فرمانرسول سول اللهُ مَثَاثِيلَةً أَمِّ نِهِ فَرمايا محمد بن كثير نے بیان کیا، انہوں نے کہاہم کوسفیان توری نے خبر دی؛ انہیں اساعیل بن ابی خالد

**Barkat Rice Mills** 

Tech sector holds key to bright future of Pakistan: Masood

Pakistan's Ambassador to United States Masood Khan says the tech sector of Pakistan has witnessed exponential growth during past few months and carries a huge potential to further grow. He said that the US investors and business community are supporting tech startups in Pakistan which will serve to strengthen Pak-US bilateral relations.

AJK PM warns India for any misadventure against liberated territory

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China welcomes FATF to remove Pakistan from grey list

#### **Spokesman Report**

**BEIJING: Chinese Foreign** Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin has welcomed the decision of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to remove Pakistan from its "grey list" and said, this also showed international support and recognition of Pakistan's endeavor in this regard.

"China welcomes the decision of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to remove Pakistan from its "grey list" and would like to send congratulations to Pakistan," he said during his regular briefing. He remarked that this

had been made possible thanks to Pakistan's effort to firmly follow through on its political commitment and continuously improve and enhance its Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) system over the past five years despite the difficulties.

"This also shows international support and recognition of Pakistan's endeavor in this regard," he added.

He said that the Chinese side looked forward to Pakistan's positive contributions to advancing international counter-terrorism cooperation and protecting the security of the international

financial system. It is worth mentioning that the recently-concluded Plenary of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in October declared in an open statement the removal of Pakistan from its "grey list".

FATF President Raja Kumar informed that the taskforce conducted an onsite visit at the end of August before deciding to remove Pakistan from the

"Pakistan has made significant improvements to strengthen the effectiveness of this framework for combating terrorism financing," Kumar added.

#### Pak-Saudi partnership

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kingdom of Saudi



Future Investment Initiative Summit

## PM calls for investing in solar, wind, hydel energy

Shehbaz Sharif says through IT, E-Commerce and innovation we can overcome all challenges

**Spokesman Report** 

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasised on investing in the solar, wind and hydel energy sector to avoid pollution and improve air quality for the whole world.

Addressing Future Investment Initiative Summit in Riyadh on Tuesday, he said Pakistan is ready to reach out to potential investors to grab the future for its coming generations. He said technology has transformed every sector and it can cut through social, cultural and financial barriers and empower those who

#### PM Shehbaz, Saudi Crown Prince agree to cement bilateral ties

RIYADH: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held bilateral meeting Mohammed bin Salman Al-Saud in Riyadh on Tuesday. Matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation and regional security situation came under discussion. The two sides agreed to further promote bilateral relations in business and trade sectors.

said young women and men are ing universities to explore rapidcrafting their careers through means of modern technology.

The Prime Minister also Satellite could become a centre proposed Future Investment of network of researchers, inno-Initiative to establish a satellite vators, investors, and service are equipped to leverage it. He centre in one of Pakistan's lead-providers to harness capacities,

Pakistan to high level of socia and economic development. Shehbaz Sharif further said

which if optimized would take

that through Information Technology, E-Commerce and innovation we can overcome all challenges, especially political, economic, social, educational, and agricultural and climate

change as well. He said there is dire need of men and women to work together and adopt IT tools for progress, prosperity and happiness. Prime Minister said being Punjab Chief Minister he empowered hundreds of thousands of youth through new digital world tools.

### COAS, German envoy discuss regional security

Ambassador Alfred Grannas lauds Pakistan's continuous efforts for regional stability



Market Correspondent

RAWALPINDI: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas called on Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Rawalpindi on Tuesday.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, overall regional situation, and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. General Bajwa said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Germany.

He congratulated the dignitary on assuming the office of

Ambassador and expressed hope that relations between the two countries will further

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

He also appreciated Pakistan's continuous efforts for regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at

### Pakistan stands with Kashmiris: Kaira



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira says Pakistan has always stood by oppressed Kashmiri people in their legitimate struggle for right to self-determination.

Addressing an event in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said our successive govern-

ments have consistently raised Kashmir dispute at different international forums. He said this lingering dispute is alive because of the blood being rendered by the Kashmiri people in the illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Qamar Zaman Kaira said the current situation in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not acceptable at all. Referring to the Indian atrocities, he said the voice of Kashmiri people cannot be silenced through such tactics.

The Adviser on Kashmir Affairs said an economically and democratically strong Pakistan is important to effectively plead the case of Kashmiris. He said we will defend the interests of Pakistan at all costs.

#### Arshad Sharif killing

## Army asks government to form inquiry commission

Seeks detailed investigation into the slaying of Sharif

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Director General (DG) Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Major General Babar Iftikhar on Tuesday said the military had asked the government to carry out a  $\label{eq:high-level investigation} \mbox{into} \quad \mbox{ing in Kenya, the DG ISPR}$ the tragic killing of senior journalist Arshad Sharif by Kenyan law enforcement officials.

The Kenyan police fatally wounded Sharif on the night of Sunday, October 23, in what the Kenyan authorities said was a "mistaken identity" shooting on the outskirts of the Kenyan capital Nairo-

have requested the government to hold a high-level investigation so that all these speculations can be put to rest," he while talking to a private news channel. "All the aspects of trying to exploit this tragic this terrible incident need to be looked into."

the accusations being hurled at the institutions' alleged involvement in Sharif's kill- the DG ISPR said.



said: "It is very unfortunate

Judicial commission to investigate Arshad Sharif's killing

that people engage in allegations without any evidence to back them up ... and I think an exhaustive investigation should be carried out to deal

with these things". He said it was critical to watch out for the elements

incident to their advantage. "I believe it should also To a question regarding be investigated as to why Arshad Sharif had to leave Pakistan in the first place,"

"Though Kenyan police have confessed to their mistake, a number of questions need to be answered."

Earlier it was reported that the General Headquarters (GHQ) had moved the government to constitute a high-level panel to look into the killing of the senior jour-

The military, in a letter to the government, requested the formation of an inquiry commission for a detailed investigation into the killing of Sharif by Kenya's police.

The letter also requests legal proceedings against those who are casting aspersions/accusations as per the constitution of Pakistan. Earlier, Information

Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had decided to form a judicial commission headed by a high court judge to probe into the tragic

Aurangzeb said the decision had been taken to ascertain the facts that led to the journalist's killing under mysterious circumstances.

Rupee extends gains against dollar

ly growing Pakistani market and

spur innovation. He said the

#### Mark Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday appreciated by 67 paisa against the US dollar in the interbank trading to close at Rs 219.73 against the previous day's closing of Rs

220.40. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of US dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs 220.8 and Rs 223 respectively.

The price of Euro against Rupee increased by 12 Paisa to close at Rs 216.89 against the previous close of Rs 216.77.

The Japanese Yen remained unchanged to close at Rs1.47, whereas a decrease of 90 Paisa was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which was traded at Rs 248.66 as compared to its last day's closing of Rs 249.56.

The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 18 Paisa and 16 Paisa to close at Rs 59.82 60.00 and Rs 58.47 58.63 respectively.

#### S Against govt

## Imran Khan announces long march from Friday

Khan says this march will decide whether the people want to do slavery or not

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday announced the date for his party's much-awaited long march and said that it will start on Friday, October 28. The announcement came while Khan was holding a press conference at the Chief Minister's House in Lahore, during which he said that the march will start from Lahore's Liberty Chowk at 11am.

The former prime minister termed PTI's long march "far above" politics and said that the move was "jihad as it was now a decisive moment for the people of Pakistan to choose their sides.

"This march will decide whether the people want to do slavery of these "thieves" or not. There is our march for Haqeeqi Azaadi and it has no timeframe. We will reach Islamabad from the GT Road and the nation will come from across Pakistan to Islamabad," he maintained.

Shedding light on the way the government issued warnings to the PTI in relation to the long march, Khan said that when he was the premier, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PML-N's Maryam Nawaz, and PPP's Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari held two long

"At that time, they disregarded the economic situation of the country," he



The government approached the Supreme Court earlier to stop the PTI's long march. However, the apex court rejected the request to issue an interim order for stopping the PTI's planned long march — giving a boost o the Khan-led party.

Before it approached the top court, the government issued repeated warnings to the PTI chief, with a top official saying that the authorities would multiply their May 25 policy by 10 if Khan announces another long march.

If the PTI holds another long march, then it would be the second time they

would be coming to Islamabad. The last march was held on May 25 and ended with Khan abruptly calling off the march after reaching Islamabad.

Khan, during the presser, added that he was supposed to start the long march much earlier but the government created hindrances for the party.

"On May 25, our peaceful marchers were attacked and we had to call it off just for the sake of the country. Horse trading took place in Sindh House and our government was forcefully toppled. And when I won the July by-elections, I was bombarded with court cases," the PTI chief lamented. Agencies

# The Spokesman wednesday, October 26, 2022

#### Trade Diplomacy

Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar met the Chair of the European Parliament's Committee for International Trade, MEP Bernd Lange, in Brussels on Tuesday. Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and European Union, Dr Asad Majeed Khan and other officials were also present during the meeting



NEPRA reduces KE tariff by rs4.70/unit

#### 👺 Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has approved a reduction in power tariff by Rs4.70 per unit for K-Electric (KE) consumers on account of fuel cost adjustment (FCA) for September 2022.

According to the notification, the fuel cost adjustment for K-Electric consumers would be lowered by Rs4.70 per

With the decision of lowering the tariff, KE consumers will get relief of nearly Rs8 billion, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) said and further added that the reduction in FCA would be applicable to all the consumer categories except lifeline consumers

On Monday, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) notified a raise of Rs12.68 per unit in the power tariff for the consumers of K-Electric on account of quarterly adjustment.

## President vows to continue support for Kashmir cause

Dr Alvi calls upon world to play role in resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute

lent Islam

#### Market Correspondent

BAGH: President Dr Arif Alvi says Pakistan is committed to provide moral, political and diplomatic support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Addressing the launching ceremony of Kashmir Air at Bagh, AJK, on Tuesday, he called upon the international community and international organizations to play their role in resolving the Jammu and Kashmir dispute as per the UN Security Council's resolutions and the aspirations of the people of Jammu

President also launched the commercial helicopter flight operations in Azad Jammu and Kashmir to promote tourism in the region.

He urged private sector to come forward to develop Azad Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector. The President stressed the Government of AJK to promote sustainable and environtourism-friendly policies for facilitating private-sector investment.

technical and vocational skills and



women in inheritance; however, regrettably, women are being deprived of their God-given right in different parts of our He said that the adoption of IT tools government. nd Artificial intelligence could help in

packages to domestic and foreign tourists.

tourism sector in AJK to market tour-

He highlighted that social media especially Meta and Facebook had provided training to over 5000 women to enable them to market their products and services online. He further urged the private sector to make contributions to society through their Corporate Sector Responsibility initiatives by developing partnerships among industry, academia and

Prime Minister of A.JK. Sardar Tanveer ment-friendly tourism, besides evolving the development and promotion of the Ilyas, was also present on the occasion. Kashmir Air is a private company which ism assets as well as provide informa- is going to start commercial helicopter He underscore the need to provide tion, online booking facilities and tourism flights to AJK and northern areas of Pakistan for the transportation of tourists.

#### Terrorism Case

## **ATC acquits MNA Ali** Wazir, 12 others

Ali Wazir has been granted bail in all four

KARACHI: An Anti-Terrorism stations in Karachi and he has been Court (ATC) in Karachi has acquitted MNA Ali Wazir and 12 others in a case registered against them.

As per Wazir's lawyer he was arrested in the case from Peshawar and has spent more than two years in jail. He added that the case was registered in the Sohrab Goth area of Karachi.

