at The Central Asia-Russia Summit

## Spokesman Report

**I**n the frames of «The Central Asia-Russia» Summit held in Astana on October 14, 2022, the President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedov delivered a speech in which a number of proposals and initiatives were put forward to bring the partnership between the states of Central Asia and the Russian Federation in various key areas of cooperation to a higher level.

The head of Turkmenistan noted that today's meeting marks the continuation of close multifaceted cooperation between the countries of Central Asia and Russia on the main points of the world and regional agenda. Among them, ensuring peace, stability, and security as key factors in the successful develop-

ment of our states, expanding and deepening integration of economic and trade ties, and solving social and humanitarian problems are of paramount importance.

We have to state with regret that recent trends in global geopolitics are far from being positive. The foundations of international law are being eroded, which affects the effectiveness of the work of the UN and other supporting institutions. The meaning and content of interstate relations are changing. The geography of conflicts, threats of terrorism, extremism, and radicalism is expanding.

It was emphasized that under these conditions, close, effective interaction between the states of Central Asia and Russia is of decisive importance. Today, coherent political and diplomatic work is required, well-coordinated coop-

eration between special services, the use of information resources, and public institutions to create reliable and long-term protective mechanisms that can provide our countries and citizens with peace, tranquility, and confidence in the strength of state foundations.

At the same time, it is necessary to intensify joint work within international organizations in this area, to achieve solidarity and unity with respect for and effective implementation of the universally recognized norms of international law.

In the regional aspect, the President of Turkmenistan proposed to apply maximum preventive measures, and tools to prevent potential conflicts, using the available levers and experience for this.

In this context, it was proposed to focus on specific areas: The first is countering attempts to destabi-

lize the situation in our states; The second is to provide guarantees of protection against the threats of terrorism, extremism, cyber and biological hazards;

The third is the fight against the artificial introduction of false meanings and moral guidelines into the public consciousness; Fourth, prevention of potential negative consequences of the general aggravation of the situation in the world.

In order to intensify joint activities in the above areas, the President of Turkmenistan stated the expediency of optimizing the mode of six-party consultations between the ministries of foreign affairs. Stressing that the same applies to the activities of special services and other structures, Head of State Serdar Berdimuhamedov proposed

instructing ministries and heads

of state agencies to develop algorithms and topics for consultations based on the above tasks.

As noted, a separate topic on the international agenda is the situation in Afghanistan. In this regard, the conviction was expressed that the countries of Central Asia and Russia are equally interested in stability in Afghanistan. A peaceful, stable, developing Afghanistan is one of the guarantees for the security of our borders and our citizens.

Along with this, it was emphasized that in this context, Turkmenistan welcomes and supports international mechanisms for the political settlement of the situation in Afghanistan, the efforts of the Central Asia countries, Russia, Iran, China, and UN missions in Afghanistan.

The most important issue is Afghanistan's integration



into international and regional economic relations. In recent years, Turkmenistan has initiated a number of major infrastructure projects with Afghan participation. Among them: the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan high-voltage power line, the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan fiber-optic communication line, railways from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan.

Through the implementation of such projects, Afghanistan

receives a strategic perspective of economic and social development, and will be able to realize its geographical advantages as a link on the continent, the President of Turkmenistan concluded.

In the framework of the six-party cooperation, the economy is the most important priority. We see great prospects here, the head of Turkmenistan emphasized. These are, first of all, such areas as energy, industrial cooperation, textile production, agro-industrial complex, logistics, new technologies, and regional trade.

**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,839.26	41,755.45
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,007.23	41,755.45
Index Value	Change
4,027,785,274	+83.81
Percentage	Time
+0.2%	18 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
6,936.74	+16.50
Percentage	Time
+0.24%	18 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
30,397.66	+211.84
Percentage	Time
+0.70%	18 Oct, 11:51 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,156.14	+380.35
Percentage	Time
+1.42%	18 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	138.64	139.89
Bahrain Dinar	584.35	588.85
Canadian Dollar	159.8	161.15
China Yuan	30.55	30.8
Danish Krone	29.09	29.44
Euro	220.8	223
Hong Kong Dollar	27.99	28.34
Indian Rupee	2.68	2.76
Japanese Yen	1.2	1.25
Kuwaiti Dinar	708.61	713.61
Malaysian Ringgit	46.73	47.18
New Zealand \$	124.07	125.27
Norwegians Krone	20.91	21.21
Omani Riyal	570.68	575.18
Qatari Riyal	60.36	60.86
Saudi Riyal	59.4	60
Singapore Dollar	154.74	156.04
Swedish Korona	19.72	20.02
Swiss Franc	220.85	222.6
Thai Bhat	5.78	5.88
U.A.E Dirham	67	61.6
UK Pound Sterling	255	257.5
US Dollar	224	226

# Investment environment discouraging in Pakistan

Atif Ikram Sheikh says foreign investment is necessary for national development, stability of rupee

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Tuesday said the environment for investment in Pakistan is unfavourable which is keeping us from development.

