



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے آہستہ آہستہ بیان کیا کہ ہم سے ورت
نے بیان کیا ان سے ابن ابی نعیم نے ان
سے مجاہد نے بیان کیا کہ ابن عباس رضی
اللہ عنہما نے انہیں تمام نمازوں کے بعد تسبیح
پڑھنے کا حکم دیا تھا۔ آپ کا مقصد اللہ تعالیٰ کا
ارشاد «ادبر السجود» کی تفسیر کرنا تھا۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 4852)

Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

Over Rs66b distributed among flood victims: Shazia

Benazir Income Support Program has distributed more than 66 billion rupees among the flood affected families in the country under the Prime Minister's emergency cash relief program. Minister for Poverty Alleviation and social safety Shazia Marri said transparency of distribution process is being ensured and five thousand more families were given the cash assistance on Wednesday. She said more than 2.6 million families have been given the cash assistance of 25000 rupees each.



Govt actively working to develop region on fast-track basis: PM AJK

Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that the PTI government would treat both members of the Legislative Assembly and Kashmir council even-handedly to ensure uniform development in the liberated territory.

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Political leaders must focus on problems of Balochistan: Asif

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defense Khawaja Asif on Wednesday said the political leadership should take the initiative to find a permanent solution to the problems faced by the people of Balochistan.

Responding to the points of Akhtar Mengal of the Balochistan National Party in the National Assembly, he said "we are one nation and cannot stay indifferent to the problems of any federating unit."

Khawaja Asif said the points raised by Akhtar Mengal regarding the Balochistan situation were genuine and there was a dire need to heal the wounds of the people of the province.

He said the problems of Balochistan could be addressed by sitting together with the leaders and people of Balochistan.

The Defense minister also voiced concerns over the security situation in Swat and other areas, warning this could also spread to other areas.

He said responsibility rested with all the institutions to find a solution to the threats faced by the state. He was appreciative of the people of Swat for standing up against the terrorist elements.

Khawaja Asif also alluded to the devastation caused by floods in the country. He said the PTI government was removed through a constitutional way, regretting that its chairman was now trying to blackmail.

Balochistan National Party's Akhtar Mengal highlighted the issue being faced by the people of Balochistan. He asked the federal and provincial governments to provide security to the people of the province. APP

Seeking Chinese expertise

A Chinese delegation of experts on disaster Management calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

Industrial boom nears as CPEC set to enter B2B phase: PM

PM Shehbaz for national plan on construction of houses, infrastructure as per climate change needs

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was set to enter the next business-to-business (B2B) mode after the productive government-level phase.

Chairing a review meeting on CPEC, the prime minister said the government had rejuvenated the multi-billion dollar project that faced hiatus during the tenure of the previous government.

The meeting focused on infrastructure projects particularly Main Line-1 (ML-1), Karachi Circular Railway, and Karakoram Highway. The project related to the production of 10,000-megawatt electricity with solar and

Pakistan in a war against climate change-induced havoc: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif seeking international support and additional funds to tackle the challenge of climate change, has stated that Pakistan was in a war against climate change-induced havoc and had become a victim. "We are in a war against climate change-induced havoc, and we have become a victim. "Tomorrow another country can and we don't want that to happen," the Prime Minister said in an interview with Financial Times. He said that Pakistan was not asking for any kind of rescheduling [of loans] or a moratorium, but for additional funds. APP

wind sources also came under discussion.

Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan was about to witness an industrial boom with the restoration of CPEC projects. He welcomed the interest of Chinese companies to invest in Pakistan's solar projects.

The prime minister said the ML-1 rail project would play an important role in the strengthening of the national economy by connecting the country's ports with China and Central Asia. He termed the ML-1 project as the

'backbone' of the country with high prospects of progress.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who made history by chairing the first meeting of Pakistan Climate Change Council (PCCC), in a major decision regarding the rehabilitation of flood affected people and to avoid environmental dangers in future, has directed to devise a national plan for the construction of houses and infrastructure that could withstand climate change effects.

He also directed to propose

measures for adopting the housing and construction styles as per climate changes and formulating a strategy in coordination with the federal and provincial governments to tackle the environmental issues timely and on permanent basis.

Pakistan Climate Change Council was established on the pattern of the Council of Common Interest (CCI) with all the federal and provincial stakeholders on board.

The Prime Minister besides directing to make PCCC a fully functional institution also called for formulating a comprehensive national plan to identify the climate changer dangers in future.

In that regard, he directed to constitute a committee of experts for the preparation of comprehensive plan.

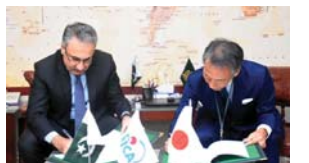
Govt inks \$172m Debt Suspension Agreement with JICA

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan on Wednesday signed a Debt Service Suspension Agreement (DSSA) with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), amounting to the deferment of payment of loans worth USD 172 million, under the G-20 Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) framework.

This amount, initially repayable between July and December, 2021 will now be repaid over a period of six years (including one-year grace period) in semi-annual installments, said a press release issued here by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Due to the support extended by the development partners of Pakistan, the G-20 DSSI has provided the fiscal space which was necessary to deal with the urgent health and economic



needs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The total amount of debt that has been suspended under the DSSI framework, covering the period from May 2020 to December 2021, stands at USD 3,686 million.

Pakistan has already concluded and signed 102 agreements with 21 bilateral creditors for the deferment of its debt repayments under the G-20 DSSI, amounting to suspension and deferment of almost USD 3,441 million.

The signing of the above-mentioned agreements brings this total to USD 3,613 million. Negotiations for remaining agreements to be signed under the G-20 DSSI are on-going.

Big industry grows by 0.6%

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The production of Large-Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) witnessed a growth of 0.6 percent on year-on-year (YoY) basis during the month of August 2022 compared to the same month of last year.

According to latest data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here Wednesday, the LSMI index went up from 114.1 points in August 2021 to 114.8 points in August 2022.

On month-on-month basis (MoM), the industry grew by 3.9 percent during the month under review compared to 110.05 points during July 2022.

However, overall the Large-Scale Manufacturing Sector

has shown a decline of 0.4% during July-August (2022-23) when compared with the same period of last year. The LSMI during the first two months of the current fiscal year was recorded at 112.6 points as compared to 113.1 points during July-August (2021-22).

The main contributors towards overall negative growth of 0.4 percent were, garments (5.3), petroleum products (-1.2), cement (-2.0), fertilizers (-0.2) and iron and steel products (0.5).

The major sectors that showed positive growth during July-August (2022-23) included wearing apparel (5.3%), leather products (0.1%), paper and board (0.1%), chemicals (0.2%), iron and steel products (0.5%), furniture (2.3%) and other manufacturing (0.1%).

Pak-Saudi agree to step up mutual coop

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb and Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki, in a meeting on Wednesday, agreed to continue mutual cooperation in film and drama related spheres on fast track basis.

Both the dignitaries agreed to constitute a committee comprising representatives from the two countries, to implement the Pak-Saudi joint ventures in the fields of film and drama making.

The long-standing bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) in various fields were also discussed

in the meeting. It was decided to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for enhancing mutual cooperation.

Marriyum Aurangzeb congratulated the Saudi ambassador on the appointment of Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman as the Prime Minister of the Kingdom.

The government and the people of Pakistan had immense respect for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the Saudi leadership, she said.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, she said, had the vision of further strengthening trade and business-to-business ties

with the KSA. The minister also appreciated the important role played by the Saudi ambassador in the relief activities and his personal visit to the flood affected areas of Pakistan.

Speaking on the occasion, the Saudi ambassador said a large number of Pakistanis were playing an important role in the development of Saudi Arabia.

He said he was deeply saddened by the loss of lives and property caused by the recent rains and floods in Pakistan, and assured to continue providing all possible assistance to the flood victims. APP

PM's visit to China to give new impetus to CPEC: Ahsan

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China next month is expected to give a new impetus to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

He regretted that PTI Chairman Imran Khan through its long march wants to damage Pakistan's image at the international level.

He said no progress was seen on CPEC project during the government of PTI.

The Minister for Planning said the general elections will be held in October next year. He said the results of population census will be available by March next year following which the Election Commission of Pakistan will require four months for delimitation of constituencies.

He said the government during the next five to six months will focus entirely on the rehabilitation of flood affected people.

Default averted but at very high political cost: Dar

Says if there is choice between State or politics, the priority should be state and not politics

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar once again gave a clear message on Wednesday that there was no question of Pakistan going into default as the same had been averted, though at a very high political cost.

"I want to give a message to markets through this conference... no need to get nervous, we are back to business, Insha'Allah we will arrange everything. Nothing is to worry," the minister said while addressing here the All Pakistan Chartered Accountant Conference.

He said Pakistan would be fine and nobody should have any problem because "Pakistan will not default". There were serious challenges the country had been facing, however, the incumbent government had rescued it from default although it had to give a very high political cost.

"If there is a choice between state or politics, the priority should be the state and not the politics as if the country is there, there may be politics. If there is no country where there will be politics?" he asked.

Ishaq Dar said Pakistan would require around \$32-34 billion to fulfill its liabilities and financial needs for the fiscal year 2022-23. "These include around \$22 billion multilateral-level debt liabilities and around \$12 billion



current account deficit."

He, however, vowed that the government would work hard to fulfill the sovereign guarantees to save the country's pride.

The minister once again clarified the government's position about rescheduling of the Paris Club's debts. He said soon after assuming the charge of finance ministry, he had announced that the government would not approach the Paris Club for rescheduling of loans.

Likewise, he also rejected the specu-

lations about extending bond maturity dates beyond December 2022. Pakistan, he said, was a sovereign country so it should meet its obligations in time for its own credibility and honour.

He urged the chartered accountants to play their role and influence politicians to work for the betterment of national economy.

Ishaq Dar said Pakistan had deep challenges which were further increased by the devastating floods. He, however, was confident that everything would be corrected as was done back in 1998-99 and 2013, when the country was facing similar challenges.

He said in its last tenure, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government had put the economy on growth path and it was predicted that it would become the 18th big economy, leaving behind Canada and Italy, however, due to political interest of some parties it could not be done.

Had the political parties joined the hands together, the country would have achieved the target of becoming the 18th big economy by 2026, however due to political instability, it now stood at 54th position, he lamented.

He had always favoured a 'Charter of Economy' that would help put the economy on a sustainable growth path, he remarked. APP

PSX continues with bullish trend, gains 386 points

ISLAMABAD: The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued with bullish trend on Wednesday, gaining 386.78 points, a positive change of 0.92 percent, closing at 42,226.05 against 41,839.27 points on the last working day. A total of 250,266,056 shares were traded during the day compared to 190,311,688 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs6.658 billion against Rs5.809 billion on the last trading day. As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 203 of them recorded gain and 115 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were: G3 Technologies with 22,370,500 shares at Rs10.08 per share, WorldCall Telecom with 21,176,500 at Rs1.59 and G3 Tech ClassB with 14,800,000 at Rs1.96 per share. Nestle Pakistan witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 150 per share price, closing at Rs 6,000 whereas the runner up was Pak Tobacco with Rs 57.09 rise in per share price to Rs 818.32. Rafhan Maize witnessed maximum decrease of Rs 200.67 per share closing at Rs 10,799.33 followed by Sapphire FiberXD with Rs 83.35 decline to close at Rs 1,075.01. APP

Political power show

KARACHI: Chairman PPP and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing at the residence of Hakeem Baloch, the newly elected Member of National Assembly who defeated PTI Chairman Imran Khan on NA-237 Malir in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Fruit exports up by 27.69pc, vegetable exports surge 31.47pc

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Food group exports from the country witnessed an increase of 5.70 percent during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports of various food commodities were recorded at \$1,077.834 million during July-September (2022-23) as compared to the exports of \$1,019.676 million in July-September (2021-22), according to PBS data.

