



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

ابو جعفر نے بیان کیا اور ان سے عبد اللہ بن عباس رضی اللہ عنہما نے بیان کیا کہ رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم کی مسجد یعنی مسجد نبوی کے بعد سب سے پہلا مسجد جو بنی گئی مسجد عمیرا تیس سال قائم ہوئی جو نبی کریم کا ایک گاؤں تھا۔ (صحیح بخاری: حدیث نمبر 4371)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

## Masses reject long march: Marriyum

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Friday that the Nation has rejected the call for "bloody march" by refusing to become a slave to the foreign-funded person who violated the constitution. In her tweet in reaction to PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry's tweet, she said that Pakistan's youth could not become the protectors of "the system of Tosha Khana thief, Farah Gogi and Bushra Bibi".



## Rs3.4tr needed for rehab of flood hit areas: Sherry

Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman says a comprehensive strategy for rehabilitation of flood hit areas of the country based on damage assessment report will be ready in a few days for implementation. She said 3.4 trillion rupees are needed for rehabilitation of the flood affected areas. She said that survey report on post disaster damage assessment has been launched in collaboration with the provinces.

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## Pakistan export to China up 2%

BEIJING: Pakistan's export to China crossed US\$2.57 billion in the first nine months of this year, up 2 percent year on year, shows the official data from the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC).

Ghulam Qadir, Commercial Counselor at Pakistan Embassy in China, told China Economic Net (CEN) that Pakistan's exports to China are increasing every month on a yearly basis and the Pakistani government is working hard to increase export to China and reduce the trade deficit to enhance bilateral trade.

"We are working with the Chinese partners to shift some of the strategic and priority sectors and manufacturing facilities to Pakistan. Our main target is to produce products in Pakistan and export to the world", he stated.

According to data from GACC, in the month of September Pakistan's exports to China crossed US\$182.18 million whereas, in the same month last year, it was \$257.47 million which showed the floods hit badly Pakistan's exports worldwide.

Overall, from January to September 2022, China's imports and exports from Pakistan counted US\$ 20.19 billion up 3% year on year while in the same period of 2021 it was US\$19.60 billion, whereas in the month of September Pakistan's exports to China decreased by 29 percent year-on-year, due to heavy monsoon caused floods and COVID-19 which destroyed many sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, and industry.

According to a Pakistani expert, the trade potential volume between Pakistan and China in all sectors is always great and the business community can take benefit from it. Agencies

## Enhancing Training Capacities

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reviewing Parade during his visit to National Police Academy to attend the passing out ceremony of 48th STP of PSP in Islamabad on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Advancing CPEC coop

# PM's China visit to further cement bilateral ties: FO

Says the visit would also help consolidate momentum of CPEC cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is scheduled to visit China next week which, the Foreign Office spokesperson said, would mark the conclusion of MoUs and agreements in the diverse areas and help advance the agenda of bilateral cooperation.

In his weekly press briefing, spokesperson Asim Iftikhar said the visit scheduled on November 1-2, was expected to advance wide-ranging bilateral cooperation agenda in which two sides would review the All-Weather Strategic Cooperation Partnership and exchange views on regional and global developments.

He said the visit would also help consolidate the momentum of CPEC cooperation in wake of the 11th meeting of the CPEC Joint

## Dar, Nong Rong discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of China Nong Rong called on Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad on Friday. The Finance Minister highlighted about the friendly and multi-dimensional historic bilateral ties between Pakistan and China. The Finance Minister shared huge gratitude toward Government of China for providing support to Pakistan in this time of devastated floods. The latest flood losses were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides further discussed about fast-tracking progress on CPEC and exchanged views on further enhancing brotherly relations between both countries. It was also shared that CPEC is a key project and its completion in timely manner is imperative for reaping the lucrative returns.

Cooperation Committee (JCC) held on Thursday, in which both sides expressed satisfaction over the ongoing projects under CPEC while several new projects were also proposed.

The prime minister, who would also be accompanied by Foreign

Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would meet with President Xi Jinping and hold delegation-level talks with Premier Li Keqiang.

He said Prime Minister Shehbaz would be among the first world leaders to visit China after the 20th CPC Congress, and this would be the

prime minister's first official bilateral visit to China.

"I think this visit is going to be another milestone in further strengthening of Pakistan-China relation and our collective vision about the prosperity and development of our two peoples and for Pakistan-China to continue to work together for the peace and stability of the region," spokesperson Asim Iftikhar added.

The spokesperson started his remarks by expressing condolences over the "shocking and untimely" death of prominent journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya and apprised the newsmen how the Foreign Office remained engaged with the Kenyan authorities on the matter.

## PTI long march

# 'Red Zone is our red line', Sana tells Imran

Interior Minister rejects Swati's allegations 'defaming' state institutions

ISLAMABAD: As the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) kicked off its much-hyped long march to the federal capital to force the ruling coalition to call early elections, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Friday warned party chief Imran Khan that Red Zone was government's "red line" which should not be crossed.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Sanaullah threatened that any untoward situation will be dealt with iron hands as no one was above the law.

The minister rebutted PTI leader Azam Khan Swati's allegations regarding his arrest and handing over to security personnel, saying that no medical report has been submitted by him to support his allegations.

He said Azam Khan Swati's

allegations are baseless and will be challenged legally. Condemning the allegations of Swati, Sanaullah said that FIA's case against the PTI leader was lawful, completing all legalities.

He said that Swati remained under FIA's custody throughout the investigation and it was not even demanded by any other institution. "We treated him according to the law during the custody and even medical facility was provided to him properly," he added.

Earlier in the day, Rana Sanaullah, talking to the media after inaugurating the Passport Office at LHC Rawalpindi Bar, warned that those who "attack" the federal capital will be "met with such dire consequences that no one will ever think of committing such an act again". APP

# Govt to equip police with latest gadgets, trainings: PM

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has assured to provide necessary funds to equip police with the latest gadgets and training techniques.

Addressing the passing out parade of the 48th batch of ASP at National Police Academy in Islamabad on Friday, he asked the Interior Secretary to prepare projects in this regard. He stressed there should be a forensic lab in the capital city besides its counter terrorism department should be a role model for the whole country.

The Prime Minister was appreciative of the role played by police in eradication of terrorism and restoration of peace in the country. He said

the police personnel rendered their blood to protect the people from terrorists and criminal elements and their sacrifices will not go in vain.

Shehbaz Sharif said during his tenure as Chief Minister Punjab, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) was established in the province which has become a role model internationally.

The Prime Minister said despite being blessed with all resources, Pakistan lags behind in development. He said we need to learn from past mistakes to secure future of our coming generations.

Alluding to relations with Saudi Arabia and China, the Prime Minister said both the countries have always stood by Pakistan in difficult times.

# UN-pledged right of self-determination an inalienable right of Kashmiris: Masood

Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON: The Pakistan Embassy Thursday organized an event to observe "Kashmir Black Day" at which Ambassador Masood Khan said that Kashmiris' will and the steadfast support of the Pakistani people would continue to sustain the Kashmir movement for justice.

"The right to self-determination is an inalienable right of people of Jammu & Kashmir and no power on earth can deny that fundamental right," Masood Khan told the gathering, which included the President Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, as the Chief Guest, and other Kashmiri leaders — Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai and Dr. Intiaz Khan.

Also present were members of Pak-American community, activists, students and media representatives.

The messages of President Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif were read out on the occasion.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom Wajid Khan, UK's Shadow Justice Minister Afzal Khan, US activist for Kashmir cause, Daniella Khan, Associate Professor of History at Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Dr Ilhan Niaz, and Kashmiri activist Shaista Safi sent video messages.

Speaking on the occasion, President AJK Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry highlighted various efforts that have been made in past to engage the international community and highlight the issue of Kashmir at international level.

He also shared his thoughts about the recent attempts by the Indian government to change the demographic character of the illegally occupied territory of Kashmir.

ly participating in the US political process.

In his remarks, Ambassador Masood Khan presented a historical perspective of the longstanding issue, highlighting the immense sacrifices by the people of Pakistan in their moral, diplomatic and political support for the just Kashmir cause.

Noting continuing inattention that had made Kashmir a blind spot for the international community, he said that the decades-old dispute was a perpetual threat to the peace and stability of the region.

Ambassador Khan urged the people of Kashmir not to lose hope, as "The flame of liberty must continue to burn in your heart."