The reasons behind the lack of investment on the part of local and foreign investors include the law and order situation, political instability, weak dispute resolution system, tax administration, energy crisis and inconsistency in policies, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the concerns of local and foreign investors should be allayed and the situation should be controlled before any major investor leave country which sends the wrong signal.

Talking to the business community, he said that there is certain advantage linked to FDI which include econom-



ic growth and the creation of jobs. FDI boosts the manufacturing and services sector which results in the creation of jobs and helps to reduce unemployment rates in the country. Increased employment translates to higher incomes and equips the population with more buying power, boosting the overall economy of a country, he added.

It also develops human capital. Skills that employees gain through training and experience can boost education and human capital. Through a ripple effect, it can train human resources in other sectors and companies.

Through FDI businesses receive access to the latest financing tools, technologies, and operational practices from all across the world. The introduction of newer and enhanced technologies results in the company's distribution into the local economy, resulting in enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of the industry.

FDI also boost exports. Many goods produced by FDI have global markets, not solely domestic consumption. The creation of 100% export-oriented units helps to assist FDI investors in boosting exports from other countries. The flow of FDI into a country translates

into a continuous flow of foreign exchange, helping Central Bank maintain a prosperous reserve of foreign exchange which results in stable exchange rates.

The inflow of capital is particularly beneficial for countries with limited domestic resources, as well as for nations with restricted opportunities to raise funds in global capital markets. By facilitating the entry of foreign organizations into the domestic marketplace, FDI helps create a competitive environment, as well as break domestic monopolies. A healthy competitive environment pushes firms to continuously enhance their processes and product offerings, thereby fostering innovation. Consumers also gain access to a wider range of competitively priced products.

Atif Ikram said that during 2020 South Asia attracted FDI worth 71

billion dollars in which the share of India was 64 billion dollars while Pakistan's share was only 2.1 billion dollars. FDI in India rose to 27 percent, while it fell by six percent in Pakistan, he said, adding that from 2016 to 2020 FDI in India jumped from 44.5 billion dollars to 64 billion dollars while it was down from 2.5 billion dollars to 2.1 billion dollars in Pakistan.

Developing nations attracted \$662.6 billion of investments, Vietnam got \$15.8, Indonesia got 18.6, Bangladesh bagged \$2.6 billion and China attracted \$149.3 billion. Atif Ikram noted that from 2015 to 2020 the FDI stock in India swelled from \$318 billion to \$480.3 billion while it shrank from \$41.9 billion to \$35.6 billion at home. The government should boost the investment climate otherwise it will have to depend on IMF loans, he warned.

## Digitization

# MMBL partners with TPS

To boost its Business Agility and Digital Readiness

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has signed a strategic partnership with renowned global banking solution provider, TPS for the induction of its ground-breaking and all-encompassing digital banking suite to boost business agility and digital readiness. Through this partnership, MMBL is dedicated to transforming its digital payments infrastruc-

ture while increasing its efforts toward bringing the unbanked and underbanked into the fold of financial inclusion. Mobilink Microfinance Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

President and CEO MMBL, Ghazanfar Azzam, and Group CEO TPS, Shahzad Shahid signed the partnership agreement at MMBL Headquarters in Islamabad in the presence of



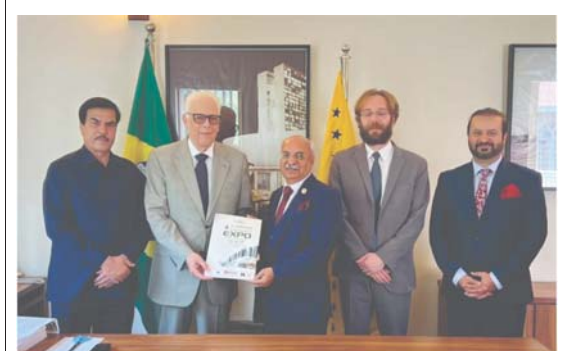
senior management from both organizations. The partnership will further MMBL's ambition to enhance its digital infrastructure to meet the evolving banking and financial needs of its individual as well as enterprise customers by offering them an array of digital banking solutions including real-time fund transfers, fast and secure login, contactless payments, bulk disbursements, service requests, ATM/branch locator and many more.