Wazir and 12 others were accused of making speeches against the country and national security.

against Wazir in different police charges. Agencies

granted bail in all four cases, the lawyer informed the court.

Wazir has been behind bars since December 31, 2020, for allegedly delivering provocative speeches inciting hate against the state institutions and treason.

He and some other party leaders were booked in four identical cases registered at Sohrab Goth, Shah Latif Town and Boat Basin police stations under sections of the Anti-Terror-Four cases have been registered ism Act (ATA) pertaining to the said

### No shortage of urea, wheat in country: NFRCC told

ISLAMABAD: The National Flood MT. Response and Coordination Center (NFRCC) was informed on Tuesday that urea/DAP was abundant for the Rabi crop in the country while wheat reserves were also sufficient for the country's needs.

Deputy Chairman NFRCC Ahsan Iqbal also directed the provincial governments to take strict action against those hoarding Urea/DAP.

The session of the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC) was held here on Tuesday presided over by the Deputy Chairman of NFRCC Ahsan Iqbal, Co-Chaired by the National Coordinator NFRCC Lieutenant General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal and Chairman of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inaam Haider Malik.

The Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security & Research told the session that there is no shortage of wheat and the current stock is sufficient for the country's needs.

Currently, out of 6,215,327 metric tons of wheat reserves at the national level, Punjab has 3,067,435 MT, Sindh has 865,584 MT, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has 96,282 MT, Balochistan has 49,630 MT and Pasco has 2,136,396 supply. APP

He said that the support price of wheat is determined by looking at the cost of production including seeds, and fertilizer so that the farmers get adequate profit.

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Industries & Production told the forum that the required quantity of urea/DAP for the Rabi crop is available in the country and there is no shortage. The tender for the import of 300,000 MT is already under process.

He said that 3870,000MT of fertilizer for Rabi crops will be produced locally while at present, the fertilizer companies have reserves of 374,479 metric tons in stock.

Ahsan Iqbal said that provincial governments and district administration should play their role to ensure a timely and low-cost supply of fertilizer to farmers. He said that the concerned authorities should take strict action against the Urea/DAP hoarders.

The process of wheat seed supply for Rabi crops to the flood-affected farmers was also reviewed in the session, the forum instructed the provincial governments to ensure the establishment of facilitation centers at the tehsil/taluka level for the seed

#### Commerce Minister lauds EU for helping flood victims

BRUSSELS: Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment, for collectively providing the largest humanitarian assistance worth Euro 133 million as well as for activating the Civil Protection Mechanism and provision of Copernicus emergency satellite service following the devastating floods in Pakistan.

### Implementation of Chinese dev model in Pakistan stressed

#### **Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The speakers in a roundtable discussion on Tuesday said that Pakistan should learn and implement Chinese development model and there was need to move ahead from subsidiary issues.

The Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) organized roundtable discussion on 'China's 20th National Congress: To Prosperity and Beyond'.

The eminent speakers included visiting professor at China Renmin University Prof. Dr. Zhou Rong, founding chair GSRRA Prof. Engr. Zameer Ahmed Awan, Head of China Tahir Mumtaz Awan, a Diplomatic Historian and lecturer at University of Colombo Dr. George I.H. Cooke and a political economist Shakeel Ahmad



Ramay. The session was moderated by Sabah Aslam, founder IICR.

Participating in the discussion virtually from China, Prof. Zhou Rong said that western social setup is deteriorating with ever increasing wealth gap in the society. Whereas the Chinese Study Centre COMSATS university Dr. model of development based on socialist system encourages cooperation, mutual learning and peaceful devel-

Prof. Rong added that Chinese

development model is indigestible for the west due to which it is engaged in massive propaganda and its leader-

Prof. Engr. Zameer Ahmed Awan said that China is contributing in the world economy with its shared progress ideology. It silently worked on organizing its internal dynamics and then aspire to lead the world. He said the world is acknowledging the Chinese progress.

### US urges Kenya to fully probe journalist Arshad Sharif's killing

"We're deeply saddened by the death of Arshad Sharif," says Ned Price

WASHINGTON: The US State widespread reaction on social media regarding what led to his death, but we Department Monday urged the Kenyan authorities to fully investigate the circumstances leading to the killing of Pakistan journalist Arshad Sharif on the outskirts of the capital, Nairobi.

Sharif was shot dead in Kenya when police hunting car thieves opened fire on the vehicle he was traveling in as it drove through their roadblock without stopping, according to a Kenyan police report.

A senior police officer told The Star, a Kenyan newspaper, that the shooting was being treated as a case of mistaken identity. The circumstances of the journalist's death sparked widespread outrage in Pakistan and calls for an investigation.

in Pakistan from officials, journalists and others.

"I am deeply saddened by the shocking news of journalist Arshad Sharif's tragic death," Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Twitter while ex-PM Imran Khan also condemned the death and said Sharif had been murdered for his journalistic work. He called for a judicial investigation into the incident.

State Department Spokesperson Ned Price was asked to comment on the incident in a press conference where he called for a probe into the matter.

"We encourage a full investigation by the Government of Kenya into his death. It's not entirely clear that we The extrajudicial murder sparked know all the circumstances at this point

do urge a full investigation," the spokesperson said while offering condolences to the aggrieved family and the Pakistani journalist community.

"We're deeply saddened by the death of Arshad Sharif."

The US official was also asked about how the US was helping journalists facing threats around the world.

Ned Price said that it's difficult for him to speak with any specificity regarding what we could do with a particular individual, but we have programs around the world in the first instance to bolster protections for those who are exercising what is another universal right, the right to freedom of expression, the right to information.Agencies

## Mushaal questions world long silence over Indian state terrorism

Vows Kashmiris scripting a new history of resistance

#### Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Peace and Culture Organisation Chairperson Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) have been braving the brunt of repression at the hands of world's third largest and brutal army protected under draconian laws for over 75 years.

Mushaal, who is wife of incarcerated senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, while speaking at a meeting of parliamentary committee on Kashmir here on Tuesday, said that Kashmiris are being brutally victimized, harassed and tortured and killed by 1000,000 Indian military and paramilitary personnel deployed in the length and breadth of Kashmir. The Chairperson raised question as how long will the world watch in silence as India carries out the genocide of the people of Kashmir.

Mushaal stated that it would be a travesty of justice on the part of the international community to leave the hapless Kashmiris at the mercy of India's ruthless and belligerent occupation. The Hurriyat leader revealed that during the past three decades, over 100,000 Kashmiris have been killed by the fascist Indian forces. She said that



the occupation forces crossed all limits of barbarity and inhuman acts as they even use women rape as a weapon of war war to defuse the flames of the ongoing just movement for the right to self-determination.

Mushaal said that dozens of senior Hurriyat leaders and young Kashmiris were tortured to death in custody for their sole crime to raise voice for liberating Kashmir from Indian yoke. She said that senior Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik was kept in death cell, fearing he could have been tortured to death, there efforts should be made to ensure his early release from unlaw-

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

n the name of MR. Azhar Hussain S/o Ghulam Hassan as per record maintained b

The above named lessee has been died on 05-07-2020 as per death certificate dated 04-08-2020 issued by the Cantonment Executive Officer Abbottabad Canti and leaving behind the following as legal heirs of the deceased vide Heirship certificate issued by the Succession Court / Senior Civil Judge Abbottabad dated 11.10.2021 & Family registration Certificate issued on 22.10.2020 by NADRA.

Sr No.	Name of legal heirs (as per Heirship Certificate)	Relation
	Legal Heirs of Mr. Azhar Hussain vide. Heirship certificate date	d 11.10.2021
1	Mst. Attiqa Razzaq (1/8)	Widow
2	Abbas Ali Azhar (7/24)	Son
3	Khudija Azhar (7/48)	Daughter
4	Ayesha Azhar (7/48)	Daughter
5	Raima Azhar (7/48)	Daughter
6	Zainab Azhar (7/48)	Daughter

may file his/her objections, if any, within 15days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the lease hold rights of said residential property will be transferred/ mutated in the name of legal heirs (mentioned above) of deceased namely Mr. Azhar Hussain S/o Ghulam Hassan in the record of this office. Any

Military Estates Officer Hazara Circle Abbottabad

## AJK PM warns India for any misadventure against liberated territory

Says despite all worst Indian atrocities, Kashmiris are continuing their freedom movement with full courage

跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilvas Khan has warned India that if it dared to attack liberated territory it would face stiff resistance from the freedom loving people of Azad Kashmir.

"We are followers of Abu Ubayda ibn al-Jarrah, Khalid Bin Waleed, and Muhammad Ibn al Qasim and we will not only defend every inch of our motherland but will also protect the honor and sanctity of our Muslim mothers, sisters and daughters in India", the PM said.

He was addressing a seminar jointly organized by The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission in connection with the 75th Foundation Day of AJK government.

The event was also addressed by former AJK Prime Minister and leader of PML-N AJK Chapter, Raja Farooq Haider Khan, ex. Chief Justice AJK, Justice (R) Syed Manzoor ul Hassan Gillani, Ex. Chief Justice AJK High Court, Justice (R) Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, Executive Director of Centre for International Strategic Studies, AJK Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Vice-Chancellor



Abbasi, Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission Ijaz Hussain Lone, Director Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Commission Dr. Raja Sajjad Latif, Director Students Affairs Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Awan and others.

Terming the universities and educational institutions as nursery schools to prepare youth for nation building, the PM expressed his pleasure for organizing such a wonderful seminar by the university to sensitize the students about the struggle of their forefathers for achieving freedom. He recalled that we had lost East Pakistan because India had filled

the minds of young Pakistani students in erstwhile East Pakistan with the poison of hatred against the then West Pakistan

under a conspiracy.

Sardar Tanvir Ilyas said despite all the worst Indian atrocities, Kashmiris are continuing their freedom movement with full courage and perseverance. "Even today, Kashmiri mothers named sons Burhan Wani and Syed Ali Geelani to show their association commitment with the liberation struggle", he asserted.

The premier said that if the United Nations does not resolve the long-standing issue of Kashmir as per its unanimously passed resolutions, it will lose its existence like many other global insti-

Former Prime Minister Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan urged Pakistan to trust Kashmiris and give them an opportunity to present their case to the world. "World is more interested in hearing the story of atrocities on Kashmiris than Pakistan's stance on Kash-

Faroog Haider Khan demanded that the Azad Kashmir government enter into a defense pact with Pakistan to protect the region from expected Indian aggression. "In the first phase, Pakistan should try to get observer status for Kashmiris in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation OIC", the former premier suggested.

The Vice-Chancellor UAJK Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi in his welcome address threw light on the aims and objectives of the seminar and said that this event is an effort to help sensitize the youth about the background of base camp of Kashmir liberation movement, its objectives and goals as well as future challenges. "Such programs are a regular feature of UAJK to continue its services in presenting the Kashmir issue in its true perspective to the youth",

### Altaf Bhat pays glowing tributes to the late Molana Abbas Ansari

Extends his condolences to the family of the veteran religious leader

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat expressed grief and sorrow over the sad demise of veteran pro-freedom Kashmiri leader, former Hurriyat chairman and chairman of Majlis Ittehad ul Muslimin Molana Abbas Ansari, who passed away after a protracted illness at his residence in Khankhai Sokhta Nawakadal Srinagar on Tuesday morning.



While paying glorious tributes to the late leader Molana Abbas Ansari, In his condolence message, Altaf Ahmad Bhat said that Molana Abbas Ansari was a prominent Islamic scholar of Kashmir "we are deeply saddened to hear about the passing away of Molana Abbas Ansari Sahib, he added.

"Today, we have lost a great religious and resistant leader who spent his entire life serving people and contributing to the ongoing freedom movement in occupied Jammu Kashmir, he was simple but accurate in his commitment towards freedom struggle." Chairman JKSM Bhat added.