The food commodities that contribute in positive growth in trade included vegetables, the exports of which grew by 44.34 percent, from \$50.082 million to \$72.289 million. The other food commodities that contributed in positive growth included fish and fish preparations, the exports of which increased by 40.20 percent, from \$56.959 million to \$79.855 million whereas the exports of tobacco rose by 74.66 percent, from \$7.900 million to \$13.798 million.

The exports of leguminous vegetables (pulses) increased by 100 percent, from zero exports to \$0.047 million; meat and meat preparations by 21.68 percent, from \$78.283 million to \$95.254 million whereas the exports of all other food items increased by 26.75 percent, from \$221.017 million to \$280.136 million.

The food commodities that contribute in negative growth in trade included rice, the exports of which decreased by 5.10 percent, from \$423.192 million to \$401.629 million.

IS Evolving Global Order

'Strategy needed to meet cyber warfare challenges'

Dr Alvi says country needs to invest efforts in developing capabilities to manage data integration

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said amid the evolving global challenges, the way forward for Pakistan was to outline a national strategy securing the domains of both traditional and non-traditional security including cyber warfare.

Addressing the inaugural session of the Global Strategic Threat & Response (GSTAR) 2022 conference on 'Challenges and Opportunities Evolving Global Order', the president said the renewed world order demanded sustainable conditions ensuring internal and external opportunities for all citizens for a prosperous future.

The international conference organized by the Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS) – a think-tank founded by Pakistan Air Force (PAF), gathered former air chiefs, national and foreign strategic experts, researchers, diplomats and academia.

President Alvi highlighted that in the

era of cyber security, metaphysics and artificial intelligence, the country needed to invest efforts in developing capabilities to handle and manage data integration in areas of social importance.

He emphasized the need for fortifying the hybrid firewall at the institutional level to prevent any operational disruption in vital fields, such as finance and defence.

The president stressed that the new world order required to be written on objectives of maintaining equality of humanity and achieving the goals of health, education and food for mankind.

He pointed out that democracies in the world were undermined by power lobbies and corporate bodies to promote their vested interests in contrast to morality.

However, he said, Pakistan withstood the challenge of morality by hosting around four million refugees on its soil for over 40 years.

The president said PAF had always

been at the cutting edge of producing heroes and demonstrating an apt response while defending the country's aerial frontiers.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu said to address the challenge of cyber security, promoting national resolve and institutional reforms was significant.

He said PAF was actively pursuing security objectives as the world witnessed contemporary challenges of military and psychological warfare. Emphasizing the importance of aerospace industry, he announced the opening of National Operations Aerospace Centre in Kamra in the next five months.

The two-day conference will deliberate on topics including Pakistan's geo-economics, regional connectivity and aerospace security, emerging technologies and future warfare, strategic stability in South Asia and military applications of artificial intelligence and cyber warfare.

US desires strong ties with Pakistan: Senator Hollen

WASHINGTON: US Senator Chris Hollen on Wednesday said the Joe Biden administration wants strong ties with Pakistan.

Talking to a private tv channel after addressing the ceremony hosted by Dr Mubashir Chaudhry in Washington, Senator Hollen said the US working with Pakistan to address the hazards caused by the devastating floods and so far Joe Biden administration has given aid of \$75 million to strengthen Islamabad's relief efforts.

Replying to a query



about Joe Biden's statement about Pakistan's nuclear programme, the US lawmaker said the statement was not Washington's policy and the State Department has also issued a clarification statement.

Senator Chris Hollen lauded Pakistan's role in the war against terror and said Islamabad suffered huge

human and financial losses. He said the United States wants to see political stability in Pakistan and said they are looking forward to a peaceful transition of power after the general elections in the country.

Commenting on the alleged involvement of US in the ouster of Imran Khan's government, Senator Chris Hollen said there is no truth in the allegations and added he along with the Imran Khan government worked a lot to strengthen ties between Pakistan and the US. Agencies

NAB decides to withdraw appeals against Zardari

ISLAMABAD: In a major development, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has decided to withdraw appeals in corruption cases against former president Asif Ali Zardari.

The graft-buster body has decided to withdraw appeals in corruption cases registered against PPP co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari 25 years ago. In this context, a plea has been filed in the Islamabad High Court seeking the withdrawal of four appeals against Asif Ali Zardari.

The NAB has said that the available record against Asif Zardari is not 'sufficient' and the relevant evidence is also in the form of photostat copies. Pleading the cases will be an exercise of



wasting time, the NAB said in its plea submitted to the IHC.

Earlier, former president Asif Ali Zardari moved the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to withdraw his acquittal appeal in the Rs8 billion suspicious transaction reference.

The PPP co-chairman appealed through his counsel in the Islamabad High Court, seeking withdrawal of the acquittal appeal in a reference pertaining to a suspicious transaction worth Rs8 billion.

An accountability court (AC) had rejected his petition for withdrawal of acquittal plea in the reference, filed by the National Accountability Bureau, last year. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) issued a restraining order on the proceedings of the AC. Agencies

Bilawal strongly criticizes Imran

FM says time for 'liar, hypocrite' Imran Khan to quit politics

KARACHI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday called PTI Chairman Imran Khan a "liar and a hypocrite" and said it was time for him to bid farewell to politics and sit at home.

Addressing an event arranged by his party to celebrate the victory of PPP's Abdul Hakeem Baloch in the NA-237 by-election, the foreign minister, while berating Khan, said that owing to the actions of the "incompetent and inept" former premier, the country's foreign policy had to suffer a serious blow.

At the outset of his speech, the foreign minister thanked the people of Malir for coming out of their houses to cast votes in favour of the PPP candidate in the October 16 by-election, and appreciated them for "always resisting the dictator of every era".

"Akin to the past, the people of Malir also fought against this selected leader," Bilawal said, adding that just like they resisted the dictatorship of General Zia-ul-Haq and Pervez Musharraf, they also stood up to Khan.

He went on to say that the damage done by "incompetent" and "selected" Khan was not only felt by the people of Malir but the whole country.

"But I am thankful that the men and women of Malir once again supported the PPP," he said, adding Baloch's win had proved that "Bhutto was still alive". Recalling the General Election of 2018, Bilawal said that the people's mandate was stolen by an incompetent person, who then went on to become the prime minister.

Bilawal thanked the workers of his party and also extended gratitude to the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). "This lying, hypocrite man

thought that people will forget his wrongdoings within three to four months," he said, adding that Khan promised to build millions of houses for the masses but once he came into power, he only "stole from the nation."

"It's high time he quit politics and sit in his Bani Gala residence," Bilawal said. "We had been repeatedly saying that someone else was pulling the strings of this selected prime minister, and now he has also admitted that he had no authority when he was in power."

Bilawal said that if Khan had no authority during his government as he claims, then he should have resigned. "The PTI chairman is habitual in blaming everyone else but he himself turned out to be a Zakat and donation thief."

"He even runs his kitchen with the donations he receives for the Shaukat Khanum Hospital," Bilawal alleged, adding that since the people of Pakistan had finally learned about his lies and politics of hate, "this time was over".

"Now is the time to prove that Pakistan is ready for young leadership," the foreign minister asserted. Bilawal then spoke about the devastating floods in Pakistan and said that at present, helping the victims of the flood and working to rehabilitate them was the topmost priority of the government.

"However, we have very few resources to start the rehabilitation work," the FM said, adding that owing to that reason, the government was collecting donations and resources from all over the world for the flood victims.

"We have to work day and night for the flood victims and become their voice." Agencies

Top priority to improve road infrastructures: Asad Mahmood

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood on Wednesday said it was one of our top priorities to improve the road infrastructures of the tribal districts.

A delegation under the leadership of Federal Minister Mufti Abdul Shakoor met the Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood, said a press release. Chairman National Highway Authority (NHA) Captain

(R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, former federal minister Hameedullah Jan Afridi, Haji Manzoor Afridi and senior officials of the ministry were also present on the occasion.

In the meeting, the minister said work on Peshawar Landi Kotal Bypass would be started after consultation with the people. The participants of the delegation informed the minister about the concerns and problems of the residents of the Peshawar Landi Kotal Southern Bypass area. APP

Power Minister lauds Denmark's energy transition initiative

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Power Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan held a meeting with Danish delegation headed by Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan Jakob Linulf.

The meeting discussed Danish Energy Transition Initiative, a project of Denmark in Pakistan that has been ongoing for a year now.

In this regard, Denmark will conduct technical workshops in Pakistan for capacity building. Denmark has successfully transitioned from fossil fuels to renewables and has

great expertise in this field. Danish envoy remarked that they would like to put that knowledge into this collaboration.

Applauding Danish initiative, Minister for Power said transforming the energy mix and increasing reliance on renewables is the need of the hour and the way forward. He said Pakistan will benefit a lot from Danish experience.

The Minister also welcomed the interest of Danish side in conversion of waste to energy. He apprised the delegation of the solar initiative and plans of government to substitute fossil fuel plants with solar.

IS Snub to India

US Congress clears Pakistan's F-16 package

State Dept notified Congress about F-16 programme last month.

WASHINGTON: Ignoring Indian objections to Pakistan's F-16 package, the US Congress cleared a proposed foreign military sale valued at \$450 million for maintenance and sustenance services of the aircraft.

According to the media reports, Congress didn't raise any objection to the proposed sale thus clearing the way for the US package for Pakistan which was approved last month by the Biden administration. As per the rules, clearance was required from the US House of Representatives for the programme to proceed.

The F-16 package made headlines after Indian criticism of the deal, triggering a strong response from Islamabad which urged New Delhi to refrain from commenting on Pakistan-US ties.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also defended the military sale, saying the package was for the maintenance of Pakistan's



existing fleet.

"These are not new planes, new systems, new weapons. It's sustaining what they have," the US state secretary told a news conference with his Indian counterpart, Subrahman-

yam Jaishankar.

"Pakistan's programme bolsters its capability to deal with terrorist threats emanating from Pakistan or from the region. It's in no one's interests that those threats be able to

go forward with impunity, and so this capability that Pakistan has had can benefit all of us in dealing with terrorism," Blinken said.

He added that the US had a "responsibility and an obligation to whomever we provide military equipment to make sure that it's maintained and sustained. That's our obligation".

When asked to elaborate on the terrorism threats and the need for F-16s to counter them, Blinken said: "There are clear terrorism threats that continue to emanate from Pakistan itself as well as from neighbouring countries."

"And whether it is TTP (Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan) that may be targeting Pakistan, whether it's Daesh, whether it's Al-Qaeda, I think the threats are clear, well-known, and we all have an interest in making sure that we have the means to deal with them. And that's what this is about." Agencies

Govt actively working to develop region on fast-track basis: PM AJK

Says MLAs, K-Council members to get equal share in dev funds: PM AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that the PTI government would treat both members of the Legislative Assembly and Kashmir council even-handedly to ensure uniform development in the liberated territory.

The PM said this while talking to a delegation of the Kashmir Council members including Mohammad Younis Mir, Sardar Abdul Razzaq Khan, Shuja Khurshid Rathore who called on him here on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, the PM



assured the visiting delegates that the KC members would be given funds equal to the members of the Assem-

bly in order to accelerate the pace of the ongoing development process in the region.

He said that the government would fulfill the legal requirements in this regard. Besides granting dowry and Zakat funds to the KC members, the PM said amendment would be made in the law so that they (KC-members) could avail same protocols and privileges as that of the members of the assembly in government departments. "When the funds are available, development schemes worth fifty lakhs will be immediately given to the Kashmir Council from the Department of Local Government and Rural

Development", he said, adding that equal amounts of money would be allocated to the members of the Assembly.

The PM said that the Tehreek-e-Insaf government was actively working according to the vision of Imran Khan to develop the Azad region on a fast-track basis and to solve the problems of the people at their doorsteps. "All resources will be used to uplift the lower class in Azad Kashmir and solve the problems of the people", he added. The PM said that equal distribution of funds will be ensured in all the constituencies for providing basic facilities.