Under the agreement, TPS, a leading banking solutions provider across 30+ countries in Asia and Africa, will provide MMBL with a state-of-the-art digital banking suite to enable the integration of multiple channels on a single platform. The suite will work as an open Application Programming Interface (API) gateway that will host various banking and payment platforms and serve as a high-speed channel and transaction processing engine to provide an integrated and seamless customer experience. Speaking on the occasion, President and CEO, MMBL, Ghazanfar Azzam said: "Digital technology is transforming to foster greater ease and convenience for its users. Given the centrality of technology to growth and progress, MMBL is keen to stay abreast with this fast-paced transformation to be able to deliver a top-notch user experience to our customers. Our partnership with TPS is an extension of the same commit-

ment where we are looking to integrate the industry's best solutions into our system to further improve our customers' banking experience with us, besides accelerating our drive to promote financial inclusion in the country."

Also sharing his thoughts, Group CEO, TPS, Shahzad Shahid said: MMBL is amongst a few microfinance banks who are using both traditional and digital approaches for faster and sustainable growth. We feel privileged to be the technology partners of the Bank in many of its successful digital payment initiatives and this project of IRIS Digital Banking Platform will surely accelerate the bank's progress towards more agility and digital responsiveness."

MMBL is one of the country's leading proponents of digital banking and financial inclusion. Banking the unbanked people, especially women, is one of the foremost strategic priorities for the bank that has come to fruition in the form of several women-owned and led businesses nationwide. The Bank is dedicated to revolutionizing the digital banking ecosystem by creating an inclusive environment that offers fast, safe, and secure services for all its customers.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industries, Khurshid Barlas, Executive Member Muhammad Amin-ur-Rehman, Fahad Barlas Convenor Diplomatic Affairs and Mohsin Khalid giving invitation of Pakistan Property Expo to Ambassador of Brazil to Pakistan Olytho Vieira during the meeting.

# Sarsabz Pakistan app claims fastest growth within agri-sector

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Being near to completing one year since its launch, the 'Sarsabz Pakistan' mobile app has garnered immense popularity and attention amongst the Pakistani farmers' community. The app recently marked a record number of more than one hundred thousand downloads in a short time span of ten months, making it the country's fastest-growing mobile app within the agriculture sector and the top-rated educational app on Google Playstore.

The Sarsabz Pakistan app caters to multiple needs of the farming community, providing them with timely farm advisory and information updates to help maximize their crop yield and productivity. The advisory support features of the app include crop planning support to manage multiple farms and crops in a given season with step-by-step alerts on crop management, a calculator tool for planning precise appli-

cation of fertilizer according to the 4R rule - right source, right rate, right time, right place, requesting general advisory and free soil and water testing visits by qualified Fatima Group agronomists to maximize crop yield through effective use of fertilizer.

At the same time, the information update features of the app also assist the farmers through crucial weather updates and forecasts for timely planning and application of farm inputs, ensuring easy accessibility to fertilizer at company rates through a comprehensive list of nationwide Sarsabz dealers along with their contact and location details, updates on current commodity market rates, and latest news bites related to the agriculture sector.

While expressing her views about this platform, Rabel Sadozai, Director of Marketing and Sales at Fatima Fertilizer said, "The Sarsabz Pakistan app is completely free for farmers to use and benefit from its information and advisory-based features. It serves

# Zonergy Europe SRL signs accords with Photonax, MAYSUN SOLAR

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: ZONERGY EUROPE SRL successfully signed cooperation agreements with Photonax and MAYSUN SOLAR respectively in Hungary. As the distributors of Zonergy, the two companies will jointly promote the distribution of green energies in Hungary as well as other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, sparing no effort to light each corner of the world with solar energy, the cleanest and most abundant energy in the nature.