"I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of late Molana Ansari, and I pray to Almighty Allah to give them enough strength to bear the pain of this inconsolable and irreparable loss. May Almighty Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace." He further said, "In this hour of grief, JK Salvation Movement and resistance camp stands in solidarity with the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, a delegation of JKSM participated in Namaz e Jinaza of the late religious and pro-freedom leader and expressed solidarity with grieved family.

#### "Khuli khacheri" held in Wana *Instructions to solve certain problems on* the spot



跨 🛮 Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In the light of the directives of the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and DC South Waziristan, an "Khuli Kachehri" was organized at AC Wana Jirga Hall under the chairmanship of Additional DC General/Finance & Planning South Waziristan Naik Muhammad on behalf of the district administration.

On this occasion, besides Additional DC General/Finance and Planning Naik Muhammad, AC Wana Yasir Salman Kundi, Additional AC Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali, officers of all line departments, tribal elders, local elected representatives and public were present in the Khuli Kachehri but attended in large numbers.

On this occasion, Maulana Shafiullah explained the problems of Tehsil Shakai, the work on Dand Dam is stopped, the work should be resumed, the approved NADRA office should be temporarily started in Shakai.

Apart from this, Malik Yar Muhammad Yargul Khel highlighted in rail on health and education in whole Wana, health centers should be made functional and attendance of teachers in educational institutions should be ensured.

Similarly, Malik Azeem Suleman Khel demanded to build a road for Khan Kot, Zarmelan area from Wana and to solve the problem of

However, on the other hand, Malik Musa Jan Karmaz Khel piled up complaints regarding the DHQ Hospital Wana given to (MERF) Organization under the private partnership of the provincial government

Malik Musa Jan said that the agreement made by the Karmaz Khel tribe under the supervision of AC Wana regarding the hospital should be made binding with the MERF organization, otherwise it will create a big national conflict. Din Muhammad, a special person from Angoor Adda, elaborated on the disabilities, and complained that we are not getting our quota.

## Inauguration

BAGH: President Dr Arif Alvi along with the Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, launching a private commercial helicopter flight operations service on Tuesday.



## Orange Line Lahore marks its 2nd anniversary celebrations

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Orange Line Metro Train Lahore celebrated its second anniversary during a special ceremony held at the main depot of Orange Line Metro Train project at Dera Gujran in Lahore. The ceremony was graced by the

presence of the Chinese Consul General to Pakistan in addition to officials from the Chinese consulate, as well as, Government functionaries and other notable guests. Orange Line employees also joined the celebrations, who were also given special awards based on their outstanding performance during the year. A special cake cutting ceremony was also arranged at the end of the event to make it more special for everyone.

Chen, CEO of Orange Line Metro Train Lahore, said, "In the past two years of commuters to travel on the Orange Line our operations, the Orange Line has train. These facts indicate the success cumulatively traveled 25 million kilo- of the Orange Line project in Pakistan meters, while completing 200,000 safe trips with 99.99 percent punctuality and a 100 percent trip efficiency.



We are also proud of the fact that we have achieved 97 percent staff localization, creating the first ever batch of modern railway pioneers in Pakistan. By working together we have unlocked On this momentous occasion, Li the achievement of 50 million ridership which reflects the high interest of local and we look forward to increasing it by many folds in the future."

The Orange Line Metro Train Lahore route at Ali Town.

is the first large-scale technologically advanced rail transit project under the "Belt and Road" initiative and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The project was jointly undertaken by China State Railway Group Co., Ltd. and China North Industry Co., Ltd. (CR-NORINCO), with a total track length of 27 km and 26 stations. A depot is located at Dera Gujran which is the northern end of the route and a stabling yard at the southern end of the

## Int'l moot on emerging trend in food safety today

➢ Our Correspondent

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa food Safety and Halal Food Authority is holding a two-day international conference on Emerging Trends in Food Safety and Nutrition and Food Safety and Nutrition Expoo2022 on October 26 at PCSIR Laboratories here.

KP Minister for Food Atif Khan would be the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony, while Secretary Food Mushtaq Ahmad, Chairman Supreme Council PSFST and ex-VC University of Gambia Prof Dr Faqir Muhammad Anjum, Chairman PCSIR Dr Syed Hussain Abdi would attend the event.

The other participants would include VC Women University Swabi Prof Dr Shahana Urood Kazmi, FAO representative Florence Rolle, Pro VC Agriculture University Peshawar Dr Said Wahab, Country Representative Nutrition International Shahbina Raza and President PSFST Prof Dr Masood Sadiq Butt.

### Hamdard Pakistan, Systems Limited sign contract

To develop a state-of-the-art e-commerce platform for Hamdard's products



#### **Solution** Our Correspondent

KARACHI: Hamdard Pakistan and Systems Limited signed a contract on Tuesday to develop a state-of-the-art e-commerce platform for Hamdard's products in an auspicious signing ceremony held at Hamdard Corporate Head Office. Fatema Munir Ahmed, MD & CEO, HP, and Asif Peer, CEO-Systems Limited, signed the agreement. Ms Sadia Rashid, President Hamdard Group, and the management of HP also attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Arshad Saleem, Chief Operating Officer, HP said: "I am delighted with our new partnership with Systems

Limited, Hamdard always strives for transforming and integrating its operations and delivery systems with the latest technologies. The new gateway platform will be a one-stop shop where Hamdard's OTC products will be available to consumers. This project will be completed in January next year."

Earlier in opening remarks, Syed Faizullah Jawad, Director Marketing HP, welcomed the guests and said Hamdard Pakistan had been actively expanding its delivery system to further facilitate its consumer base.

Later Ms Sadia Rashid cut the cake with Asif Peer and presented him with an acknowledgment shield on behalf of Hamdard.

## Kashmiris to observe black day on Oct 27

Against continual unlawful Indian occupation of IIOJK

MIRPUR: All is set by people of Jammu wishes of the people of the state. & Kashmir dwelling both sides of the line of control including AJK and IIOJK and rest of the world to observe black day on Wednesday to mark strong protest and indignation against the continual forced and unlawful Indian occupation of the held valley for the last 75 years since this bleak day of October 27, 1947 when New Delhi had forcibly landed its occupational military troops in occupied Srinagar.

Jammu & Kashmir people living either side of the LoC consider October 27 as the black day in the history of the disputed Himalayan state of Jammu & Kashmir when India had landed its armed troops absolutely against the aspirations and the

This year too the black day against continual illegal and forced Indian occupation was being observed at the time when the Kashmir freedom has reached at its climax following the massive continued anti-India protests by the people of the curfew-clamped and locked-down bleeding Indian occupied state of Jammu and Kashmir for the last over two years against the complete communication and information blocked by the Indian occupational forces since furious Kashmiris, defying all restrictions take to anti-India street agitation against August 5 2019' Indian sinister action of scrapping special status of the disputed

Jammu Kashmir State abrogating article 370 and 35-A of her constitution.

As previous call for observing the black day across the disputed Jammu & Kashmir state and rest of the world has been given by caged Hurriyat leadership including elderly Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Gillani and the AJK government to apprise the world of the Kashmiris ever-lasting hatred against India besides against the forced Indian occupation of their motherland for the last 75 years.

In Mirpur, major protest rally to be followed by a big procession and protest demonstration will be taken out by a large number of people of all spheres of life to observe October 27 as black day

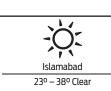
at District Courts premises on October 27 at 10.00 a.m the under the auspices of the District National Events Organizing Committee with the coordination of all segments of the civil society including social, religious and political parties.

Tuesday while unveiling the scheduled AJK-wide black day program, that the mass black day rally would be held at district court premises at 10.00 am with the display and carrying of black flags by the participants to express resentment against the forced Indian occupation of bulk part of the Jammu & Kashmir State the IIOJK territory. APP

National Events Organizing Commit-

tee Mirpur district sources told APP





SERVICES		
Namaz T	imings	
Fajr	4:57 am	
Zohr	11:52 am	
Asr	3:44 pm	
Maghrib	5:23 pm	
Icha	6://6 nm	

#### EMEDGENCY

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Rescue (Police) 15
Bomb Disposal15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance 1122 8
& Rescue Services 4451122
Motorway Police9266044
Motorway Police 9270601-20

#### **Women Police**

Statio	IIS
Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

Rawaipinui 92/0601	-2U
<b>ENQUIRY</b>	
Edhi Ambulance	115
PIA Flight Info	. 114
PIA Cargo	979

EUTH ATTIDUITATICE	
PIA Flight Info	114
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WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092
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CMH	5611111
MH	561116
MH	561116
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DHQ	
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

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CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Boar	d 9270151-3
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

#### **COMPLAINTS**

E-7, F-10 & F-11 ...... G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8,

#### AIOUcommences final exams from Nov 9

#### **Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Igbal Open University (AIOU) is commencing final examinations of different programs offered in semester spring 2022 including MA/M. Sc, M.Com, MBA/MPA, M.Ed, and Postgraduate diplomas from Novem ber 9, 2022. According to controller examinations, Mian Muhammad Riaz, roll number slips have been uploaded to students' CMS accounts and the date sheet is available on the university website (www.aiou.edu. pk) for the programs. Roll number slips are also being dispatched to the postal addresses of the students and they are also being informed about the exams through mobile SMS.

Moreover, the results of different master's degree programs for autumn semester 2021 including M.Ed (Special Education), M.Sc (Pakistan Studies)., MA (Islamic Studies), MA (Quran and Tafsir), MA (Hadith and Seerah), MA (Islamic Law and Fiqh), and MA (Islamic Thought, History, and Culture) have been announced on CMS portal. The results of the rest of the programs will be announced soon.

#### **₿** Flood relief assistance

## South Korean companies donate \$800,000 to flood victims

Korean donations now stand at over 2.8 million dollars, says Ambassador Suh Sangpyo

#### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-Water), which is a Korean governmental agency working on comprehensive water resource development has donated one hundred thousand dollars to the Government of Pakistan to support the ongoing Flood Relief Efforts that have claimed more than 1700 lives across the country, making the total contribution of Korea's private sector 800,000 USD.

A handing over ceremony for this donation was held yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) with the participation of the Ambassador the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo, the Representative/Chief Executive Officer of Star Hydro K-Water Pakistan, Bong Rok Oh, the Director General (EAP) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Aamer Ahmed Atozai, and senior officials of the concerned authorities.

Speaking at the occasion, the Ambassador stated that the Government, companies, and the People of Korea have always stood by the People of Paki-



stan. He added that the donations from the Korean government have exceeded two million dollars and the donations from Private Sector and NGOs were also exceeding eight hundred thousand for the generous donation and that this dollars, bringing the total contributions donation will bring much needed relief by Korea to over 2.8 million dollars at to the flood affectees.

The DG (EAP) Aamer Ahmed Atozai expressed his gratitude to the Ambassador and the Representative of K-Water

## IIUI bids farewell in honour of Dr. Masoom Yasinzai

#### **Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: A farewell ceremony was arranged at the new campus in honour of outgoing Rector International Islamic University (IIU) Professor Dr Masoom Yasinzai who retired on Tuesday (October 25th) after serving IIUI for a decade.

