

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے آدم نے بیان کیا کہا ہم سے ورتق
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 «وَأَقِمَّ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ الْحَقِّ كَيْفَ تَرَكَهُ»
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AJK President urges expats to participate in gubernatorial polls in USA

Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has urged the Kashmiri and Pakistani Americans to participate fully in the upcoming gubernatorial and mayoral elections in the United States. The president said, "Kashmiri and Pakistani immigrants living in the US should support and vote for the candidates who support our stand on the Kashmir issue and the stability of Pakistan."



Kaira for highlighting Kashmir dispute

Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira has called for maximum awareness on internal and external fronts regarding different aspects of Kashmir dispute. The Minister said Pakistan has always been raising the issue on all international fora but today participants of the conference will give suggestions on how to legally pursue the issue. He underscored the need to educate the young generation about the issue and said that for this purpose Kashmir centers or seats should be established in higher educational institutes.

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Exports up by 40% to Rs1.605tr Q1

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The exports from the country in rupee term witnessed an increase of 39.99 per cent during the first Quarter (Q1) of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The exports during July-September (2022-23) were recorded at Rs. 1,605,826 million against the exports of Rs. 1,147,073 million in July-September (2021-22), showing an increase of 39.99 per cent, according to provisional data released by PBS.

On year-on-year basis, the exports from the country increased by 39.24% and were recorded at Rs.563,714 million in September 2022, against the exports of Rs.404,847 million in September 2021.

On month-on-month basis, the exports increased by 2.81 per cent in September 2022 when compared to the exports of Rs. 548,326 million recorded in August, 2022.

The main commodities of exports during September, 2022 were knitwear (Rs. 100,580 million), readymade garments (Rs. 63,821 million), bed wear (Rs. 61,630 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 46,819 million), towels (Rs.20,115 million), rice other than Basmati (Rs.17,527 million), cotton yarn (Rs.17,471 million), made-up articles, excluding towels & Bedwear (Rs.14,764 million), rice Basmati (Rs.9,865 million) and fish and fish preparations (Rs.9,645 million).

On the other hand, imports during July-September, 2022 totaled Rs. 3,666,447 million as against Rs. 3,072,045 million during the corresponding period of last year, showing an increase of 19.35%.

Pak-Belgium coop

RAWALPINDI: Belgian Ambassador Charles Joseph M Delogne called on Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa here on Thursday.



Photo: ISPR

In national interest

PM says 'willing to talk to Opposition leaders

Shehbaz says Opposition had "double standards" as it was not willing to talk with coalition parties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said that he was "willing to talk to the leaders of the Opposition in the larger national interest". However, he stressed that the Opposition had "double standards" as it was not willing to talk with the coalition parties for the last four years.

Addressing a ceremony in the federal capital to announce scholarships and other opportunities for the youth of the country, the premier said that nation's resources should be spent on equipping the youth with high-quality education instead of creating divisions and sowing seeds of hate among youth.

On the occasion, the PM

PM launches Youth Development Initiatives

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has inaugurated the Youth Development Initiatives to enhance skills of students across the country. The Prime Minister said youth makes a major chunk of our population and we will have to further expand these initiatives to equip our young minds with modern education and skills. He said Pakistan's progress and survival lie in the development of our youth. The Prime Minister said facilitating youth has been the tradition of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. He said we initiated several programmes, including Punjab Education Endowment Fund, Punjab Skill Development Programme, and free laptop scheme. He said we sent 600 students to China to learn Mandarin.

announced the initiative of providing 20,000 internships to young engineers and 75 scholarships to students for studies in the top universities of the world.

He said that the Ministry of Planning and Development will carry out the youth initiatives, which also include spending Rs40 billion in 20 most underdeveloped districts and

building 250 mini sports complexes.

The programme would be expanded further and more initiatives would be launched for the youth, PM Shehbaz said. Referring to his past initiatives as the Punjab chief minister, he said the former PML-N-led government, under the leadership of Nawaz Sharif, had undertaken different programmes

for providing high-quality education, scholarships, and laptops to millions of students.

The prime minister said his provincial government set up the Punjab endowment fund, and in eight years, Rs 20 billion were given as scholarships to high achievers in studies. Millions of students were equipped with technical education under the Punjab Skills Development Programme, he recalled.

Hundreds of students were sent to Turkey and China so that they could learn Turkish and Chinese. Now many of these Chinese-speaking Pakistanis were working on projects of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as interpreters and translators, Shehbaz added.

COAS, Belgian envoy discuss matters of mutual interest

The Belgian Ambassador appreciates Pakistan's efforts for regional stability

Our Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: Belgian Ambassador Charles Joseph M Delogne called on Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and enhanced bilateral as well as defence cooperation were discussed.

The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence for the families of the victims.

The Ambassador appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability and also pledged to play his role in enhancing cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad

Obaid Ibrahim Salem Alzaabi

also called on the Army Chief. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, bilateral defence and security cooperation and regional security situation came under discussion.

General Bajwa said Pakistan values Emirati's role in global and regional affairs and we look forward to enhance our bilateral relationship.

Both sides agreed to further enhance cordial relations and enduring strategic partnership. The visiting dignitary expressed his grief over the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan, offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims and hoped for early rehabilitation of affectedes.

The Army Chief appreciated phenomenal support provided by the UAE Government for the flood affectedes.

Shortest-serving PM

Liz Truss steps down as UK's prime minister

Truss makes decision after more and more MPs called for her to hand in resignation

LONDON: The newly-appointed prime minister of the United Kingdom Liz Truss on Thursday announced that she is resigning from the post, the BBC reported.

A leadership election will be completed within the next week to replace Truss, who is the shortest-serving prime minister in Britain's history. George Canning previously held the record, serving 119 days in 1827, when he died.

Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 Downing Street office and residence, Truss accepted that she could not deliver the promises she

made when she was running for Conservative leader, having lost the faith of her party.

"I recognise though, given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party. I have therefore spoken to His Majesty the King to notify him that I am resigning as leader of the Conservative Party," she said.

"This morning I met the chairman of the 1922 Committee, Sir Graham Brady. We've agreed that there will be a leadership election to be completed within the next week. Agencies

ECP to announce verdict in IK's Toshakhana case today

ECP had reserved its verdict in Toshakhana case on Sep 19, 2022

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will announce its verdict in the much-delayed Toshakhana disqualification reference against PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Friday, October 21, at 2pm.

The case, which was filed by lawmakers of the ruling alliance, has been pending for several months.

According to a notice issued today, the ECP ordered all the relevant parties or their counsels to appear before the commission at its secretariat, situated at Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, in Islamabad.

It should be noted that the ECP had reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana case on September 19 following months of hearings. After hearing the arguments, a five-member bench of the ECP, headed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, reserved its ruling. The election body has



also sought security from the Islamabad Police inside and outside the watchdog's premises. Toshakhana is a word of Persian origin that literally translates into "treasure house". Agencies

FATF to review Pakistan's efforts on action plan

PARIS: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is meeting in Paris on Thursday to discuss Pakistan's efforts on the Action Plan against terrorism financing and crimes to exit grey list, ARY News reported.

As per details, the FATF Plenary meeting is taking place in Paris from today. It is the first FATF Plenary to be held under the two-year Singapore Presidency of T. Raja Kumar.

Pakistan is likely to exit the FATF's infamous grey list after a period of four years as it has successfully complied with the 34-points action plan related to terror financing and money laundering.

In the light of FATF's plan, the trade in gold and properties has been made documented, the sources said.

After the meeting, Raja Kumar, the FATF president will address a news conference in which announcement to remove Pakistan from its infamous grey list, the sources said.

Earlier this year, the FATF acknowledged that Pakistan has "substantially completed its two action plans". APP

Mariyum accuses Imran

Of using educational institutions to create chaos

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was using "educational institutions to create chaos and anarchy in pursuit of his ulterior motives".

"Those who have turned the educational institutions in an arena for spreading anarchy should be ashamed of themselves," she said in a news statement.

Her comments came in the backdrop of a fiery speech made by Imran Khan at the Sargodha University on Thursday. The PTI chief had already visited different universities to address the students which drew ire from different segments of the society.

The minister said Imran Khan had nothing to do with "right and truth" as he wanted the people to stand by him for "protecting the corruption of his wife Bushra Bibi and her friend Bushra Gogi". His speech at the Sargodha University was another attempt to save the two from going to jail, she added.

Imran Khan, she said, was in fact a "foreign-funded Fitna, liar and dacoit" who had pushed the country into an economic quagmire by pursuing wrong policies during his four-year government tenure.

She said a country was destroyed when an incompetent, thief, liar and foreign-funded Fitna of ruler was



imposed. Same was the case with Pakistan, which had got a severe blow under the rule of the "liar and foreign funded Fitna" Imran Khan. When he was ousted from the Prime Minister's Office the economy was in tailspin, Mariyum maintained. The minister said Imran Khan's accountability drive was nothing but a drama as he had rendered the people jobless and weakened the state during his rule which was marred by "corruption and incompetency". She lashed out at Imran Khan for achieving political and personal gains. She termed Imran Khan a "certified predator for journalism" and asked him

to abstain from lecturing others on the freedom of expression.

The PTI chairman, she said, did all in his power to victimize his political opponents, but could not prove a single allegation of corruption against them. He would have to answer as to why he had kept his opponents in the jails without any proof of wrongdoings, if any, she added.

She said the meaning of Amr-Bil-Maaroof was to abstain from telling lies and accusing others of misdeeds without any concrete proof.

The minister said Imran Khan was delivering a lecture at the Sargodha University, but it was an irony that his party's government in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had taken record loans of Rs 651 billion, but it had no funds to release salaries of teachers.

The ten-year PTI rule in the KP, she added, was marked by inflation, poverty and massive borrowing.

The country's debt rose to Rs 45,000 billion as the Imran-led government had borrowed Rs 25,000 billion during its first three years, she remarked.

Mariyum said Imran Khan inaugurated the projects, which were launched by Nawaz Sharif as prime minister and Shehbaz Sharif as Punjab chief minister.

She said the people could no more be hoodwinked by Imran Khan to regain power as he had sold the national interests and lands for his personal gains. APP

Deliberation

President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with a delegation of Islamic Relief Pakistan, that called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad on Thursday.



Photo: PID

Pakistan wants strong ties with Uzbekistan: Asif



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Uzbekistan which are based on historical, cultural and religious commonalities and desires to further strengthen ties in all fields of mutual interests especially defence.

He expressed these views during a call on paid by Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan Aybek Arif Usmanov at his office in Islamabad on Thursday.

The minister mentioned that Pakistan was amongst the first three countries to open an embassy in Tashkent in June 1992, a news release said.

Khawaja Asif said Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in the region and across the globe.

The minister emphasised on Pakistan's indispensable role in resolution of Afghan crisis and sustainable peace in the region.

Moreover, Khawaja Asif said Pakistan desired lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan. "Instability in Afghanistan has serious consequences for the entire region. We would like to strengthen multi-faceted cooperation with Uzbekistan."

The visiting ambassador conveyed and reaffirmed the commitment of the people and the government of Uzbekistan to work closely with Pakistan to further strengthen their bilateral relations, especially in the field of defence. APP

President urges parties to evolve consensus on early elections

Dr Alvi says ways should be found to reduce political instability in the country

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi Thursday urged the political parties to evolve consensus on the holding of early elections.