## US Dollar continues to gain ground against PKR



KARACHI: Pakistan's rupee lost ground against the US dollar on fifth business day of the week in interbank.

According to details, the local currency depreciated by 75 paisa against the greenback which is being traded at Rs222.25. On the other hand, in the open market, the price of the dollar has increased by Rs1, after which the US currency is being traded at Rs226.50 in the open market.

It may be recalled that at the end of trading in the interbank yesterday, the dollar had closed at Rs221.82, the greenback had increased by 82 paisa in the interbank.

On the other hand, in the stock market, stock exchange has lost 242 points, the KSE -100 index is trading at the level of 41 thousand 360 points. APP

# 'Our criticism of establishment constructive', says Imran

PTI chief says march to remain confined to designated areas as Azadi March kicks off in Lahore

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan termed the party's criticism of the military establishment a "constructive one" as he marked the beginning of the PTI's long march with a speech, on Friday.

"Our criticism is for your own good," the ex-premier said while addressing the director general Inter-Services Intelligence Agency, in response to Thursday's press talk.

Speaking to cheering crowds at Liberty Chowk, Imran said that unlike Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif he was "not a runaway who would either sit quietly here [in Pakistan] or criticize the military in London."

"I am not going to leave this country. I will live and die in this country," added the PTI chief. "I want to see a Pakistan that is free, and to have a free country you need a powerful military," he said, adding that, "if your military is weakened then the country loses its freedom."

"So DG ISI sir, when we criticize you, we do constructive criticism; we do it for your own good," said Imran as he noted that "we do not wish to hurt our country."

"And I repeat myself," he continued, "I could say a lot more, I could even



answer you back. But I do not want that the institutions of the country to be weakened."

The PTI chief then named into men who he claimed were military officials and had allegedly torture party leader Azam Swati, who was recently taken into custody by the Federal Investigation Authority's (FIA) cybercrime unit on October 13 for making 'controversial claims' against state institutions, including the army chief.

"First they illegally picked up Azam [Swati], beat him up in front of his grandchildren, then he was handed over to the facilitators" of the military officers, Imran claimed. "He was

stripped naked, he was tortured," added Imran, "before this, Shehbaz Gill was picked up in the same manner."

"I ask you this one question today," Imran said referring to the COAS, "when the ISI commander in Karachi did some injustice and Bilawal Bhutto gave a statement against it, you removed him." "Remove them too" demanded Imran, "remove them both."

"They both are defaming you General Bajwa. When they picked up Azam Swati, what was written in newspapers all over the world? That Pakistan's 75 year-old senator was picked up, suffered custodial torture, all because he tweeted against the military". Agencies

## Boosting ties with US

Islamabad: H.E Mr Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division on Friday.



Photo: PID

Team formed to probe Arshad Sharif's killing leaves for Kenya

ISLAMABAD: A two-member Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) team formed on Friday left for Kenya to investigate and ascertain the fact of senior journalist Arshad Sharif's killing on the foreign land under mysterious circumstances.

The development came days after the government formed a two-member team comprising FIA director Athar Wahid and IB deputy director general Omar Shahid Hamid to ascertain the facts of the journalist's murder.

However, the sources privy to the development revealed the two officials have left for Doha on separate planes. The head of the team, Athar Wahid, flew from Islamabad to Doha via Qatar Airlines flight number 615, while Omar Shahid Hamid left Karachi for Doha.

The team will resume the journey to the East African country from Doha Airport and will set sail for Nairobi. APP

# US vows to enhance bilateral ties with Pakistan

US Ambassador announces additional \$30m humanitarian assistance to support flood victims

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has appreciated the support of the United States for flood relief and mentioned that the US has always been a great support to Pakistan.

He was talking to Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan Donald Blome who called on the Minister in Islamabad on Friday. The Finance Minister expressed the intention of the present government to further augment the bilateral relations between both the countries in fields of economy, investment and trade. The Finance Minister highlighted that both Pakistan and the United States have historic, long-standing, extensive and durable relations. He apprised the US Ambassador about the estimated losses faced by Pakistan due to recently devastated floods.

Donald Blome expressed the same sentiments on bilateral relations between the United States of America and Pakistan. He further informed about his recent visit to flood affected areas in Pakistan and expressed sympathy on the enormous losses caused by floods. He apprised the

Finance Minister on additional flood relief assistance to Pakistan by the US government in this time of crisis.

Earlier, US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome has announced an additional 30 million dollars in humanitarian

Finance Minister Dar appreciated the support of the United States

assistance to support flood-affected populations. According to a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Ambassador Blome made the announcement during a visit in the Shikarpur district of Sindh. The Ambassador also travelled to Makhno village where the flood-affected community is living in emergency shelter kits. This new funding brings the United States' total assistance to Pakistan for flood response, food security and disaster preparedness to 97 million dollars.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for

Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Jorgen C. Arentz Rostrup, Executive VP and Head of Telenor Asia at Finance Division on Friday. Irfan Wahab Khan, CEO Telenor Pakistan and senior officers from finance Division also participated in the meeting. The Telenor delegation briefed the Finance Minister about their business activities and contribution of Telenor in economic development of Pakistan.

Jorgen Rostrup also shared that Telenor Pakistan is proud to serve Pakistan's people and expressed resolve to play its part to support the recovery efforts given the crucial role mobile connectivity plays as the country rebuilds. The Finance Minister appreciated Telenor group's efforts for serving Pakistan through its services and its significant economic contribution in the country and commended the role of telecommunication sector in growth of digital economy of Pakistan. The Finance Minister further apprised the Telenor delegation about the overall economic outlook and shared that with the far-sighted and pragmatic policies of the present government for all sectors including telecommunication, the economy of Pakistan is strengthening.

## PTI MPA Khurram Laghari takes U-turn

MPA assures to stand with party chief Imran Khan amid long march

LAHORE: In a twist of events, PTI's Member of the Provincial Assembly in Punjab Khurram Sohail Khan Laghari has vowed to stand with party Chairman Imran Khan in the long march.

In his latest statement issued after he announced to resign from the party this morning, the MPA said: "Have stood with Imran Khan and Perviz Elahi, and will continue to stand."

Laghari, in his statement, said that he is going to participate in the long march under the leadership of Moonis Elahi. "My convoy is moving ahead to participate in the long march," Laghari said while revealing his plans for his participation.

Earlier Friday morning, the party's lawmaker in Punjab announced to quit the Imran Khan-led party and also made claims about four more members leaving the party ahead of its much-awaited long march. Speaking to a private TV channel, Laghari

claimed that five more MPAs have decided to leave the PTI. We were shown "something else" but "something else" was seen practically, said the MPA.

"It is possible that we might also resign from the assembly," said Laghari, adding that they are likely to resign from the Punjab Assembly in the next three to four days.

Following Laghari's resignation, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry rejected the possibility of PTI MPAs resigning; instead, he hinted at resignations coming from PML-N members.

"The MPAs, whose names were mentioned, have denied quitting PTI," he said, adding that earlier Sheikh Rasheed was rumoured to not participate in the long march, but now he is partaking in it. He further claimed that at this time, PTI will only be left by the faction that doesn't want to continue politics in the future. Agencies

## FIA summons Qureshi over cypher controversy

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Friday summoned former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi as it continues investigations into the diplomatic cable - cypher - controversy.

According to private tv channel, FIA had issued a notice to Qureshi, directing him to report to the FIA Headquarters in Islamabad on November 1, at noon and become a part of the investigation.

Earlier, the FIA launched an inquiry into the diplomatic cable. As part of investigations, it questioned former foreign secretary Sohail Mehmood.

When the cypher inquiry was formally launched last month, the federal cabinet had decided to constitute a special committee on the matter and take legal action over the national security issue, including audio recordings and their leaks and disappearances of official documents while implicating former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan.

The subcommittee, led by Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, had been formed on September 30, to probe the audio leaks in which former prime minister Imran and his then principal secretary Azam Khan can be heard discussing the 'diplomatic cypher' and how to manipulate its



contents for the former's benefit.

Following the direction of the committee, the FIA started probing the matter and summoned former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in this regard.

It is worth mention that government had already approved the recommendations of the subcommittee and ordered the authorities to take legal action against diplomatic cypher, including Imran Khan, Azam Khan and other PTI leaders.