Other than Dr. Masoom, the farewell ceremony was joined by the IIUI President Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi along with the Vice Presidents, Deans, Directors and senior faculty

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi appreciated the efforts of Worthy Rector saying that his vision and his nature of hard work has set us on the track of success. He said that the univeraltruistic services he granted now, has been put on the path-Homoud Alotaibi.



sity would keep benefiting from to the university. his insights as being one of varsity's prudent contributors, Dr. Masoom shall always be consulted to guide in the light of his experiences. He thanked love and bonding with IIUI Dr. Masoom for his untiring work, honesty, selfless and faced many ups and downs,

On the occasion, Dr. Masoom said that he has special attachment to this university. He discussed his immense saving that the university that

way of the progress and prosperity that has been followed by the recent management. He assured of his maximum support and voice for the IIUI on all forums saying that in future as well he will be among the leading ranks to make IIUI one of the top universities of the world. He thanked the Emassay of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Islamabad for its continuous support to university, while he also thanked Imam Muhammad bin Saud University saying that KSA's cooperation during his service was exemplary. He also thanked the IIUI Pro chancellor Professor Dr. Ahmad Salem Muhammad Al- Ameri for his support and guidance. He also appreciated the vision and policies of Dr. Hathal

## Islamic Calligraphy exhibition inaugurated at PAC

Commissioner Rawalpindi Division says Islamic calligraphy is the heritage of Muslims

#### Staff Reporter

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized an Islamic Calligraphy exhibition in connection with holy month of Rabi ul Awal. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan was the chiefguest of the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition.

While addressing the ceremony Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqaib Manan said that Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (S.A.W) (peace be upon him) is mercy to the whole world. The month of Rabi al-Awwal is of special importance for Muslims. Islamic calligraphy is the heritage of Muslims. The tradition of calligraphy is centu- the near future, arts, literature and traditions have been taken



ries old and our calligraphers and performing arts programs are the trustees of this tradition will be organized through the who have kept this art alive, Punjab Arts Council. Punjab he added. Chief Guest further Arts Council is in true sense the said that Punjab Arts Council strives to promote culture. In province, the lost crafts, customs

guardian of the culture of Punjab

care of by Punjab Arts Council is commendable. In the end, he also visited various parts of the Arts Council.

While giving a briefing to Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan, Director Waqar Ahmed said that the Punjab Arts Council is the largest institution in the province of Punjab for promoting art, culture, literature and performing arts. The establishment of arts councils in 9 divisions and 4 districts in Punjab shows the importance of the government to the promotion of culture in the province, soon the construction of arts councils will also start in Kasur, Nankana Sahib, Mianwani, Taunsa Sharif.

## 'Mehfil Milad' held at TDC Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: 'Mehfil e Milad' was held at The Diabetes Centre Islamabad in connection with the Holy month of Rabi ul Awal wherein Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) was born.

Among staff, boys and girls, around 10 in number praised Prophet Muhammad (P.B.U.H) in their beautiful voices CEO, TDC Tahir M Abbasi speaking on this occasion highlighted the need and importance of following our lives in accordance with Quran and Sunnah.

Senior management, Staff and MS of the Hospital Brig (r) Ajmal Khan also attended the event. PR

#### Roundtable discussion on Pak-India ties, Kashmir Dispute held



ISLAMABAD: The India Study Center (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad organized a roundtable discussion titled, "Pakistan-India Relations and the Kashmir Dispute", under the Grand National Dialogue being conducted by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute. The discussion was held under the Chatham House Rule.

The keynote speaker for the discussion was Ambassador Aziz Ahmed Khan. Following his remarks, a lively discussion was held regarding the topic. Participating discussants included Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, and Dr. Asma Shakir Khawaja, Executive Director of Centre for International Strategic Studies, Azad Jammu & Kashmir. The Director General ISSI, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, the President of IPRI, Amb. Dr. Major General Raza Muhammad (Retd.) and the ISC research faculty also provided their valuable insights. PR

## Rana Tanveer for timely completion of projects under PNCU

#### **Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to expedite the completion of ongoing projects under the Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU).

The direction was given during a briefing given to the minister by senior officials of the education ministry on the working of PNCU.

He was informed about the on-going projects that include UNES-CO emergency funding program - finalized with Government of GB in October 2022 for rehabilitation of damaged schools in Diamer district, Malala Funds - Trust for Girls' Right to Education Program in Pakistan, "Rehabilitation of Street Children through Football" ICESCO, Training of non-formal basic education community schools teachers, ICES-CO and WASH Program awareness of cleanliness in school children, health hygiene, ICESCO.

The senior officials of the ministry also attended the meeting. Rana Tanveer was told that Pakistan joined UNESCO in 1949 and the country had been a member of the executive board since 1951.

The minister was informed that PNCU coordinated with UNESCO, ICESCO, provincial governments, federal departments, INGOs and NGOs in order to fulfill its mandate. He was apprised of the working and accomplishments of the organization.

Rana Tanveer was informed that PNCU was leading numerous projects which included UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network and Tangible and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Pakistan on UNESCO World Heritage list and ICESCO list etc.

Rana Tanveer was informed of successful projects undertaken by PNCU which include Capacity Building Workshop for School Teache on Climate Change Education through Inquiry based science Education (IBSE), pedagogy at Sukkur IBA, University, Poverty Alleviation through Health Improvement of Rural Female Involved in Cotton Pick $ing\ at\ Pakistan\ Agricultural\ Research\ Council\ (PARC), Promoting\ Adult$ Literacy through ICT and Distance Learning at National Commission for Human Development, Strengthening of PNCU by developing e-office and Capacity Building of PNCU staff through NITB, PNCU, and Capacity Building in Science & Technology COMSAT, Islamabad COMSATs.

He said that all the vacant posts of the organization should be filled on urgent basis so that the organization could work on full capacity. He said that there was a dire need for the organization to work pro actively so that it deliver on its mandate. APP

#### Lok Virsa to mark Kashmir Black day on Oct 27

ISLAMABAD: The National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage (Lok Virsa), in connection with Kashmir Black Day, will arrange a series of activities on October 27 to highlight Indian atrocities against innocent Kashmiris in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme to be held in collaboration with the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan at Pakistan National Heritage Museum will feature screening of video documentaries, display of banners, photo exhibition and display of Kashmiri folk crafts.

The video documentaries on Kashmir will be screened on a large multimedia projector for the public all day while the banners highlighting Kashmir cause will also feature the event. The exclusive photo exhibition will be mounted in the Hall of Changing Exhibitions. APP

## Pakistan, Kazakhstan enjoy cordial, brotherly relations: Senator Musadik

The minister calls for enhancing trade volume, people-to-people contact with Kazakhstan; Republic Day of Kazakhstan celebrated

#### B Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Senator Musadik Malik said Pakistan and Kazakhstan enjoy cordial and brotherly relations. The minister expressed these views while addressing to gathering as a chief guest on the occasion of the "Republic Day of Kazakhstan."

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Abdul Shakoor, Dr. Qibla Ayaz, the Chairman of the Islamic Ideology Council, the Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Paki-Corps Atadjan Movlamov, High Commissioners, Ambassadors, Defense Attaché and media persons and as well as the representatives of Kazakhstan diaspora, experts and representatives of Pakistan business community attended the "Republic Day



stan and Dean of Diplomatic organized by the embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

There were tremendous opportunities that stand untapped, the Minister said, adding both the countries were working to enhance trade volume and people-to-people contact. He also emphasized the of Kazakhstan". The event was importance of relations between trade and economic ties.

Kazakhstan and Pakistan and the need for further progressive development.

The minister highlighted the importance of inter-regional transit and transport infrastructure development, the need for diversification, and the expansion of Kazakhstan-Pakistan



Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin, highlighted the importance of the 30th Anniversary of the establishment of

two countries. The ambassador also spoke about the history of the Republic Day of Kazakhstan and the Pres-

diplomatic relations between the

ident of the Republic of Kazakhstan, K. Tokayev's initiatives. Earlier, The Ambassador of

Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin talked to the Daily The Spokesman shared the achievements of Central Asia, a region connectthe Republic of Kazakhstan over ed with centuries-old links the years of independence, the contribution of the President to defines Kazakhstan's foreign the development of the country's



domestic and foreign policy and stan and Kazakhstan is grate-

the strengthening of cooperation ful and proud that Pakistan was with Pakistan. among the first countries that He further said that Kazakhrecognized our Independence, stan is an integral part of added the ambassador. with South Asia. This is what

policy towards brotherly Paki-

On this occasion, the Rotary Club of Islamabad hosted a charity exhibition of paintings by children with special needs.

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

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#### PM's visit to KSA will reap economic benefits

he visit of Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia is of critical importance. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia enjoy deep rooted ties and have shared values, religion and culture. Around two million Pakistanis have been living and working in Saudi Arabia, sending home valuable foreign remittances. Prime Minister is also going to attend the Future Investment Initiative where he will have the opportunity to meet and interact with global business and political leaders. Prime Minister will use this opportunity to brief them on various investment opportunities existing in Pakistan and invite them to invest in different sectors. Prime Minister has been vying to improve relations with all countries for the economic benefit of Pakistan.

Saudi Future Investment Initiative Summit is very significant for Saudi Arabia as well as Pakistan. Pakistan spends a huge sum on importing petroleum products and gas and converting to alternative energies like solar will help save precious foreign exchange of Pakistan. We have long standing relationship with Saudi Arabia and our economic ties are also growing. Pakistan is facing an economic crisis and Saudi Arabia can help us come out of it by investing in various sectors of our economy. Saudi Arabia has a special place in the heart of Pakistanis and the oil rich kingdom has always helped Pakistan in hours of need.

It is a great transformation and Pakistan is also going to be a part of it. The rise in economic activities between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia under the incumbent government is seeing encouraging results. Both brotherly countries need to enhance their bilateral volume of trade. During his current visit to Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister addressed the future investment summit and he is also going to hold meetings with Saudi higher officials. Pakistan can enhance its fresh fruits as well as halal food products to Saudi Arabia as there is huge demand of these products in Saudi Arabia. Pakistani manpower can also serve in IT industry of Saudi Arabia. In the next few years, the number of Pakistani IT companies will increase to around four hundred. There was need to increase cooperation as well as links between the people and governments of two countries, and the current government has embarked on the same route. Saudi Arabia needs two million people from Pakistan for various reconstruction projects.

It is very important for Saudi Arabia to attract major international investments into new projects in the kingdom. There are many opportunities for foreign investors in oil rich kingdom in diverse sectors. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have a deep connection and Riyadh has always been meeting our petroleum needs. There is a huge potential of ending Pakistani manpower to work in different sec Saudi economy. Saudi Arabia is also a holy land for Muslims around the world and millions of Pakistanis each year visit the country for performance of hajj and other religious rites. Saudi Development Fund has already pledged around 500 million dollars' investment into Pakistan and its pace has increased during the tenure of current government. The PML-N led government is removing all hurdles in the way of Saudi investment into Pakistan.

# Fixing the food trade in the face of global disruption

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

etween rising hunger and the prospect of still more supply shortages, dark clouds are hovering over the global food system. The war in Ukraine has limited access to, and raised prices for, food and fertilizer, while extreme weather events are disrupting production, and economic downturns are diminishing people's ability to afford adequate and nutritious diets. Climate change is fueling droughts and exacerbating water scarcity, adding to the list of threats facing agricultural production.

Progress in tackling hunger and malnutrition was already stalling before the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the World Food Program estimates that the number of people facing, or at risk of, acute food insecurity (defined as those who "lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life") has increased by more than 200 million since 2019. Key global objectives, such as the second UN Sustainable Development Goal, which commits countries to end hunger by 2030, and to improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture, are significantly off track.

Trade is vital for achieving food security, as the World Trade Organization's 164 members emphasized at our 12th ministerial conference in June. Apart from its basic role as a conveyor belt for getting

it is needed, trade supports jobs, livelihoods and incomes. It is a key factor in the sustainable and efficient use of scarce global resources.

But all too often, international markets for food and agriculture function poorly, owing to problems such as trade-distorting subsidies and high levels of protection. In many regions, persistent underinvestment in research, extension services and market-linking infrastructure has led to low and stagnating agricultural productivity. Crop yields across much of Africa are particularly small, and have not matched the increases achieved in other developing regions.