Spotify launches RADAR Pakistan

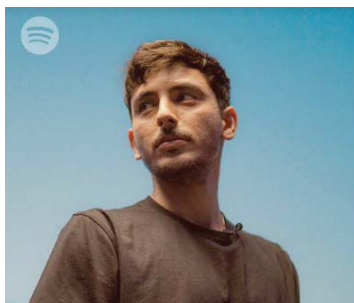
Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Following up on the success of EQUAL Pakistan, Spotify is bringing yet another program dedicated to nurturing local talents with RADAR.

This global artist program exclusively focuses on helping emerging artists reach the next stage in their careers by paving their way to find global fandom. The audio streaming platform is launching Hassan Raheem as the first artist to be part of Spotify's RADAR program in Pakistan, shedding light on his talent as one of the rising vocal stars in the country.

Through RADAR, Spotify follows Hassan Raheem in a bespoke mini-documentary that gets up close and personal with him, showing his fans a side of Hassan, they have never seen before.

"This is a closer look into my life. About how I started my musical journey, about my friends, about the people I work with and especially my main support, that's my family," says Hassan Raheem in the opening scene of the teaser of Spotify RADAR's mini-documentary as he introduces his fellow



musicians, who have assisted him in bringing his music to life, talks about his debut album, and can also be seen giving a virtual tour of his native home that concludes with a heartwarming interaction between him and his mother.

Hassan expressed his excitement about joining RADAR, saying: "It all started with me posting a song almost three years ago on Spotify and here we are! I'm truly blessed and honored to be the first RADAR artist of Pakistan. I'm excited to see how Pakistani music will evolve with programs like RADAR and how it will elevate more artists from our country. Thank you to everyone who's been a part of this journey, you know

that I truly love you all!"

Celebrating one year in Pakistan earlier this year, Spotify shared music trends and data according to which Hassan Raheem had conquered Spotify's top lists locally. The indie musician, who started his musical career in 2018, was among the top most-streamed artists and had three of his songs, Joona, Aisay Kaisay and Aarzu, topping Spotify's most-streamed local songs list.

"We are thrilled to have Hassan Raheem as our first RADAR artist for Pakistan. He continues to be an inspiration for up-and-coming talents, and Spotify RADAR gives the opportunity to artists like Hassan to find and connect with a newer and wider audience, globally," said Khan FM, Spotify's Artist & Label Partnerships Manager for Pakistan, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh.

As part of Spotify's RADAR program, Hassan will receive on and off-platform marketing and promotional support, including billboard placements across Pakistan and the inclusion of his track, "Joona", on the RADAR Pakistan playlist. In addition, Spotify will also be supporting his debut album launch later this year.

Humayun Saeed garners praises from Elizabeth Debicki



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan's superstar, Humayun Saeed will be seen as a key character in Netflix, hit series, The Crown. He's become the first ever actor from Pakistan who landed a well-recognized role in a Netflix original.

Saeed is set to play, Dr. Hasnat Khan, a British-Pakistani heart surgeon. It is presumed that Dr. Hasnat and Diana had a secret relationship for 2 years. Diana had described Mr. Khan as 'Mr Wonderful' and by her friends the "The love of her life". Diana also visited Mr. Khan in Lahore.

We might catch some glimpses of their on-screen brewing chemistry in the fifth installment of The Crown. Elizabeth Debicki, who plays Princess Diana in the fifth season of the Crown is all praises for her co-star, Humayun Saeed

"I absolutely adored Humayun — he was such a lovely actor, and such a beautiful person," she told EW in an exclusive interview. "You never know how that's going to feel when you're playing things like that with an actor. So I was very lucky to have him, and I think he does such a beautiful job."

The upcoming season will cover the 1990s which was a tragic time for the royals, including the death of Diana and so much from Windsor Castle's catastrophic fire to Princess Anne's divorce and Prince Charles and Prince Andrew's separation from their wives could be the subject.

These incidents and tragedies are very carefully handled and covered by all concerned making sure no sentiments are hurt during the process.

The 5th season of The Crown will have Imelda Staunton take over from Olivia Colman as Queen Elizabeth II while Jonathan Pryce will play her husband, Prince Philip.

Sino-Pak cultural linkages to enhance understanding China: Zhao Shiren

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: To understand China and true manner is possible by understand Chinese thousands years old rich culture which is not only informative but educative and having rich civilization the China is proud on its history, cultural heritages.

Chinese Consul General in Lahore-Pakistan Zhao Shiren was speaking at a inaugural ceremony of "China Intangible Cultural Heritage" Exhibition at Pakistan (China) Shandong Chamber of Commerce (PCSCC) Building in Lahore.

The event was attended by Mr. Cao Ke Deputy Consul General of China, Ms. Cheng Xiaonong-Vice President PCSCC, Mr. P.J. Mir Senior Media person, Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani-Secretary General Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber



Pakhtunkhwa, Mr. Usman Shahjehan General Secretary PCFA Punjab apart from Senior Members of PCSCC.

Chinese Consul General Mr. Zhao Shiren while speaking mentioned that Chinese Province Shandong is at eastern side on Yellow river and known for its Taoist and world famous Confucian heritages.

Having one of the China peaks Taishan feature shrines and stone tables and pilgrimages trails. Showcasing Shandong China here today will

help to understand one of the oldest culturally rich civilization of China which is very important to learn from their experiences in various walks of life during their tenures. World renowned Confucian wisdom and already know presently across globe and we are proudly inviting people to see and to learn from these.

The Chinese Deputy Consul General Mr. Cao Ke while explaining about the initiative said that Shandong has played a major role in Chinese histo-

ry since the beginning of Chinese civilization It has served as a pivotal cultural. PCSCC Vice President Cheng Xiaonong while welcome the distinguished guests explained that while showcasing Shandong China for the first time here in Pakistan Lahore starting from Qilu Culture of China which refers to the Qi & Lu which will help the peoples to understand China.

P.J. Mir & Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani also briefly spoke on the occasion and appreciate the initiative taken by PCSCC and wish them success in their endeavors. Later on PCFA Punjab General Secretary Mr. Usman Shahjehan present souvenir to the Chief Guest Chinese Consul General Zhao Shiren and PCFA Khyber presents souvenir to Ms. Cheng Xiaonong. The large number of visitors shoes their keen interest in exhibition.

Dr. Sara, Dr. Iffat among 17 Heroines of Health 2022

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Sehat Kahani is proud to announce that its CEO and COO Dr. Sara and Dr. Iffat are now among the 17 Heroines of Health 2022 awarded by Women In Global Health.

This year's event was hosted on the sidelines of the World Health Summit in Berlin, Germany, on October 17th 2022, aiming to highlight the traditionally unrecognized women in the healthcare systems worldwide. There is a significant share of women in the healthcare system globally however, they still stay deprived of leading and decision-making roles.

This event, being organized under the title of "Leading Change: Heroines of Health," provided a platform for the women of the healthcare system to create a discus-

sion on the vulnerabilities in the health system and assisted them in highlighting their work for a better change.

Women in Global Health campaigns for equal representation for women in health leadership; equitable pay and ending unpaid work for women health workers; and the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment.

At the gala, Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, along with the First Lady of Namibia, Monica Geingos spoke to the guests. About the event, Dr. Roopa Dhatt, executive director and co-founder of Women in Global Health added, "Women health and care workers have been characterized as heroines for remaining on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, but the pandemic has illumi-



nated the gender inequities in the health workforce that are causing the "Great Resignation in Health".

These inequities are placing women workers at a disadvantage undermining health systems and global health security".

Dr. Sara and Dr. Iffat were nominated by Grand Challenges Canada and entitled among the Heroines of Health 2022 for their efforts to overcome the 40% attrition among women doctors after marriage. They

founded a telemedicine organization called Sehat Kahani in Pakistan. With around 1.3+ million online consultations already conducted, Sehat Kahani is a female lead organization that aims to get 50,000 doctors onboard in the next 5 years.

On getting this prestigious award, Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga expressed with zeal and gratitude

"This award is not just for us, but a ray of hope for many women who doubt their qual-

ities just based on their gender. I am proud and humbled to get this award. This will definitely drive me to do even better for the innovation of the healthcare industry. I sincerely thank both Grand Challenges Canada and the Women in Global Health to have recognized our work in the area of Digital Health for a wide array of populations especially the ones most deprived."

Dr. Sara Saeed added, "This isn't just a recognition for us but for all female doctors, nurses, micro-entrepreneurs and patients that we have empowered via the platform of Sehat Kahani over the years. This recognition will motivate us to continue our struggle for quality, accessible and equitable health care for all but specifically for the women of our country while creating flexible employment opportunities for many current and future female doctors of Pakistan!"

Health is a great wealth: Imran Hamid



M.A Rashid

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh has said that the health is a great wealth & provision of modern and quality medical facilities for general patients in government hospitals have been taken on priorities.

In this regard, the performance of the treatment centers is being continuously monitored so that the patients who visit the hospitals and the family members are being looked in satisfactory condition with the going on treatment. He said this while making a detailed visit to the Government General Hospital Samanabad.

The Deputy Commissioner visited the Dialysis Center, Children's Ward, OPD and other wards and reviewed the medical facilities provided to the patients undergoing treatment. He prayed for the speedy recovery of the patients and also inquired about the availability of medicines. The deputy commissioner also visited the dengue counter at the hospital and checked the testing procedures for probably dengue patients.

Sardar Attique condemns attack on APHC office in Srinagar

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Supreme head of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the attack and vandalism of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference office in Srinagar by extremist Hindu thugs is condemnable.

The sentiments of the Kashmiri people cannot be suppressed by such high-handed tactics against people of all legal Jammu & Kashmir. He expressed these views while talking to the media yesterday. He said that the attack on the Hurriyat Conference office based on the target killing of a Pandit is extremist.

This is proof of the brutality of the Hindu towards mentality. He said that the Hurriyat Conference is the representative organization of the Kashmiri people and the spokesperson of their sentiments. This alliance includes people who have made sacrifices, who are still fighting against Indian oppression to make the world aware of this attitude of extremist mentality.

It should be noted that if these conditions continue, the Hitler mentality may lead to a major disaster in Kashmir and jolt regional peace of South Asia, he added.

He said that India's oppression and coercion cannot suppress the freedom movement of Kashmiris. India is martyring innocent citizens in Occupied Kashmir day by day to achieve its nefarious goals. If the Kashmir issue is not resolved immediately, the peace of South Asia may be in jeopardy.

Martyrs of Karsaz tragedy remembered

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: 15 years have passed, but even today we remember the eternal sacrifices of our martyrs. These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party Member of the National Assembly and Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change Naz Baloch while speaking with his colleagues in the information cell regarding the perpetrator of the tragedy.

She said that the incident took place on October 18, 2007, in which millions of people from all over Sindh had arrived at Karachi International Airport to give a historic welcome to Shaheed Rani. More than 180 people were martyred, and 500 were injured.

Human rights situation in IIOJK has further worsened: Sultan



Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Chaudhry said that the Kashmiri people have been bravely fighting against the Indian oppression.

He said that the human rights situation in the region had further worsened since the BJP government stripped the region of its special status by revoking article 370 and 35 A of the Indian constitution. "At a time when Indian government has intensified its campaign to change the region's demography there is dire need to have stability in Pakistan", he said, adding that all the political parties of Pakistan should unite on the nuclear program and the Kashmir issue because the survival of Pakistan was inescapably linked to these two issues.

While addressing various events here in America, the president said that all political parties should be united on the issue of Kashmir and Pakistan's nuclear program.

Terming Pakistan's nuclear program as vital for the country's survival and sovereignty, the president said, "Difference of opinion is indeed the beauty of democracy but so far as the Kashmir and Nuclear Program are concerned there should be no difference of opinion on these issues of vital national interests". Referring to the deteri-



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 4:52 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:50 pm
Maghrib 5:30 pm
Isha 6:53 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

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

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

COMPLAINTS

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

M-6 project to be completed in 30 months

ISLAMABAD: The authorities have approved the construction of the 306km long Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6) project, which would be completed in 30 months.

The approval of the construction of Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6) was granted in a meeting of National Highway Council-Supreme Body of National Highway Authority (NHA) held here on Wednesday, presided over by Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood.