"It is requested that requisite action(s) to implement the decision(s), under rule 24 of the Rules of Business 1973, in coordination with other divisions, where necessary, may please be initiated immediately," read a memorandum issued by the Cabinet Division. Agencies

## PTI's protest only acceptable at allocated place: Kaira

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira said on Friday the government would be having no concerns of the PTI's protest in Islamabad if its leadership could ensure honoring their commitments made with the local administration to hold public gathering at an allocated place.

"The government has reservations on PTI's long march as the track record of Imran Khan shows that he would not fulfill the commitments," he said while talking to a private news channel.

The advisor categorically made it



clear that "If Imran Khan has demanded everything to be of his choice, it would not be fulfilled." He said the aides of Imran would leave the latter's support if there was any law and order situation created during the long march, adding that government would fulfill its responsibility if the marchers

moved against the law.

Kaira said the elections would be held on time and the government would not succumb to the pressure exerted by Imran Khan to announce early elections.

He advised Imran to hold dialogues with the government to settle the issues for political stability in the country.

The advisor said violence in any shape would not be acceptable, adding that institutions were functioning within the domain of the Constitution.

He was of the view that the foreign and economic policies of the incumbent government were going very smooth and in a productive way which were disrupted in the PTI's tenure.

## ECC approves amendment in Import Policy Order 2022

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee of the Cabinet has approved and allowed payment of salary of 1,378 million rupees to be disbursed every month to Pakistan Steel Mills employees through a technical supplementary grant.

This was approved at the meeting of the Committee chaired by Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in Islamabad. The Committee also approved amendment in Import Policy Order 2022 to allow import of the Holy Quran subject to NOC from the relevant Federal or the Provincial Authority.

The ECC also approved electricity

tariff from August and RLNG tariff from July this year for export oriented sectors. The ECC approved summary presented by Ministry of Industries and Production and allowed TCP to proceed ahead with the lowest subject offer received @ US\$ 520/MT for import of 300,000 MT of Urea Fertilizer. TCP floated international tender in this regard on Oct 19, 2022 and same was opened on Oct 26, 2022. Three bidders offered rates. Lowest responsive bid was @ US\$ 520 PMT for 300,000 MT. Ministry of National Food Security & Research tabled a summary regarding permission for the import of 0.80 MMT of wheat through TCP. It was submitted that ECC on 09-05-2022 allowed TCP to

import 3 MMT of wheat and directed to devise import modalities. Modalities were devised and TCP was allowed to import 1.00 MMT of specified milling wheat through international tendering process. Later, public wheat stocks were re-verified by Committee and reported that actual shortfall would be 2.60 MMT, instead of 3 MMT. Therefore, TCP was allowed to import only 0.80 MMT through open tendering as well as through G2G basis out of remaining 1.60 MMT on 06-09-2022. In view of aforementioned, the ECC approved the proposal and allowed TCP to arrange import of the remaining quantity of 0.80 MMT through open tendering or through G2G arrangement, before harvesting of the new crop.

# UNICEF sees more climate disasters in Pakistan after cataclysmic floods

Nearly 10m children need immediate, lifesaving support," UNICEF official says

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: George Laryea-Adjei, regional chief of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for South Asia, said Friday that climate devastation in Pakistan was the ominous precursor of catastrophes to come.

"As the catastrophic climate disaster continues to upend the lives of millions of children in Pakistan, it is the most vulnerable boys and girls who are paying the steepest price," he said in a statement after visiting flood-affected areas across the country.

"The children I have met here have lost everything: loved ones, cherished schoolbooks, the only homes they ever knew, their schools, their sense of security," the UNICEF official said.

Adjei noted that as the flood waters

and the media attention recede, the crisis in Pakistan has become an acute child survival crisis.

"Frail, hungry children are fighting a losing battle against severe acute malnutrition, diarrhoea, malaria, dengue fever, typhoid, acute respiratory infections, and painful skin conditions. As well as physical ailments, the longer the crisis continues, the greater the risk to children's mental health."

"Nearly 10 million children need immediate, lifesaving support. Hundreds have already lost their lives. Over 1 in 9 children here suffer from severe acute malnutrition — a life-threatening condition. Panic-stricken parents are searching for food to bring even a simple meal home to their children."

"In a camp in Sohbatpur, Balochistan, I met Farida, who had

fled her beloved home with her five children when the floods struck. She was worried sick about her one-year-old daughter, Rasheeda, who was visibly frail and weakened by acute malnutrition."

"Their story is one among millions. As winter looms, boys and girls crammed inside flimsy tents, when they are lucky enough to have one, will continue to succumb to diseases which in normal times are preventable and treatable."

He said that the boys and girls of Pakistan desperately need "our support to survive" and yet the international appeal for the country remains severely underfunded.

Hundreds more children will lose their lives in the coming weeks if international support does not come in to scale up interventions, he said, adding:



"But this story of climate devastation is not only the story of Pakistan."

"In 2022 alone, climate-induced

floods have ravaged Pakistan, Bangladesh, northern India and Afghanistan, leaving over 15 million boys and girls in

need of assistance. Extreme heatwaves have scorched the crowded cities of the region, with temperatures climbing up to 48 degrees."

Urgent steps

Glaciers have continued to melt in Pakistan and Bhutan, while landslides in Nepal have swept away children's homes and rising sea levels continue to threaten the very existence of Maldives, he noted.

The UNICEF official said children have played no part in creating the climate catastrophe in South Asia, yet they are the ones paying the biggest price.

This climate catastrophe is threatening the health, well-being, and the very survival of over 616 million boys and girls who call this region their home, he noted.

# Flood damages, economic losses over \$30 billion

*And reconstruction needs over \$16 billion: new assessment*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: A damage, loss, and needs assessment following the unprecedented floods in Pakistan calls for 'building back better', based on the principles of the poor first, transparency, inclusion, and climate resilience. The assessment estimates total damages to exceed USD 14.9 billion, and total economic losses to reach about USD 15.2 billion. Estimated needs for rehabilitation and reconstruction in a resilient way are at least USD 16.3 billion, not including much needed new investments beyond the affected assets, to support Pakistan's adaptation to climate change and overall resilience of the country to future climate shocks.

Housing; Agriculture and Livestock; and Transport and Communications sectors suffered the most significant damage, at USD 5.6 billion, USD 3.7 billion, and USD 3.3 billion, respectively.

Sindh is the worst affected province with close to 70 percent of total damages and losses, followed by Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Punjab.

The Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives led the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA), which was conducted jointly with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the European Union (EU), the United Nations agencies with technical facilitation by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank. The PDNA, in addition to estimating damages, economic losses and recovery and reconstruction needs, also assesses broader macro-economic and human impacts and recommends principles along which to develop a comprehensive recovery and reconstruction framework.

The floods affected 33 million people and more than 1730 lost their lives. They are particularly

impacting the poorest and most vulnerable districts. The situation is still evolving, with flood waters stagnant in many areas, causing water-borne and vector-borne diseases to spread, and more than 8 million displaced people now facing a health crisis. The crisis thus risks having profound and lasting impacts on lives and livelihoods. Loss of household incomes, assets, rising food prices, and disease outbreaks are impacting the most vulnerable groups. Women have suffered notable losses of their livelihoods, particularly those associated with agriculture and livestock.

The PDNA Human Impact Assessment highlights that the national poverty rate may increase by 3.7 to 4.0 percentage points, potentially pushing between 8.4 and 9.1 million more people below the poverty line.

Multidimensional poverty can potentially increase by 5.9 percentage points, implying that

an additional 1.9 million households are at risk of being pushed into non-monetary poverty.

Compounding the existing economic difficulties facing the country, the 2022 floods are

**Post-disaster needs assessment calls for urgent support to implement a recovery and reconstruction that 'Builds Back Better'**

expected to have a significant adverse impact on output, which will vary substantially by region and sector. Loss in gross domestic product (GDP) as a direct impact of the floods is projected to be around 2.2 percent of FY22 GDP. The agriculture sector is projected to contract

the most, at 0.9 percent of GDP. The damage and losses in agriculture will have spillover effects on the industry, external trade and services sectors.

The Government is providing immediate relief to the impacted communities and supporting the early recovery, while aiming to ensure macroeconomic stability and fiscal sustainability. Moving forward, as recovery and reconstruction spending rises, the loss in output could be mitigated. Yet, significant international support will be needed to complement Pakistan's own commitment to increase domestic revenue mobilization and save scarce public resources, and to reduce the risk of exacerbating macroeconomic imbalances.