The president, in an interview with a private television channel, said, "There will be no issue if elections were held a few months before the scheduled time."

The second tier of political parties should sit together if the top leadership could not hold talks due to any reason, he added.

Ways should be found to reduce political instability in the country, he said. The people were concerned about the political instability, he said, adding egos should be put aside in the country's interest and leadership of the political parties should resolve issues.

President Alvi said only political stability could bring in foreign investment and ensure the implementation of the International Monetary Fund agreement.

No compromise on supremacy of law: Law Minister

Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Federal Minister of Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday praised the role played by the lawyers' community against dictatorship saying that no compromise would be made on the supremacy of law and constitution.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of E-Service Online Payment System website and Android App of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council. Vice Chairman KP Bar Council, Muhammad Ali, Chairman Execu-

tive Committee, Ilyas Khan, office bearers of District Peshawar Bar Association and large number of lawyers were present on the occasion.

The federal Law Minister said that struggle of lawyers with unflinching resolve to protect legal and state institutions and rights of people during dictatorship would always be remembered in golden words.

He said that the annual grant for the lawyers' community has been increased to Rs 500 million and was made part of the financial budget of the

President calls for concerted efforts to provide relief to flood victims

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed the need for the government, public representatives, NGOs and other stakeholders to complement each other's efforts in providing relief to the flood victims. Talking to President of Islamic Relief USA Muhammad Anwar Khan Country Director of Islamic Relief Pakistan Asif Ali Sherazi and Advocacy Specialist at Islamic Relief Pakistan Raza Hussain Qazi in Islamabad today, he appreciated the program launched by Islamic Relief International in Pakistan to empower the widows by imparting them with skills to earn their livelihood, educating the street children in various parts of the country and improving the skills level of underprivileged persons. The President said that Islamic Relief International may also launch a program for providing digital skills, through physical and online modes of education, to enable the youth bulge to gain market-based skills and earn a reasonable livelihood. He also proposed that the Mosques, which remain available from Fajr to Zohar, may be considered for providing education to the street children and out-of-school children by providing appropriate training and education to Pesh Imams to be used as teachers.

To a question about the long march of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, the president rejected the notion that the provinces could attack the federation. The people willingly came to attend the public meetings and became part of the political movements, he added.

President Alvi said he was optimistic that the leadership of parties would be able to find a solution to the political issues.

"I think I will be successful in helping the parties find solution to the issues." To another question, he said the selling of uranium occurred in India, while the nuclear assets of Pakistan were secure and in safe hands.

Pakistan in the past had responded effectively to the aggression of India, he remarked. The president said the international community was not helping in the resolution of the Kashmir dispute.

One-third of the land in Pakistan

Fawad cheers legal blow to govt's anti-long-march plans

Says "PTI never ruled out talks with the PML-N, but not for NRO"

ISLAMABAD: PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry on Thursday said the ruling coalition should "either put up with the protest or stop claiming to be democrats" after a legal blow was dealt to the government's plans to thwart PTI's long march that is yet to be scheduled.

"If you (the government) cannot face the voice of dissent then you are not democrats," Chaudhry said talking to the media following the Supreme Court's positive remarks during the hearing of the government's contempt petition against PTI Chairman Imran Khan.

The petition was filed by the Interior Ministry on October 13, requesting contempt of court proceedings against the former premier under Article 204 of the Constitution for "flouting and disregarding the orders of the apex court passed on May 25, 2022", on the petition filed by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association.

He said the PML-N and PPP senators, who declared themselves democrats, did not utter a single word against such "undemocratic actions by the government" and instead were "endorsing raising hurdles in the way of the democratic process."

"Sherry Rehman and Raza Rabbani, who pose themselves as the champions of democracy, should have

resigned from their offices if they had an iota of shame," Fawad said.

"Tell me which democracy doesn't have tolerance for protests?" he questioned and added the government should show courage and face it.

The court, however, rejected the government's request to issue an interim order for stopping the PTI's planned long march and called on the attorney-general of Pakistan (AGP) to appear before the court for the next hearing after completing his homework.

"Announcement of elections will be the success of our negotiations, a march on Islamabad their failure," Fawad said.

The PTI leader clearly said his party never ruled out talks with the PML-N. He, however, added that "those [talks] would not be for NRO."

"If elections are announced then we will hold a discussion about the election commission and the caretaker setup," the PTI leader said, adding that "no formal talks were underway with the PML-N yet."

Fawad said that in the last six months, this country had seen its worst human rights violations.

"Rana Sanaullah's statements are not of a democratic minister but rather of a street goon," the former information minister said. Agencies

Flood affectees to get aid through Ehsas Program: CM

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Thursday said that the flood-affected people would be given aid from the Ehsas Programme as the Punjab Assembly had passed the Ehsas Programme Bill and it would be enforced across the province.

Addressing a public gathering in Talagang, the chief minister said that ration would be provided on subsidised rates to the 8 million deserving families through the Ehsas Programme and the shopkeepers would also be given 10 percent profit from the Ehsas Programme.

The CM announced that industrial zones would be established in Talagang by setting the road network, adding that Talagang industrial zone would be declared tax-free. He resolved to establish factories in Tala-

gang industrial zone, adding that ban from making inductions had been lifted and there would be employments for the Talagang district.

A superior university, a medical college and an engineering university would be established in Talagang, he announced and added that Tamman Dam and Lava Dam would be made in the area.

Four more districts would be set up in Punjab in addition to Talagang, he said, adding, optometrists would be appointed for eye treatment at the Rural Health Centers. Owner rights would be given to the 'katchi abadis' of Talagang and Chakwal, he said and added that Chakwal would also remain part of progress. "We have formulated a programme to join together Chakwal and Talagang and make it a division. We will also fully activate and functionalize the Lava tehsil," he maintained.

Zardari gets relief in 25-year-old NAB cases

ISLAMABAD: PPP CO-Chairperson Asif Zardari Thursday got relief in cases filed against him 25 years ago when the Islamabad High Court (IHC) accepted the plea of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) dismissing appeals against the former president's acquittal in corruption references.

A two-member bench of the IHC headed by Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case. Additional Prosecutor General Jahanzeb Khan Bharwana appeared before the court on behalf of NAB.

"NAB's plea to withdraw appeals against Asif Ali Zardari's acquittal in four references has been accepted. Appeals are dismissed on merit," the court stated.

The anti-graft watchdog had approached the court to withdraw appeals against the PPP co-chairperson's acquittal by the accountability court in the SGS, Cotecna, Ursus Tractors, and ARY Gold References.

The NAB said that only photocopies of the documents are on record against the former president. In its plea, the NAB had also mentioned that the available documents are not in accordance with the law of evidence. It stated that further prosecution on the appeals was an impossible task; therefore, to meet the requirements of justice, the court should allow the NAB to withdraw the appeals against Zardari's acquittal. APP

Pakistan calls for regulating use of chemical, biological materials

NEW YORK: Pakistan Wednesday voiced concern about the possibility of the acquisition, production and abuse of chemical and biological materials as well as technology by non-State actors and, in some cases, by States as well, and called for their adequate regulation to avert any use that conflicts with international conventions.

"We agree that sensitive technologies and materials should be adequately regulated to guard against their uses incompatible with the purposes of the BW (Biological Weapons) or CW (Chemical Weapons) Conventions," Ambassador Khalil Hashmi told the UN General Assembly's First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security matters.

However, Ambassador Hashmi, who is Pakistan's permanent representative to UN offices in Geneva said, that objective should not justify impediments to the legitimate use

of biological or chemical sciences, equipment and technology among States parties for peaceful purposes. "It is vital to restore balance and even-handedness in the implementation of the export control regimes," the Pakistani envoy said in New York.

Non-discriminatory implementation of the Conventions, national physical protection and international assistance and cooperation were key tools to prevent non-State actors' acquisition production, or use of those weapons, he said in a thematic debate on "Other Weapons of Mass Destruction."

In this regard, Ambassador Hashmi said that Pakistan supports a proposal for negotiating an international convention to combat acts of chemical and biological terrorism in the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament (CD).

On other matters, the Pakistani envoy said that the COVID-19 pandemic had



laid bare the fragilities of the global public health architecture, including the intersecting issues of life sciences, viruses, and infectious diseases. There were important lessons for the Biological Weapons Convention regime from the pandemic, such as the mutually reinforcing nature of its prevention and protection aspects, as well as the urgen-

cy of amplifying international assistance and cooperation in the field of life sciences.

Pakistan, he said, remained committed to the full, effective and balanced implementation of that Convention. Neither the UN Secretary-General's mechanism, nor voluntary confidence-building measures could substitute for the widely supported proposal to conclude a legally binding verification protocol.

On its part, he said, Pakistan condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances, and those responsible for such acts be held accountable.

He added the importance of avoiding distortions in the mandate of the Hague-based Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that might render it susceptible to political manoeuvring. APP

AJK PM congratulates PTI chief for landslide victory in by-polls

Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan meets with Imran Khan and discuss political situation

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan held an important meeting with Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan at his Bani Gala residence here on Thursday.

During the meeting the duo discussed in detail the issues of mutual interests as well as the prevailing political situation in the country. Speaking on the occasion the prime minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan while briefing the PTI Chairman about the forthcoming local government (LG) elections being held in the last week of November said that the municipal polls in the region were being held after a hiatus of 31 years.

"The credit for holding LG polls goes to Tehreek-e-Insaf, which took



the landmark initiative to implement the party's manifesto soon after coming to power in Azad Kashmir", he said, adding that despite their lofty claims the successive governments had miser-

ably failed to hold the elections during the last three decades.

The PM told the PTI chairman that the government's decision to transfer power to the local government repre-

sentatives was being highly appreciated by the people in Azad Kashmir. He said that the PTI would issue tickets to ideological workers after due consultations. He said that municipal elections would be instrumental in fair distribution of development funds and providing other facilities to the common man at grassroots level. He said that steps were being taken to build small dams to provide clean drinking water to the people. The AJK premier also congratulated the PTI chairman for his landslide victory in recent by-elections held in different parts of the country.

Chairman Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan appreciated the steps taken by Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas regarding the holding of local body elections and advised him to continue the mission of providing all possible facilities to the people.

Clearance efforts

KARACHI: A worker busy is cleaning debris with the help of heavy machinery after the land sliding at Kati Pahari area, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

17 Kanal land donated on lease to TDC in Lahore

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: The Diabetes' Centre Islamabad was donated 17 kanal of land on lease by Miraj Khalid Trust to build a hospital at Burki Road, Lahore

Chairman, The Diabetes' Centre, Dr Asjad Hameed, CEO, Tahir M. Abbasi and senior staff Dr Sana Moazzam represented TDC. Ch Muhammad Sarwar, ex Governor Punjab is the Chief Patron of the land.

An agreement has been signed provisionally and a grand ceremony will be arranged in Islamabad soon for the formal MOU signing.

Pak-Afghan border opens for traffic

Wana: the administration, Army & police negotiated with the protestors successfully

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Lower Waziristan near Pak Afghan border angoor adda Successful Negotiations held by AC Yasir Salman Kundi, AAC Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali & DPO Mr. Attique Wazir along with Elders of Ahmadzai Wazir

According to the details Yesterday, The Assistant Commissioner Wana Yasir Salman Kundi & Addl. Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr Sadiq Ali along with DPO Attique Wazir SWTD carried out successful Negotiations along with the Ahmadzai elders & Ulemma with the elders and protestors of Angoor Adda.