The meeting was also attended by Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshed Ahmad Shah, Federal Secretary Communications/Chairman National Highway Authority Capt (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, and officials from Finance Division, Planning & Development Division, Highway Construction, Financial Professionals and the senior officers of Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority, said a press release.

Addressing the meeting, Mahmood said, Sukkur-Hyderabad Motorway (M-6) was a mega project consisting of six lanes which would be completed in 30 months according to international standards.

Federal Ombudsman presides over AOA annual meeting

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, in his capacity as President of the Asian Ombudsman Association, presided over the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) at Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the heads of the respective institutions of Azerbaijan, China, Japan, Türkiye, Iran, Indonesia, Hong Kong and Republic of Korea. Paying rich tributes to his predecessor for promoting the cause of Ombudsman ship, the Federal Ombudsman expressed his desire to work very closely with the Board Members to benefit from each other's experience; and charting the future course of the AOA.

Expressing his gratitude to all those members who have guided the work of the Associ-

ation as a member of the Board in 2019, he duly acknowledged their contribution in carrying forward the Association's objectives despite the COVID-19 hiatus. He was also pleased to recall that the AOA permanent Secretariat at Islamabad continued to work and implement the decisions of the Board during these difficult years.

The Board of Directors of the AOA which is a major non-political, independent and professional body of international character representing more than 2/3rd of the world population from 25 major countries in the Asian Continent considered, inter alia, the report of the AOA for the year 2019-21 on the activities of the Association /Audited Financial Statement and recommended for placing these before the General Assembly for ratification.

The Board also recommended the request of the Office of ULSAN Metropolitan Government Civil Ombudsman Committee of Republic

of Korea for full membership for approval by the General Assembly. The Board also took a number of decisions aimed at further strengthening the Association and expansion of the Association's activities. The Board expressed satisfaction over the leadership of the Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan in carrying forward the objectives of the Association.

The Federal Ombudsman also availed the opportunity to apprise the AOA Board Members of the activities of his Office in Pakistan aimed at dispensation of inexpensive administrative justice to the people of Pakistan.

Informing the participants that his Office has been able to dispose of more than 1.8 million complaints since its inception in 1983, out of which 108,200 complaints have been disposed of since January, 2022 alone, he enunciated the legal and operational framework of his Office and various initiatives taken for providing administrative justice

to the people at their doorstep, carrying out research studies on systemic issues to address the root causes of persistent complaints, preparation of 27 such reports and other initiatives aimed at facilitating the Prisoners, Street Children and Overseas Pakistanis.

He also mentioned the recent projects focusing on Informal Resolution of Disputes, Inspection of various Government Agencies to see their working and to make recommendations for improvement in service delivery as also establishment of the One Window Facilitation Desks at all International Airports in Pakistan to facilitate the Overseas Pakistanis and their families travelling to and from Pakistan.

The Board Members greatly appreciated the functioning of the Office of the Federal Ombudsman and evinced keen interest in replicating the models adopted by his Office to facilitate the citizens of Pakistan.

Development

ISLAMABAD: Labourers are buy is construction work of security gate on a green belt near Constitution Avenue in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

TMUC holds graduation ceremony of UK Int'l Programme

Awards distributed among the graduates, faculty and high achievers in academics

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Universal College (TMUC) H-11/4, Islamabad organized the Graduation Ceremony of International Undergraduate degree LLB Hons to honour the hard work of the graduates, faculty and staff last day, says a press release.

The ceremony was held at TMUC Islamabad H-11/4 Campus to celebrate and acknowledge the diligent efforts of LLB Hons Class of 2022 TMUC Islamabad and TMUC Bahria Springs, Rawalpindi.

Simon Askey, Dean of undergraduate Laws, University of London graced the occasion with his auspicious presence as International Chief Guest of the Ceremony. Mr. Saad Wasim, who currently holds the office of Regional Advisor South Asia, University of London International Programs was also present at the Ceremony. Parents of the graduating students, eminent figures from media, academia were also amongst the distinguished guests at the ceremony.

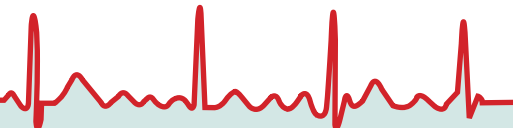
Founder & CEO The Millennium



Universal Colleges TMUC, Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI, in his opening speech, congratulated the proud parents of the graduating batch while apprising the guests on the significance and opportunities offered by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized international qualifications offered at TMUC. He also applauded the efforts of the TMUC management and faculty on the successful execution of another academic year.

Sharing his thoughts at the occasion Simon Askey, congratulated Founder & CEO TMUC Dr. Faisal Mushtaq TI on offering quality transnational international education to the youth in Pakistan while advising the students to believe in themselves and put forward their sincere efforts for the betterment of the country. He congratulated the young graduates and shared his experience from previous Graduation ceremonies he attended.

Health Corner



Preventing Type 1 Diabetes

ISLAMABAD: Research into the causes of type 1 diabetes often focuses on the autoimmune response, where the immune system destroys pancreatic islet beta cells that produce insulin. A new study by scientists at the University of Chicago instead looks at the role of the beta cells themselves in triggering autoimmunity. The research also raises the possibility that new medications could block the immune system from destroying beta cells and prevent type 1 diabetes from developing in at risk or early onset patients.

The study, published today in Cell Reports, describes how the researchers used genetic tools to knock out or delete a gene called Alox15 in mice that are genetically predisposed to developing type 1 diabetes. This gene produces an enzyme called 12/15-Lipoxygenase, which is known to be involved in processes that produce inflammation in beta cells. Deleting Alox15 in these mice preserved their amount of beta cells, reduced the number of immune T cells infiltrating the islet environment, and prevented type 1 diabetes from developing in both males and females. These mice also showed increased expression of the gene encoding a protein called PD-L1 that suppresses autoimmunity.

"The immune system doesn't just decide one day that it's going to attack your beta cells. Our thinking was that the beta cell itself has somehow fundamentally altered itself to invite that immunity," said senior author Raghavendra Mirmira, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Director of the Diabetes Translational Research Center at UChicago.

"When we got rid of this gene, the beta cells no longer signaled to the immune system and the immune onslaught was completely suppressed, even though we didn't touch the immune system," he said. "That tells us that there is a complex dialogue between beta cells and immune cells, and if you intervene in that dialogue, you can prevent diabetes."

The study is the result of a long-term collaboration that began when Mirmira and several members of his lab were at Indiana University. Jerry Nadler, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine and Professor of Medicine and Pharmacology at New York Medical College discovered the role of the 12/15-Lipoxygenase enzyme, and Maureen Gannon, PhD, Professor of Medicine, Cell and Developmental Biology, and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics at Vanderbilt University, provided a strain of mice that was used in the study, which allowed for the knockout of the Alox15 gene when given the drug tamoxifen.

In 2012, Sarah Tersey, PhD, Research Associate Professor at UChicago and co-senior author of the new study, led a project that was among the first to suggest that the beta cell might be a central player in the development of type 1 diabetes.

Saudi Ambassador calls on Khurram Dastgir



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Malki called on Federal Minister for Power Division Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan here Wednesday.

The minister appreciated the deep and long standing friendly relations between both the countries, said a press release.

The present government's solar initiative is a huge opportunity for Saudi investment, the Saudi companies are welcomed in this regard, remarked the minister.

The Ambassador said that Pakistan had immense potential and must be rebranded on globally. The business community of Pakistan needs to explore the Saudi market. The Saudi government is committed to enhancing cooperation in energy sector and values its partnership with Pakistan.

NADRA to facilitate citizens through mobile app

ISLAMABAD: National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) on Wednesday launched a handy mobile app 'Rahbar' which would facilitate every citizen all across Pakistan to find the nearest NADRA Service Centre and much more through simple clicks.

Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik, while announcing the citizen-centric mobile app, said that citizen's residing inside Pakistan were unable to know about the location of NADRA center that best suits their vicinity.

With Rahbar App, the citizens can now make a well-informed decision about visiting any NADRA center keeping in view the location, distance, number of applicants-in-waiting, and average processing time through their mobile phones.

He said such initiatives towards digital Pakistan aim at converting NADRA offices to citizen service centers, rather than only registration centers. Rahbar Mobile App will ensure convenience and auto-facilitation for a common citizen along with cementing the direct partnership between NADRA services and the society as a whole.

From now onwards, NADRA's service will be seen from the public eye, which will hold the authority accountable and transparent before the people of Pakistan, he said adding that this is the true manifestation of digital Pakistan and e-governance.

Türkiye sent 15 planes carrying aid for Pakistan flood victims: Envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan Dr Mehmet Pacaci Wednesday said 15 aeroplanes carrying about 227 tons of humanitarian aid, mainly medical products and family tents for the flood victims, had so far landed in Pakistan from Türkiye.

Addressing a press conference here, he said, "A total of 15 planes carrying family tents, food parcels, cleaning materials, medical supplies, blankets, mattresses, pillows, kitchen kits, units of clothing and carpets have arrived in Pakistan till date from Türkiye."

Besides two mobile health units and camps, 50 motorboats were also brought in Pakistan to assist the authorities working in the flood-hit areas, he added.



The ambassador said the Goodness Train Expeditions and Air Bridge were established to dispatch human-

itarian aid to Pakistan in cooperation with the Türkiye Ministry of Transport and the Türkiye Ministry of



National Defence, respectively. Moreover, preparations had started for the Pakistan Goodness Ship

Expedition, which would depart from Türkiye in the coming days, Dr Mehmet Pacaci added.

Briefing the media, a representative of the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD) said besides the aid bridges, its personnel coordinated the works in Pakistan and ensured the process of distributing humanitarian aid among the flood affectees.

He added that aid materials had been dispatched to the flood-affected areas by trucks in coordination with Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

About 77 personnel, including 19 AFAD personnel, three health teams, 53 representatives of non-governmental organizations, and two academicians, were working to coordinate the distribution of aid materials and to assist in the establishment of tent cities the flood-hit areas of Pakistan, he added.

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Truss's apologies and U-turns will not save the UK

Mohamed Chebaro

No one wants to be Liz Truss. Britain's embattled prime minister might survive the week or even a few more weeks after she removed her friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng, and U-turned on nearly all of the unfunded measures of her cursed mini-budget. A bit of certainty, discipline and, dare I say it, common sense have all returned to British politics and the economy after the appointment of Jeremy Hunt, who scrapped all the toxic tax cuts for the rich and the plan to borrow money to pay for badly needed social policies amid one of the worst cost-of-living crises the country has ever witnessed. But is it enough for Truss to survive?

The problem is that her admission that "mistakes were made" and her subsequent apologies and U-turns have left her powerless and lacking the authority needed to remedy the damage her fantasy economics has dealt the country, its standing and its hard-earned position as a secure and certain place to invest, do business and flourish,

for corporates as well as individuals. It is that reputation that I believe is at the heart of the problem and is why Truss and her government will not be able to rebound.

The faction of the Conservative Party she has joined had the narrowest of visions to exit the EU and "take back control," boosting Britain into believing that it could become "Singapore-on-Thames" overnight. This left many scrambling to understand how Truss and — Boris Johnson before her — were to pull that off, while at the same time being thin on details, planning and substance. On their way, they sank the hard-earned certainty and trust in the pound, the financial market that for decades had been the jewel in the UK's crown and the driver of its growth and prosperity. The red lights seen in the markets over the last couple of weeks reflect this long downward trend to finally signal that bankers and investors are inclined to believe that Britain has become riskier. They no longer have faith in what the UK has to offer.

Truss will have a near-impossible mission to scramble to recover her grasp on power after she was described as being "PM in name only" thanks to the

appointment of Hunt as Treasury chief to avoid a financial meltdown. Overnight, Hunt has become the real mover and shaker, ripping up her economic plans to redress some of the immediate damage.

The saddest thing is that too much water has gone under the bridge and Truss has become powerless, humiliated, labeled a "ghost" prime minister and compared unfavorably to a head of lettuce. She remains in office largely because her party is divided about how to replace her.