As an inland country in Central Europe, Hungary enjoys 2000 hours of average-annual sunshine duration, which provides the country with huge market potential in solar photovoltaic power generation. Hungary has witnessed a booming solar photovoltaic power generation market since 2017 when Hungarian government amended the subsidy mechanism for solar photovoltaic power genera-



tion. As a result, it has become one of the top ten solar photovoltaic power generation markets in Europe. Photonax and MAYSUN SOLAR, two senior Hungarian companies, have broad market foundation and industrial experience. They will become Zonergy's distributors after signing the agreements, which will further reinforce Zonergy's strength in marketing, after-sales service and maintenance in Hungary as well as Central and Eastern

European markets. Guo Jun, Executive Director and President of Zonergy, gave an address at the signing ceremony. Zonergy which has always adhered to the business philosophy of opening-up, cooperation, coexistence and sharing attaches importance to cooperation with local enterprises. After entering into European market, we've been concentrating on selling the solar photovoltaic energy storage and power generation

products that we research and manufacture independently, with a focus on selecting local distributors and giving full play to their roles in our marketing work. Photonax, a well-known Hungarian enterprise solar photovoltaic power generation, owns favorable distribution channels and customer resources.

Moreover, it is optimistic and passionate about solar photovoltaic energy storage and power generation sector. MAYSUN SOLAR, a senior Hungarian market player, is very experienced in solar photovoltaic power generation. It's of great significance for us to reach strategic cooperation with them. We will, through sincere cooperation, make concerned efforts to forge ahead. Therefore, we will be bound to usher in a new chapter of Zonergy in its development of Central and Eastern European markets, thus creating a new role model of win-win cooperation between enterprises.



ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting souvenir to Rana Sanaullah, Federal Minister for Interior during visit to his office along with a delegation. Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Usman Chief Commissioner Islamabad and Chairman CDA, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan Inspector General Police Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Azhar-ul-Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi and others were also present on the occasion.

# Significant impact of Telemarketing in real estate sector

**Spokesman Report**

Telemarketing real estate sector, effective telemarketing is a highly specialized and professional field. Generating leads, making sales and increasing profits is the ultimate solution provided by the telemarketing process.

Telemarketing Respected for real estate explores a focused, dedicated and result-oriented approach. Understanding the market and becoming proficient and qualified entrepreneurs, is provided via contemporary and advanced telemarketing. Real estate telemarketers analyse the market to design and execute appropriate processes and proce-

dures, which are accomplished with measurable and attainable goals.aaa associates offers a realistic purpose with a pragmatic approach to attain these objectives. Telemarketing is the ultimate solution for the real estate market for modern, out-of-the-box ways to reach clients and seal deals.

Telemarketing in real estate is a cost-effective way to go after fewer

and better prospects with clarity about targets to pursue, and complete lead generation, sales development and closing deals for business development and greater revenues. Explore exciting new opportunities for greater investment choices in the Real Estate, relying on competent and innovative Telemarketing.

To reach and connect with a broad-

er spectrum of customers; be it by exploring new geographical areas and markets or retaining existing clients, it is a resourceful method. Time and cost-efficient way to get analysis done through feedback and response adds to business growth and expanding opportunities. It helps to define customer profiles, reach focused markets and resonate with them.

## Infinix ZERO 20 now available nationwide

World's first 60 MP OIS-enabled front camera phone

**Our Correspondent**

LAHORE: Infinix ZERO 20 with world's first 60MP OIS enabled front camera goes nationwide sale on Tuesday at an amazing price of Rs 56,999/- Being first of its kind camera phone supporting Dual Image Stabilization in the form of Optical Image Stabilization (OIS) and Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS), Infinix ZERO 20 fulfills videography and photography requirements on the go. It is now available the outlets nationwide and exclusively on Infinix Official Ecommerce Store - Xpark!

Infinix ZERO's 60MP front camera is stable most and greatest Vlog camera offering hardware based Optical Image Stabilization (OIS) and Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS). Users would just have to switch on Ultra-Stability mode in order to unlock Dual Image Stabilization for making videos and capturing photos. Also equipped with Auto Focus and a super night mode sensitively captures sharp outline of objects even in the low and that too with accuracy every time.

Not only the camera segment but Infinix ZERO 20 also excels with Pakistan's first of its kind processor. It features a High-Powered 6nm Processor Helio G99, which allows the chip to have achieve ultra-efficient performance while maintaining lower power consumption. Whereas on the other hand, the rear camera segment also leaves no room for photography enthusiasts to wander elsewhere except ZERO 20's 108MP camera.

With its Ultra Smooth Display, Infinix ZERO 20 is a fantastic device for detecting your fingertips on the screen and determining their precise location on screen. It features a light and sleek appearance that makes it simple to carry anywhere at any time. The 4500 mAh battery with 45 W super charge of the Infinix Infinix ZERO 20 enables to enjoy non-stop gameplay, listening to music, watching movies without having to worry about battery drain.