Although the early loss and damage estimates may increase as the situation is continuously evolving on the ground, the PDNA lays the groundwork for an agenda for recovery and reconstruction that is designed to build back a better future for the most affected people in Pakistan. While the recovery will require massive efforts for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, buildings and livelihoods, it will also be an opportunity to strengthen institutions and governance structures.

The report puts forth recommendations for developing a comprehensive recovery framework. While the primary focus will be on the affected areas, such framework presents an opportunity to embed systemic resilience to natural hazards and climate change in Pakistan's overall development planning. This tragic disaster can be a turning point, where climate resilience and adaptation, increased domestic revenue mobilization and better public spending, and public policies and investments better targeted to the most vulnerable populations; all figure at the core

of policy making going forward.

In the short term, targeted mechanisms such as social assistance and emergency cash transfers, provision of emergency health services, and programs to restore shelter and restart local economic activities, particularly in agriculture, should be prioritized. Reconstruction and rehabilitation should rest on key principles: participatory; transparent; inclusive; and green recovery for long-term resilience—"building back better"; pro-poor; pro-vulnerable, and gender sensitive, targeting the most affected; strong coordination of government tiers and implementation by the lowest appropriate level; synergies between humanitarian effort and recovery; and a sustainable financing plan.

Given Pakistan's limited fiscal resources, significant international support and private investment will be essential for a comprehensive and resilient recovery.

## Power Show

LAHORE: Supporters of PTI are participating during Long March Rally at Liberty Chowk, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## GSP Plus status holds significant importance for Pak economy: EU envoy

*EU Ambassador Dr. Riina Kionka visits PTEA Faisalabad*

**Mian Rashid Asghar.**

FAISALABAD: The EU Ambassador to Pakistan Dr. Riina Kionka has said that EU-Pakistan relations have a strategic engagement which covers all the areas including counter terrorism, trade, climate change, GSP Plus status and various others. GSP Plus status holds significant importance for Pakistan's economy as it has played vital role in expansion of multilateral trade.

She was speaking at a meeting at the Pakistan Textile Exporters Association (PTEA) here on Thursday. She said that the GSP Plus scheme is going to end next year and a mission is preparing final report of the last 10-year which will be discussed in Brussels and EU Parliament. These two bodies will decide about the continuation of the scheme. Pakistan will have to re-apply for the GSP Plus Status and the decision will be taken by the EU Parliament in 4 to 5 months. During this period of application, Pakistan will be enjoying all facilities under GSP Plus status, she added.

She informed that the continuity of GSP Plus is subjected to ratification of more 5 to 6 new conventions related to environment and social standards including the remaining 27. She said that



existing GSP plus scheme is confined to textile sector which should be spread to the other sectors as well. Talking about the recent floods, she said that it is a difficult time for Pakistan as floods played havoc. EU member countries have extended assistance in this regard and distributed aid in several flood-affected areas. Pakistan needs to develop infrastructure in order to curtail the loss if catastrophe-like situation born in future, she added.

Earlier, PTEA's Patron-in-Chief Khuram Mukhtar extended deepest gratitude to the European Union on taking extreme measures to support Pakistan's economy and extending financial assistance as well as in-kind assistance for flood relief efforts. Terming GSP Plus as major turnaround, he said that duty free access has not only enhanced Pakistan's market share but exports to EU have also jumped by 86% from €3.56 billion in 2013 to €6.64 billion in 2021.

## Langu reviews law, order situation in Balochistan

**Our Correspondent**

QUETTA: Adviser to Chief Minister Balochistan for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Ziaullah Langu on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review law and order situation to maintain durable peace in the province.

A detailed briefing on the situation in the presence of Additional IG Salman was given at the meeting.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Quetta Division Sohailur Rehman, DIG Quetta Asfar Mesar, DG Levies Qadir Bakhsh Pirkami, DIG Special Branch Shahab Azim Lahri and other relevant senior officials, while Commissioner Makran, Commissioner Kalat, Commissioner Rukhsan Division participated through video link.

The participants of the meeting agreed that all the institutions would play a more important role in preventing crimes, all necessary measures should be taken for protection because activities against national interest could never be allowed.

In the meeting, the Adviser directed that no one would be allowed to disturb the daily routine of the people due to mutual conflicts in the province and ordered to conduct a campaign throughout the province to arrest the proclaimed offenders of serious crimes.

He said that the protection of people's lives and property was his top priority. He also instructed the concerned officials to submit a weekly report regarding the arrest of wanted accused.

I am regularly reviewing the peace and security situation, he said adding that the role of the police on the mutual dispute was commendable and action should be taken against the criminals under the policy of zero tolerance.

Mr. Ziaullah gave necessary instructions to the concerned authorities to maintain the atmosphere of public order in the province saying that according to the vision of Chief Minister Balochistan, the establishment of law and order situation in all areas of the province and the protection of life and property of the people was our first priority.

## Govt committed to resolve problems of UMC: AJK PM

*Ulema and Mushaikh Council delegation met with AJK PM Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan*

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: A delegation of eminent Ulema and Mushaikh Council of Azad Kashmir led by its chairman Allama Imtiaz Ahmed Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan here on Friday.

Speaking on this occasion, the Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that Ulema have a key role in the promotion of tolerance and inter-ethnic harmony in Azad Kashmir.

He said that the establishment of a welfare state was the incumbent government top priority. The basic objective of the establishment of Rahmat-ul-lilaalameen Authority in Azad Kashmir was to promote the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) so that the society can be transformed into an Islamic welfare society.

On this occasion, Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan also assured the visiting delegation of his government's full support and said that the government would utilize all available resources to resolve problems of the council.

The visiting delegation also thanked the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir for his support and assistance. They also appreciated the PM for resolving the problems of the refugees, increasing the amount of zakat and dowry funds and other pro-people initiatives of his government.

## Sindh Legal Advisory call center established



**Pir Bux Noonari**

TANGWANI: The Sindh Legal Advisory Call Center which has been established by the Government of Sindh to provide legal assistance to the weak and destitute is a gift from the Government of Sindh to the people of the country.

According to the annual report of July 2021 to June 2022, 44828 calls have been received in the call center, which were considered to be more than 600 cities, towns and rural areas. Those who were more related to Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur and Shaheed Benazirabad were further told that a team of 24 expert lawyers of the High Courts are present in the call center from 9 am to 5 pm to solve the problems of the citizens in a legal way. After the call itself, the concerned person is contacted by phone or message through the recording.

On this occasion, Kashmir District Information Department officials informed the public that citizens from all over the country can call the helpline 080070806 and get legal advice on any matter. He said that under Public Private Partnership by the Government of Sindh, such advisory institutions are no less than a boon for the public. Communicates with government agencies. Trained staff in the call center receive call messages and provide assistance in resolving these issues

## CCPO reviews security arrangements of long march

LAHORE: CCPO Lahore Additional IG Ghulam Mahmood Dogar on Friday visited different points of the city to review security arrangements of PTI long march.

DIG Operations Afzal Ahmed Kausar, SPs, SDPOs, District Administration and Lahore Police officers accompanied the CCPO Lahore.

The CCPO Lahore checked the security duty at various points including Liberty Chowk, Ferozepur Road, Kalma Chowk, Ichhra and Qartaba Chowk. He reviewed the security arrangements on the long march route and metro bus track. He directed that the deputed officers and personnel should be extremely alert and keep close eye on the suspects. APP

## Long march to fizzle out in a week: Talal Ch

FAISALABAD: Former state minister and central leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Muhammad Talal Chaudhry said on Friday that long march was actually a 'Muafi march' (Forgive me march), which would fizzle out within a week.

Addressing a press conference here, he said that so-called long would prove to be a political gala, which would end till next Friday without producing any results. "The long-march means a continuous march, but Imran Khan's march will be held with intervals," he added.

He criticized the Punjab government and said that it had failed to serve people of the province.

Its performance was restricted to 50 processions and a long march of Imran Khan. He said that official sources were being utilised to make the long march successful. APP

## Solidarity with the Kashmiris

# Black Day observed in Wana

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: Provincial Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Deputy Commissioner Ashfaq Ahmed Khan in the light of special instructions in solidarity with Kashmiris and against India in the tribal district of Lower Waziristan, Youth Affairs Department/ Youth Office with the support of district administration observed Black Day

the district administration and tribal elders observed Black Day in solidarity with the Kashmiri people and



against the illegal and inhumane action of India.