The words of King Charles echo louder today than when he met her last week, greeting her with "dear oh dear," as if Truss could restore Britain's credibility simply by changing the chancellor. She needs to go and metamorphose herself — something she has apparently been good at, having gone from being anti-monarchy, then a centrist who joined the Liberal Democrats, then a pro-Remain Tory, before becoming a hard Brexiteer under Johnson and lastly an economy wrecker, to say the least, when she entered No. 10.

The measures taken this week have had the stabilizing effect on markets that was needed in the short term. The UK seems

to have pulled itself back into the fold, with the market perception being that a dose of fiscal responsibility has been demonstrated and that the new chancellor will work with the Bank of England, the Office for Budget Responsibility and the International Monetary Fund in his drive to stabilize the economy.

But the adventure of Truss and her former chancellor has made her MPs doubtful of her ability to lead the country, as the polls have been giving the opposition Labour Party a large and growing lead, making it certain that, for the Conservatives, Truss must be replaced if they are to avoid electoral oblivion.

Under Conservative Party rules, the newly elected Truss is safe from a leadership challenge in her first year, but those rules can be changed if enough Members of Parliament want it. Some Tory MPs go even further and think that Truss can be forced to resign if the party can agree on a successor, despite the divisions that have plagued the party. Its membership ranges from far-right Brexiteers bordering on populism to the centrist One Nation Conservatives, leaving a huge gap if those hopes are to be achieved.

The rivals of Truss during

the leadership contest in the summer, including the ex-Chancellor Rishi Sunak, the current House Leader Penny Mordaunt and the untarnished Defense Secretary Ben Wallace, are the names being thrown into the hat once again. Some have even been desiring the return of Boris Johnson, who was ousted earlier this year after his premiership got enmeshed in an ethics scandal that he had authored.

I have been reporting on British politics for years, but never before have I seen this level of self-inflicted chaos committed by a class of self-serving politicians. It has undermined people's belief and trust in their government, made people anxious for their future and destroyed the credibility of the financial system. They have presided over a dwindling capacity and investments in the nation's public services, health, education and policing, to say the least.

A general election does not have to be held until 2024 and some are calling for Truss to be given a second chance, as occasional turbulence is a norm in politics everywhere. I am minded to differ though, as Britain — since the shock 2016 referendum vote to leave the EU — has

CPEC and Pak-China relations

Pakistan has close, friendly and decades old ties with China. China was the only country that invested heavily in different sectors of Pakistan when the other countries were hesitant due to the threat of terrorism in the country. The President of Pakistan has rightly said that the partnership between Pakistan and China will continue to flourish in every sector for the mutual benefit. With the support of China and through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project, Pakistan has managed to improve its infrastructure, overcome energy crisis and completed various development projects. Despite the conspiracies against this mega project by different countries, the CPEC is going on with good momentum. Pakistan will be connected with the international markets through CPEC and our trade relations will improve. China Pakistan Economic Corridor project is a joint venture of China and Pakistan and it was initiated at the time when Pakistan was virtually isolated and no country was interested to invest in Pakistan due to the terrorism. In the first phase of the project, the focus was on the power related projects and in the second phase, the government is focusing on the establishment of special economic zones which is a great development. Certain employment opportunities are being generated through this mega project. The need of the hour is to ensure the timely completion of all the development projects under CPEC within specified time. China is a time-tested friend of Pakistan and both the countries are determined to defend any conspiracy against the CPEC.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor project is a signature project of Pak-China friendship with over 60 billion dollars investment. It is a project of regional connectivity and will be helpful in connectivity of Pakistani products to the international markets. This game changer project has the ability to bring an economic revolution in the country. The outsourcing will be done by China in the special economic zones. This is a fact that CPEC added a new dimension to Pakistan-China all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect. Government is committed to complete the CPEC projects in stipulated timeframe. CPEC is beneficial for both China and Pakistan and it will provide an opportunity to Pakistan to increase connectivity to the region. All the provinces of Pakistan will equally benefit from this project in terms of improved infrastructure, more employment opportunities and increased business. As Prime Minister is going to visit China next month, I hope there will be fruitful talks between Pakistani and Chinese leadership to further speed up the project. During the previous government, the progress on CPEC had slowed down and work was not being actively pursued on many projects. However, the incumbent government has given a momentum to this vital project.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today gave a policy statement regarding CPEC, calling it national priority. It is a fact that progress on CPEC projects slowed down during the tenure of previous government. However, the incumbent government reinvigorated the project and now it is working on full pace. All the parties are agreed on the successful completion of CPEC so that people reap benefits from this venture. Special Economic Zones have a pivotal place in CPEC as they will increase transfer of technology, enhance exports and provide employment to the people. Energy related projects have again revived and they will be hopefully completed on time. Karachi Circular Railway Project is very important for the people of provincial metropolis as it would reduce traffic burden on roads as well as provide facility to the commuters.



Changes unseen in a century

Josef Gregory Mahoney

Contemporary Chinese political discourse frequently mentions "changes unseen in a century," so often in fact that it becomes a catchphrase in many high-level speeches. There are a number of ways to understand this phrase from a Chinese cultural, historical and Marxist perspective that might not otherwise be obvious to an international lay audience.

For some the phrase represents a historical turning point, one in which the historical experience known as China's "century of humiliation" (1840-1949), when the country was vulnerable to, dominated by and even existentially threatened by foreign powers, has now been inverted with its reemergence as a secure sovereign nation and a growing global power. China today has the world's second largest economy which is expected to eclipse or achieve parity, both economically and militarily, with the U.S. in the next 10 to 15 years. The changes alone are monumental. However, the deeper context here is the perceived decline of a unipolar international system and the possibility of a multipolar world, one where countries can work together for peace and development and on critical issues like climate change, in lieu of increasing competition and confrontation. Indeed, that was China's past and it wants its rise to avoid a new dark cycle of such history making.

In this sense, the phrase connotes a historical crossroads, one based on a holistic perspective of interrelated changes occurring in the natural environment, in the global political economy, and China's own development and a need for new approaches in its domestic affairs. In this last context we can see the phrase appearing in reform decisions promoted by the various ministries—for example, one

from the Ministry of Justice aimed at advancing the rule of law, another from the Ministry of Finance promoting new taxation policies, and another from the Ministry of Science and Technology supporting technological upgrading of medium-sized firms, each to accommodate new needs and opportunities in this period of "changes unseen in a century."

Altogether, the phrase coincides with another term, "new era." Both are expressions reflecting a historicist worldview. This kind of worldview is common to Marxists and especially Chinese Marxists. As the American Marxist Fredric Jameson famously admonished readers many years ago: "Always historicize!" What he meant by this is that we must constantly understand our history in tandem with our contemporary conditions, and how these help us understand what we want or need to do to reach the development goals we've set for ourselves. In other words, we must understand ourselves as moving through time, encountering changes and the possibility of progress and decline.

As President Xi Jinping noted in a speech: "The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century, but time and situation are in our favor"

Elsewhere he stated: "The momentum of the world either flourishes or declines; the state of the world either progresses or regresses."

In short, he has made it clear that this is a historical crossroads for both China and the world, one he has answered by his push for a community with a shared future for humanity, including proposing win-win development schemes, advocating true multilateralism, and promoting cooperation to solve existential crises like climate change, pandemics, war and energy crises. We can see these in the various China-led efforts over the past decade, including the Belt and Road Initiative that aims to improve transcontinental connectivity and

cooperation, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, as well as its reinforced commitments to UN peacekeeping missions and aid to nations in need, among others.

Similarly, at a speech given at the General Debate of the UN General Assembly in September, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, "The world has entered a new phase of turbulence and transformation. Changes unseen in a century are accelerating."

Nevertheless, he also asserted, "We are also at a time full of hope. The world continues to move toward multipolarity; economic globalization is deepening, and our societies are becoming increasingly digitized and culturally diversified. Indeed, countries are becoming ever more interconnected and interdependent. Peace and development remain the underlying trend of our times. Around the world, the people's call for progress and cooperation is getting louder than ever before."

Further, Wang emphasized the necessity of upholding peace and opposing war and turbulence, pursuing development and eliminating poverty, remaining open and opposing exclusion, staying engaged in cooperation and opposing zero-sum competition, strengthening solidarity and opposing division, and upholding equity and opposing bullying. As he stated, these are the principles China is promoting given the historical crossroads we've collectively encountered in this new era, in this period of great changes unseen in a century.

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The new US national security strategy requires stronger regional ties

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg

The Biden Administration released on Wednesday its first national security strategy, focused on countering China's influence and containing Russia. According to reports, the strategy had to be substantially revised in light of the war in Ukraine and growing tensions with China, leading to a delay of several months in releasing the report.

While Russia and China dominate the report, together garnering more than 120 mentions, the 48-page document is fairly comprehensive, covering issues such as food security, terrorism, arms control, pandemics, climate, cyberspace, technology and corruption. In terms of geography, it gives a glimpse of the US' thinking on most regions in the world. Much has been said about the US de-emphasizing the Middle East and the Gulf, but the region appeared about 20 times in the report, much more frequently than traditional areas of US interest, such as Latin America or the Caribbean, Japan, Korea or Australia. In terms of substance, very little appears to have changed in US policy toward the Middle East and Gulf, except for the Palestine/Israel conflict, where the Biden administration is reverting to more traditional US positions. And drawing lessons from the failed Iraq war, the Biden administration advocates a more practical and nuanced approach to the region that is worthy of support.

On the Middle East region as a whole, the strategy advocates a nuanced and practical approach, drawing lessons from the disastrous Iraq war, which was strenuously opposed by GCC countries.

The new strategy then advocates a new framework for US policy in the region based on five principles. The first principle is support for countries that

subscribe to the rules-based international order, making sure that "those countries can defend themselves against foreign threats."

The second is deterrence. The US is committed to not allowing foreign or regional powers to jeopardize freedom of navigation through the Middle East's waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab Al-Mandab, nor to tolerate efforts by any country to dominate the region through military buildups, incursions or threats.

Third, the US will work to reduce tensions, de-escalate and end conflicts wherever possible through diplomacy.

Fourth, the US will promote regional integration by building political, economic and security connections, including through integrated air and maritime defense structures, "while respecting each country's sovereignty and independent choices."

Fifth, the US will promote human rights and the values enshrined in the UN Charter.

The new framework will combine diplomacy, economic aid and security assistance to local partners to reduce instability, and prevent the export of terrorism or mass migration from Yemen, Syria and Libya, while working with regional governments to manage the broader impact of these challenges.

In effect, most if not all of these principles and priorities of the revised US policy in the region would require greater cooperation, not less, with GCC countries, thus putting to rest speculation that US links to the region would fray because of new priorities elsewhere.

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Courtesy: Arab News

Russia evacuates occupied Ukrainian city, orders martial law

Russia says movement of Ukrainians to Russia or Russian-controlled territory is voluntary

KYIV: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered martial law on Wednesday for four illegally annexed Ukrainian regions, doubling down on a faltering invasion he described as "very difficult." In a tacit acknowledgment that another stinging battlefield defeat may be unfolding, his forces organized evacuations of civilians from one of the first major cities they seized.



With a Ukrainian counteroffensive grinding toward Kherson, the battle for the southern city of more than 250,000 people, industries and a major port is a pivotal moment for Ukraine and Russia heading into winter, when front lines could become largely frozen for months.

Russia's increasingly tenuous hold on Kherson and the wider region of the same name as well as Putin's martial law order were more signs that the nearly 8-month-old invasion was not going as planned.

Putin acknowledged difficulties for his forces, telling a meeting of the Russian Security Council that "we are working to solve very difficult large-scale tasks to ensure Russia's security and safe future."

What had previously been a trickle of

evacuations from the city in recent days became a flood. Russian state television showed residents crowding on the Dnieper's banks, many with small children, to cross by boats to the east — and, from there, deeper into Russian-controlled territory. Russia said the movement of Ukrainians to Russia or Russian-controlled territory is voluntary, but in many cases, they have no other routes out and no other choice.