The Infinix ZERO 20 is available in most of the current color selections, including Space Gray, Glitter Gold, Green Fantasy. So, act quickly and equip yourself with the new Infinix ZERO 20 available nationwide for Rs 56,999!

# Abrar Ahmed bowls Sindh to stunning victory over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

*Abrar was well supported by Mohammad Umar, who claimed three wickets for 17 runs*

RAWALPINDI: Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed continued to make headlines when he bowled Sindh to a sensational 10-wicket victory over defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the fourth and last day of the fourth round Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 at Pindi cricket Stadium Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

Abrar, the bespectacled 24-year-old Karachi-born spinner, followed up his first innings figures of 39.2-9-130-4 with 19-9-29-5 as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were mesmerised and spun out for a paltry 108 in 46.2 overs at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. Sindh achieved the three-run victory target in the first over to notched up their first victory of the season.

Earlier, Sindh, replying to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's first innings score of 384, were dismissed after adding one run to their overnight score of 489 for nine to earn a 106-run first innings lead.

But as the match appeared to head for a draw, Abrar demonstrated why he is one of the finest and highly-rated spinner in the circuit when he bamboozled the middle-order that slipped from 38 for one to 108 all-out. Abrar accounted for Sahibzada Farhan (12), Kamran Ghulam (0), Nabi Gul (4), Arshadullah (6) and Imran Khan Snr (4).

This was Abrar's second match of the season. In his opening match against ATF Southern Punjab, Abrar had recorded



match figures of 11 for 194. Abrar now has 20 wickets in two matches, with Sindh's fifth round match against Balochistan at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. Overall, Abrar has claimed 53 wickets in nine first-class matches.

Abrar was well supported by Mohammad Umar, who claimed three wickets for 17 runs to finish the match with seven for 104.

At the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad, Central Punjab's Ahmad Safi Abdullah returned figures of 50-12-132-6 but his side's match against Northern ended into a high-scoring draw. Northern, replying to Central Punjab's 509 for nine declared and resuming at 425 for four, were 651

for nine when match ended.

Northern's Sarmad Bhatti, who had started the day at 102, was dismissed after scoring 140 (345 balls, 15x4), while Mubasir Khan, who was 70 overnight, scored 79 (127 balls, 10x4, 1x6). On Tuesday, Aamir Jamal scored 80 not out (146 balls, 11x4, 1x6) and Nauman Ali contributed 69 (102 balls, 11x4) as the two batters added 120 runs for the eighth wicket.

At the Abbottabad Cricket Stadium, the match between Balochistan and ATF Southern Punjab also ended in a draw.

After securing a 16-run first innings lead and resuming the day at 36 for one, Balochistan were 295 for six when play

ended. Haris Sohail was 133 not out, his 14th first-class century, and added 106 runs for the fifth wicket with Husain Talat (31).

Haris, who faced 188 balls and struck 16 fours and four sixes, also put on 47 runs for the fourth wicket with Abdul Wahid Bangalzai (65).

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy (fourth round, day four): Sindh beat Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 10 wickets at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 384, 115.2 overs (Mohammad Sarwar Afridi 148, Kamran Ghulam 93, Sahibzada Farhan 53, Rehan Afridi 47; Mohammad Umar 4-87, Abrar Ahmed 4-130, Mir Hamza 2-51) and 108 all-out (Ashfaq Ahmed 37, Rehan Afridi 28; Abrar Ahmed 5-29, Mohammad Umar 3-17).

Sindh (overnight 489-9) 490 all-out, 138 overs (Khurram Manzoor 116, Saud Shakeel 105, Omair Bin Yousuf 105, Mohammad Hasan 47 not out, Saim Ayub 42, Asif Mahmood 31; Ihsanullah 3-109, Sajid Khan 3-127) and 4-0.

Match points: Sindh 21 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 4 Central Punjab drew with Northern at the Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad Central Punjab 509-9d, 140 overs (Azhar Ali 219, Tayyab Tahir 114, Ali Shan 55, Abdullah Shafique 32, Mohammad Saad 27; Mehran Mumtaz 3-111, Nauman Ali 3-173, Mubasir Khan 2-76).

## Daren Sammy appointed head coach of Peshawar Zalmi for PSL

**Tahir Amin Malik**

LAHORE: Daren Sammy has been appointed as the head coach of Peshawar Zalmi for Pakistan Super League season eight.