WTO members have taken some important steps to address these problems. In 2015, they agreed to eliminate agricultural export subsidies - payments that cover the difference between domestic costs and international market prices — which are widely seen to distort production and harm farmers in other

The use of such subsidies has fallen dramatically, from almost \$7 billion in 1999 to under \$12 million in 2020. But Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development data show that total public support to the farm sector in 54 advanced economies and 11 major emerging markets reached \$817 billion in 2019-21. And only \$207 billion of that was for general services such as research, training, or payments to consumers.

Other support programs frequently

fair competition in global markets. While average tariffs on agricultural products were around 6 percent in 2020, many countries maintained prohibitively high tariffs on certain products, with peaks reaching 1,000 percent.

At the beginning of this year, food prices had already reached high levels compared with recent years, and international agencies had begun to warn of growing hunger. Then the war in Ukraine made the situation much worse. Prices spiked to record highs, and WTO monitoring found that many governments responded by restricting food exports, potentially easing strains at home, but exacerbating shortages elsewhere in the

Against this backdrop, the multilateral cooperation that we saw at the WTO ministerial forum was most welcome. WTO members collectively committed to exempt World Food Program humanitarian purchases from export restrictions, saving the agency time and money in providing relief to millions of vulnerable people. They pledged to keep agrifood trade open and to minimize the trade distortions resulting from emergency measures. And they agreed on a binding accord to curtail \$22 billion in annual public spending on harmful fisheries subsidies, which will contribute to food security and livelihoods by improving the health of marine habitats.

But over the past month, export

food from where it is abundant to where incentivize unsustainable production and restrictions on food, feed and fertilizers consumption patterns, and undermine have ticked back up, reversing the earlier downward trend. The total number of such measures introduced since February — and still in force — is now up to 52. The WTO is working hard through monitoring, transparency and jawboning to bring this number down, but it remains a cause of global concern.

> Ensuring that trade contributes to a more sustainable and equitable global food system will require greater efforts to align trade, environmental and food policies. A holistic approach to managing how food is produced, distributed and consumed is necessary to maintain sufficient supply, address climate and other environmental risks, ensure sustainable land use and manage scarce water resources. A long-overdue update of the WTO rulebook for agricultural trade is needed more urgently than ever, because we need to create a better incentive framework for investment in the sector.

> To find solutions to growing food insecurity, we must expand the dialogue and explore the systemic drivers of the problem. With a stronger evidence base, WTO members will have a better understanding of how trade can be used to the fullest possible extent to enhance access to food for everyone.

> Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organization, is a former finance minister and foreign minister of Nigeria, and a former managing director of the World Bank. Courtesy: Arab News



## Strange death of the UK **Conservative Party**

#### **Chris Doyle**

he soap opera surrounding the UK Conservative Party has a great scriptwriter now. The Westminster village is a never-ending production line of scandal and intrigue emanating from the heart of a "governing" party that has been in power for the past 12 years.

Now Britain is to get its third prime minister in less than two months and its fifth in six years. Meanwhile, it barely has a functioning government.

The former finance minister Rishi Sunak, who will take the helm, is the country's first non-white prime minister; the first, as a Hindu, to practice a non-Christian faith; and, at 42, the youngest leader in modern British history.

This was the 60-meter sprint election as opposed to the marathon summer vote that landed Liz Truss the premiership. It took a since 1935. Most observers believed this mere couple of days to determine who will run a country in economic crisis and a party that is near ungovernable.

In an extraordinarily easy transition to power, Sunak was chosen without having to reveal a single policy or position, or enter into any debate. What we know is that he will stick to a tighter fiscal policy and previously voted to leave the EU, though he never appears as a devout Brexiteer. On foreign affairs, it is assumed he will pretty much stick to existing positions, not least with regard to Ukraine.

Memories are short in modern-day politics. It was only in July that more than 50 of resigned within 50 hours. They argued that

he was not fit for office. Even the loyal media tore into Johnson over his failings. Yet, only a few months later, some of that number argue that Johnson can save the party.

Sunak has to handle a situation where Britain has just had a prime minister who lasted 44 days before resigning. Truss was the shortest-serving leader in the country's history, and arguably the least popular. She tanked the British economy, and oversaw the collapse of the pound and a surge in interest rates. Britain's international standing

All of this is happening to the traditional party of government, a party that has received more votes than any other in the combined elections of the past 100 years. Many are asking why the Tory talent locker is so bare that the party almost reverted to a known failure.

It was meant to be the Labour Party in irreversible decline. At the 2019 elections, Labour won 202 seats, its lowest number made the Tories almost certain to win the next election as well.

Go back 20 years and British politics was pretty dull and achingly predictable. In that era, everyone knew who was going to be prime minister; elections were easy to predict; and, by and large, the parties all fought for the center ground. If you left the country for six months, you would return to familiar faces in Westminster, Britain was a beacon of reliability and known, rightly or

wrongly, for its sensible approach to politics. Think of it. Margaret Thatcher lasted 11 years, Tony Blair 10, and even John Major did six. Every election result in that peri-Johnson's ministers and parliamentary aides od was predicted and only in the Major premiership was there not a massive majorYet in little over a decade that sense of

stability and calm has all but evaporated. Britain had a coalition government for five years - unheard of. But even that was reassuringly calm compared with the Brexit era.

The 2016 referendum to leave the EU still scars British politics. Politicians are still defined by whether they were Remainers or Brexiteers. How long will these epithets last? The divisions are deeper than ever. The Brexiteers who dominate the Conservative Party are unlikely to ever concede that leaving the world's largest trading bloc has hit British economic interests.

Can Sunak bring this psychodrama to an end? The new leader has to work for the country, and ignore the fireworks and mayhem inside this party. The economy has to be set on a painful course correction. Markets and allies have to be reassured with a competent governing order that reverts to proper policy-making processes that are less concerned with the next day's headlines and focused more on the longer-term nation-

al interest. What will happen to one of the most successful party-political machines in Europe — who knows? The party is so split that it is hard to see it surviving as a single entity. It needs a revamp, triggered by a deep soul-search as to how it landed up with moral failure from Johnson and fiscal

Sunak will have to exude reassurance and calm if the soap opera is to end. If it does not, it is hard to see how the party of Churchill

Chris Doyle is director of the Council for

Arab-British Understanding, in London.

failure from Truss and Thatcher can survive.

## **Mathew Wong**

**Green finance boosts** 

hina is now one of the world's most active and enthusiastic countries working towards establishing a green financial system for balanced and sustainable development. Meanwhile, the system is also expected to play an important role in China's efforts to reach the "dual carbon goals," which aim to peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060.

According to the People's Bank of China, green finance generally refers to the wide range of financial services offered for economic activities that afford environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and resource utilization. China's green finance policies and initiatives are diverse and touch upon renewable energy, water treatment plants, recycling facilities and transportation.

Green finance in China requires comprehensive development, which touches upon the institutional structure and policies, laws and regulations, financial resources and support. Innovation and creativity among individuals are crucial to ensure sustainable development and exploring the niche. In this process, policies and actions in various aspects can be important, including green bonds, green lending, green development funds, green insurance, markets for pollution control rights, local government initiatives and international cooperation.

In 2022, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission issued green finance guidelines for the banking and insurance industry. It was another prominent move for expecting banking and insurance industries to identify, monitor, prevent and control their environmental, social and governance risks by collecting and disclosing relevant information and communicating and interacting with various stakeholders. It is pleasing to see the expanded scope and intensity of the development of green financing in China, which allows for more robust and

sustainable development rapid long-term development in the future.

In addition, provincial and local governments have subsequently been issuing green finance guidance documents, piloting green finance zones, and rolling out preferential policies for institutions and enterprises. Joint efforts have been made to ensure an efficient and effective system. There is a dynamic interplay across the various levels of the governments in actualizing green financing. There is also very close mobilization and collaboration across individuals and sectors. All these factors are crucial in shaping a conducive atmosphere for green finance to be rooted in the country and further expanded

One of the biggest lingering challenges is the establishment of a unified system for green finance. China has offered some guidance on promoting green finance by various departments, but many differences exist in practice. A unified system helps avoid discrepancies in the interpretation and actualization of incentives and practices. Moreover, a coherent and coordinated approach can increase the incentive and participation of various parties, such as financial nvestment, manpower sourcing, scientific research and development, as well as overall promotion and

publicity, both domestically and globally. Another issue is the gap between planning and implementation. While these guidelines are crucial for offering insights into how to practice green finance, they are still voluntary, meaning that there are no legally binding forces to constrain the behaviors of individual actors. There is still a tendency for some sectors to prioritize their short-term and individual interests over long-term interests. Therefore, in the future, more monitoring and evaluative mechanisms are expected to be set up to prevent financial risks and ensure the popularization of the initiative as a whole.

Mathew Wong is an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Education University of Hong Kong. Courtesy: China.org.cn

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Courtesy: Arab News

## Rishi Sunak becomes UK's PM, faces economic crisis

Sunak selected as leader of the governing Conservative Party on Monday as it tries to stabilize the economy

LONDON: Rishi Sunak became Britain's third prime minister of the year on Tuesday and now must turn his attention to taming an economic crisis that has left the country's finances in a precarious state and millions of Britons struggling to afford food and energy bills.

Sunak, the UK's first leader of color, met at Buckingham Palace with King Charles III, who had just accepted the resignation of Liz Truss. In Britain's constitutional monarchy, the monarch plays a ceremonial role in appointing government leaders.

Sunak — at 42 the youngest British leader in more than 200 years is expected to immediately begin appointing a Cabinet and getting to grips with an economy sliding toward recession. The third Conservative prime minister this year, he will also try to unite a governing party that is riven with divisions.

Sunak was selected as leader of the governing Conservative Party on Monday as it tries to stabilize the economy, and its own plunging popularity, after the brief, disastrous term of

Truss departed after making a public statement outside 10 Downing St., seven weeks to the day after she was appointed prime minister by Queen Elizabeth II, who died two days later.

Truss offered a defense of her low-tax economic vision and her brief term in office before being driven from the prime minister's official residence for the last time.



LONDON: King Charles III welcomes Rishi Sunak during an audience at Buckingham Palace, London, where he invited the newly elected leader of the Conservative Party to become Prime Minister and form a new government, Tuesday. (AP)

we need to be bold and confront the problems we face," she said. She stood by the free-market principles of "lower taxes" and "delivering growth," despite the market mayhem triggered by her Sept. 23 budget package.

Truss wished Sunak success as Britain continues "to battle through

Sunak's top priorities will be appointing Cabinet ministers, and preparing for a budget statement that will set out how the government plans to come up with billions of pounds (dollars) to fill a fiscal hole created by

"I am more convinced than ever that soaring inflation and a sluggish economy, and exacerbated by Truss' destabilizing economic experiments.

> The statement, set to feature tax increases and spending cuts, is currently due to be made in Parliament on Monday by Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt — if Sunak keeps him in the job.

> Sunak, who was Treasury chief himself for two years until July, said Monday that Britain faces "a profound economic challenge."

Sunak becomes prime minister in a remarkable reversal of fortune fairness, that's exactly what the party just weeks after he lost to Truss in a has done," she told radio station LBC. Conservative election to replace former AP

Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Party members in the summer chose her tax-cutting boosterism over his warnings that inflation must be tamed.

Truss conceded last week that she could not deliver on her plans — but only after her attempts triggered market chaos and worsened inflation at a time when millions of Britons were already struggling with soaring borrowing costs and rising energy and food prices.

The party is now desperate for someone to right the ship after months of chaos under Truss and Johnson, who quit in July after becoming mired in ethics scandals.

Sunak was chosen as Conservative leader after becoming the only candidate to clear the hurdle of 100 nominations from fellow lawmakers to run in the party election. Sunak defeated rival Penny Mordaunt, who may get a job in his government, and the ousted Johnson, who dashed back from a Caribbean vacation to rally support for a comeback bid but failed to get enough backing to run.