There have been reports in the war of

forced deportations, and an Associated Press investigation found that Russian officials deported thousands of Ukrainian children to be raised as Russian.

In Kherson, Russian authorities played up fears of an attack on the city, seemingly to persuade residents to leave. Text messages warned residents to expect shelling, Russian state media reported.

Andriy Yermak, head of the Ukrainian presidential office, called the evac-

uation "a propaganda show" and said Russia's claims that Kyiv's forces might shell Kherson were "a rather primitive tactic, given that the Armed Forces do not fire at Ukrainian cities."

Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said the operation could be a pre-cursor for intense fighting and "the harshest" tactics from Russia's new commander for Ukraine, Gen. Sergei Surovikin.

"They are prepared to wipe the city from the face of the Earth but not give it back to the Ukrainians," Zhdanov said in an interview. "The Russians want to show that Ukraine's counteroffensive will run into a harsh response from the Kremlin, which has declared these territories a part of Russia, and it's scary to even think about what that response might look like."

In a rare acknowledgement of the pressure that Kyiv's troops are exerting, Surovikin himself this week described the situation for his forces in the Kherson region as "very difficult." Russian bloggers interpreted the comments as a warning of a possible pullback by Moscow's forces.

Senior adviser to UK PM Truss suspended



LONDON: One of British Prime Minister Liz Truss's most senior advisers has been suspended and is to face a formal investigation by the government's Propriety and Ethics team, the BBC's political editor reported on Wednesday.

A spokesperson for Truss declined to comment on what he called individual staffing matters, but said: "The prime minister has made very clear to her team that some of the ... briefings that we have seen are completely unacceptable about parliamentary colleagues and they must stop."

Over the weekend, the Sunday Times quoted a source in the prime minister's Number 10 Downing Street office as using an expletive to describe Sajid Javid, a former minister who the newspaper said had been approached to become finance minister after the sacking of Kwasi Kwarteng.

Türkiye says defused another mine in Black Sea

ANKARA: Turkish underwater demolition teams have disabled a mine in the Black Sea, the defense ministry said Wednesday.

A mine was detected off the coast of the Kiyikoy district in the northwestern province of Kırklareli and teams from the Underwater Defense were dispatched to the scene, the ministry said in a statement.

"The mine has been secured and defused by the teams," it noted. This is the fourth such incident since the start of the Ukrainian crisis on Feb. 24. In April, Türkiye detected three mines in the waters of Bosphorus Strait, which connects the Black Sea with the Marmara Sea.

Turkish navy and its mine-hunting vessels are monitoring the Black Sea for stray mines, according to the defense ministry.

Ukraine's navy had deployed mines near the ports of Odessa, Ochakov, Chernomorsk and Yuzhny since the start of the Russian "special military operation," Russia's Federal Security Service said in March. Ukraine refuted the Russian claim.

Floods kill 6 in southern Brazil



SAO PAULO: Six people, including two young siblings, were killed in flooding and landslides sparked by heavy rains that hit Brazil's southern state of Paraná over the past seven days, the state civil defense agency said Tuesday.

Eight-month-old Nicolas Rodrigues and six-year-old Nicole Luiza Rodrigues died after their parents' car was swept away by floodwaters in the town of Pato Branco, the agency said in a report. The parents were rescued alive.

The other four drowned in swollen rivers in a rural area of Nova Laranjeiras, a civil defense spokesperson told Xinhua.

Some 38 cities in Paraná were affected, and 2,257 people were forced to evacuate, the agency said. The torrential rains caused the Paraná River basin to temporarily suspend visits over the weekend to the Iguazu National Park, a popular tourist attraction Brazil shares with neighboring Argentina.

UN Security Council welcomes maritime boundary deal

UNITED NATIONS: The Security Council on Wednesday welcomed a deal between Lebanon and Israel on the resolution of their maritime boundary dispute.

In a press statement, the members of the Security Council commended the announcements that Lebanon and Israel have agreed to end their dispute over their maritime boundary and delineate it permanently.

"This is a major step, which will contribute to the stability, the security, and the prosperity of the region. It will benefit both countries and their people and will allow both parties to benefit equitably from energy resources in the eastern Mediterranean," says the press statement.

The leaders of Lebanon and Israel announced on Oct. 11 that the two countries had agreed to resolve a decades-long dispute over their maritime boundary in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.



Pakistani PM's special envoy for Afghanistan meets with Iranian FM

TEHRAN: Mohammad Sadiq Khan, the Pakistani prime minister's special envoy for Afghanistan met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian on Tuesday morning.

Khan has travelled to Tehran for consultations over the latest developments in Afghanistan.

In the meeting, Amirabdollahian extended the Iranian president's warm greetings to the president and prime minister of Pakistan and offered his own greetings to Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto. Amirabdollahian then described relations between Tehran and Islamabad as excellent and underlined the need to further expand cooperation between the two neighbors in all areas, especially regional security.

The top Iranian diplomat said the Islamic Republic of Iran considers Pakistan's security as its own security, saying Tehran is ready for any cooperation that would strengthen



security in the region.

Amirabdollahian referred to the presence of over 4.5 million Afghan nationals in Iran including 1.5 million people who entered the Islamic Republic in the wake of last year's developments in Afghanistan and the Taliban takeover of the country.

He underlined Iran's support for peace and stability in Afghanistan that would pave the way for the return of refugees to their own country.

Amirabdollahian said the Islamic Republic of Iran will do its utmost to establish

peace and calm in Afghanistan and bring welfare to the country's people.

He also spoke about the meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors in Tehran last year, saying that implementing the resolutions of the Tehran meeting can remove security threats to Afghanistan and the region and pave the way for peace, stability and development in Afghanistan.

Amirabdollahian further said the Islamic Republic of Iran is prepared for an extraordinary meeting of the

top diplomats of Afghanistan's neighbors.

Sadiq Khan the Pakistani prime minister's special envoy for Afghanistan for his part outlined his country's views about the ongoing developments in Afghanistan and its status quo, which have reduced the living standards of the Afghan people and increased insecurity there due to domestic conditions and foreign pressures. He then stressed the significance of the constructive role of regional countries and Afghanistan's neighbors, particularly Iran and Pakistan.

Khan further pointed to his positive consultations with Iranian officials over Afghanistan and regional security. He stressed that Iran and Pakistan have been most affected by the developments in Afghanistan due to the huge refugee influx from the country as well as the decreased living standards, the rising insecurity and a surge in narco-trafficking there.

North fires more shells toward inter-Korean sea buffer zone

SEOUL: North Korea fired about 100 more artillery shells toward the sea Wednesday in response to South Korean live-firing drills at border areas as the rivals accuse each other of dialing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula with weapons tests.

The drills conducted by both sides come amid heightened animosities over recent North Korean missile tests that it calls simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean and U.S. targets.

South Korea's military detected the artillery being fired from a western North Korean coastal town, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. On Tuesday night, North Korea fired

about 100 shells off its west coast and 150 rounds off its east coast, the Joint Chiefs of Staff said earlier.

Both days, the North Korean shells landed in the northern parts of the maritime buffer zones the two Koreas created off their eastern and western coasts as part of agreements they made in 2018 to reduce tensions, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

North Korea also fired hundreds of shells at the buffer zones Friday in its most significant direct violation of the 2018 agreement.

North Korea's military said the launches were a warning against what it called provocative South Korean artillery firing drills

along the border earlier this week.

"Our army strongly warns the enemy forces to immediately stop the highly irritating provocative act in the frontline areas," an unidentified spokesperson at the General Staff of the North's Korean People's Army said in a statement Wednesday.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said it conducted artillery drills at land border areas as part of its annual military exercises. But it said its drills didn't violate the 2018 accord because its shells didn't land in the buffer zones.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff warned North Korea to immediately stop provocations that

threaten peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. It added that it is boosting its military readiness and, in coordination with the United States, is closely monitoring North Korea's moves.

There were no reports of violence between the two Koreas. But animosities could persist as North Korea will likely react to South Korea's ongoing annual "Hoguk" field exercises with its own weapons tests.

South Korean officials said the "Hoguk" drills are aimed at improving a military readiness against North Korean nuclear and missile threats and involve an unspecified number of U.S. troops.

Cholera vaccine shortage forces move to one-dose strategy: WHO

GENEVA: A shortage of cholera vaccines has forced a temporary shift to a one-dose strategy from the usual two in campaigns to fight a swelling number of outbreaks, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

The UN health agency said the "strained global supply of cholera vaccines" had pushed the International Coordinating Group (ICG), which manages emergency supplies of vaccines, to suspend the two-dose regimen.

"The pivot in strategy will allow for the doses to be used in more countries, at a time of unprecedented rise in cholera outbreaks worldwide," WHO said in a statement.

It pointed out that 29 coun-

tries had reported cholera cases so far this year, including Haiti, Syria and Malawi.

That compares with the fewer than 20 nations that reported such outbreaks in total over the previous five years.

"The global trend is moving toward more numerous, more widespread and more severe outbreaks, due to floods, droughts, conflict, population movements and other factors that limit access to clean water and raise the risk of cholera outbreaks," it said.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection in the small intestine causing sometimes fatal dehydration. It is generally contracted from food or water contaminat-

ed with vibrio cholera bacteria.

WHO and other members of the ICG — the Doctors Without Borders (MSF) charity, the UN children's agency UNICEF and the Red Cross — highlighted that a one-dose strategy for cholera vaccines had been proven to be effective in response to outbreaks.

But they warned that there was only limited evidence on the exact duration of protection, which appeared to be much lower in children especially.

With two doses, when the second dose is given within six months of the first, immunity against infection lasts for three years.

"The benefit of supplying one

dose still outweighs no doses," Wednesday's statement said.

WHO warned that the current supply of cholera vaccines was "extremely limited."

ICG manages a global stockpile of oral cholera vaccines, but of the 36 million doses forecast to be produced this year, 24 million have already been shipped for preventive and reactive campaigns.

And an additional eight million doses have been approved by ICG for a second round of emergency vaccination in four countries.

"As vaccine manufacturers are producing at their maximum current capacity, there is no short-term solution to increase



production," the statement said.

One reason for the growing concern about the situation is that the maker of one of only

two cholera vaccines for use in humanitarian emergencies, an Indian subsidiary of French pharmaceutical giant Sanofi, has

said it will halt production by the end of the year.

MSF said the critical global shortage of cholera vaccines had left it and other ICG members with no choice but to support the "very difficult decision of reducing the doses people will receive from two to one."

"It is incredibly frustrating to face this situation as cholera surges in more than 20 countries, including in places already devastated by crisis like Haiti, Nigeria, and Syria," MSF international medical coordinator Daniela Garone said.

"This last-resort decision is the way to avoid making the impossible choice of sending doses to one country over another."

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
42,226.05	41,839.27
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,265.22	41,839.27
Index Value	Change
4,604,620,983	+386.78
Percentage	Time
+0.92%	19 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
6,924.99	-11.75
Percentage	Time
-0.17%	19 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
30,523.36	-0.44
Percentage	Time
-0.0014%	19 Oct, 11:43 am GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,257.38	+101.24
Percentage	Time
+0.37%	19 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	137.98	139.23
Bahrain Dinar	584.17	588.67
Canadian Dollar	159.3	160.65
China Yuan	30.55	30.8
Danish Krone	29.09	29.44
Euro	225	228.25
Hong Kong Dollar	27.99	28.34
Indian Rupee	2.68	2.76
Japanese Yen	1.2	1.25
Kuwaiti Dinar	708.15	713.15
Malaysian Ringgit	46.73	47.18
New Zealand \$	124.41	125.61
Norwegians Krone	20.91	21.21
Omani Riyal	570.51	575.01
Qatari Riyal	60.34	60.84
Saudi Riyal	60	60.6
Singapore Dollar	154.74	156.04
Swedish Korona	19.72	20.02
Swiss Franc	220.43	222.18
Thai Bhat	5.78	5.88
U.A.E Dirham	63	63.6
UK Pound Sterling	258.5	261.5
US Dollar	225.7	228

ICCI calls for strict enforcement of IPRs to promote investment

Ahsan says due to lukewarm enforcement and IPR violations, the government was losing significant revenue

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to ensure strict enforcement of intellectual property rights in the country to promote innovations, brands and attract more investment to the country.