After multiple round of talks with the Elders of the 04 tribes of Angoor Adda regarding their demands and few amendment in them, the coordination meeting was held with Commander 24 Brigade. Detailed discussion was carried out and the said demands were agreed upon by the Commander in coordination with the High ups (HQ-FC KP).

All the demands were mutually agreed upon in

the Grand Jirga attended by commander 24 Brigade, AC, Addl. AC Wana & DPO SWTD.

At the end, the elders were directed to hold a final Jirga with the elders of Angoor Adda to announce the demands agreed which were appreciated by all the elders and public and were satisfied over it.

The Jirga cleared and opened the road for all types of vehicular traffic and ended the protest.

All the elders and public of Angoor Adda appreciated the efforts of Jirga, Elders, Ulemma District Administration SWTD, Army (FC) and Police.

Pre-order for Samsung Galaxy Z Fold4, Galaxy Z Flip4 started

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Samsung Electronics started pre-orders for their next generation of groundbreaking foldable flagship smartphones: Galaxy Z Fold4 and Galaxy Z Flip4. Both devices feature customizable form factors, tailored experiences and upgraded performance. Now in the fourth generation, Galaxy Z series continues to break from convention to deliver new impactful interactions that enhance everyday life.

Samsung has announced that their new foldable flagship phones are officially available on their online shop for pre-order, with an exciting offer. For limited time 512GB storage Z Flip4 and Z Fold4 are available at the price of 256GB phones, giving you a saving of Rs. 30,000. An add on saving, of up to 60% on screen replacements will be provided by Samsung Care+ within the 1-year warranty period.

AJK Dev working party approves projects of FY2022-23

ABDUL Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The second meeting of Azad Kashmir Development Working Party for the current financial year 2022-23 was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary (Development) Azad Kashmir Fayyaz Ali Abbasi. The meeting was attended by members of Planning Commission of Pakistan, Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Finance Department, secretaries of relevant departments and officers of Planning and Development Department.

In the meeting, the revision project worth 30 crore 62 lakh rupees for the decoration and decoration of the Red Fort in Muzaffarabad under the management of the Department of Tourism and Archeology, the revision project worth more than 53 crore 34 lakh rupees for the computerization of the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Main-



land Record organized by the Information Technology Department, The project of supply of emergency medicine in the major hospitals of Azad Kashmir organized by the Department of Health is worth 15 crore rupees, the revision plan worth more than 06 crore 30 lakh rupees to increase through several measures in the Environment Protection Agency managed by the Department of Environment and the legal regulations of the Environment Protection Agency.

Structure Implementation and

Stability Revision Project costing Rs.03 Crore 44 Lakh Rs.02 Crore 67 Lakh for functioning of newly established Animal Breeding Centers at Pir Chinasi Muzaffarabad, Banjosa Rawalkot and Mangala Mirpur under the management of Wildlife Department.

Second plan, 02 revised projects worth more than 03 billion 29 crore rupees under the administration of the Department of Forestry and Communications were taken into consideration and these projects were approved, while under the Department of Forest-

ry and The review plan of the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami program under the management of the Federal Government, costing 21 billion 82 crore 90 lakh rupees, and the revision of the national plan for the improvement of waterways managed by the Irrigation Department in Azad Kashmir with the support of the federal government, brought into consideration the cost of 03 billion 80 crore 15 lakh rupees These plans were cleared.

Speaking on this occasion, Additional Chief Secretary Development Fayyaz Ali Abbasi said that all the departments should try to complete the projects within the stipulated period and avoid unnecessary revision. He said that the project of Red Fort is a unique project in the history of Azad Kashmir, it is an iconic project of Muzaffarabad city which should be completed in a timely period with transparent conduct, he added.

Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management applies for listing of GRR at PSX

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Arif Habib Dolmen REIT Management Limited (AHDRML) has applied for listing to Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) to list Globe Residency REIT (GRR), which once approved would become Pakistan's first listed Developmental REIT.

Globe Residency is a residential project comprising of 2 bed and 3 bed apartments located at Naya Nazimabad, Karachi. AHDRML is the REIT Management Company of GRR and Arif Habib Development and Engineering Consultants (PVT) Ltd is the Project Manager. In total, GRR is constructing nine towers, which were launched in November 2021 and will be ready for possession within 3 years. Total number of apartments in the project are 1,344 of which 1,098 have already been sold including 408 apartments to Meezan Musharakah. Construction work is in progress in full swing and the grey structure is targeted to be completed by September 2023. The REIT fund size is PKR 2.8 billion; PKR 1.4 billion each of Debt and Equity and the project cost is estimated at PKR 20 billion.

Muhammad Ejaz, CEO, AHDRML stated, "Once PSX approves our application, 85% of equity units are proposed to be offered to 2,900 shareholders of Javedan Corporation Limited being the offeror. 10% units will be offered to public, whereas the remaining 5% will be offered to Real Estate Consultants of Naya Nazimabad. Arif Habib Group has always remained at the forefront, introducing new products to the Market. Following the success of Dolmen City REIT, we are certain that the listing of GRR will also garner a similar response."

foodpanda celebrates 'World Smile Day'



Staff Reporter

KARACHI: foodpanda Pakistan celebrated the 'World Smile Day' at Dar-ul-Sukoon, Karachi. Team pandamart organised the event, where team foodpanda along with their CEO, Muntaqa Paracha, Director New Verticals, Ibad Ahmed & Director Finance, Maz Hashmi had lunch with the children, served by foodpanda HomeChefs.

Govt not interested in resolving problems of people: PEW

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Thursday said the government is not interested in providing any relief to the masses facing high inflation. If the government was interested in providing relief to the masses, it would have allowed the import of food items from India which is not the case, it said. The problem of food security is becoming serious and the ban on their imports from India is damaging the poor while strengthening the influential food mafia, said Dr. Murtaza Mughal, President PEW.

In a statement issued here today, he said that the import of food items should be allowed from India until the situation of agricultural production in the country returns to normal. Dr. Murtaza Mughal said that India is the best source of quick and cheap access to food items but imports are not being allowed because it is not the problem of the ruling elite but that of the masses. Presently some Indian and Pakistani businessmen are forced to trade through the UAE at the cost of the people of Pakistan, he informed. He noted that Pakistan's population is increasing rapidly and if agriculture is not given attention, the situation will worsen and people will face starvation. Apart from agriculture, other sectors of the economy also need to be given attention, otherwise, there will be an acute energy crisis, rampant poverty, and unemployment. He noted that the decision to give preference to geoeconomics over geopolitics was a political statement with no connection to reality. Dr. Mughal said that India and China have fought wars but they are also engaged in trade and Beijing's surplus in trade with India is over one trillion dollars.

OGDCL partners with DOST Foundation

For social reintegration of drug addicts



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: As a responsible corporate, the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) has signed an MoU with DOST Welfare Foundation for the social reintegration of the drug-addicted people in the company's operational Kohat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Launched under the OGDCL's corporate social responsibility, the two-year program will mainly focus on creating awareness among the masses regarding drug use. Awareness will be created among people of various age groups in general and the youth population in particular.

The program will inform local people about ways to prevent drug addiction. Completely sponsored by OGDCL, the program will also facilitate the treatment and rehabilitation of drug-addicted people at state-of-the-art rehabilitation facilities of the DOST Foundation.

The service delivery center in Kohat district will facilitate the local people to eliminate the menace of drug addiction from the area. The project will include community-based follow-up, relapse prevention, awareness, community sensitization and mobilization services in the target areas to raise mass awareness among the general public and drug-addicted people.

Besides the said services in the targeted district, the Centre will identify and refer drug-addicted people including men, women and children to DOST Foundation's existing residential facilities for treatment and rehabilitation services in Peshawar. OGDCL had been rigorously involved in various social welfare initiatives by signing MoUs to ensure the welfare of the countrymen. Earlier, the company had signed an agreement with Al-Shafa Eye Trust Hospital to ensure free eye treatment in the company's operational areas across the country.



Islamabad
23° - 38° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr4:52 am
Zohr11:53 am
Asr3:50 pm
Maghrib5:30 pm
Isha6:53 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)15
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance1122 &
& Rescue Services4451122
Motorway Police92766044
Motorway Police9276601-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad9222596
Rawalpindi9276601-20

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CAA9281092

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Corporation9209224
Potohar Town9209224
Rawal Town5773343

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Wapda Islamabad9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tank
Rawalpindi0331-5022125

“World Osteoporosis Day” observed at Iqra University

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Attainment of SDG 3 and SDG 17 is essential to achieving good health and well-being. About 8 million bone fractures occur in the world every year due to osteoporosis. Dr. Rubina Tahir

The increasing incidence of osteoporotic fractures and a lack of awareness of the disease in the community continue to increase the burden on the population. According to an estimate, more or less 8 million bone fractures occur worldwide every year due to osteoporosis. These views were expressed by Professor Dr. Rubina Tahir in a seminar on the occasion of “World Osteoporosis Day” organized by the Department of Pharmacy at Iqra University North Campus.

She said that the main objectives of this session were the achievement of SDG 3 and SDG 17 for good health and well-being. The event raised awareness about the risks and consequences of osteoporosis. Dr. Rubina Tahir is a reproductive health expert and the pioneer of saline infusion sonography in Pakistan. Dr. Tabinda Ashfaq, Dr. Muhammad Imran, and others were also present on this occasion. Abia Iqbal performed administrative duties.

Sanjrani assures to support ICCI in exploring new export markets

Chairman Senate says business community should focus on Africa, ASEAN and other potential regions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate said that the business community is playing a key role in the economic development of the country and ICCI members would be included in the Senate’s foreign delegations so that they could explore new markets of promoting Pakistan’s exports. He further said that the business community should focus on Africa, ASEAN and other potential regions to improve Pakistan’s trade and exports. He said that the business community should focus on non-traditional items to



enhance exports of the country.

He said this while exchanging views with a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on him led by President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari. Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Deputy Chairman Senate was

also present at the occasion.

Chairman Senate said that flourishing business and investment would enable the economy to grow strong and reiterated that he would cooperate with ICCI in resolving the key issues of the business community. Talking about the closure of Centaurus Mall,

he said that he fully supports its opening and said that he would soon talk to the Federal Minister for Interior to resolve this issue amicably. He said that ICCI should cooperate with the Senate of Pakistan in celebrating its golden jubilee celebrations in a befitting manner.

Selling vegetables

ISLAMABAD: A vendor is selling turnip vegetable on his tractor trolley alongside a road in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Save health, lives of youth from unhealthy drinks

PANAH is raising awareness for a healthy youth and healthy Pakistan, says Sana Ullah Ghumman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: High consumption of sugary drinks is one of the major reason for alarmingly growing obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart diseases, several types of cancer, kidney and liver diseases. Pakistan is ranked number one with highest growth rate of diabetes during the last 10 years. Pakistan is ranked 3rd highest globally with 33 million people living with diabetes in 2021. If no policy action taken immediately, the number of people living with diabetes will increase to 62 million by 2045.