As well as stabilizing the UK economy, Sunak must try to unite a governing party that has descended into acrimony as its poll ratings have plunged. Conservative lawmaker Victoria Atkins, a Sunak ally, said the party

"We all understand that we've now really got to get behind Rishi — and, in

would "settle down" under Sunak.

## Students from Tokyo University visited Embassy of



😂 Spokesman Report

 $TOKYO: A group \ of \ students \ from \ Tokyo \ University \ of \ Foreign \ Studies$ along with faculty Professors of Urdu Department visited the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo on Tuesday.

An interaction focusing on Urdu language and culture was held. The students were encouraged to study Urdu language and understand Pakistan through their own individual experiences and learning.

#### 13 die in Bangladesh after tropical storm hits

DHAKA: A tropical storm that lashed Bangladesh left at least 13 people dead across the delta nation, officials and news reports said Tuesday.

Tropical Storm Sitrang brewed in the Bay of Bengal before turning north toward Bangladesh's vast coast, prompting authorities to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people to cyclone shelters Monday. Heavy rains battered the country throughout the day, flooding many areas in the coastal regions across southern and southwestern Bangladesh.

The storm weakened Tuesday afternoon, with maximum sustained wind speeds of 65 kilometers (40 miles) per hour and wind gusts up to 85 kph (53 mph). The weather office in the capital, Dhaka, which had recorded gusts up to 88 kph (55 mph) Monday evening, said the danger had passed Tuesday.

Raihan Mehbub, a government official in Cumilla district, said a couple and their 4-year-old daughter died after a tree fell on their home late Monday night. They were asleep and died at the scene, the

At least 10 others died in separate incidents across the country, Dhakabased Somoy TV reported. Most died from falling trees, though others died from collapsing structures or drowning, local media reported. On Monday, the government halted operations by all river vessels

across the country, closed three airports and asked fishing boats to return from the deep sea and remain anchored in the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh is a delta nation of more than 160 million people and is prone to natural disasters such as floods and cyclones. AP

#### China's space station lab module Mengtian ready for launch

BEIJING: The combination of China's space station lab module Mengtian and its carrier rocket Long March-5B Y4 has been transported to the launch area, the China Manned Space Agency said Tuesday.

The lab module will be sent into orbit at an appropriate time in the near future. Prior to the launch, function checks and joint tests will be carried out as planned. The facilities and equipment at the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site in the southern province of Hainan are in good condition, and all departments involved in the mission are undergoing final preparations, the agency said in a statement.

Scientific equipment in the Mengtian module, the second lab component of China's under-construction space station, will be used for studying microgravity and carrying out experiments in fluid physics, materials science, combustion science and fundamental physics. Xinhua

## Guterres underscores importance of upholding UN values, principles

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday said in his message for the United Nations Day that upholding UN values and principles is essential in a world under stress.

"Now, more than ever, we need to bring to life the values and principles of the UN Charter in every corner of the world," said Guterres. He described the United Nations as "the product of hope" because it embodies the hope and resolve to move beyond global conflict, to a

new era of global cooperation. Today, our organization is being tested like never before. But the

United Nations was made for moments like this," he said. Guterres said the United Nations is "giving peace a chance and ending conflicts that jeopardize lives, futures and global progress," and is working to end extreme poverty, reduce inequalities, and rescue the Sustainable Development Goals.

He pointed to the United Nations' role in safeguarding the planet, including by breaking global addiction to fossil fuels and kickstarting the renewable energy revolution.

He also highlighted how the United Nations is "balancing the scales of opportunity and freedom" for women and girls, while also ensuring human rights for all. "As we mark the UN Day, let us renew our hope and conviction in what humanity can achieve when we work as one, in global solidarity," said the top UN official. Xinhua

## Ukraine cites success in downing drones, fixes energy sites

Ukrainians are bracing for less electric power this winter following a sustained Russian barrage on their infrastructure in recent weeks

KYIV: Ukrainian authorities tried to dampen public fears over Russia's use of Iranian drones by claiming increasing success Monday in shooting them down, while the Kremlin's talk of a possible "dirty bomb" attack added another worrying dimension as the war enters its ninth month.

Ukrainians are bracing for less electric power this winter following sustained Russian barrage on thei infrastructure in recent weeks. Citizens in the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv lined up for water and essential supplies Monday as Ukrainian forces advanced on the nearby Russian-occupied city of Kherson.

Ukraine's forces have shot down more than two-thirds of the approximately 330 Shahed drones that Russia has fired through Saturday, the head of Ukraine's intelligence service, Kyrylo Budanov, said Monday. Budanov said Russia's military had ordered about 1,700 drones of different types and is rolling out a second batch of about 300 Shaheds.

"Terror with the use of 'Shaheds' can actually last for a long time," he was quoted as saying in the Ukrainska Pravda newspaper, adding: "Air defense is basically coping, 70 percent are shot

Both Russia and Iran deny that Iranian-built drones have been used but the triangle-shaped Shahed-136s have rained down on civilians in Kviv and elsewhere.

"First of all, we have to be able to counter the drones," US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday at a press conference in Zagreb with Croatia's leader. "It is a dangerous technology and it must be stopped."



Britain's Ministry of Defense said Russia was likely to use a large number of drones to try to penetrate the "increasingly effective Ukrainian air defenses" to substitute for Russian-made longrange precision weapons "which are becoming increasingly scarce." That assessment came on top of a

stark warning by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to his British, French, Turkish and US counterparts over the weekend that Ukrainian forces were preparing a "provocation" involving a radioactive device — a so-called dirty bomb. Britain, France, and the United States rejected that claim as "transparently false."

A dirty bomb uses explosives to scatter radioactive waste in an effort to sow terror. Such weapons don't have the devastating destruction of a nuclear explosion, but could expose broad areas to radioactive contamination.

Russian authorities on Monday doubled down on Shoigu's warning.

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, head of the Russian military's radiation, chemical and biological protection forces,

said Russian military assets were on high readiness for possible radioactive contamination. He told reporters a dirty bomb blast could contaminate thousands of square kilometers.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday: "It's not an unfounded suspicion, we have serious reasons to believe that such things could be planned."

Ukraine has rejected Moscow's claims as an attempt to distract attention from its own plans to detonate a dirty bomb. German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht on Monday dismissed as "outrageous" the Russian claim that Ukraine could use a dirty bomb.

The White House on Monday again underscored that the Russian allegations were false.

"It's just not true. We know it's not true," John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said. "In the past, the Russians have, on occasion. blamed others for things that they were planning to do."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky suggested that Moscow itself Russian troops early in the war.

was setting the stage for deploying a radioactive device on Ukrainian soil.

The country's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, said Monday he has urged the United Nations' nuclear watchdog to immediately send an inspection team to the country to dispel Moscow's claims. The International Atomic Energy Agency said in response that it was preparing "safeguards visits"

The UN Security Council scheduled closed consultations Tuesday at Russia's request on what it claimed was Ukraine's plans for a "dirty bomb."

On the battlefield Monday, his office said at least six civilians were killed and another five were wounded by Russian shelling of several Ukrainian regions over the past 24 hours, including Mykolaiv — where energy facilities were targeted — and the city of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk

Later in the day, the Ukrainian military reported they had "pushed the enemy out of" three villages in the eastern Luhansk region and one in Donetsk. Moscow has not immediately commented on the claim.

Russian authorities said Ukrainian troops fired rockets at the Kakhovka major hydroelectric power plant in the Kherson region. Vladimir Rogov, a senior member of the Russian-installed administration in the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, said the plant hadn't sustained serious damage and continued to operate.

Russia and Ukraine have both accused each other of plotting to blow up the plant's dam to flood the area as Ukrainian forces pressed an offensive on Kherson, which was captured by

## Constitutional reforms are the legal basis of sustainable development

s a result of rapid reforms carried out in the Republic of Uzbekistan in the last 5-6 years, radical changes are taking place in all aspects of the social life of the population. Today, Uzbekistan is taking its proper place in the world community. Most countries in the world openly recognize that the economy of Uzbekistan is developing at a high speed based on market principles, that democratic reforms that meet high standards are being implemented, that great changes are taking place in the social, cultural and educational spheres, and that human dignity Constitutional reforms are the legal basis of sustainable develop-

It goes without saying that a strong legal basis is necessary for the implementation of such rapid reforms. In recent years, a number



ed in Uzbekistan, and a number Constitution. The President of the of changes have been made to a number of laws. But such changes may not be enough to implement reforms more quickly. Therefore, it is natural that there is a need to make changes and additions to the basic law, all laws and other

Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev spoke about this need at the 2021 pre-election meetings.

In the congratulation sent by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the adoption

was expressed about the need to carry out constitutional reforms and its priorities were determined. Later, on the initiative of Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, a section dedicated to the need for constitutional reforms was included in the second edition of the book "New Development Strategy of Uzbekistan". In the pre-election programs of all political parties, opinions were expressed about the need to make a number of changes to the legislation. In order to implement these reforms, the Constitutional Commission was established, and its main tasks are to develop the draft law "On amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and for this, proposals from government bodies, non-governmental organizations, scientists, experts, specialists, and the population to change the main law. It was noted

of the Constitution, an opinion



that it is necessary to collect and develop recommendations. The Legislative Chamber of the

Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted the law on amendments to the Constitution in the first reading. The draft law was submitted for public discussion from June 25 to August 1. More than 150,000 proposals and recommendations to change the Constitution were received during

This is the expression of the

people's sense of relevance to the even if these changes were adoptadoption of the document that is the basis for political reforms. of the general public would have It is very important to take into been taken into account. Because account the opinion of the people when making changes to the Constitution. Because as the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev emphasized, "The people are the creators of the law." Amendments to the current Constitution are introduced by a law adopted by the Legislative Chamber and Senate of the Oliy Majlis or by a referendum of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh.M.Mirziyoyev, proposed to adopt the amendments to the Constitution through a referendum. Naturally, changes are made based on the of highly developed countries. opinion and support of the popu-

the specified period, i.e. more than lation. Every citizen who has the right to vote has the opportunity to express his opinion. Of course, ed by the Parliament, the opinion deputies and senators are people's representatives. Deputies act based on the opinion and wishes of the population of the district they are elected to. But finding a solution to the issue through a referendum is a demonstration of true democratic principles. In this sense, the expression of the will of the people will be a real people's Constitution. Undoubtedly, the constitutional reforms will provide a solid legal basis for the implementation of the tasks set in the New Uzbekistan Strategy, ultimately improving the welfare of the people and joining the country to the ranks Spokesman Report

#### **Bull & Bears** PSX 100-Share

Index Fluctuation			
Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close		
42,190.02	42,347.23		
Day's High	Day's Low:		
42,523.51	42,156.68		
Index Value	Change		
4,797,552,943	-157.21		
Percentage Time			
-0.37%	25 Oct, 2022 5:00 pm		
Europe: FTSE 100 Index			
Index Value	Change		
6,988.84	-25.15		
6,988.84 Percentage	-25.15 <b>Time</b>		
,			
Percentage -0.36%	<b>Time</b> 25 Oct, 3:02 pm		
Percentage -0.36%	<b>Time</b> 25 Oct, 3:02 pm GMT+1		
Percentage -0.36% USA: Dow Jones I	Time 25 Oct, 3:02 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average		
Percentage  -0.36%  USA: Dow Jones I Index Value	Time 25 Oct, 3:02 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change		
Percentage  -0.36%  USA: Dow Jones I Index Value  31,671.83	Time 25 Oct, 3:02 pm GMT+1 ndustrial Average Change +172.21		
Percentage  -0.36%  USA: Dow Jones I Index Value  31,671.83  Percentage  +0.55%	Time  25 Oct, 3:02 pm GMT+1  ndustrial Average Change +172.21 Time  25 Oct, 10:02 am		

#### **Open Market Forex Rates**

+275.38

**Time** 

25 Oct. 3:15 pm

GMT+9

27,250.28

**Percentage** 

+1.02%

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	139.05	140.3
Bahrain Dinar	586.15	590.65
Canadian Dollar	160.83	162.18
China Yuan	30.62	30.87
Danish Krone	29.18	29.53
Euro	218	220
Hong Kong Dollar	28.15	28.5
Indian Rupee	2.67	2.75
Japanese Yen	1.03	1.09
Kuwaiti Dinar	709.97	714.97
Malaysian Ringgit	46.72	47.17
NewZealand \$	125.42	126.62
Norwegians Krone	20.87	21.17
Omani Riyal	572.41	576.91
Qatari Riyal	60.7	61.2
Saudi Riyal	58.5	59.1
Singapore Dollar	155.03	156.33
Swedish Korona	19.72	20.02
Swiss Franc	220.23	221.98
Thai Bhat	5.8	5.9
U.A.E Dirham	61.5	62.1
UK Pound Sterling	250	253
US Dollar	220.8	223

## RTO Rawalpindi seizes non-duty paid cigarettes

ISLAMABAD: Upon receipt of credible information, the Inland Revenue Enforcement Network (IREN) Squad of Regional Tax Office (RTO) Rawalpindi, visited a godown in Jhelum and seized sixty cartons of non-duty paid cigarettes on account of non-production of documents.