The district administration along with the tribal elders took out a rally in which Assistant Commissioner Wana

Yasir Salman Kundi, Additional Assistant Commissioner Wana Dr. Sadiq Ali, District Youth Officer Sardar Ali Wazir including tribal elders, and all the staff of the district admin-

istration participated

They strongly condemned the illegal intervention of Indian forces in Kashmir and demanded the United Nations that the illegal occupation of Kashmir by India to oppress innocent Kashmiris and usurp their rights should be stopped.

On this occasion, the tribal elders said that Kashmiris should be given the right to self-determination and the atrocities on them should be stopped immediately at the end of the rally, prayers were offered for the people of Kashmir.



Islamabad

23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES****Namaz Timings**

Fajr	4:59 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:41 pm
Maghrib	5:20 pm
Isha	6:44 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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PIA Flight Info	114
PIA Cargo	9280979
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CAA	9281092

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MH	561116
Cantt Hospital	9270907-11
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PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

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CDA	9221334-43
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Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5773343

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G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8, 9203883	
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 9266316	
Wapda Islamabad	9217579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249

**foodpanda holds Road Safety Awareness session with ICT Traffic Police**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Keeping up with its commitment of prioritizing the safety and well-being of its fleet, foodpanda recently organized a road safety awareness session for its riders, which was conducted by the ICT Traffic Police. The session was followed by a talk from the SSP ICT Traffic Police Dr Mustafa Tanveer. The training aimed at ensuring that all riders strictly follow the traffic rules and drive with more responsibility and care, not only for their own safety but also for the safety of all drivers and pedestrians on the roads.

# Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with Kazakhstan

## Kazakhstan Ambassador calls on Amir Muqam

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan on Friday called on Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs and National Heritage and Culture Engr Amir Muqam to discuss matters of mutual interests.

The Adviser remarked that Pakistan attaches great significance to its relations with Kazakhstan which share mutual vision of regional cooperation, says a press release issued here. He said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan were enjoying friendly and brotherly relationship and a lot of potential existed to further enhance it between the two brotherly nations.

Engr Amir Muqam said that business communities of both countries should promote trade and investment by exploring opportunities to further



enhance trade relations.

He further stated that Kazakhstan was the largest landlocked country in the world and was the biggest economy in Central Asia, hence, the potential for cooperation and development

between both nations was enormous. He emphasized the importance of relations in the field of culture and possible collaboration between the two countries.

While appreciating the Adviser for warm reception,

the Ambassador expressed solidarity with flood affected of Pakistan. He lauded friendly ties between the two brotherly nations and assured of future collaboration in diverse sectors including cultural exchanges.

# Sultan seeks world community's role to resolve Kashmir dispute

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry has urged the world's influential governments in particular the United States of America to use their influence to help resolve the unsettled Kashmir dispute to ensure peace and stability in South Asia.

While addressing a protest demonstration in front of the Indian Embassy in Washington DC, the AJK president said that the illegal occupation of Kashmir by India was the biggest threat to regional peace. He said that in view of the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian held territory there was a dire need that the UN Secretary General should send his special envoy to Kashmir to assess the situation on the ground in the IoK.

Urging the US president Joe Biden to pay heed to the

former US president Barack Obama's clarion call, Barrister Sultan said, "Former US President Barack Obama called Kashmir a dangerous region of the world during his tenure and emphasized on the early settlement of the Kashmir issue."

Referring to persecution of minorities in India, he said that under Modi India was fast turning into a fascist state where there is no place for religious minorities. "Muslims, Christians, Dalits are suffering at the hands of an RSS influenced regime that is hell bent on turning India into a Hindu Rashtra", he said, adding Gandhi's so called largest democracy and secular state has virtually been taken over by the Hindu extremist elements who call shots on the ground.

Urging the UN to play its legal and moral responsibilities vis-à-vis the resolution of the Kashmir dispute, the President said that besides expressing solidarity with the people of Occupied Kashmir

the purpose of today's protest was to remind the world community of its moral obligations towards Kashmir.

"We demand that the international community should stop India from violating human rights in Occupied Kashmir and play its role in resolving the Kashmir issue and granting the Kashmiri people their right to self-determination", he said.

The protest demonstrations was also addressed by prominent Kashmiri intellectual and rights activist Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Former Member Kashmir Council Sardar Sawar Khan, Syed Aftab Shah, Dr. Ghulam Nabi Mir, Miss Seemab Shafiq, Nargis Mughal and others. It is worth mentioning here that the protest, which was organized to mark 75 years of India's illegal occupation of Kashmir, was attended by members of Pakistani and Kashmiri overseas communities settled in different parts of America.

# Palestine condemns Israel's ongoing, escalating aggression

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The State of Palestine condemns in the strongest terms Israel's ongoing and escalating aggression against the Palestinian people and the intensification of targeted killings of Palestinians, including the targeted killing of five Palestinians in Nablus and one in Nabi Saleh overnight. These demonstrate a long-standing and declared policy of brutality entrenching its illegal colonial occupation by way of persecution and apartheid.

The Palestinian people will not acquiesce to Israel's unbridled subjugation nor relent in their legitimate fight for dignity, justice, and independence. We will continue to protect our homes, our lands, our families, and ensure our rightful existence as a nation in our homeland.

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court must carry out his duties and employ all available tools to deter Israeli crimes, investigate them, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Equally, Member States of the United Nations, including members of the Security Council, must uphold their obligations and implement its resolutions and provide protection for the Palestinian people.

# High Commission for Pakistan in Dhaka observes 'Kashmir Black Day'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: High Commission for Pakistan, Dhaka organized an event last evening in the Chancery to observe "Kashmir Black Day." Members of Pakistani community, academics, and local journalists attended the event.

Messages of the President, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan were read out on the occasion. In their messages, President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi and Prime Minister of Pakistan Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif paid tributes to brave Kashmiri people for their unwavering struggle

against India's illegal occupation and atrocities.

In his message, Foreign Minister Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressing solidarity with the people of IIOJK, reiterated Pakistan's abiding commitment to the Kashmir cause until the resolution of the dispute according to the UN Security Council resolutions and aspirations of the Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

Mr. Zafar Bangash, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Islamic Thought and founding member and convener of "Friends of Kashmir, Canada" while speaking on the legal and historical perspective of the Kashmir



dispute stated that October 27th "will be remembered in the history as the day of infamy" when India forcibly and illegally landed its troops in the state of Jammu & Kashmir 75 years ago.

Karen Rodman, a human rights advocate, and Executive Director of "Just Peace Advocates" also spoke about the humanitarian aspects of the conflict and

alerted against the demographic changes committed by the Indian government.

High Commissioner, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui in his concluding remarks reiterated the message of the leadership of Pakistan and reaffirmed Pakistan's continued to support to the people of IIOJK in their just struggle for self-determination. He emphasized the need for international community and organizations to play their role in stopping the ongoing atrocities and human rights violations in IIOJK and resolve the lingering Kashmir dispute as per the UN Security Council resolutions and wishes of Kashmiri people.

**'Have a heart!'**

# President reprimands ANF over denial to blind candidate to appear in exam

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has taken a strong exception to the denial of opportunity to a blind person, who had applied for the post of Assistant (BS-15) in the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF).

The candidate was barred from taking the examination by the invigilator on the ground that he was blind and was unable to perform the duties of the Assistant.

"We need to make a special effort for differently-abled people to make them part of our society and enable them to earn their livelihood. However, through such acts, we will make them a social burden on the nation. Have a heart!", the President as he decided on a representation filed by complainant Suleman Arshad against a decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib.

The president termed the premature denial of the opportunity to take the examination by ANF's staff "an act of

maladministration" and remanded the case to the Wafaqi Mohtasib to hear it afresh on merit with the direction to decide the matter within 30 days.

He termed the attitude of ANF's staff as "reprehensible and smacked of an ignorance bias".

He added that there was no rule to reject a person, that too by an invigilator who was supposed to only conduct the examination, without affording him the opportunity to show his skill or giving him a hearing.

The president said that the ANF's stance that a blind man would require an additional person for the discharge of his functions and that the complainant was not fit for the Secretariat nature job was rooted in ignorance. He stated that the agency had prematurely denied the complainant the opportunity without referring the case to the Medical Board to examine him physically and determine the fitness of the complainant for the post of Assistant.