He said that due to lukewarm enforcement and IPR violations, the government was losing significant revenue besides endangering the life of the public exposed to counterfeit products.

He said this while addressing an awareness seminar on IPR issues for women entrepreneurs and start-ups organized by ICCI in collaboration with Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IWCCI).



Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that lengthy processing timelines for granting IP rights, complicated procedure for registration and long drawn judicial procedure for the protection of IP rights are the key issues that should be addressed to promote their compliance. He was of the view that the better enforcement of IPRs would reward the innovators, increase value of businesses & start-ups and attract more local and foreign investment to Pakistan.

John Cabece, US Intellectual Property Counselor for South Asia gave a detailed presentation on IP Rights including utility patent, design patent, copyright, trade secret & trademark. He said IPRs encourage and protect innovations & inventions, promote commercialization and application of IP, incentivize investment and foster economic growth.

Ethiopia ready to sign agreement that boost trade with Pakistan: envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula on conferred with Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry and senior Management where they discussed a range of Issues related to trade, investment, tourism, technology transfer and institutional cooperation. To this Ambassador, Jemal highlighted the overall investment environment, rules and regulations, incentives and one shop service for the FDI.

Similarly, he said that Ethiopia has a very cheap clean energy and working to become the manufacturing hub of Africa due to its relatively trained and competitive labor force coupled with supportive government policy that make Ethiopia a preferred FDI destination. On top of that Ambassador said Ethiopia is the land of Origin for humankind, source of Nile longest river, and land of Coffee, Bila Habesh first Azan, and King Nejashi who well come the Ashaba, famous historical, archeological, and nature site seeing.

"Ethiopian airlines will soon be flying in Pakistan which will eventually boost tourism and bilateral trades between the two countries with marked improvement in people-to-people and business-to-business ties," Jemal Beker remarked.

He said Ethiopia had been offering online visas to the visitors as its incumbent government believed in opening up the country to boost its economy undertaking deep and penetrating reform that create



conducive environment for FDI. Moreover, Ethiopia is a signatory of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) that protects and ensure the property and assets of the FDI and easy of repatriation of dividend. He said his country was a gateway to the African continent and Pakistani business community had vast opportunities to export their products to the entire Africa and import pulses, coffee, tea, oil seeds, and vegetables. Moreover, the Government of Ethiopia is ready to sign a number of agreements and MOU with the Government of Pakistan to facilitate the trade, and investment cooperation and collaboration between the two sisterly countries.

On the other hand, Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry appreciated the Government of Ethiopia support to the flood affected families in Tent City of Sindh Province of Paki-

stan in which the Government of Pakistan and its People will remember this good gesture and became a history between the two countries. Apart from this, the President said Ethiopia is one of the fastest growing economies of the African continent, which implementing home grown economic reform that prioritize agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism and ICT sectors that offer an immense opportunity for Pakistan companies to work together with their counterparts. Similarly, he said Pakistan is known for quality textiles, pharmaceutical, surgery equipment, construction materials, and ICT technology that can benefit the consumer of Ethiopia in a competitive price.

Moreover, he reiterated that they want to establish institutional linkages with their Ethiopian counterpart so as to increase bilateral trade, investment, and business between the two sisterly countries.

Nestlé reports sales for Q3 of the year

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: Nestlé Pakistan reported its nine-months results for 2022, recording a revenue of PKR 121.0 billion, an increase of 20.5% compared to the same period last year. The results were shared during the Board of Directors' meeting at its Head Office.

The high growth was driven by normalization of economic activities and strong demand generation

activities that were supported by new launches. It was further complemented by portfolio mix and pricing management. The Operating Profit also improved, as a result of sales growth, favorable product mix and tighter control on fixed costs.

Looking to the future, the Company remains cautiously optimistic considering the impact on consumer purchasing power of continuing inflation and the recent devastating floods.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Nguyen Tien Phong, Chairman of Pakistan Association of Industries, Khurshid Barlas, Fahad Barlas Convenor Diplomatic Affairs and Shamraiz Iqbal EC Member after the meeting Chairman Khurshid Barlas giving the invitation letter to the Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan Property Expo.

OPEC production cut will destroy poor countries

Dr. Shahid Rasheed says influential oil mafia is bent on ruining the LNG project

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Wednesday said that the government is buying expensive gas and selling it to the manufacturers at cheap prices which is wrong.

The loss is recovered from masses who are already paying full price for the gas and they also facing loadshedding, he said. Shahid Rasheed Butt said that seventeen billion dollars worth of LNG was provided to influential manufacturers for nine billion dollars which is against the national interests and this practice should be stopped immediately.

He said that if the industrial sector wants cheap gas, they should build their own LNG terminal and import the gas themselves at competitive rates without any red tape. State-run gas companies and influential oil mafia are not in favor of the LNG project therefore the private sector is not allowed to import cheap LNG, he said, adding that the purchase of LNG at record prices during the previous regime should be investigated.

He said that transparency should be ensured in all gas-related issues so that the sector can come out of revolving debt and stand on its own feet. He said that the prices of LPG cylinders are skyrocketing and with the change of weather, profiteering has gone rampant.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that Pakistan's oil mafia is very influential and bent on destroying the LNG project, while the state-owned gas companies are afraid of private sector participation in the sector as it will affect their monopoly and gas will become cheaper.

He said that when India and European countries are buying cheap oil and gas from Russia, why is Pakistan not doing the same? He said that after the war between Russia and Ukraine, the interest rates hike in America and now OPEC's decision to cut production will damage the poor countries.

Economy should be prioritized: Mian Zahid Hussain

People deserve some mercy as inflation bites

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said PTI should start positive negotiations after winning the by-elections.

PTI should play its role in bailing the country out of the political chaos otherwise people will continue to pay the price of instability, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the economy is also paying the price for continued political instability in the country.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all political parties must work together and agree on a charter of the economy to pull the country out of the economic vortex.

Failed state-run corporations should be sold without any delay and losses in the power and gas sectors, circular debts and ever-increasing trade deficits should be tack-



led through political consensus. A national action plan can be made for this, otherwise, the people affected by inflation and the flood victims will continue to suffer, he warned.

He said that usually the political temperature is low after the election but the temper-

ature is continuously rising in Pakistan. It is uncertain whether any stakeholder will benefit from unrest, but the economy is sure to be affected. The opposition will not be able to achieve its political goals by increasing the pressure on the government at this stage, but it will definitely increase the problems of the people who are worried about inflation.

The agitation will not improve the situation but will worsen it, therefore, the opposition should consider going back to the assembly and starting a dialogue on the national economic agenda which would be a better option to consider. Mian Zahid Hussain further said that Karachi is the biggest city in the country and the economic foundation of Pakistan but no one is paying attention to it. This important city has been running without a local government for two years. In Punjab, there is no local government for the last ten months and there is no immediate possibility of managing it.

Builtbyher Hackathon winners receive Seed Funding from UBL

Bureau Report

KARACHI: United Bank Limited (UBL) recently collaborated with LMKT and the National Incubation Center, Karachi (NICK) to host the BuiltByHer 3.0 Hackathon. The Hackathon focused on empowering aspiring female entrepreneurs in creating technologies to improve Pakistani women's economic inclusion, while promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education amongst young women.

At the event, 13 participating teams pitched innovative



solutions driven with the aim of making formal banking accessible and inclusive. The female led teams took the stage and pitched their solutions to a panel of banking and start-up industry leaders. The panel included Aliya Ahmed (Head of Digital Channels, UBL), Zohair Saif (Head of Inno-

vation, UBL), Omar Abedin (Project Director, NICK), Sana Shah (Program Manager, NICK) and Faizan Laghari (Managing Director, Bykea). The event was also attended by Sharjeel Shahid, Group Executive-Digital Banking Group, UBL.

After an intense round of

itches, the panel of industry experts selected the two submissions that stood out from the rest.

The introduction of such solutions into Pakistan's economic value chain will open up new opportunities for economic growth as more of the under-banked population begins to adapt formal banking solutions.

In his address to the audience, chief guest of the event, Shazad G. Dada, President & CEO, UBL, said, "Gender diversity and financial inclusion have always been the top priorities of UBL."

Shell Pakistan announces financial results for Q3

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Board of Directors of Shell Pakistan Limited (SPL) announced the Company's 3rd quarter results on October 19th, 2022. The Company posted a loss after tax of PKR 4,644 million for the quarter which translated into the cumulative profit after tax of PKR 2,863 million for the nine months as compared to last year's profit after tax of PKR 297 million and PKR 2,447 million for the quarter and nine months respectively.

The oil sector felt the impact of macro-economic challenges such as unprecedented devaluation of the

Rupee, continued volatility in the international oil prices as well as the impact of devastating floods, which resulted in a reduction in industry volumes. The Company was able to maintain its market share and remained focused on its strategic priorities, operational excellence, and fiscal prudence.

During the period, the Mobility business, with a strong supply and distribution network, delivered product in a safe and compliant manner at a time when most of the supply routes were severely challenged. The Company is also on track with its network expansion.

Karandaaz joins hands with MOPASS

To advance financial inclusion in Pakistan



Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Karandaaz and MOPASS signed an agreement to undertake joint efforts to advance financial inclusion in Pakistan.

The MOU signing ceremony took place at MOPASS in Islamabad and was chaired by Secretary MOPASS, Dr. Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan, CEO Karandaaz,

Waqas ul Hasan, and Senior Program Officer Gates Foundation, Syed Ali Mahmood. The ceremony was also attended by senior management from both the organizations.

Under this agreement, Karandaaz has committed a grant to MOPASS to help maximize its efficiency, potential and ultimately improve the beneficiary experience.

PCB warns Jay Shah's remark can impact ICC events in India

ACC asked to convene an emergency meeting of its Board

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Wednesday officially responded to the statement by Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Jay Shah regarding the venue for Asia Cup 2023, warning it may affect Pakistan's participation in ICC events in India.

The Pakistan Cricket Board has issued the following statement following the Asian Cricket Council President Jay Shah's remarks on Tuesday.

"The PCB has noted with surprise and disappointment yesterday's comments made by the ACC President Mr Jay Shah with regards to shifting of next year's Asia Cup to a neutral venue. The comments were made without any discussion or consultation with the Board of the Asian Cricket Council or the Pakistan Cricket Board (event host) and without any thoughts towards their long-term consequences and implications.

"After having presided over the ACC meeting during which Pakistan was awarded the ACC Asia Cup with an over-



whelming support and response from the ACC Board Members, Mr Shah's statement of shifting of the ACC Asia Cup has clearly been made unilaterally. This is contrary to the philosophy and spirit for which the Asian Cricket Council was formed in September 1983 – a united Asian cricket body to safeguard the interests of its Members and organise, develop, and promote the game of

cricket in Asia.

"The overall impact of such statements have the potential to split the Asian and international cricketing communities, and can impact Pakistan's visit to India for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 and future ICC Events in India in the 2024-2031 cycle.

"The PCB has to date not received any official communication from the ACC on

the statement of the ACC President. As such, the PCB has written to the Asian Cricket Council to convene an emergency meeting of its Board as soon as practically possible on this important and sensitive matter."

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Cricket Board and Cricket West Indies have agreed to postpone the three-match T20I series, which was due to take place in January 2023 in Pakistan, to the first quarter of 2024.

The decision has been made considering 2024 is an ICC Men's T20 World Cup year, with the event due to be hosted in the West Indies and USA in June 2024, and the shortest format matches will, therefore, help both the sides to prepare for the tournament.

The three-match T20I series in January 2023 is not part of the recently announced 2023-2027 ICC Future Tours Programme. The West Indies played their ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches against Pakistan in Multan in May 2022, while the December 2021 series comprised three T20Is in Karachi.