The seized cigarettes were of local brands and the cartons contained 0.6 million sticks. The raid involves revenue of Rs.1.26  $\,$ million in FED and Sales Tax. Further investigation in the matter is underway, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad commended the timely action by RTO Rawalpindi, and emphasized the need for maintaining strict vigilance against tax evasion in Tobacco Sector.

The chairman underlined that FBR is committed to control tax evasion and has undertaken various administrative measures in this regard.

'Tax evasion is an illegal activity and the tax evaders will be subjected to criminal charges and substantial penalties to ensure that due taxes are rightfully deposited in the national exchequer for growth of national economy', stated the Chairman. APP

## Turkiye eyes \$5b bilateral trade potential with Pakistan

Ambassador of Turkiye says Pakistan should upgrade its railways system to make it compatible with system of Turkiye

#### **Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye wants to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan to at least US\$ 5 billion in the next 2-3 years as both countries have good potential to further enhance two-way trade volume in many items.

This was said by Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye while talking to a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry that called on him in his office led by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye Embassy was also present at the occasion.

The envoy appreciated the initiative of ICCI for organizing an International Housing Expo in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works and assured that Turkish companies in Pakistan shall participate in the Expo whereas the companies and dignitaries from Turkiye would also be encouraged to join the Expo. Talking about trade through roads and railways, he said that Pakistan should upgrade its railways system to make it compatible with the railways system of Turkiye in order to promote bilateral trade through railways cargo.

He said that trade through the road network



can be cheaper due to low oil prices in Iran. He proposed to form a Committee comprising representatives of all stakeholders from both sides to discuss options and modalities for trade promotion through railways and roads links. He said that Turkive is manufacturing electric vehicles and it can cooperate with Pakistan in

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that despite very cordial relations. Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade is less than US\$ 1 billion, which is not encouraging and both countries should facilitate their private sectors to improve it. He said that cargo ing business and investment relations between shipment takes more than 30 days between Pakistan and Turkiye.

Pakistan and Turkey and stressed the development of efficient road and railway links to reduce the transportation time. He said that ICCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing & Works would organize an international level Housing Expo in Islamabad in December this year and the Embassy should cooperate in inviting investors of the low cost housing sector from Turkiye to participate in the Expo. He said that ICCI intends to organize a Pak-Turk Business Forum in Islamabad to bring Pakistani and Turkish companies at one platform for B2B meetings in order to develop business links in the areas of interest and said that Turkiye embassy should cooperate in inviting Head of MUSAID as a Chief Guest for the event.

Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI said that Turkiye has good expertise in construction field and it should cooperate with Pakistan in this sector.

Zafar Bakhtawari, Shakeel Munir, Rana Qaiser Shehzad, Rizwan Chheena, Zia Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions for further improv-

## Exit from FATF list improves image of Pakistan: Dr. Shahid

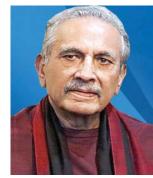
Development will strengthen economy, currency

#### **Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Monday said the removal of Pakistan from FATF's grey list will infuse confidence into the business community and improve the image of the country. The credit for the devel-

opment goes to the civil and military leadership which will boost economic activities and help put the ailing economy back on a sustainable growth path, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the decision would restore the confidence of internation-



attract foreign direct investment, promote exports and improve credit rating.

other donor agencies would al financial institutions, help ing credibility and rating of of all payables.

the local economy to attract foreign investment, he added. The business leader said that the FATF decision would also help in promoting the soft image of the country in all international forums.

Pakistan had borne accumulative financial losses to the tune of \$40 billion since it was put on the grey list and now the removal would attract more export orders from abroad and help in bridging the widening trade deficit.

The move will also help reduce rupee-dollar parity The development will also as well as ease negotiations address the liquidity issues as with IMF and other multilateral donors and creditors feel comfortable while dealing and it will also provide posiwith Pakistan besides improv-tive input for the rescheduling

It is a major setback to India which had always tried to keep Pakistan on the list as now the confidence of investors across the globe will be

Markets are reacting positively to this news and overall sentiment is likely to remain upbeat. In the long run, this should help strengthen Pakistan's case of re-rating and upgrading by the International Credit Rating agencies.

It will also be paving the way for a successful ninth review of the IMF which is due in November 2022 enabling the disbursement of SDR 894 million. Overall, the watershed achievement has far more in store for Pakistan than expected.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khurshid Barlas holds meeting with CDA Chairman Captain (Retd) Muhammad Usman Younis. Executive Member Muhammad Amin ur Rehman, Fahad Barlas Convener Diplomatic Affairs, Shamreez Iqbal EC Member were also present on the occasion. Khursheed Barlas also gave an invitation to Captain (Retd) Muhammad Usman Younis for Pakistan Property Expo.

#### foodpanda, Wasl **Investment Finance to** offer motorcycle financing



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To help address the needs of its delivery riders, country's leading online delivery service foodpanda has teamed up with Wasl Investment Finance Ltd. a non-bank finance company (NBFC), to provide accessible and flexible motorcycle loan options for its rider fleet.

A signing ceremony was held in this regard recently which was attended by senior officials from both organiza-

As per the arrangement, foodpanda riders can now get motorcycles on installments as low as Rs. 999/- per week. For riders' convenience, the process to acquire the new motorcycle is also kept very simple. Any eligible rider can visit a nearby foodpanda pit stop with his valid CNIC and driving license for registration and a new motorcycle is handed over in the next few

The new bikes, in comparison to what the riders are mostly driving, offer significant fuel efficiencies which improve the economics of working as delivery riders. Furthermore, with affordable installment payments, the riders are able to own the asset within 18 months

Speaking about the partnership, Muntaga Peracha Managing Director & CEO foodpanda Pakistan said, Safety and welfare of our delivery heroes is our top priority and partnerships like this will spell convenience and benefits for one of the company's important stakeholdersthe riders.

"We are glad to be working with foodpanda in this project that will benefit and create an impact both financially from the new bike efficiencies as well as improve overall experience for the riders.

Senior Vice Chairman Insurance Association of Pakistan Ehtsham ul Haq giving away life time achievement award to Mian M. A Shahid at a ceremony held by IAP in a local hotel on Tuesday. Muhammad Hisham Chief of IAP north also

## Huawei, NDC and Temenos to help Banks Modernize IT Platforms

Through Innovative Hybrid cloud solutions

#### **Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: At the NDC & Temenos Bank of the Future Forum Huawei attended as a platinum sponsor and debuted hybrid cloud value proposition for banks on Temenos Core banking.

As a strategic partner of Temenos, Huawei's innovative hybrid cloud solutionis well poised to help banks Huawei hybrid cloud provides a certi-Banking.A recent joint benchmark try-standard x86 architecture.

Leading banks are taking cloud transformation as a key IT initiative. The cloud-based IT architecture can (BoFF 2022) held on in which help banks not only transform the core banking, but also other business scenarios including payment, data analytics, compliance, DevOps, and so on. Compliant with SBP regulations, Huawei hybrid cloud provides a basket of solutions including an on-premise private cloud stack, shape a modernized IT platform in-country public cloud and internato support digital transformation. tional public cloud for the local banking customers. To help the banks do fied platform for the deployment of a the cloudification journey, Huawei cloud-native version of Temenos Core hybrid cloud possesses the following capabilities: Certified Cloud Plattesting shows excellent performance form for a Risk Free Core Banking for online transactions using indus- Upgrade. Flexible Hybrid Multi Cloud

Architecture for Local & International Branches to meet the Regulatory Compliance. Modern Distributed Database Architecture for Uncompromised Performance, Scalability and Reliability. Fully compliant with global in for security and data compliance standards.

In this BoFF 2022 event, Huawei CSPO mentioned we need to live in a stable and safe network environment.

In 2022 Oct, Kenya, Huawei also signed a strategic partnership with Temenos to boom the banks cloud transformation in MEA region. This will further enhance the collaboration of the two entities to facilitate the industry development.

"Based on global cloud service capa-



bilities, Huawei empowers agile capabilities that provide 'Everything as a Service' for financial institutions. In

strategic partnership with Temenos, the world-leading banking software company, we provide cloud-native solutions for banks and have deployed our solutions based on Huawei's public cloud in Singapore." said Jason Cao, the President of the Global Financial Services Business Unit of Huawei Enterprise BG, "Huawei will continue to dive deep into the global financial industry, develop the global ecosystem to cooperate with partners, and share our best experiences to accelerate financial transformation with our global clients."

By the end of 2021, Huawei had served over 2,000 financial institutions from more than 60 countries and regions, including 48 of the world's top 100 banks.

# Saad Baig to captain Pakistan U19 against Bangladesh

The two sides will face off in a solitary four-day match, three One-Days (45-over) and two T20s

👺 Bureau Report

LAHORE: Promising wicketkeeper-batter Saad Baig will captain Pakistan U19 in the next month's series against Bangladesh that will be played at Faisalabad's Iqbal Stadium.

The two sides will face off in a solitary four-day match, three One-Days (45-over) and two T20s. The two boards have made the decision to replace the last two one-day matches with T20s to provide an all-round, all-format exposure to teenage cricketers in competitive setting of international cricket.

Sixteen-year-old Saad, who hails from Karachi, has had an impressive 2022-23 season. He was the second best batter in the 50-over National U19 Cup with 299 runs at a staggering average of 99.67 and a strike rate of 109.12.

The left-handed Sindh Blues batter also struck two centuries in four outings with 103 being his highest score of the tournament. Behind the stumps, he was involved in nine dismissals.

In three-day National U19 Championship campaign, Saad scored 200 runs and dismissed 11 batters in six matches.

Captaining Hyderabad Hunters in the Pakistan Junior League, the first

scored 149 runs including one half-century at a strike rate of 121.

Murad Jamali, has been rewarded for nament and best batter of the tournahis phenomenal run in the PJL and the ment awards for smashing 379 runs at els to Faisalabad on 1 November.

of its kind U19 T20 tournament, Saad One-Day and Three-Day tournaments with his selection in all three sides. Basit was the sole centurion of the inaugural Basit Ali, who belongs to Dera PJL and took home player of the tour-

a towering average of 63.17 and sparkling strike rate of 150.40.