Darren Sammy was unavailable last season due to his commitment. Peshawar Zalmi chairman Javed Afridi wrote in a Twitter message that he welcomes Darren Sammy once again to the Peshawar Zalmi family. Javed Afridi said that as a former captain and head coach, Darren Sammy has always been the most important part of Peshawar Zalmi. Along with this, Darren Sammy's role in the restoration of international cricket in Pakistan is also unforgettable, especially in the final of PSL 2, the enthusiasm with which Darren Sammy came to Pakistan and played the final will always be memorable.

Daren Sammy said in his message that he is happy once again to be associated with Peshawar Zalmi. Peshawar Zalmi is my family and I'm super excited for PSL season eight. Darren Sammy said that as captain for Peshawar Zalmi, winning the trophy of PSL 2 is one of the happy memories & now he is hopeful hope that the team will perform well in coming Pakistan Super League season eight as well. Darren Sammy, a two-time World T20 winner for West Indies, is considered the greatest captain in the T20 format.



## Lahore to host National Women Basketball C'ship in Nov

**Spokesman Report**

LAHORE: Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) will organise the National Women Basketball Championship in the 3rd week of November 2022 at Lahore.

This was decided in a meeting of PBBF which was held under the chairmanship of President PBBF Alamgir Khan in Islamabad on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner FBR Lahore Abdul Jawad, General Secretary PBBF Ms Ambreen Naseem, Col (ret) Naseem Butt, Ch Bilal Akbar of Chakwal, Tasleem Khan (Navy), Behzad Zafar, Saeed Afridi, Asif Afridi, Master Siddique, Kh Abdul Rehman, Associate Secretary PBBF M Akram, Imtiazul Hasan, Haji Nawaz, Javed Nawaz Bangash, Tahir Islam, Akhtar Jan and Zaheer Khan. The meeting also decided to hold Referee and Coaching Course at Haripur in the last week of current month (Oct 2022), a Referee Course in Lahore before National Women Basketball Championship, Boys Basketball Championship at Gujranwala in December, All Pak Women Gold Cup Basketball Championship (all provinces) at Faisalabad in January 2023 and Referee Course at Abbottabad in January.

## Japan's Nakamura to retire at 44

TOKYO: Former Japan international and Celtic star Shunsuke Nakamura will retire from football at the end of the season, his club said on Tuesday, bringing the curtain down on his 26-year career.

The 44-year-old midfielder was a Scottish champion three times and played at two World Cups.

"In my long football career I have had many struggles and setbacks, but there was always someone who supported me and pushed me forward," Nakamura said in a statement released by Yokohama FC. "I was able to fight as a football player because I had so much support," he said.

Nakamura did not give any details on the decision to retire, but local sports papers cited injuries to his right ankle. Famed for his lethal set-piece deliveries with his left foot, he is still fondly remembered in Glasgow for a stunning free-kick that helped Celtic beat Manchester United in the Champions League in 2006.

After four years with Celtic he briefly joined Espanyol in 2009, before moving back to his old J-League side Yokohama F. Marinos.

## Netherlands eye Super 12 berth following victory over Namibia

GEELONG: The Netherlands have leapt to the top of Group A and are well placed to qualify for the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup following their nail-biting five-wicket triumph over Namibia in Geelong on Tuesday.

It came down to the final over with the Netherlands needing six to win and experienced all-rounder Bas de Leede held his nerve and made sure he did enough to clinch the Player of the Match award by guiding his side home with three balls remaining.

It was an excellent team performance from the Netherlands, with skipper Scott Edwards rotating his bowlers well to ensure Namibia could muster just 121/6 in good conditions at Kardinia Park.

The European side used seven different bowlers to put the clamps on their opponents, with de Leede (2/18) the main beneficiary and the only bowler to pick up multiple wickets for the winners. Opening duo Vikramjit Singh (39) and Max O'Dowd (35) got the Netherlands off to a bright start and the victory target was always within reach, with de Leede's steady knock of 30+ enough to overcome a late wobble.

# Clinical bowling display helps Sri Lanka beat UAE

MELBOURNE: Sri Lanka put on an exhibition of fast bowling under lights to gain a big win over UAE after a hat-trick from leg-spinner Karthik Meiyappan in the first innings.

Karthik Meiyappan made history against Sri Lanka when he became the first player to claim a hat-trick for UAE in T20Is. It was also the first hat-trick of the tournament.