Dr Alvi said that he had given Presidential Awards to

blind people who had performed excellently, adding that there were hundreds of cases of visually impaired Pakistanis who had done exceptional work even internationally. He particularly mentioned that Yousaf Saleem, a visually impaired lawyer, became Pakistan's first blind judge in 2018, and Saima Saleem made headlines on making Pakistan proud when she addressed the UN General Assembly with a strong speech in support of the right of Kashmiris to self-determination.

"All cameras were on her as she sat behind the Pakistan nameplate and read her address written in Braille", he noted. He also mentioned that there were food outlets in Karachi and Islamabad which were being run totally by visually impaired people and that he had been personally served at these outlets and had found the service to be excellent.

The president noted that ANF's act was in total disregard to human rights, adding that Pakistan was a signatory to many international charters and treaties against discrimi-

nation of all sorts, including gender and disabilities.

In his decision, the President said that these basic aspects were not considered and heard by the Wafaqi Mohtasib, thus, the case was remanded back to it for a fresh hearing and deciding on merit.

As per details, Suleman Arshad had applied for the post of Assistant in ANF against its advertisement published on 29.11.2020. According to him, on the test day, after arriving at the venue, the concerned officer of the ANF had not allowed him to appear in the examination with the remarks that he was blind and unable to perform the duties of the Assistant. Feeling aggrieved, he approached WM who passed the order to close the matter stating that the functions of Assistant could not be performed by a blind person and that the complainant had listened to the arguments of ANF's representative and had failed to rebut them. Afterward, Arshad filed a representation with the President, who asked Mohtasib to hear the matter afresh on merit.

## Health Corner

### Experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 associated with poorer mental health



ISLAMABAD: Having symptoms of COVID-19 has been associated with worse mental health and lower life satisfaction.

The study, which is part of the COVID-19 Longitudinal Health and Wellbeing National Core Study, is published today in The Lancet Psychiatry. The

study is led by researchers from King's College London and University College London in collaboration with several UK institutions. The study looked at the impact of COVID-19 infection on subsequent mental health and wellbeing.

Data was taken from 11 longitudinal studies between April 2020 and April 2021, in which there were 54,442 participants with and without self-reported COVID-19.

Researchers found that rises in psychological distress, depression, anxiety, and lower life satisfaction were associated with prior self-reported COVID-19. The associations with poorer mental health did not lessen over time after infection, highlighting the potential enduring impacts of the disease and the need for a longer follow-up process from healthcare providers.

Self-reported COVID-19 was consistently associated with psychological distress, regardless of whether people tested positive for antibodies to the virus. These effects of infection were felt similarly in different groups of gender, ethnicity and socio-economic circumstances.

The study suggests that the infection of COVID-19 might impact mental health most in older people as people with self-reported infection aged 50 years and older showed a stronger association with poorer mental health. This might reflect that older people are more likely to experience more severe COVID-19 symptoms, greater worry around infection, and increased risk of blood vessel (microvascular) or brain (neurological) changes after infection. This contrasts to the effect of the pandemic overall on mental health, where previous studies have shown that women and adults aged 25-44 have had the greatest adverse impacts.

Joint first author Dr Ellen Thompson from King's College London said: "These findings suggest that there were prolonged mental health consequences of COVID-19 infection for some people at the beginning of this pandemic. Understanding why this is the case will be key to finding treatment strategies for those affected as well as preventing such effects in future pandemic waves."

Senior author Prof Praveetha Patalay from University College London said: "This study brings together many of the UK's longitudinal studies to provide a comprehensive overview of the impacts of COVID-19 infection on population mental health. Compared to most studies to-date that have focussed on more severe and hospitalised cases, this study demonstrates the impact of infection during a pandemic on overall population mental health and wellbeing."

Courtesy: Science Daily

## AIOU organizes seminar on Seerat Studies

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University's Sirat-ul-Nabi Chair (Peace Be Upon Him) held a seminar on the topic of "Impact of the work of Sirat Study in the Indian Subcontinent on Turkish Sirat-Study". Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, Chairman, Iqbal Chair presided while, Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Sajid ur Rahman, Chairman Seerat Chair hosted the seminar. A distinguished scholar from Istanbul, Turkey, Dr. Abdulhamit Birisik was the keynote speaker. Muhammad Rafiq Tahir, in charge Centre of Excellence, Prof. Dr. Mohiuddin Hashmi Dean, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, and other faculty members also attended the seminar. Dr. Abdulhamit Birisik explained in detail the history of the dominance of western thought in Turkey. He said that during the dark ages, religious education was prohibited, which led to a decline in biography works.

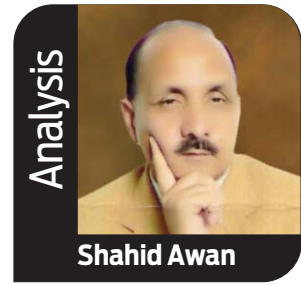
He said that with the arrival of the new generation, the chapter of the establishment of the Islamic Empire in Turkey was opened, major centers for the publication of Islamic sciences established and the work of publishing the hadith was started again.

He described in detail the services of other biographers like Allama Shibli Naumani, Syed Sulaiman Nadvi and Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadvi. Dr. Abdulhamit Birisik expressed the desire for cooperation in the work regarding the Prophet's biography to enhance and strengthen the intellectual friendship between Turkey and Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Sajid ur Rahman, while giving a detailed introduction to the Turkish professor, said that Dr. Abdulhamit Birisik is the undeclared ambassador of Pakistan in Turkey, who has a close eye on the Prophet's biography. He said that our biographers have worked on all aspects of the Holy Prophet in their own style. Professor Fateh Muhammad Malik said that there is Ayub Ansari commonly known as Ansari sahab in Istanbul and Data Sahib in Lahore, in this sense, there is no significant difference in the intellectual thought of the people of Pakistan and Turkey.

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# CM Pervez Ellahi Vision



Analysis  
**Shahid Awan**

did it provide vehicles and also banned recruitment. Now when Parvez Ellahi took over the position of CM again, he first of all put two vehicles in each tehsil in 1122 and highlighted the importance of this department. Similarly, social security hospitals were established for industrial workers, while these hospitals were closed during the previous PTI era. If Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi had remained the chief minister for five more years, I can say with certainty that he would have made Punjab an ideal province and it would have stood on its own feet and the province would not have needed to ask for funds from the federal government.

The tragedy of Pakistani politics is that politicians looking behind the wall have always been kept away from power, due to which public projects could not be completed in Pakistan. Whenever the Chaudhary Brothers of Gujrat came to power in Punjab, they gave public projects to the people of Punjab. Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi's high abilities and bright vision will always be remembered in the Politics of Punjab. When he was the Chief Minister of Punjab during the period of General Musharraf, he worked immensely on public projects regarding health in Punjab, especially in South Punjab. provided free books, free education up to matriculation, established institutions for special children and above all implemented the grand plan of 1122 which now other provinces are forced to copy. The previous government did not take any significant steps to make this institution more active, neither

to bring justice to the people at their doorsteps and availability of administrative officers is of great importance. With this decision, facilities will be available to millions of people near their areas, thereby saving time rather all the facilities of the division will be available to the people in their own area. The adjoining areas of Gujrat division are also very happy with this decision which has also strengthened the Chaudhary family politically. This demand was repeated by the people of Gujrat district for many years, which was accepted by Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi. Carrying forward this lofty thought and vision, Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi has received great political recognition by giving the status of a district to the very big tehsil of Punjab 'Talagang' from where he has been contesting elections for many times, now he has made Talagang a district. This dream has been fulfilled by accepting a long-standing demand of the people there. Apart from this, he has added other two tehsils of Punjab, Murri and Kotli Satian to Kohistan district, while former Chief Minister of Punjab Usman Buzdar's hometown, Tonsa Sharif and Kot Addo have also been included in the ranks of new districts. Wazirabad has been made a district and attached to Gujrat Division. On October 20, 2022, the Chief Minister was invited to