These views were expressed by health, economic and policy experts while addressing on “enhancing the impact of digital media through youth” organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at local hotel in Islamabad. The event was attended by the health professionals, civil society representatives, youth and students from different schools and colleges of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Among the guests were



Ms. Afshan Tehseen Bajwa, Chairperson, Commission on the Rights of the Child (NCRC), Munawar Hussain, Consultant – Food Policy Program, Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA), Abdul Hafeez, Ex-Commissioner Income Tax.

While addressing to session, Sana Ullah Ghumman said that PANAH is raising awareness for a healthy youth and healthy Pakistan. He said that sugary sweetened beverages are one of the major causes of diabetes and obesity. Youth of Pakistan are among the victims of this disease. Our government and policy makers need to understand the seriousness of this problem and work on war footing basis to reduce the consumption of SSBs.

Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food

Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that high consumption of sugary drinks is an increasing threat to economy of the country. He said that PIDE estimated Rs. 428 billion as cost of obesity in 2015. Similarly, as per International Diabetes Federation, the annual cost of managing diabetes in Pakistan has been increased to USD 2640 million in 2021.

Ms. Afshan Tehseen Bajwa, CEO, National Commission on Rights of the Child (NCRC) said that Youth can play a vital role promotion of healthy foods. Youth need to be more conscious on making their food choices. Sugar Sweetened Beverages are very harmful for youth and are major causes of obesity, diabetes and many other diseases.

Health Corner

3rd COVID-19 vaccine dose is highly effective in patients with cirrhosis

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Cirrhosis of the liver is associated with decreased responsiveness to COVID-19 mRNA vaccines as evidenced by results after two doses. However, the results of a new study strongly support giving the recommended booster vaccinations to these patients. In this retrospective study of over 26,000 patients with cirrhosis, investigators found there was an 80% reduction in COVID-19 occurrence, 100% reduction in severe or critical COVID-19, and 100% reduction in COVID-19-related death. Their findings are reported in the Journal of Hepatology.

“Our group previously demonstrated that in patients with cirrhosis, the effectiveness associated with two doses of an mRNA vaccine was lower and slower compared to that seen in a healthy population,” explained lead investigator Binu V. John, MD, MPH, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Miami VA Medical System, and Division of Digestive Health and Liver Disease, Department of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA. “Patients with cirrhosis are particularly vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19, presenting higher hospitalization and mortality rates compared to those without liver disease. These findings inspired us to focus on the next question: What is the additional benefit of booster doses in cirrhosis, and particularly against the delta and omicron variants.”

Investigators performed a retrospective cohort study of patients with cirrhosis who received two or three doses of either the Pfizer BNT162b2 mRNA or Moderna mRNA-1273 vaccines at the Veterans Health Administration between December 18, 2020 and February 11, 2022, when the delta and omicron variants were active. Around 13,000 participants who received three doses of the vaccine were propensity-matched with 13,000 controls who had received two doses.

Patients who received three doses were evaluated for the development of COVID-19 and disease severity.

Results indicated that patients with cirrhosis should be encouraged to receive a third dose for effective protection because it appears to be highly effective against severe outcomes of COVID-19. The findings showed that the receipt of the third dose of either the BNT162b2 mRNA or the mRNA-1273 vaccines is associated with an 80% decrease in the development of COVID-19 and symptomatic COVID-19, and a 100% reduction in severe or critical COVID-19 and COVID-19 -- related death, compared to participants with cirrhosis who received only 2 doses.

Abaid Ullah Khan assumes charge as Acting Secretary General PRCS

Staff Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Abaid Ullah Khan has been notified as Acting Secretary General, Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS). He has formally taken the charge of his office. Muhammad Abaid Ullah Khan has been managing and supervising all the operations of PRCS as Joint Director Operations for the last 6 years. He is the senior most and highly experienced professional in PRCS National Headquarters, having more than 20 years of affiliation with the National Society. He has been through all the headways of the organization. His areas of expertise revolve around Disaster Management, Project Management, Capacity Building, Youth and Volunteers Management and stakeholders’ coordination. He also has a vast experience of international and national field deployments. The staff of Pakistan Red Crescent Society and people representing different walks of life have congratulated Abaid Ullah on assuming the office.

Regional, global connectivity must to be improved: Dr. Moeed

ISSI’s Second Thought Leaders Forum (TLF) held

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: “The conversations on trade, regional and global connectivity needs to be improved and should be more insightful with less rhetoric” was said by the keynote speaker Dr. Moeed Yusuf while addressing the Thought Leaders Forum (TLF).

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized its second TLF on October 20, 2022 at under title, “Significance of National Security Policy in the Changing Geopolitical Situation.” Dr. Moeed Yusuf, former National Security Advisor and Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on National Security and Strategy Planning was the keynote speaker.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI in his welcome remarks highlighted

the relevance of the topic chosen for discussion. Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, in his introductory remarks apprised the audience about the significance of TLF.

Dr. Yusuf in his address stressed upon the need of ensuring economic and human security in the country. For this purpose, he stated that we need to focus on prioritizing our policies, redistribute our resources, and ensure the continuity of policies with a special focus on economic diplomacy.

His address was followed by a Q & A session on a wide range of topics including national economics; climate change; food and water security; governance model; population growth and growing debt crisis in the country.

PARC observed “Annual Mehfil-e-Meelad (PBUH)”

Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the best role model for humanity; Speakers

ISLAMABAD: In connection with the celebrations of Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH), PARC Islamabad arranged an annual Mehfil-e-Milad (PBUH) at its premises this Thursday. Mr. Muhammad Saeed-ullah Yusufzai, Member (Finance), Mr. Falak Naz, Member (Coordination), Mr. Muhammad Ishaq, Secretary (Council) PARC presided over and Mr. Sahibzada Najam-ul-Mustafa was the special speaker at the occasion. The Auditorium of PARC HQs was decorated with multi-color electric bulbs which presented beautiful scene. Qari Muhammad Shafiq performed the responsibility of stage secretaryship.

The regular proceedings of the program commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Qari



Nazeer Ahmed Naemi followed by Naat Khawani. Naat Khawani, Mr. Akhtar Bazmi Sahib, Mr. Sahibzada Rahat Mahmood Qadri Sahib, Mr. Muhammad Rizwan Attari Sahib, Muhammad Rashid PARC and others carried it forward with their beautifully recited Naats. Great love for Proph-

et (PBUH) was seen during the event. Naat’s were much appreciated by the participants.

Special Speaker of the event, Sahibzada Najam-ul-Mustafa spoke about the significance of the day and showed rich praise on the Seerat e Tayyaba of Holy Prophet (PBUH). While

giving the examples from the life of Holy Prophet (PBUH), he told participants to follow the Sunnah of Rasool and bring peace and happiness in their life. He paid glowing tribute to the efforts of PARC Management in this regard.

Sahibzada Najam ul Mustafa



further shared with the participants that Holy Prophet (PBUH) is the best role model for humanity and the Prophet (PBUH) revolutionized the world in shortest time as well as changed every aspects of the people life through his personal example and deeds.

People belonging to various strands of opinion were also present in this Mehfil. The event was concluded with the recitation of Darood-o-Salam in the Honor of Hazoor ((PBUH)) along with special prayer for Muslim e-Ummah and distribution of Langar-e-Meelad. PR

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China's remarkable achievements over the last 10 years

Einar Tangen

The last 10 years have seen China emerge politically, economically, and socially. Internationally, China has been the target of American fears about its system and success. The result has been a growing negative perception of China in the Developed Global North, reinforced by repeated unproven accusations by governments and the media, which views China as an existential threat to their ideological, economic, and military supremacy. At the same time, the developing and emerging Global South and Central Asia, for the most part, have grown closer to China. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the BRICS cooperation, vaccine donations, debt forgiveness, and Beijing's less confrontational approaches, have seen China emerge as an economic and political model and economic partner. Beijing has maintained its pursuit of a different path, one that has successfully put people above economic-centered policies, like the elimination of extreme poverty, access to health care, and improvements in its pension programs. It has done so while expanding its economy every year, including during the pandemic, and saving millions of lives through tough but effective health measures. It has reformed its military and

pursued corruption wherever it was found. This is not to suggest that China is perfect, far from it, but its "study, plan, implement, adjust, and expand" approach has yielded remarkable successes.

Gunboats in the Taiwan Strait, AUKUS and the QUAD, clearly signal Washington's intent, despite lip service to the Three Communiques, which specify friendliness and a "One China" policy.

Washington's narrative, assumptions, ideology, and adherence to American exceptionalism are a stage where these two different systems play opposing parts. The biggest difference is that China does not seek to impose its ideas or models on others, while the U.S. does.

These include the 2009 financial crisis, endless conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, dangerous streets, crumbling infrastructure, a botched response to COVID-19, unilateral tariffs, arbitrary withdrawals from treaties, an attempted insurrection in the Capitol, an unrepentant ex-president who claims the system was fixed against him, 31 trillion in national debt, walking Europe into a conflict in Ukraine, a thoughtless increase of Federal interest rates that is exporting inflation to the entire world. The only thing that seems aspirational are America's education institutions and their reputation for excellence, but high prices, racist attacks, and difficulties getting visas are even chipping away at this positive point.

As the economic gravity steadily shifts East, a new multipolar political reality is emerging that goes beyond

China. The fault lines are the political divisions emerging between the Developed Global North and the Developing and Emerging Global South and Central Asia, as exhibited in voting patterns in the UN, in OPEC, ASEAN, CPTPP, RCEP, BRICS, and SCO, as well as organizations that are attracting new members, since the G7 and G20 are unable to act.

Socially, 90% of the Chinese people express confidence in their government. China has also found pride in its cultural roots, expressed in fashion trends like traditional Chinese attire hanfu, which has gained popularity across the world and signifies a new reality.

China has made remarkable progress in the face of concerted headwinds. It has successfully transformed from an underdeveloped country to a modern economic powerhouse. China's market, production, and place in the global supply chain continue to drive it to be more efficient. In addition, innovations in fin-tech are making China an economic oasis.

The last 10 years prove that, despite the yearly predictions of imminent economic or political collapse and the best efforts of those who fear China's rise, China has a resilient and focused system that won't be easily derailed.