Sri Lanka were cruising along when Meiyappan came into the bowl the 15th over, with Pathum Nissanka and Bhanuka Rajapaksa at the crease. The over turned the game on its head as it triggered a middle-order collapse, putting the pressure back on Sri Lanka.

Bhanuka Rajapaksa's attempt to go inside-out saw him hole out in the deep to Kashif Daud. Charith Asalanka departed for

a golden duck as he nicked the ball to Vriitya Aravind.

Facing the hat-trick ball, Dasun Shanaka had no answer to the wonderful googly that found the gap between bat and pad and rattled his stumps as Meiyappan wheeled off in celebration.

On either side of the hat-trick, it was Sri Lanka who dominated the game for the most part. The opening partnership worth 42 runs between Pathum Nissanka and Kusal Mendis got the Asia Cup champions off to a great start. Despite the wicket of Mendis in the fifth over, Shanaka's men were the happier side at the end of the Powerplay with over 50 runs.

This was followed by a 50-run stand between Dhananjaya de Silva and Nissanka. The all-rounder was the aggressor between

the two, smashing a 21-ball 33 consisting of three fours and a six before a run-out brought his innings to a premature end.

Nissanka, who got to his fifty in the same over as the hat-trick, got a move on and helped Sri Lanka post a competitive total. A blinder from Basil Hameed brought an end to his innings where he scored almost half of Sri Lanka's team total.

Three of UAE's first four victims were cleaned up as Dushmantha Chameera and Pramod Madushan put on an exhibition of fast bowling, swinging and seaming the new ball around.

Under the lights, UAE struggled to get going, losing four wickets inside the Powerplay to be reduced to 21/4. Wanindu Hasaranga came on to

pile on UAE's woes and the scorecard soon read 42/7 in 12 overs with Sri Lanka eyeing a huge win.

Sri Lanka and UAE are in the hunt for their first win of the tournament. Both the team suffered defeats in their respective first games - Namibia pulled off an upset win in the first game of the tournament against the Asia Cup Champions while Netherlands clinched a last-over thriller against UAE.

It was not just about the two points for the Islanders as they had a deficit in the net run rate that they needed to overcome against the UAE. Bowling UAE out for 73, Sri Lanka romped home to a 79-run win.

Sri Lanka's amazing show gives them a significant boost in a group where net run rate would likely play a role by the end.

## Roma beat Sampdoria to move into top four



MILAN: Roma moved into Serie A's top four on Monday with a 1-0 win at Sampdoria which left their hosts rooted to the bottom of the league.

Lorenzo Pellegrini's ninth-minute penalty ensured Roma leapfrogged local rivals Lazio into fourth place, four points behind league leaders and Sunday's opponents Napoli. Jose Mourinho's side earned a hard-fought win at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris without the injured Paulo Dybala, who will potentially be out of action for Roma until January.

"It's a very important result for us, because we showed character, intelligence and heart," Mourinho told DAZN.

Samp's seventh defeat of their 10 league fixtures was the first for coach Dejan Stankovic after replacing the sacked Marco Giampaolo earlier this month.

Former midfielder Stankovic, who resigned from the Red Star Belgrade job after they failed to qualify for the Champions League group stage, won the competition as a player with Mourinho at Inter.

"I'm also very happy to know that a club I like very much is being managed by someone who is like a little brother to me. I hope that we play here next season," added Mourinho.

Stankovic's team did little to merit anything from Monday's match, which left them three points from safety.

Substitute Nicolo Zaniolo would have given Roma a more comfortable win had he not been dragged wide from close range in the 77th minute after pinching the ball from Omar Colley.

There was more drama in the stands than on the pitch as former Samp president Massimo Ferrero had to be escorted from the stadium by security staff after unexpectedly showing up to watch the match.

# Peek Freans Sooper celebrates Pakistanis, love for their cricketers

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: With the ICC T20 World Cup just around the corner, Peek Freans Sooper has launched a campaign to celebrate the nation's invaluable connection with the cricketing heroes of the Pakistan cricket team.

The celebrations convey the idea of how simple moments of interactions with our cricketers can turn into life-long memories for the fans of the sport.

Through its platform, Peek Freans Sooper aims to foster the tradition of

honoring the cricket stars of Pakistan and their commitment, dedication, and hard work to achieve international success. The campaign features Pakistanis and their 'seedhi saadi khushi' in savored moments through which they feel connected to the cricketers of Pakistan. The overarching message of this campaign points out the ability to find genuine happiness in seemingly insignificant events which may become precious to us in the future.