Ireland upset Scotland with stunning comeback at T20 World Cup

MELBOURNE: Ireland pulled off a stunning six-wicket upset of Scotland at the Twenty20 World Cup Wednesday with George Dockrell and Curtis Campher starring in a 119-run partnership after they looked out for the count.

In perfect conditions at Bellerive Oval in Hobart, the Scots powered to 176-5 – the tournament's highest score so far on the back of 86 from Michael Jones – then reduced the Irish to 65-4 after 10 overs.

But Campher (69 off 32 balls) and Dockrell (39 off 27) came to the crease and unleashed some fireworks to steer them home against the odds with an over to spare.

It was their first win of the tournament after crashing to Zimbabwe on Monday and leaves Group B wide open. "Pretty special, I can't remember a more important partnership," said Ireland captain Andrew



Balbirnie after their highest ever successful run chase at a World Cup.

"We have played some great cricket throughout the year, only to fall away towards the end, but credit to the guys for the partnership."

They had a shaky start, losing Balbirnie and Paul Stirling cheaply to make their task even harder. Lorcan Tucker (20) and Harry Tector (14) put on 28 before both departed within six balls as they crumbled to 65-4 after 10 overs and it looked all but over.

thought Jones was superb all through the innings." Jones smacked a blistering 86 off 55 balls as Scotland looked to build on their stunning 42-run upset of two-time champions West Indies on Monday. It was the highest score at the tournament and the best ever by a Scot at a T20 World Cup.

They also made a shaky start after winning the toss and choosing to bat with opener George Munsey, who starred against the West Indies, lasting just two balls. Matthew Cross joined Jones and they put on a breezy 59. But Cross was undone when Campher came into the attack and he was deceived by a slower delivery, caught for 28.

Jones played beautifully and brought up his maiden T20 half-century off 38 balls with a single, ably supported by Berrington (37) then Michael Leask (17) before eventually falling in the penultimate over.

PSF announces to hold first-ever squash league in March 2023



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is set to launch Pakistan Squash League in March next year, which will also involve top-notch foreign players, Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) Senior Vice President, Air Marshal Aamir Masood revealed on Wednesday.

"The inaugural edition of the league will feature six teams with each one of them having two to three foreign players and as many domestic players," Masood told media at the opening ceremony of Chief of the Air Staff-Serena Hotels International Championship for Men and Serena Hotels-Combaxx Sports International Squash Championship for Women at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islamabad.

"We've already started work to hold the league and soon it will be given final touches. We believe the league will help in the development and growth of our promising players. It will also help the country regain its historic aura in squash," he said.

He said the federation had yet to decide about the venues of the league matches.

"We can make a start either from Karachi or Islamabad. But we are considering to hold its semifinals and final at Mazar-e-Quaid (Karachi) and Minar-e-Pakistan (Lahore). Holding these fixtures at the open places of these most popular sites will catch public attention, ultimately paving the way to once again popularize squash in the country," he said. "Initially, the league will be a men event but after its success we'll also hold women event," he added.

According to Masood other steps are also being taken to regain the glory of squash and rebuild Pakistan's supremacy in the game internationally. He said Pakistan squash could go through a successful transition if young players were provided with more opportunities to showcase their talent.

"For this purpose camps are being organized at the school and college level. Similarly, our academies are already functioning in Karachi, Abbottabad, Peshawar and Rawalpindi. Hopefully, in next two to three years, Pakistan will once again start producing world champions in squash."

He said the federation had contacted foreign trainers and coaches besides availing the expertise of Pakistani coaches. "The federation has already hired the country's top coach Faheem Gul to prepare the players," he added.

Talent Scouts appointed in six Cricket Associations

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: With an objective to identify hidden talent across the country and to bring them into the national framework, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced the appointment of Talent Scouts in each of the six Cricket Associations.

The appointments were made following a robust recruitment process, for which the advertisement was posted in July and the interviews were conducted by the relevant officials.

The six Talent Scouts, in collaboration with the Cricket Associations head coaches, will follow all age-group cricket at the club, schools, colleges, districts and divisions levels before holding coaching and training camps in their respective regional academies for the outstanding talent as part of the PCB's Development Programme.



The best talented players from the lot will then be gathered at the National High Performance Centre to further hone their skills under supervision of the foreign coaches and prepared for various PCB tournaments, including the Pakistan Junior League.

The six scouts will also be part of the Junior Selection Committee, which will be headed by Muhammad Wasim. With Wasim also heading the National Selection Committee, this will ensure the progression of the quality talent is always available on the dash-

board, meaning these players will have smooth transition from development events to major competitions.

The six Talent Scouts are: Abdur Rehman (Central Punjab), Ahmer Saeed (Sindh), Aamer Nazir (Southern Punjab), Mohammad Salman (Northern), Sanaullah Baloch (Balochistan) and Wajahatullah Wasti (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa). Javed Hayat will be the coordinator of the scouts.

Abdur Rehman played in 22 Tests and 31 ODIs from 2006-2014, Ahmer Saeed captained Pakistan U19 and featured in 39 first-class matches, Aamer Nazir played six Tests and nine ODIs from 1993-1995, Mohammad Salman represented Pakistan in 10 internationals in 2011, Sanaullah Baloch played in 27 first-class matches from 2001-2009, and Wajahatullah Wasti featured in six Tests and 15 ODIs for Pakistan in the 1999-2000 season.

Morocco to host first Asian golf tour event in North Africa

RABAT: World-class international golf tees off in Morocco next month with the Asian Tour's groundbreaking International Series making its debut in North Africa.

The International Series Morocco will be hosted at the historic Royal Golf Dar Es Salam, in Rabat, from Nov. 3 to 6, with free admission.

With prize money of \$1.5 million up for grabs, the event plays a key role in determining the Asian Tour Order of Merit champion, as well as the International Series money list winner.

The International Series was launched earlier this year thanks to a new landmark partnership between the Asian Tour and LIV Golf to raise the profile of the game in Asia and the Middle

East.

"This has been an unprecedented season and we were delighted to be able to announce exciting news about the Asian Tour's first visit to North Africa in Morocco – with its illustrious golfing heritage," said Cho Minn Thant, commissioner and CEO, Asian Tour.

The inaugural International Series has had four events to date in 2022; with local star Taeheon Ok (International Series Korea) and Nitithorn Thippong (International Series Singapore) the winners back in August.

The International Series Thailand kicked off in March and was won by emerging American star Sihwan Kim at Black Mountain Golf Club. Zimbabwe's Scott Vincent claimed the International

Series England in June.

Alongside Asia's stars, the field will include eight of the best homegrown Moroccan players who will be announced at a later date.

"After three years of shutdown due to COVID-19, we are delighted to once again host a top-notch international professional competition," said Abderrahim Bouftas, president of the golf venue.

"It's hugely exciting for Morocco to play host to the new International Series and a chance for us to see the very best and emerging talents from the Asian Tour and Moroccan golf. We are proud of our tradition and its prestigious history of Royal Golf Dar Es Salam. It's a huge opportunity for the passionate Moroccan fan base

here to see world-class golf on the jewel in our crown here, the Red Course."

Designed by Robert Trent Jones, the course was commissioned by King Hassan II in the late 1960s and is situated in the capital Rabat.

The venue has hosted many events of the European Tour, Ladies European Tour and PGA Champions series in recent times.

Hicham Berdaii, director of the venue, said: "This is another important historic milestone for Royal Golf Dar Es Salam as we host the inaugural International Series Morocco tournament. We are hugely looking forward to opening our doors for all with admission free for spectators. We want to inspire even more people locally to get into golf and



for the world to see what incredible courses Morocco has on offer. With a new purpose-built spectator village at the venue, we look

Osais School wins Sindh Inter School Cricket Tournament

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Osais School defeated GBSS Orangi Town no. 9 in final of Sindh Inter School Cricket Tournament and lifts trophy.

The highlights of the final were superb around performance of M. Hussain and deadly bowling by Hammad Alam. Advisor Curriculum Wing School Education Dr. Fouzia Khan was the Chief guest of final. While G.M. Sind Cricket Association Syed Rahat Ali Shah and other officials were also present there. Speaking on this occasion Dr. Fouzia Khan said that healthy activities in educational institution are very essential and I am glad to see potential of the students. She congratulate the winning team and said losing team also played well.

At HPC ground Osais School batted first and scored 155 runs in allotted overs. Ahsanullah made 34. M. Hussain scored 33. Talal Mehmood scored 29 runs. Kashan Khan took two wickets. In reply GBSS Orangi Town no.9 bundled out for just 92 runs. Raza Ahmed was the top scorer of 20 runs. Hammad Alam bowled extremely well and took five wickets for just eight runs while M. Hussain took 3/29 and got Man of the Match Award.

Match officials for Pakistan v Ireland women's series announced

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Ali Naqvi, who has represented Pakistan in five Tests and is a member of PCB Elite Panel of Match Referees and International Panel of ICC Match Referees, will lead the playing control team in the six limited-overs matches between the national women's sides of Pakistan and Ireland in Lahore from 4 to 16 November.

The three ODIs are part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25 and will be played from 4-9 November at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. Three T20Is will be played at the same venue from 12-16 November.

Asif Yaqoob, Faisal Afridi and Imran Jawed will form the umpiring panel. Asif and Faisal are part of PCB Elite Panel of Umpires and PCB match officials on the ICC International Panel. Imran is part of PCB Elite Panel of Umpires.

The ODIs and T20Is will begin at 1000, toss will take place at 0930 PKT.

Pakistan-Afghanistan warm-up match washed out

BRISBANE: A warm-up match between Pakistan and Afghanistan for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup was called off on Wednesday due to uninterrupted rain at The Gabba in Brisbane.

Pakistan were only able to bat for 2.2 overs with the openers Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan scoring a total of 19 runs, after which the match was delayed and then called off. Pakistan had won the toss and chosen to field first, inviting Afghanistan to bat. The Afghans set a target of 155 runs.

A newly recovered Shaheen Afridi took the first wicket in the first over with an LBW to Rahmanullah Gurbaz, giving Pakistan's side the bowling confidence needed at the beginning of the game.

Haris Rauf and Shaheen Afridi took two wickets each while Mohammad Nawaz and Shadab Shaked two wickets between them, according to a tweet by the Pakistan Cricket Board. The match gained momentum in Afghanistan's favour in the latter half of the match with Mohammad Nabi scoring 51 runs on 37 balls and Usman Ghani scoring 32 runs on 20 balls – both remaining not out.

When it was Pakistan's turn to show their batting skills, the captain Babar Azam scored six runs on six balls while the team gained 13 runs due to wides. The match was abandoned eventually due to the rain not ceasing.

England bowler Topley out of T20 World Cup

LONDON: England bowler Reece Topley has been ruled out of the T20 World Cup with an ankle injury just days before their tournament opener against Afghanistan.

The paceman rolled his left ankle during a fielding drill ahead of England's warm-up win over Pakistan in Brisbane on Monday. Scans confirmed significant ligament damage and the giant left-arm seamer was withdrawn from the squad, with fellow left-arm Tymal Mills promoted from his previous status as travelling reserve.

A statement from the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed that Mills had been drafted into the squad.

Topley has overcome multiple stress fractures in his back in recent years to become a key player in England's white-ball sides. The 28-year-old is currently ranked as the second-best seamer in T20 internationals, in a list dominated by spinners.

England have other left-arm options in Sam Curran and David Willey while Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Chris Jordan and all-rounder Ben Stokes are their other seam bowlers.

Jos Buttler's 50-over world champions start their campaign against Afghanistan in Perth on Saturday. The ICC also approved three other player replacements due to injuries.

Sri Lankan bowler Kasun Rajitha has replaced the injured Dushmantha Chameera while all-rounder Danushka Gunathilaka will be replaced by travelling reserve Ashen Bandara, who is a batsman. In the United Arab Emirates squad, travelling reserve Fahad Nawaz has replaced Zavar Farid.