Talagang Jalsa in which thousands of people participated and gave a great welcome to their benefactor. On this occasion, the young MPA and founder of Talagang District Hafiz Ammar Yasir hosted him. Overseeing all the arrangements is a young political activist who has been trained politically by Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi as his younger sons Rasikh Ellahi and Ammar Yasir are also close friends and Parvez Ellahi considers him as his own son. Ammar Yasir is a man of great abilities, he spends from his pocket and actively participates in welfare works. Adnan Anjum Raja, the young and active assistant commissioner of Talagang, managed the said jalsa very well and made it successful. In which he was assisted by rising young politician Roman Malik and his younger brother Saad Malik. Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi thanked the local politicians and people of Talagang and Lawa on his arrival, where he accepted all the demands proposed by the founder of Talagang District Ammar Yasir and in his address he announced the construction of a grand mosque named as 'Khatm e Nabuwat' in which thousands of people will be able to offer prayers at a time. He also announced the creation of an industrial zone at Multan Khurd, which will be a tax-free zone for ten years to encourage industrialists to set up industries in remote and underdeveloped areas instead of big cities. It will not take long to develop. He also promised to build roads to reach industrial establishments. The Chief Minister also announced the construction of dams at Taman and Lawa for the fertility of the farmers and the region. District complex and DHQ hospital will also be constructed in Talagang, thousands of local people will get employment opportunities, while engineering university and medical college will also be established in Talagang, slums will be owned and rights will be given. It was also announced to convert the existing primary health centers in Talagang and Lawa into rural health centers. These are all the projects that will not only provide employment to thousands of people, but the region will also develop. Due to this vision of Chief Minister Parvez Ellahi, other districts of Punjab will also get equal rights. In the Talagang jalsa, the Chief Minister has also promised to make Talagang a division by creating one more district in this area in the future, which will pave the way for the establishment of Pothohar Province. In this context, our friend Malik Amriza Haider has been leading the Pothohar movement for the past thirty years and has been repeating the demand of the province. Chaudhary Parvez Ellahi is the politician of Punjab who has a vision to provide facilities to the people in their near-

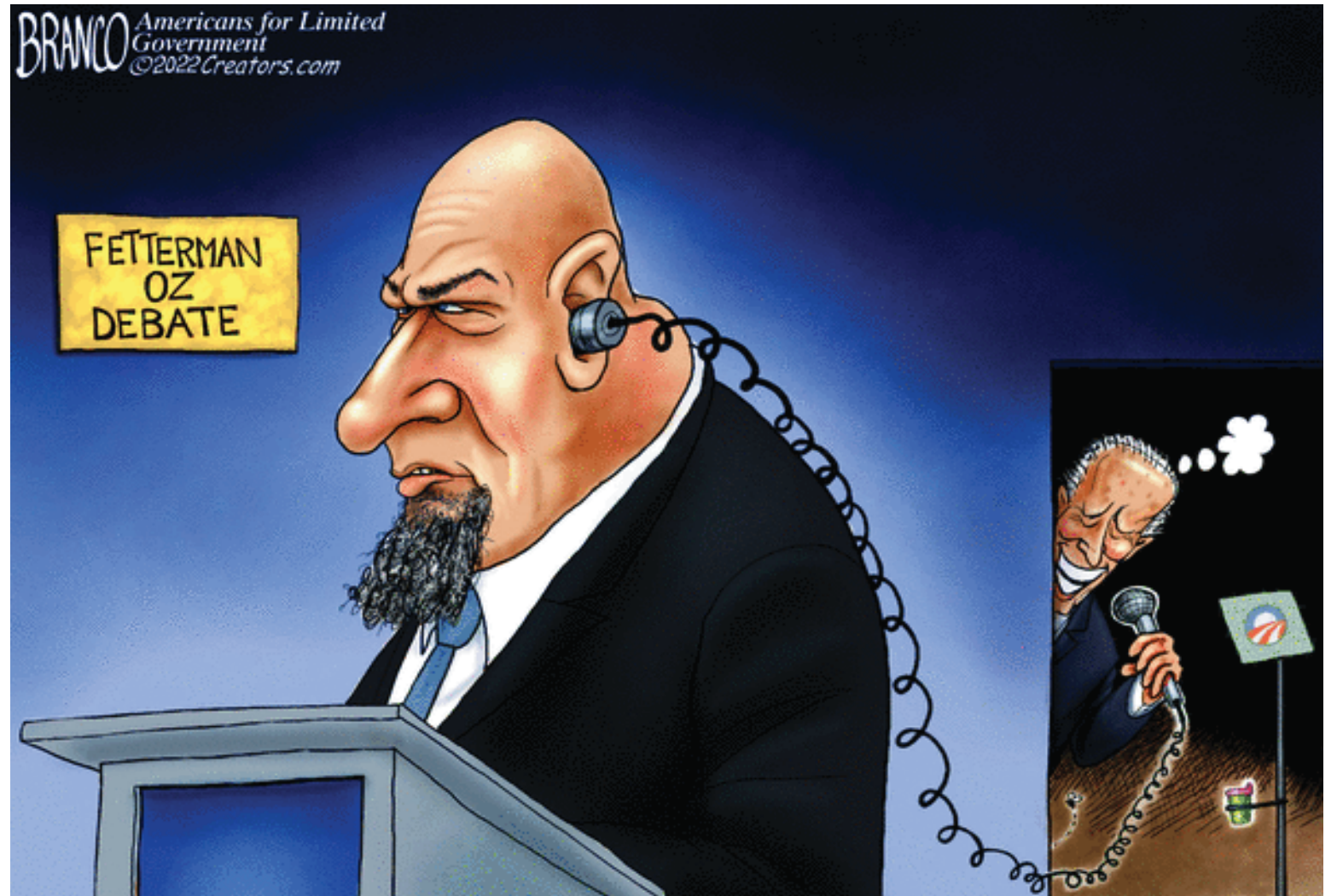
## Reinvigoration of CPEC by incumbent govt laudable

Basically ML-1 is the strategic and national project of Pakistan as it is the logistic line of the country. The important thing is that we have to be very careful about how to develop this mega project. China, being the friend of Pakistan, has once again expressed willingness to invest in this mega project but most importantly Pakistan needs to prioritize its national interests. If the right negotiations on ML-1 project are taking place at the right cost, then this project will benefit Pakistan to a great extent. The project is the most significant one to revamp the major railway tracks in the country, with a view to reviving the sagging railways infrastructure and putting it back on track to achieve its past glory. The goal of this project is to sharply improve the country's transportation system.

It is a welcoming step taken by both China and Pakistan to execute the ML-1 project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor on a priority basis. This project will connect the entire country through a railway network. ML-1 project will not only improve the connectivity but will also minimize the travelling time as well. If we look at the overall perspective of China Pakistan Economic Corridor, the main focus is on the connectivity either by road, rail or through sea. Another welcoming decision taken in the Joint Coordination Committee is to address the issue of climate change and water resource management. Pakistan has been the worst victim of climate change. Short-term, medium-term and long-term plans need to be executed in order to overcome these issues.

The meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee of China Pakistan Economic Corridor was held after a long time. But the good thing is that both the countries have agreed to re-energize the projects that were delayed due to some reasons. Another positive development is that it has also been decided to include a new area of water resource management and climate change in the portfolio of CPEC. No doubt, ML-1 is a big project aimed to improve the connectivity through the railway network. Special Economic Zones are the hallmark of CPEC. Two economic zones will be established in each province and one in Gilgit-Baltistan. These SEZs can be considered as the source of rapid industrial growth in developing countries. These areas will change the destiny of the region by bringing in employment opportunities.

For China, this represents stability as Xi Jinping has once again been re-elected as Secretary General of Communist Party of China. Pakistan and China have deep rooted and durable friendship and this development will further cement it. During the leadership of Xi Jinping, the friendship between the two countries strengthened when China invested billions of dollars into Pakistan through China Pakistan Economic Corridor. China is a great civilization and President Xi is following the great Chinese traditions of wisdom and sagacity. He has proven by his policies and actions that he believes in meaningful growth and cohesion and cooperation with other countries.



## Turkiye-Glorious Past & Shining Future

Turkiye marks its 99th anniversary this year. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk declared Türkiye as a republic on October 29, 1923, after the war of independence against allied powers resulted in abolishing the Sultanate on November 1, 1922. And then Turkish parliament proclaimed the foundation of the republic of Turkey on October 29, 1923, formally ending the Ottoman Empire.

Turkiye is a country that never ceases to enchant with its long and rich history, which has seen civilizations, empires, diverse ethnicities and religions. From ancient sites that defy historical truths or the world's second-oldest railway. In fact, Turkiye has a lot more to offer than just delicious food, lively marketplaces and of course Turkiye is one of the most visited countries in the world.