*Einar Tangen is a senior fellow at Beijing-based Taihe Institute.
 Courtesy: China.org.cn*

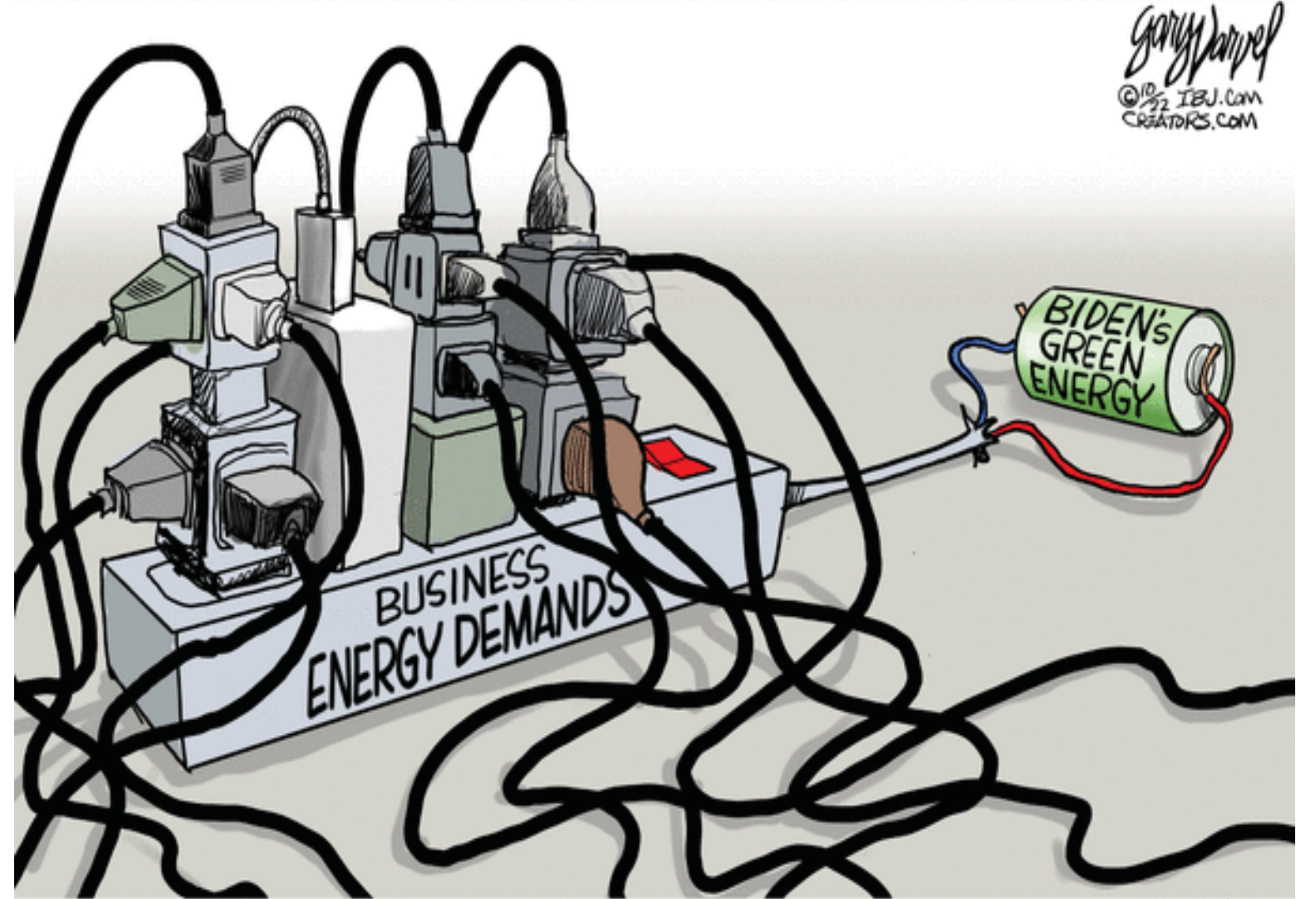
Pak-China must carry forward all-weather friendship

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 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.

The crux of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor project will be the establishment of nine special economic zones in all the provinces of the country. These economic zones will provide job opportunities to our youth and there will be economic development as well. In the first phase of the project, 10,000MW electricity was added to the national grid that reduced the problem of load-shedding. In the second phase, the focus was on infrastructure and development of Gwadar Port. We hope that the present government, with its determination and good understanding with the Chinese officials, will manage to complete the CPEC within specified time. The President while addressing a Roundtable Conference on CPEC has said that Pakistan will soon emerge as a strong country in the comity of nations. Many countries including Turkey, Russia and others are willing to become part of this game changing project.

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.

NEWS: BUSINESSES URGE BIDEN to BOOST DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION



Sustainability needs sensible approach to benefit planet, not just few

Khaled Abou Zahr

To shock and disrupt are the most effective methods militant climate groups have to bring attention to their beliefs and push their agenda.

In a world where nothing shocks anymore, this is leading to more and more dramatic acts. There has been an increase in such news. The main stated objective is to stop the production of fossil fuel. We are now seeing on a daily basis roadblocks used to disrupt traffic. And last week two protesters threw a can of tomato soup on a Van Gogh painting to push for a future without fossil fuel, while another spray-painted Scotland Yard's sign.

A new wave of protest is now starting which targets farming, specifically cattle farming. The aim is to push for a plant-based food supply chain. Protesters believe that traditional farming has the biggest negative impact on climate and needs to cease. There has been a series of incidents in the UK and Europe by groups spilling milk in supermarkets to bring attention to their demands. They want a shift toward plant-based products and a move away from the traditional. These acts by nongovernmental organizations and various non-profit groups are just one part of the picture. There is, on the social media side, a great focus on pushing their agenda. The social media campaigns bid to apply pressure on politicians to make drastic changes. When it comes to energy and fossil fuel, politicians for the past decade have yielded

and taken drastic measures without making sure the substitute was ready.

They have cut off nuclear energy because it was deemed bad for the climate. They have made it more difficult to invest in oil refineries. They have chosen to ignore geopolitical realities for the greater good of the climate.

And so today, and mainly because of decisions disconnected from reality, the energy supply chain in Europe and globally is broken. Politicians have been focused on saying they have achieved total renewable energy without thinking of the capacity needs and their durability.

That is why we hear politicians asking their constituents to save energy with crazy ideas such as showering in a group. The current situation is also leading to the reactivation of coal-fired power stations. Hence, in yielding to pressure, politicians have brought the energy cycle to a breaking point. I am worried that we are following the same direction when it comes to food supply. We are already seeing the banning and blocking of farming techniques without considering what takes their place. No one is asking how these bans will impact the levels of crops and their quantities. Cities in Germany have even started to ban the advertising of meat, just like they did for alcohol and cigarettes a few decades ago.

These hasty and drastic decisions aimed at pleasing the social media mob will have catastrophic effects and will lead to regions of the world facing starvation. And this is the important point: Whether energy or food, the ones to suffer the most will not be in Europe or the West, they will be in Africa and in Asia where resources are missing.

This is something most groups that finance these NGOs tend to ignore. Europe and the West have a greater capacity than the rest of the world to absorb shocks. Even with the current energy situation, Europe will be able to get through.

Other regions in the world do not have this capacity, nor the financial resources, and this can lead to complete breakdowns. Therefore there needs to be a more focused and sensible approach to sustainability that cares for the entire planet, not just one side of it. And one that takes care of all and not just pleases a few.

We need to take better care of Earth; we need to make sure we reduce our impact on climate. The energy situation cannot be blamed on post-pandemic demands: It is a succession of bad decisions that have led us to it. We cannot have the same situation happening in the agricultural sector because if we face the same disruptions with food, it will mean starvation for entire populations. If Western politicians continue taking these hasty decisions, millions will starve in the coming years. Who will they blame then?

No one has a monopoly of caring for the environment and our planet; no one should impose an agenda of what needs to be done, especially when it comes to agriculture. We need more common sense and innovation and less bullying and banning.

*Khaled Abou Zahr is CEO of Eurabia, a media and tech company. He is also the editor of Al-Watan Al-Arabi.
 Courtesy: Arab News*

Belt and Road is vision of the future

Ahmed Bahaa El-Din Shaaban

When China proposed the Belt and Road Initiative, it was supported by most of the countries and peoples of the developing world that had long suffered from isolation due to the selfish economic and political policies of the US-led imperialist powers.

These countries realized the initiative could save them from further exploitation at the hands of the imperialist powers and prevent the plunder and pillage of their resources by foreign forces. They did so because they believe in China's vision of an equitable and fairer world order, its sincerity in facilitating overall human progress and its spirit of sharing in order to build a prosperous future for all. In a speech delivered at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Sept 7, 2013, President Xi Jinping, while explaining the vision of the Belt and Road Initiative, said that throughout the millennia, the peoples of various countries along the ancient Silk Road have written a chapter of friendship that has been passed on to this very day. He also said that more than 2,000 years of exchanges demonstrate that on the basis of unity, mutual trust, equality, inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutually beneficial cooperation, countries of different races, beliefs and cultural backgrounds are fully able to share peace and development. This is the valuable inspiration we have drawn from the ancient Silk Road.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a global development project that transcends national borders and continents, as well as natural and man-made barriers. Its aim is to strengthen economic cooperation among the countries involved, and promote cultural exchanges among them, and better connect countries so everyone could benefit from the initiative. But huge financial and logistical investments are required to make this global development project a success.

In his speech, President Xi, while making clear some of the prospects of the Belt and Road Initiative in enhancing and smoothening trade flow, stressed that the envisaged economic belt along the Silk Road is inhabited by nearly 3 billion people and it represents the biggest market in the world, with enormous, unparalleled potential for

trade and investment cooperation between the countries involved.

He said that friendship between people is the key to good relations between states, and that to pursue productive cooperation in the above-mentioned areas, we need the support of the peoples. He also said that we should encourage more friendly exchanges between our people to enhance mutual understanding and traditional friendship and build strong public support and a solid social foundation for regional cooperation. According to the plan, we can say that for the smooth progress of the initiative, the Arab region, with Egypt at the center, is one of the most critical regions in the world. Yet the active participation of the Arab countries in the Belt and Road projects will be directly related to the success of the initiative.

First, the Arab countries are an important part of the ancient Silk Road. The economic and cultural (civilizational) exchanges between China and the Arab countries go back to ancient times. In fact, an ancient Arabic proverb says, "Seek knowledge even if you have to go as far as China." Despite the physical distance between China and the Arab region, China's high civilizational status was well known in the Arab region even in ancient times.

Second, the Arab region occupies a unique and important stretch of the Belt and Road Initiative's target path including important sea routes and lanes, and bays such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Strait of Bab el-Mandeb and the Suez Canal. The Arab region is also rich in natural resources such as oil, gas, clean energy and minerals, which is an important factor prompting the Arab countries, especially Egypt, to take an active part in the initiative. Third, in order to develop their economies, modernize their infrastructure facilities, increase their production capacity, and benefit from extensive commercial, political, and logistical coordination, many Arab countries, particularly Egypt, need now more than ever to attract investment and capital from and take advantage of the strong scientific and technological capabilities of China and the other economies participating in the Belt and Road projects. It is a felicitous coincidence that the bright prospects of the initiative are also highlighted in the ongoing 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China.

*The author is secretary-general of the Egyptian Socialist Party.
 Courtesy: Daily China*

SLIC partners with Dubai Islamic Bank to offer innovative Takaful solutions

The SLIC and DIB will jointly work on Life and Health Takaful plans for RDA holders

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC), Pakistan's largest life and health insurer, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB). This partnership will enable both organizations to offer hassle-free Shariah-compliant financial solutions to DIB customers nationwide.

As per the agreement, SLIC and DIB will jointly work on Life and Health Takaful plans for Roshan Digital Account (RDA) holders and collectively market the product to other areas such as in the GCC market where SLIC has a strong footing.