Executive Director of EBM, Shahzain Munir said "The purpose of connect-

ing Sooper's seedhi saadi khushi to the nation's love and enthusiasm for cricket is not only to celebrate the love of cricket but also to honor the journey of our national heroes and, above all, to let them know their importance to every Pakistani fan. Cricket, as a sport, holds a special place in the hearts of all Pakistanis and this campaign demonstrates just that. We wish our cricket team the very best for this tournament and hope that they come back with the cup."

The advertisements were launched two days ago and have gained over 2 million

views. The viewers applauded and loved the concept while they shared their own experiences and moments which made them fall in love with their favorite cricket stars.

The campaign pays tribute to legendary cricketers like Shahid Afridi, rising star Naseem Shaheen, power-hitter Asif Ali and our very own matchwinner Shadab Khan.

This campaign is part of a Sooper's larger brand purpose to remind us to find joy in simple moments or everyday moments under the banner of Seedhi Saadi Khushi.

# Benzema wins Ballon d'Or as Putellas retains women's prize

PARIS: Karim Benzema was rewarded for his remarkable success with Real Madrid by winning the Ballon d'Or at a star-studded ceremony in Paris on Monday, while Spain's Alexia Putellas retained the women's prize.

Benzema, who is the first French winner of the most prestigious individual award in football since Zinedine Zidane in 1998, scored 44 goals in 46 games for his club last season as Real won the Champions League and La Liga.

Fifteen of his goals came in the Champions League, including hat-tricks in knockout wins against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea and three more across both legs of a stunning semi-final defeat of Manchester City.

The 34-year-old, who also won the UEFA Nations League with

France, succeeds Lionel Messi with the Argentine not nominated this year after claiming the prize for the seventh time in 2021. "The Ballon d'Or might be individual but it's still a collective award. This is the Ballon d'Or of the people," Benzema declared.

"Winning this trophy was always something that was in the back of my mind," he added. Benzema pushed Sadio Mane into second place, although the Bayern Munich and Senegal star did have his off-field work recognised as he was given a new award named after former Brazil star Socrates. Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City was third, with Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski coming fourth.

Winning the award, organised by France Football magazine, caps a remarkable career revival for Benzema, who was

frozen out of the France team for five and a half years because of his involvement in a blackmail scandal over a sextape involving teammate Mathieu Valbuena. He was later handed a one-year suspended prison sentence and fined 75,000 euros (\$73,848).

He returned to the national team for last year's European Championship and will now go to the World Cup in Qatar with France next month. "There were moments that were much more difficult for me, for example when I wasn't with the national team, but I am really, really proud of my journey," he added.

Benzema turns 35 on December 19, the day after the World Cup final, and is the oldest winner of the Ballon d'Or since the very first, Stanley Matthews in 1956.

The former Lyon striker is

also the fifth Frenchman to win the prize, with Raymond Kopa, Michel Platini and Jean-Pierre Papin all getting their hands on the trophy before Zidane.

The award was previously based on a player's performances over the course of the calendar year. But the format has changed, with the prize now based on a player's record over the last season. That may have helped Putellas win the women's award despite suffering a serious knee injury in July that saw her miss the European Championship with Spain.

Instead, Putellas's performances with Barcelona were recognised after she top-scored in the Women's Champions League to help the Catalans reach the final, which they lost to Lyon. "It makes me even more annoyed to be injured, but I am



very happy to be here," Putellas said.

"To retain the trophy is much harder. When I injured my knee I thought my chances of winning it had gone but in the end the jury based their decision on the whole of last season, of which I only missed one month." The 28-year-

old edged out Beth Mead, who scored six goals for the England side that won the Euro on home soil.

Sam Kerr of Chelsea and Australia came third. It is just the fourth time a women's Ballon d'Or has been awarded, with Norway's Ada Hegerberg

winning the inaugural prize in 2018 and Megan Rapinoe triumphing in 2019.

There was no ceremony in 2020 due to the pandemic, before Putellas won her first a year ago. Her injury means she is unlikely to make it a hat-trick next year, although she hopes to play again this season.

"The knee is doing well. I just need to focus on recovering and if everything goes as I hope - and as the doctors and my club hope - I will be back playing this season," she said.

Barcelona and Spain midfielder Gavi won the Kopa Trophy for the best player aged under 21, while Lewandowski received the award for last season's top goalscorer, renamed the Gerd Mueller Trophy. Real Madrid's Thibaut Courtois won the prize for best goalkeeper of the year.