The right-hander was the fourth best run-getter in the three-day championship with 323 runs at an average of almost 54 and average 66.67 in the four one-day tournament matches as he piled up 200 runs.

The squads were announced after a meeting of the junior selection committee, which is headed by national men's chief selector Muhammad Wasim.

The players were selected after going through a robust process. In the 2022-23 season, the U19 players featured in a 93-team U19 City Cricket Association tournament held in six Cricket Associations, which was later trimmed to 480 teenage players, that participated in the 24-team U19 Divisional tournament and later the performers of the Divisional tournament took part in the 12-team National U19 tournaments. The performers of the recently-concluded six-team Pakistan Junior League were also considered for selection.

The players will assemble at the National High Performance Centre in Lahore on 26 October for a five-daylong pre-series camp that will run from 27 till 31 October before the squad trav-

Madrid to face tough

Champions League

MADRID: FC Barcelona have a vital

UEFA Champions League game at home

against Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Barca are in third place in Group C,

Viktoria Plzen in a game that kicks off two

Nou, Barca can't finish second, having lost

That means that, for the moment, they

have to prepare for Wednesday's match as

if there is everything to play for, but when

the game begins, all that could be at stake

is a place in the knockout stages of the

1-0 in Milan before drawing 3-3 at home

against Inter a fortnight ago.

hours before Barca's game at the Camp

three points behind Inter Milan, but

if Inter win their home match against

Barca, Atletico

games

## Shahid Afridi sees PJL playing crucial role in Pakistani cricket

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Legendary player Shahid Afridi believes that the Pakistan Junior League (PJL) — an initiative of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) — would play an important role and benefit the sport.

In a column published on the PCB's website, the all-rounder praised the cricket board for organising such a tournament for youngsters.

"The PJL is meant for our future stars, it is a concept come," wrote Afridi.

"The Pakistan Junior adjustments." League was a wonderful since retiring from interna- all-rounder said.



skills development takes place at the age-group level that is visionary and will as that is when you can bear fruits in the years to groom a player and make

erience for me as I final- uting in future PII events with the final on October 91 ly got an opportunity of and as always will remain working with U19 players, available to serve Pakistan the Pakistan Cricket Board being asked to bat first. In something that I had desired cricket in any capacity," the offered me the mentorship reply, Gwadar Sharks were

"The PCB deserves cred-ors. I didn't give it a second overs.

"I have always believed it for coming up with this that the best coaching and unique concept. The success of the first season augurs

tournament." Afridi mentored the the necessary technical Mardan Warriors during Irfan and Mohammad the inaugural season of the "I look forward to contrib- league, which concluded

well for the future of the

role for the Mardan Warri- dismissed for 140 in 15

thought and immediately worked out my schedule to ensure that I remain committed to the two-week tournament window," he

"I joined the team a day before the beginning of the tournament in Lahore, it was a bit of an unknown for me but the moment I met the boys and the team management, I felt at home." Afridi added.

It must be noted that Bahawalpur Royals defeated Gwadar Sharks by 85 runs in front of over 10,000 spectators to clinch the trophy.

Bahawalpur's Shahwaiz Tayyab Arif struck impressive fifties to help their side post the event's highest "I was delighted when total of 225 for three after

#### UEFA Europa League. "There is a minimum amount of hope," commented Barca midfielder Pedri in Spanish sports paper Barca go into the match after 3-0 and 4-0 home wins against Villarreal and Athletic Bilbao, in which they had the

games resolved by halftime. However, they lost Sergi Roberto to injury after he dislocated his shoulder on Sunday, and he joins Ronald Araujo, Andreas Christensen and Memphis Depay on the inju-

Hector Bellerin will probably return at right-back, while any other changes Barca coach Xavi Hernandez makes could depend on the score between Inter and Viktoria Plzen.

Atletico Madrid also have a key match at home against Bayer Leverkusen, as they look to reach the last 16. Atletico are third in their group, two points behind Porto, who visit Club Brugge in another early kick-off. Atletico will have the advantage of knowing Porto's result against a side that has already qualified for the last 16, but if Porto win in Belgium, anything but a win would leave Atletico to battle for a

place in the Europa League. Coach Diego Simeone will almost certainly continue with the in-form Antoine Griezmann and Alvaro Morata in attack against a rival that currently sits 15th in the Bundesliga and continues to ship goals despite the arrival of Xabi Alonso as head coach.

A former Real Madrid player, Alonso can expect a hostile reception in the Metropolitano Stadium. Xinhua

**National Stadium** 

#### Nadal to return at Paris Masters, says coach

 $Moya\,says\,Spaniard\,will\,take\,part$ in next week's event to prepare for season-ending ATP Finals



PARIS: Rafa Nadal will return to competition at next week's Paris Masters before taking his place at the season-ending ATP Finals, coach Carlos Moya said.

Nadal has struggled with injuries this year, capturing his 14th French Open title while playing with pain-killing injections to deal with a chronic foot injury and pulling out of Wimbledon due to an abdominal problem.

Following his defeat to Frances Tiafoe at the US Open in September he said he needed to "fix things" and was unsure about when he would play again.

The Spaniard, who has won a men's record 22 Grand Slam titles, partnered Roger Federer in a doubles match at the Laver Cup last month before pulling out of the tournament. He also took time off for the birth of his first child with wife Mery Perel-

Moya confirmed that Nadal would use the Masters 1000 event in Bercy, which the world number two has never won, as part of his preparations for the ATP's finale in Turin from Nov 13-20.

"Before arriving in Turin, you have to play matches in Paris, which are similar," Moya told IB3 TV. "Rafa is competitive wherever he is and we go with hope and illusion." Reuters

#### After T20 World Cup

#### West Indies head coach Simmons steps down



DUBAI: West Indies head coach Phil Simmons has stepped down following the team's exit from the T20 World Cup in Australia, Cricket West Indies announced on Monday.

Twice champions West Indies suffered a surprise elimination by Ireland with a nine-wicket thrashing in Hobart on Friday, ending bottom of Group B with two points.

"I acknowledge that it's not just the team that is hurting but the proud nations we represent as well," Simmons said. "It's disappointing and heart wrenching but we just didn't turn up. We weren't good enough and we now have to watch a tournament play out without our involvement. It's unfathomable and for that I deeply apologise to our fans and followers.'

West Indies made their earliest exit from the global showpiece since the inaugural 2007 tournament in South Africa. Simmons led West Indies to their second T20 World Cup title in 2016, defeating England at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

His last matches in charge will be the two-test series against Australia from November 30 to December 12. Reuters

## Germany, China shine in first day of 470 sailing World C'ship

JERUSALEM: German pair Luise Wanser and Philipp Autenrieth currently lead the 470 sailing World Championship in Israel after Mondays' first three races.

Sixty teams from 20 countries and regions are competing in the Mediterranean sea, off the coast of Sdot Yam village.

The German duo finished 21st, second, and first in three group races, and after discarding the worst score, they are currently in first place overall with three negative points.

China's Xu Jianyong and Tu Yahan are second after finishing first, 17th, and third in the group races. They are followed by teams from Italy, Japan, and Austria.

On Tuesday, two more races are scheduled.

The 2022 championship includes for the first time mixed pairs only, without separate competitions for men and women. This is against the background of the transition from separate teams to mixed teams in Olympic competition, starting at the 2024 Paris Games. Xinhua

## Pakistan to launch first-of-its-kind pro squash league

Squash Federation (PSF) is PSPL to clash with the Pakigearing up to launch Pakistan stan Super League (PSL), Squash Professional League which will also take place in (PSPL) early next year, which the first quarter of 2023. We will also involve foreign play-Tuesday.

"It will be a first-of-its-kind franchise-based squash league edition will feature six teams with each one of them having March 19. two to three top-notch foreign Captain Zafaryab Iqbal said on Tuesday.

on the modalities of the league and hopefully soon we will be giving them much-needed able to give it a final shape.

We are also looking for a

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan window as we don't want the the way for the country to will launch our league either the PSL," he added.

The eighth edition of PSL, the franchise-based crickin the world. The inaugural et league is scheduled to be staged from February 9 to

According to Zafaryab, the players and as many Pakistan PSPL will help in the developplayers," Secretary PSF, Group ment and growth of Pakistan players. "The PSPL will offer a unique opportunity to our "Currently, we are working young players to rub shoulders with the world's best players, exposure.

We believe it will also pave

regain its lost status in squash," he said. The federation has also vet to decide about the venues of the league matches as the PSF secretary said the ers, a top PSF official said on immediately before or after event could kick-start either from Karachi or Islamabad. However, he said the feder-

ation was considering holding the semifinals and final at Mazar-e-Quaid Karachi and Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore. "Holding these fixtures at the open places of these most popular sites will catch public attention, ultimately paving the way to once again popularize squash in the country."

He said the league would also offer a unique opportunity to the corporate sector to team up with the federation

and help it increase the sport's popularity with a young audience. A successful conduct of the league will prove fruitful for the country. We can find and give chances to the fresh talent, who can excel at the world level."

Zafaryab said the federation was trying to promote squash from the grassroots level to regain the glory and rebuild the country's supremacy in the game internation-

ized at the school and college level to attract youngsters. The budding players are also being trained at our academies in Karachi, Abbottabad, Peshawar and Rawalpindi," he added. APP

"Camps are being organ-

## 'I am not retired', says Serena

American tennis star says chances of her returning to competitive tennis 'very high'

LONDON: Serena Williams on Monday said she has not retired from tennis and that the chances of her returning are "very high" after she previously indicated that she would step away from the sport after last month's US Open.

"I am not retired," Williams said at a conference in San Francisco while promoting her investment company, Serena Ventures.

"The chances (of a return) are very high. You can come to my house, I have a court."

Williams, 41, said she was "evolving away from tennis" in an essay in August and, in New York and waved an tennis world by storm as a



while she did not confirm emotional goodbye after the US Open as her farewell losing in the third round. event, she was given lavish The 23-time Grand Slam tributes before each match champion, who took the

a tournament after the US Open did not feel natural to her. "I still haven't really thought about (retirement)," Williams said. "But I did wake up the

other day and go on the court and (considered) for the first time in my life that I'm not playing for a competition, and it felt really weird. "It was like the first day

of the rest of my life and I'm enjoying it, but I'm still trying to find that balance."

Besides the naming rights agreement, the PCB and NBP will also collaborate and partner on sponsoring initiatives to promote and develop grassroots cricket across the country, including supporting the PCB initiatives of scouting local talent in the rural areas of Pakistan.

**Spokesman Report** 

LAHORE: The Pakistan

Cricket Board and National

Bank of Pakistan have signed

a five-year Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) for

the naming rights of one of

the country's most iconic Test

venues, the National Stadium

in Karachi. As such, the venue

will now be known as the

National Bank Cricket Arena.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "I want to welcome National Bank of Pakistan



having supported Pakistan cricket in the past. NBP again partnering with the PCB is a great news as this reflects that prestigious organisations are willing to be associated with the Pakistan cricket brand as they see a lot of value in it for

NBP earns naming rights for

"Additionally, I am grate-

back in the PCB family after ful to the National Bank of Pakistan for also extending support to the PCB Path-

ways Programme. I have always emphasised on creating processes for the raw talent that can be professionally channelized into the national framework. In this background, this partnership with NBP is a significant movement

in that direction." NBP President & CEO

Rehmat Ali Hasnie: "We are delighted to partner with the Pakistan Cricket Board. The National Stadium, Karachi is one of the most iconic cricket venues in the world and has hosted some of the legends of all eras since Test cricket was first played there. "We are honoured to asso-

ciate with such an incredible cricket venue, our endeavour during the next five years would be to help the PCB further uplift the venue while making contributions to Pakistan cricket across the country at the grass root level simulta-

As per the MoU, the National Bank of Pakistan will be allowed to use the venue nomenclature and signage outside the playing area.