Moreover, this partnership will lay the foundation for collaboration in other areas such as General Takaful for assets, DIB employee health coverage, treasury bills, and Sukuks etc. for DIB customers as well. The signing ceremony was held at DIB's Head Office in Karachi, which was attended by senior management from SLIC as well as DIB.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Shoaib Javed Hussain, Chairman State Life, said at the event, "it is pleasure to announce the partnership between State life and DIB an esteemed name in the Islamic banking industry. The State Life is a leading insurer in the country and is also backed by sovereign guarantee. With This collaboration with DIB, our focus is to reach a larger audience and create awareness about our innovative Takaful solutions. The partnership brings together two leading organizations of Pakistan with shared vision of



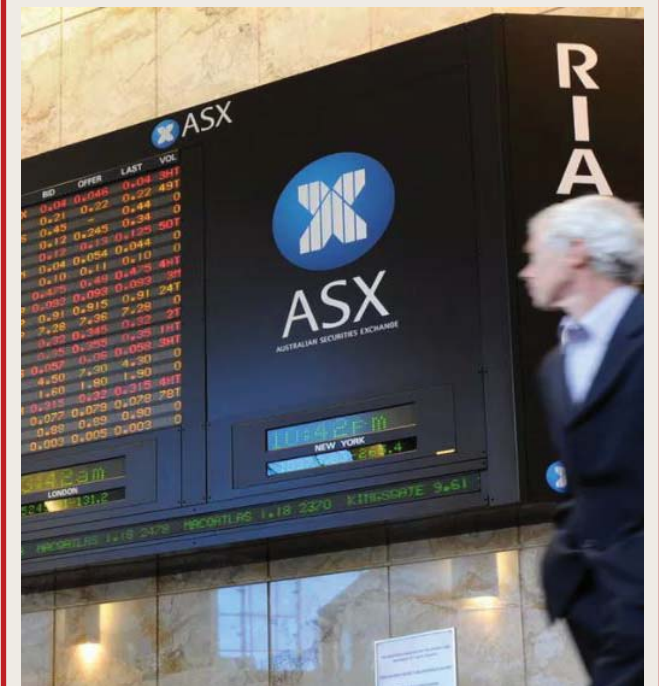
ensuring inclusion and protection of people of Pakistan across all strata of society with the mutual goal of increasing economic activities in the country. I look forward to expanding this partnership to other products in the future; we

see this step as a beginning of a successful partnership between the two corporate entities".

Also addressing the occasion, Junaid Ahmed, CEO, DIB said, "State Life's legacy of delivering high returns will now

benefit our customers through Shariah compliant offerings. This collaboration will serve as a new beginning for both the organizations whereby multiple avenues of business and employee centric product offerings will be finalized".

Australia stock exchange gets Islamic ETFs



MELBOURNE: The first Shariah-compliant exchange traded funds (ETFs) began trading on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) on Monday with the launch of funds by a Melbourne-based financial services company.

The Hejaz Equities Fund (ASX:ISLM) and Hejaz Property Fund (ASX:HJZP) began trading on the ASX at midday, a statement from Hejaz Financial Services said.

The Hejaz Equities Fund is a growth fund with exposure to a diversified global equities portfolio of shariah-compliant investments, while the Hejaz Property Fund invests in globally listed REITs.

Hejaz's total funds under management was over \$285 million, as at July 2022.

There has been a surge in Shariah-compliant ETFs in recent years as investors seek investments that align with faith-based and moral values. Islamic ETFs had had a record year in 2021 with more than 900 new launches worldwide and over \$1 trillion in global net inflows, taking assets under management to \$9.9 trillion at the end of November, according to Dr. Chris Mellor of Invesco. Zawya

Islamic Development Bank sells \$1b sukuk

DUBAI: The Islamic Development Bank sold on Thursday \$1 billion in Islamic bonds, a bank document showed.

The Jeddah-based multilateral lender sold the sukuk at 62 basis points over five-year U.S. secured overnight financing rate (SOFR) mid-swaps, tightened from initial guidance in the mid-60s bps, the document showed.

The deal got more than \$1.7 billion in demand, including \$620 million in interest from lead managers.

BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole, Dukhan Bank, Goldman Sachs, The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector, JPMorgan, Mizuho, SNB Capital and Standard Chartered were joint lead managers.

Issues in the Gulf, where bond sales have plummeted this year amid rising interest rates and choppy markets, have pounced on windows of opportunity to issue.

Arada Developments, the largest developer in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, was also in the market with sukuk on Thursday, raising \$100 million in a reopening of existing notes. Saudi Arabia raised \$5 billion with sukuk and bonds on Tuesday. Agencies

IsDBI wins Islamic Finance industry recognition in IFN poll



JEDDAH: The Islamic Development Bank Institute (IsDBI) has again received a resounding endorsement from the global Islamic finance industry by winning the 'Best Islamic Research Firm' Award in the 2022 Islamic Finance News (IFN) Service Providers Poll.

This is the third successive year that IsDBI is winning this award, thereby standing out among the most innovative thought leaders in the industry.

IFN noted that the 'Best Islamic Research Firm' award category was one of the most hotly contested awards this year, with IsDBI winning the highest number of votes against other high-profile institutions.

In his comments on the award, the Acting Director

General of IsDBI, Dr. Sami Al-Suwailem, said: "We are pleasantly surprised to know that the Institute has won yet another endorsement from the Islamic finance industry. The award is an acknowledgment of the hard and innovative work our colleagues have done and continue to do. We are proud of our colleagues and shall endeavor to keep up the good work for the benefit of our Member Countries and the Islamic finance industry worldwide."

IsDBI is a pioneering institution in Islamic economics and finance, with a track record of significant accomplishments in research, capacity development, and innovative knowledge solutions for sustainable development.

The Institute's commitment to innovation and

problem-solving approach has gained wide recognition, with several awards and honors received in recent years from premier award-giving organizations.

The IFN Award received by IsDBI in 2021 commended the Institute's innovative approach to creating knowledge solutions to achieve sustainable development, while the award in 2020 underscored IsDBI's demonstration of thought leadership and dynamism in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Winners of the annual IFN Service Providers Poll, now in its 17th year, are voted by the global Islamic financial industry and IFN readers to recognize the best and leading players in the industry and their contributions. Agencies

Meezan Bank, CCI introduce digital supply chain financing platform

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, Meezan Bank and Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Limited (CCI Pakistan) have joined hands to launch a digital supply chain financing platform in partnership with Haball, an Islamic B2B Fintech that digitizes business payments to enable a cashless and digital supply chain.

Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Limited is a subsidiary of Coca-Cola İçecek (CCI) which is currently operating in 11 countries across the globe.

The event was attended by Dr Inayat Hussain - Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Mr Irfan Siddiqui - founding president and CEO Meezan Bank, ErdiKursunoglu - director finance, CCI Pakistan and Omer Bin Ahsan - CEO, Haball along with their respective teams.

As a first in the industry, CCI Pakistan will unveil Wisaaq's digital financing platform for their distributors across Pakistan who will be able to avail Shariah-compliant financing through Meezan Bank.

The facility will enable CCI Pakistan distributors to improve their working capital while expanding their operations. By entering into this venture, Meezan Bank aims to support SMEs in Pakistan, ensuring financial efficiency and stability of the supply chain, eventually fueling growth of the economy. The Bank's collaboration with CCI Pakistan will also allow exchange of expertise and networks from two different industries, that will create sustainable business opportunities for retailers. On the occasion, Irfan Siddiqui



- founding president and CEO, Meezan Bank commented, "Meezan Bank is fully committed to Shariah-compliant financing and is pleased to collaborate with Haball for developing a digital financing platform to reach CCI Pakistan's small & medium sized distributors, and their linked retailers. This partnership will act as a precursor to grow the country's most important SME segment."

ErdiKursunoglu - director finance, CCI Pakistan added, "This cashless supply chain solution under Wisaaq is not just a digital transformation but also a business transformation. This partnership would create a win-win solution mainly for the SMEs in Pakistan. However, we

believe, the biggest winner of this initiative will be the national exchequer".

Omer Bin Ahsan - CEO, Haball mentioned, "The launch of Wisaaq is a huge achievement not just for us, but for the entire financial services industry, corporates, as well as SMEs. It wouldn't have been possible without our partners Meezan Bank, CCI Pakistan, and State Bank of Pakistan."

Meezan Bank is the leading Islamic bank of Pakistan and also one of the largest banks nationwide in terms of branch network as well as deposits. With a network of over 930 branches in more than 300 cities, it has the largest Islamic banking network in Pakistan. Agencies

3rd CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum to be held in Uzbekistan

With the Theme to explore the untapped potential of Islamic Finance market in CIS countries

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: The 3rd CIS Islamic Banking and Finance Forum will be held in Tashkent - Uzbekistan on December 06, 2022, with the aim to explore and discuss innovative financial inclusion strategies that can create clear pathways to financial and economic Solutions in CIS Countries. AlHuda CIBE is organizing the 3rd CIS Forum with the support of Uzbekistan Banking Association. The theme for this year is to explore the untapped potential of Islamic Finance market of CIS countries and to adopt the latest trends, address the challenges and discover the new opportunities in Islamic financial industry of Central Asia. The forum will cover a variety of topics including Islamic Finance, Financial Inclusion, Fintech, Takaful, and Sukuk Investment opportunities

in Central Asia and CIS Region.

The CIS region has significant potential for Islamic banking and finance industry which is need to be untapped. The main objectives of the forum include recognizing significant developments in Islamic Financial Infrastructure of Central Asia and linkages of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Islamic Finance industry with international financial market. The event is open to the public with a very nominal entrance fee. From a decade AlHuda CIBE is organizing International Events in different part of the world for providing platform to global think-tank for exchange of ideas, networking and promotion of institutional services for social impact.

Muhammad Zubair Mughal, Chief Executive Officer of AlHuda CIBE - UAE said



that Islamic finance is fastest growing area in CIS countries, Islamic finance is not only developing its roots in Muslim countries but many non-Muslim countries are getting benefit from it. Among the CIS Countries Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are well developed in this concept whereas Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are developing in the same way slowly but steadily. AlHuda CIBE is committed to provide state of the art specialized Services for Consultancy and Advisory, Capacity Building, Research and Product Development, Events and Workshops globally with commitment, dedication, and aspiration all over the world.

The Forum will be followed by One Day post event Workshop on Innovate Approach of Islamic Banking & Finance on December 07, 2022.

Indonesia raises \$122m from Islamic bond auction



JAKARTA: Indonesia sold 1.89 trillion rupiah (\$122.21 million) worth of Islamic bonds, below target, in an auction on Tuesday that drew incoming bids worth a total of 6.4 trillion rupiah, the finance ministry said.

The ministry plans to hold an additional auction to raise more on Wednesday. The original target was to raise 5 trillion rupiah. Zawya

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
42,137.04	42,226.05
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,422.22	42,097.31
Index Value	Change
3,909,105,647	-89.01
Percentage	Time
-0.21%	20 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
6,943.91	+18.92
Percentage	Time
0.27%	20 Oct, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
30,285.01	-138.80
Percentage	Time
0.46%	20 Oct, 2:26 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,006.96	-250.42
Percentage	Time
0.92%	20 Oct, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	138.61	139.86
Bahrain Dinar	587.73	592.23
Canadian Dollar	160.34	161.69
China Yuan	30.55	30.8
Danish Krone	29.09	29.44
Euro	218.35	220.55
Hong Kong Dollar	28.15	28.5
Indian Rupee	2.68	2.76
Japanese Yen	1.1	1.17
Kuwaiti Dinar	712.01	717.01
Malaysian Ringgit	46.73	47.18
New Zealand \$	125.28	126.48
Norwegians Krone	20.91	21.21
Ormani Riyal	573.97	578.47
Qatari Riyal	60.34	60.84
Saudi Riyal	59.25	59.9
Singapore Dollar	155.09	156.39
Swedish Korona	19.72	20.02
Swiss Franc	220.12	221.87
Thai Bhat	5.78	5.88
U.A.E Dirham	60.75	61.5
UK Pound Sterling	250.5	253.5
US Dollar	223.2	225.45

SECP promoting corporatization, facilitate operations of companies

German delegation visits SECP

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce (AHK) visited Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to understand the regulatory framework and explore investment opportunities in Pakistan. SECP Chairman Aamir Khan welcomed the delegation and gave an overview of SECP's regulatory framework and recent reforms to improve doing business climate.

The delegation comprised of Head of Divi-

sion on Foreign Trade Policy for South Asia, Germany Tobias Pierlings, Deputy Ambassador Dr. Philipp Deichmann, First Secretary Economic and Political Section Christian Böttcher, and other representatives of German Embassy, German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, German Foreign Chamber of Commerce, and German companies.

Khan also shed light on the rights and benefits offered to all shareholders, foreign and local alike, including minimal capital flow restrictions, and investments in PE & VC Funds & Alternative Funds units on repatriable basis.

SECP Registrar of Companies Mubasher Sadozai informed the delegation about types of companies in Pakistan, and the reforms undertaken by the SECP to promote corporatization and facilitate operations of companies in the country. He shared information regarding SECP's reforms including end-to-end digitalization of incorporation process, digital CTCs, online bank portal, incorporation guides in various foreign languages, and WhatsApp service to timely address any queries. SECP Head of International Relations Department Musarat Jabeen was also part of the meeting and briefed

the visitors of SECP's active engagement with international jurisdictions and International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) members.

Members of the delegation were eager to inquire about various processes for improving bilateral commerce and SECP's role in facilitating foreign companies investing in Pakistan.

SECP officials comprehensively addressed the queries posed by the delegation and answered queries regarding the capital markets, insurance and non-banking financial sector.

Zong shows remarkable resilience, will in face of adversity: IT Minister

ZONG awards its network heroes

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading mobile telecommunications network, held an event on Thursday at its headquarters to demonstrate the network's excellence during recent times and to honor those who made significant contributions towards fulfilling this agenda.

More than one-third of the nation has been impacted by the recent floods. The country's telecommunications industry has also suffered as the dire consequences of flood. This is on top of the industry's already vulnerable position in relation to the country's broader macro-economic status. Floods in Pakistan disrupted over 12% of CMPAK's network. As a result, the company has spent most of the last few months working fervently to ensure that its customers have continuous connectivity.

Zong realizes its customers' critical need to stay connected with their family and loved ones during such uncertain times. Therefore, despite operating in difficult, often dangerous, flood-stricken locations, Zong's network crew has worked tire-



lessly to ensure that zong's customers continue to enjoy world-class network services.

Incredible teamwork has always been at the heart of Zong's network team, and this has been proved in recent days. While a section of Zong's technical network team was involved in network restoration activities on the ground, another part of the team was dedicated to continuously enhancing the quality of the network to make it the best and first choice for customers. Even during such trying circumstances, Zong's technical staff managed to perform network improvement campaigns with targeted advancements in various sectors.

To recognize and reward the network team's efforts, an event was organized at Zong headquarters. Individuals and teams, who had key contributions towards Zong's network excellence, were presented with awards at the occasion. This occasion was attended by several dignitaries, including the Chinese Ambassador, Provincial Minister for Environmental Coastal Development, the Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication, as well as members of Zong's higher management.

"I am extremely proud of our technical employees who remained on their toes, day and night, to restore network in areas which were complete-

ly submerged in flood-water and where the infrastructure was damaged," Zong CEO Wang Hua said at the event. "Our teams recovered 99% of the CMPAK network in three weeks, which is a commendable effort."

Minister of IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque applauded the network's superlative quality during this time of crisis. Speaking at the occasion, he said "Zong has shown remarkable resilience and will in the face of adversity, demonstrating excellent leadership in network restoration in flood-affected areas. The work done by the technical staff has been excellent and should be commended."

Political conditions are increasing pressure on rupee

Atif Ikram Sheikh says confidence of business community may suffer

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Thursday said the pressure on the local currency is increasing due to uncertain political and economic conditions. The market is suffering from a slowdown, which is increasing the difficulties of 220 million people, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that immediate steps can be taken to restore the confidence of the business community. Shaikh who has served as Chairman PVMA, said that due to fluctuations in oil prices, the price of everything is affected. The commodity prices in the international market are not satisfactory and the production of important crops in Pakistan has also decreased to an alarming extent, which is adding to the problem of food security. He noted that the cotton crop has also been destroyed due to floods that have added to the problem of the textile



sector. The business leader noted that there was some increase in the value of the rupee due to the IMF loan, but it was only for a few days, after which it resumed its downward journey. Recently, the rupee remained stable for two weeks and it is again weakening now. He said that the rupee and foreign exchange reserves can be supported by increasing exports and controlling imports.

He informed that many problems have started to arise due to the decrease in remittances coming to Pakistan as the handi and hawala business is getting active again and there is no possibility of a significant reduction in inflation for the next few months in the current situation.

UBL continues to deliver strong results in 2022

9M'22 PBT of Rs. 50.7 billion, with 29% growth

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: UBL declared Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs. 50.7 billion for the nine months ended September 30, 2022, a stellar growth of 29% over last year. Earnings per share (EPS) stood at Rs. 15.33 (9M'21: Rs. 18.59), with strong growth in EPS from Rs. 1.91 in Q2'2022 to Rs. 5.64 in Q3'2022. The Bank remains well capitalized for future business expansion with a Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 18.4%, which is around 7% in excess of the regulatory minimum requirements. The Bank declared dividends of Rs. 4.0 per share for the third quarter of 2022, taking the overall dividend distribution to Rs. 13.0 per share for the nine months ended September 30, 2022.

Gross revenues were reported at Rs. 94.9 billion for 9M'22, with an increase of 34% over last year. Net mark-up income grew significantly by 36%, as a well-po-

sitioned loan and investment portfolio repriced well during the year. Maintaining a focus on low-cost deposit mobilization remained a priority across the network resulting in an efficient cost of deposits despite a rising rate environment. A growth of 13% in the current account portfolio along-with the expansion in the core customer base, enabled the Bank to improve its average current to total deposits ratio to 44.3% from 42.0% last year. This contained the domestic cost of deposits to 5.9% for 9M'22, despite the sharp increase in interest rates during the period, which enabled the Bank to expand its net interest margins (NIMs) from 3.8% in 9M'21 to 4.6% this year.

UBL operates one of the largest branch networks in Pakistan with 1,338 branches and 1,445 ATMs along-with the Bank's branchless banking proposition, UBL Omni spread all over the country. The network is augmented by the Banks' award winning and

PTCL, Nokia to explore innovative ICT solutions

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Nokia have announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore together to provide innovative ICT solutions to industries, government, cities, and businesses throughout Pakistan.

The purpose of this MoU is to collaborate and tap into the potential of the ICT market and catalyze the digital transformation of enterprises across Pakistan. Under this MoU, PTCL and Nokia will engage in discussions to strategize and build a go-to-market plan to address industry needs selling PTCL solutions with Nokia products and services including Nokia Digital Automation Cloud (DAC), a high-performance, end-to-end private wireless networking and edge computing platform.

Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL & Ufone said, "PTCL is the



largest ICT services provider having a wide footprint across Pakistan. PTCL is playing a pivotal role in driving digital transformation throughout Pakistan, meeting the need of collaboration in the ICT segment. This will create synergies to revolutionize various sectors such as healthcare, education, automotive, retail, energy & utilities, cities and agriculture as well as other industrial segments across Pakistan, enabling all geograph-

ical areas with modern ICT technologies and a better future."

Imran Durrani, Head of Customer Team for PTCL Group at Nokia, said, "Nokia has deployed mission-critical networks to more than 2,200 leading enterprise customers in the transport, energy, large enterprise, manufacturing, webscale, and public sector segments around the globe. We have also extended our expertise to more than 485 large

private wireless customers worldwide across an array of sectors. This MoU with PTCL is yet another testimony to further strengthening the long-term relationship between us. At Nokia we will leverage our industry-leading private wireless products and services including Nokia Digital Automation Cloud (DAC) to empower PTCL to cost-effectively offer digital solutions to their enterprise customers across a wide spectrum of segments."

ATM 2023 launches sustainable stand award

Spokesman Report

DUBAI: Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023, the leading travel and tourism showcase in the Middle East which is being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre from 1-4 May 2023, will feature a sustainability category at its annual exhibitor awards next year for the first time.

The decision was taken to recognise exhibiting organisations that have considered the impact that their stand will have on the environment

and the efforts they have made to reduce and/or offset their carbon footprint.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market, said: "We are aware of the incredible amount of effort and investment that goes into designing, building and manning exhibition stands at Arabian Travel Market.

"Since its inception, the ATM exhibitor award programme has not only recognised those efforts, but has also encouraged exciting, fresh and creative ideas.



"For our 2023 event, we wanted to include a category that provided synergy with our official theme, 'Work-

ing Towards Net Zero' and furthermore one that supports the UAE's broader net zero commitment as well as RX's mission to deliver Net Zero Carbon events by 2040."

"The sustainability award will be open to all exhibitors who can nominate themselves with a justification against certain criteria that will be clearly laid out in the ATM operations manual," added Curtis.

The criteria will include the use of bio-degradable, reusable and recyclable materials for the

stand build & features, digital marketing materials, limited single use plastics, reduced freight and logistics emissions, waste management, as well as recycling and/or reusing the stand for multiple events, plus carbon offsetting initiatives.

The award will be judged in advance of the show by the ATM operations team, with advice and support from an independent sustainability expert and the winner will be announced onsite along with the other award category winners.

Bestway Cement lights up its Kiln at Mianwali Plant

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Bestway Cement Limited, Pakistan's 2nd largest cement manufacturer with an annual production capacity of 10.8 million tonnes achieved another milestone today. Early morning on 20th October the Company lit up its Kiln with 7,200 tonnes per day clinker capacity at its greenfield Mianwali Plant. A simple ceremony was held at the plant premises to mark the occasion which was attended by the Chairman, Bestway Group, Sir Mohammed Anwar Pervez OBE HPK, the Group's CEO, Lord Zameer M. Choudrey CBE SI Pk, Bestway's senior officials and delegates from the plant suppliers, Sinoma. Sir Mohammad Anwar Pervez OBE HPK cut the ribbon to inaugurate the lighting up of the Kiln.

Speaking on the occasion, Bestway Group's CEO, Lord Choudrey, said "it's a proud day for the Company. Our new greenfield production line at Mianwali has been set up in a record time of less than 18 months from establishing the L/C to lighting up the Kiln. This has been achieved despite various hurdles and supply chain disruptions caused by Covid-19. This beats our own previous record of setting up greenfield plant in 20 months. By virtue of Mianwali plant, Bestway Cement has now become the largest cement producer in the country. The state-of-the-art plant has its own Waste Heat Recovery Power Plant of 9MW while work on setting up of Solar Power Generation of 20 MWs has also commenced". Lord Choudrey further added that work on the brownfield production line of 7,200 tonnes per day clinker capacity at Hattar site was also at an advanced stage and was likely to be operational by March 2023. While expressing his views, Sir Mohammed Anwar Pervez reiterated Bestway Group's unrelenting commitment towards economic development of Pakistan, highlighted that the Bestway Cement was one of the largest taxpayers in the country. He also expressed his delight over the fact that the Company was the most environmentally friendly cement producer in Pakistan by virtue of it being the only cement producer to have Waste Heat Recovery Power Plants at all its sites, installed more than 55 MWs of captive solar power generation with another 55 MWs being installed at all its sites, introduced Air Cooled Condenser System and developed large rain harvesting reservoirs in order to eliminate reliance on groundwater for industrial use.

Middle order sorted, Pakistan eye 2nd T20 World Cup title

Babar Azam says I'm fully confident that team would perform well in the World Cup

MELBOURNE: For a side used to tumultuous build-ups Pakistan look unusually settled ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia, where they launch their bid for a second title with a Super 12 showdown against arch-rivals India on Sunday.

Sorting out a misfiring middle order was top of skipper Babar Azam's to-do list heading into a tri-series in New Zealand as the burden of scoring runs had fallen on him and vice-captain Mohammad Rizwan.

Babar can now breathe a bit easier after Mohammad Nawaz, Haider Ali and Iftikhar Ahmed came good in New Zealand, where they beat the hosts in Friday's final.

"Our middle order stepped up in the last two matches," Babar said. "When you get that kind of performance right before the World Cup, it gives lot of confidence to the team. I'm fully confident they would perform well in the World Cup, too. It's a good sign for us."



While Rizwan, the top-ranked batter in T20 cricket, and Babar, who is ranked third, no longer have to worry about carrying the innings themselves they must still set the tone at the top of the order. The 2009 champions must also be

careful not to run out of steam like last year, when Pakistan finished the Super 12 stage unbeaten but were sent packing by eventual winners Australia in the semi-finals. Spearhead Shaheen Afridi has returned from a knee injury to join the

squad, which boasts a quality pace attack that includes Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf.

"Pakistan always have had an abundance of fast bowlers and we currently have a very strong pace attack," Babar said. "Shaheen's return strengthens our attack. Haris has improved a lot, both with new ball and in the death overs. This is an opportunity to showcase our skill as a pace unit."

Pakistan have no time to ease themselves into the tournament, getting their campaign underway with a sold-out contest against India in Melbourne.

Pakistan snapped their winless streak against India at World Cups last year and also prevailed when the neighbours clashed in an Asia Cup contest in the United Arab Emirates in September. "A match against India is always a high-intensity contest," Babar said. "Fans eagerly wait for them. On the field, we enjoy it a lot and give our 100%."

Decision on Asia Cup

Afridi commends PCB's response to India

KARACHI: Former captain Shahid Afridi appreciated the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) response to India's decision not to visit Pakistan in the Asia Cup.

A day earlier, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) decided against touring Pakistan for next year's Asia Cup. The report also added that BCCI will insist on a neutral venue for the tournament.

After BCCI's decision, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has also started considering exiting the Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

Sources told Geo News that PCB is deliberating not to participate in the 2023 World Cup set to take place in India next year.

Following the PCB's stern response against the Indian cricket board, Afridi said that he liked the PCB's statement on the Asia Cup.

"This is how mature, sensible, and professional organisations handle sensitive and important matters," tweeted Afridi.

On Wednesday, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) sought an emergency meeting of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) after the Indian cricket board said their team would not tour Pakistan to play in the Asia Cup 2023.

The PCB, in its letter to the ACC, condemned the unilateral announcement by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah that they had decided to hold the tournament at a neutral venue. Agencies

M. Sohail (Junior Pro), M. Akhter (senior pro) shine in 41st Punjab Open Golf

Our Correspondent

LAHORE: On the first day of the four days 41st Punjab Open Golf Championship 2022 in progress at the 18 holes, par 72 PAF Skyview Golf Course in Lahore the first day was committed for the Senior Professionals Event and Junior Professionals competition. And at the end of the first days 18 holes round, the senior professional who outshone his rival golfing mates was M. Akhter of Islamabad Golf Club. M. Akhter may be categorized as a senior professional yet he exhibited good command over his shot making and allied aspects of his game like chipping, putting, bunker shots and approach shots to the green and this command resulted in compiling a score of gross 70, two under par for the first round effort which is remarkable going for a senior golf professional. I am very pleased with the way I met the golf course challenges and hope to finish off as the best one in the second round on Friday, as this competition for seniors is over two rounds and 36 holes.

Having said that, his nearest rivals, smartly placed at number two slot are M. Akram of Lahore Gymkhana and Asghar Ali, also of the same club. M. Akram ended the first round with a score of gross 73 and Asghar Ali also put together the same score. These two seniors may be categorized as elders of golf, yet maintain commendatory physiques and practice frantically to keep intact a touch of mastery as and when they compete. Standing at three strokes in arrears, M. Akram and Asghar appear determined to outshine M. Akhter in the final go.

Other senior professionals who played impressively are M. Irfan (Rawalpindi) who finished the first round at gross 74 and there are five others at a score of gross 75. They are Maqbool Ahmed (Garrison), Mehmood Kayani (Islamabad), M. Javed and Chaudry Iftikhar (Gymkhana), and M. Tariq (Islamabad). Placed at a score of gross 76 are A. Hameed (Islamabad) and Rustam Ali Chhatta (Lahore Garrison).

In the Junior Professionals Championship race, the best one of the first day was M. Sohail of Peshawar. With a score of gross 72, he imprinted his mark of superiority on the flow of the game. His rivals are far behind at a score of gross 78. These counterparts are Musa Khan, Jawad Khan, Kohinoor Shahid, Hassan Ali and Shahbaz Ali.

UAE's joy knows no bounds

Delight for the Dutch, agony for Namibia as the UAE holds on for its first ever T20 World Cup win and sends the Netherlands through.



Photo: Twitter

Arsenal thrash Champions League holders Lyon

Gunners' women beat French side 5-1; Barcelona women score nine past Benfica

PARIS: Women's Champions League holders Lyon collapsed to a 5-1 home thumping at the hands of Arsenal on Wednesday as Beth Mead starred for the English club, while Barcelona put nine goals past Benfica.

Jonas Eidevall's Arsenal made a dream start against Lyon, as Mead teed up Caitlin Foord to give them a 13th-minute lead.

Frida Leonhardsen-Maannum doubled the advantage midway through the first half, before Melvine Malard pulled one back for the French side who won

a record-extending eighth European Cup by dethroning Barcelona last season.

But Mead, who finished second in the Ballon d'Or voting earlier this week, scored a brilliant free-kick in the 39th minute.

Foord and England's European Championship-winning hero Mead both scored again in the second period, as Lyon were left humiliated.

No team had previously conceded five goals in a game as the defending champions, while it was the first time Lyon had even shipped four goals in the competition.

Gauff, Garcia qualify for WTA Finals

American, French stars book berths for season-ending event after Sabalenka falls in Guadalajara

GUADALAJARA: Coco Gauff and Caroline Garcia qualified for the WTA Finals after Aryna Sabalenka lost to Liudmila Samsonova in the Guadalajara Open second round on Wednesday.

Russian Samsonova, who has won 20 of her last 22 matches, smacked 21 winners and broke the powerful Belarusian four times en route to a 6-4 2-6 6-2 upset win over the world number four.

The WTA Finals, featuring the world's top eight players, starts in Fort Worth on Oct 31.

Iga Swiatek, Ons Jabeur and Jessica Pegula had already locked up the first three spots before Guadalajara so with the addition of American Gauff and France's Garcia, three openings remain.

Fifth seed Gauff was not at her best but was still good enough to see off Italy's Elisabetta Cocciaretto 7-6(1) 6-3. The American teenager double faulted five times and converted just four of 13 break opportunities but was the better player on the biggest points, rolling through the first set tiebreak and carrying that momentum into the second set.

"I'm just super excited," said Gauff, 18, who will be the youngest player to compete at the WTA Finals since 2005. "I wasn't really thinking about it before the match, but I'm excited to join Jess (Pegula)," she said. The pair have also both qualified for the WTA Finals doubles tournament.

Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina's hopes of making the Finals ended after Pegula saved three match points to emerge with a 2-6 6-3 7-6(8) victory. Rybakina, who fired down 14 aces against the American, would have qualified for the Finals if the WTA had issued ranking points at this year's grasscourt major. The ATP and WTA stripped Wimbledon of ranking points after its organisers decided to ban Russian and Belarusian players in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine, which Moscow calls a "special military operation".

Twice major winner Victoria Azarenka also progressed to the third round after her top-seeded opponent Paula Badosa retired. The 24-year-old Badosa, who appeared to be struggling to breathe, decided that she could no longer continue after losing the first set 6-2. The Spaniard's retirement means she can no longer qualify for the WTA Finals.

"You never want anybody to retire, it's really sad that Paula was unable to finish the match," Azarenka said. Azarenka will next face Madison Keys, who battled back from a set down to beat Australian Ajla Tomljanovic 3-6 6-4 6-3.

"Madison is a great player, she's been playing really well this season, she can beat anybody," Azarenka said. "We actually played in practice a couple of weeks ago and she killed me."

AstroTurfs to be installed in five more hockey grounds

ISLAMABAD: Artificial turfs have been laid in the hockey grounds of Islamabad and Quetta, while work is in progress to install the same in Peshawar, Abbottabad, Faisalabad, Muzaffarabad and Wah Cantonment.

The initiative was aimed at reviving hockey in the country. This was disclosed by an official, who told APP on Thursday that the government was taking measures for the promotion of sports in the country. "It is introducing a new governance system and national sports policy for the overhauling of sports structure," he added.

"The federal government through the Pakistan Sports board (PSB) provides administrative, technical and financial support to promote various sports, including hockey," he said.

With respect to the revival of hockey, the government was taking several

steps for the improvement of performance and international ranking of the national team, and a overhaul of the domestic hockey structure, the official mentioned.

"The Government has provided Rs 9 million to the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) as annual grant during the last five years. It has also released an amount of Rs 3.5 million out of the 7.3 million, under the PM's directives to PHF as a special grant," he said.

He said an amount of Rs 5.5 million was released to the PHF for training cum competitions. "The PSB also established National Hockey Training Camps and incurred expenses around Rs 7 million. Moreover, it also hired the services of a foreign coach during the period November 21, 2021 to April 30, 2022 (five months & 10 days), at the cost of

US\$42,667," he said.

However, he said that the subject of sports was devolved after the 18th constitutional amendment and the role of Federal Government had become limited. "Now, the provincial governments are mainly responsible for promotion of sports in their respective provinces," he said.

"National Sports Federations are autonomous bodies and responsible to carry-out their sports activities at national and international level." He further said, "The Federal Government extends its technical and financial support through National Sports Federations. To the extent of providing sports infrastructure, the government has completed two projects, including installation of synthetic hockey turf and construction of boxing gymnasium in Quetta." Similarly, a project to reha-



bilitate and upgrade existing facilities of the PSB, a coaching centre at Quetta with an estimate renovation cost of Rs 379.311 million has been included in the current year PSDP," he said. APP