Turkiye is a country with 85million people and 700billion US \$ plus GDP growing as the 19th-largest economy in the world. Turkiye pursued ambitious reforms and enjoyed high growth rates between 2002 and 2017 that propelled the country to the higher reaches of upper-middle-income status

and reduced poverty. The share of people below the US\$5.50 per day poverty line fell by three quarters to 8.5 percent between 2002 and 2018. It is a fact that Turkiye's geography and membership in NATO have long given the country an influential voice in foreign policy.

The Turkiye President Erdogan has been trying to gather international muscle around the idea of reviving the Muslim Ummah, which other Islamic states like Pakistan and Malaysia have actively supported. At the UN General Assembly Erdogan raked up the issue of Kashmir and criticised the international community for not paying attention to the issue. This speech came just a month after the Indian government in 2019 revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Even before the Second World War, Turkey became a respected, modern and independent nation, no longer the "sick man of Europe", able to give its educated elites at least, a feeling of "equality" with the citizens of the most advanced

parts of the world. Turkey was not a colony. Turkey was not dominated by others. Turkey was respected and controlled its own destiny. Turkey participated in a "world civilization" which had succeeded in producing scientific, technological and economic progress, but it was not dominated by the countries who had been leading technological progress.

The world faces new, tremendous, global challenges. From climate change, to restoring solid and sustainable economic growth, from world trade and finance, to

safety from terrorism or nuclear proliferation or to the control of infectious disease, many of the most difficult problems require strong global cooperation. In this day and age, nothing can be achieved any more by sheer force or be imposed from outside on other societies. Young people everywhere, however, are looking across borders, for examples of what works, what can bring happiness, freedom and prosperity. The next decade will not

be an easy one, for Turkey, for the United States or for the World. We will have to work hard, whether our activities are primarily economic, political, civil society oriented or academic.

I do hope and trust however, that many of us, in 2023, will be able to celebrate, wherever we may be at the time, as citizens of, or friends of Turkiye, a 21st century republic and democracy, that looks forward, while cherishing the A word about Turkiye & Pakistan, the countries share historical Islamic ties, as the Muslims living under the British Raj deemed the Ottoman Sultan as their Caliph, and the Caliph of Islam and all Muslims.

As a result, Pakistan and Pakistanis have enjoyed a positive perception in Turkiye and amongst Turks for many decades, best features of its past. Turkiye was in the first few countries of the world who soon after independence officially recognized Pakistan and this year is also the 75th Anniversary of Pak-Turkiye Diplomatic Relations. Long live Pakistan-Turkiye Friendship.

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Analysis  
**Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani**

## China offers new path to modernization

**Victor Meijers**

Europe's modernization has been ongoing for decades, even centuries. However, European modernization, like the United States' modernization, has focused on economics, economics and... economics. The entire concept of the European Union is an economic market.

The predecessors of the EU were based upon the principle that a sound economy will bring peace and prosperity to all. Hence, all of their energy was focused on the economy, with the expectation that citizens would do the same.

In my country, the Netherlands, people are coming to realize that their leaders were more interested in pumping out natural gas in a remote province than in the safety of the simple people living there. To most people's surprise, the CEOs of giant corporations such as Shell and Exxon Mobil, as well as top Dutch politicians, including the Netherlands prime minister, were not too concerned about earthquakes in the region.

The public-private joint venture company that split the profits from this natural gas — 90 percent to the Dutch state and 10 percent to Shell and Exxon Mobil — considerably increased the volume of gas to be extracted after the first serious earthquake. This was despite very clear warnings from experts that the volume should be reduced, not increased, to prevent quakes.

China is already a top-tier country and may soon be the No 1 country in many economic and financial respects. It is smart to learn from the mistakes made by others. It is also smart to publicly discuss national strategies, which in a way happened at the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. People should be made aware of the direction the country is taking. A top-tier position in the world should not be taken for granted, even though in China's case this ranking is nothing new when looking back the past millennia.

The most interesting circumstance for me is that Europeans carried out their modernization as developed countries. China is making the change from a developing country to a developed country at the same time as addressing modernization.

Because of this, China is able to skip some in-between phases. It has been at the forefront of mobile phone development and use, because many consumers have jumped straight from no phones to smartphones, skipping land lines. Therefore, it is natural for them to use WeChat for everything, including financial transactions.

Europe's in-between phase of modernization can be described as an "economic reality" phase. The economic reality phase shows that more stakeholders in society need to be considered rather than only those providing capital. This phase was probably necessary after brutal capitalist phases in the 18th and 19th centuries.

At that time, Europeans even sold people into slavery to make profits. Now, slowly, Europeans are starting to think about the importance of harmony with nature and common prosperity, as well as transferring some riches from the Global North to the Global South. It can be a big leap for China if it focuses on objectives, rather than economics, in its modernization policy.

The opportunity here is to skip the economic reality phase. China's history and culture are different from Europe's. Europeans today are caught in the trap of economic percentages, like a small shopkeeper unable to think bigger. Of course, economic growth is important as a means to achieve goals. But the economy is not the ultimate objective. The well-being of the people, social stability, respect for nature and Chinese traditions, good relations with other countries, rule of law as well as vigilantly safeguarding its top-tier position are the right goals that China has set.

The author, a foreign exchange scholar at Tsinghua University from 2012 to 2015, is a civil law notary at The Hague. Courtesy: China.org.cn

# King Charles at COP27 to be 'very powerful,' monarch not planning to attend: Kerry

### US climate envoy Kerry says British monarch's credibility and leadership on environmental issues would make a difference

LONDON: It would be "very powerful" if King Charles attended the COP27 climate summit in Egypt, US special climate envoy John Kerry said, adding that the British monarch's credibility and leadership on environmental issues would make a difference.

Charles, who became king last month following the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth, spoke at the opening ceremony of the 2021 summit in Glasgow, which he described as a "last chance saloon" to save the world from climate change.

Earlier this month a royal source said Buckingham Palace had sought government advice about the summit and it was unanimously agreed it would not be right for Charles to visit in person. The Sunday Times newspaper reported at the time he had been told not to go by then prime minister Liz Truss.

A spokeswoman for new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on Friday



she was not aware the advice provided under the previous government had changed and Sunak's office has said he will not be attending.

On Thursday, Sunak's office confirmed the new British prime minister would not be attending the summit next month so he could focus on domestic issues and a major fiscal

statement.

"I think it's very helpful to have leaders of countries be in Sharm el-Sheikh, representative leaders whether it is the government or monarchy, I think it would be terrific," Kerry told Sky News late on Thursday when asked if the king's presence would help proceedings.

"I know that his being there would make a difference ... because he has credibility, because he has been a long-term leader," said Kerry, US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate.

Sunak said on Friday he was proud of the government's record on tackling climate change and Britain had shown leadership on the issue, but he was focused on domestic issues ahead of a major fiscal statement next month.

"I'm very personally committed to it, and I just think at the moment it is right that I am also focusing on the pressing domestic challenges we have with the economy," he told reporters.

Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer criticized Sunak's decision.

"Many people would be expecting the prime minister of the UK not just to attend COP but to use it as an opportunity to pull world leaders together," he said. "If that doesn't happen it's a failure of leadership." Reuters

## UNSC renews mandate of UN mission for Western Sahara



NEW YORK: The picture shows a UN Security Council meeting at the UN headquarters in New York. The UN Security Council on Thursday adopted a resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for another year, till Oct. 31, 2023. Xinhua

NEW YORK: The UN Security Council adopted a resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for another year, till Oct. 31, 2023.

Resolution 2654 won the support of 13 of the 15 members of the Security Council. Kenya and Russian abstained from voting.

The resolution emphasizes the need to achieve a realistic, practicable, enduring and mutually acceptable political solution to the question of Western Sahara based on compromise.

It calls upon the parties to resume negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary-general without preconditions and in good faith, and to demonstrate political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to advance negotiations.

Western Sahara was partitioned between Morocco and Mauritania at the end of Spain's colonial rule in 1976. When Mauritania, under pressure from Polisario guerrillas, abandoned all claims to its portion in August 1979, Morocco moved to occupy that sector and has since asserted administrative control over the whole territory. Fighting broke out between Morocco and the Polisario Front, which is fighting for the independence of Western Sahara.

A cease-fire was signed in 1991. MINURSO was deployed that year to monitor the cease-fire and to organize, if possible, a referendum on self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Xinhua

## N. Korea fires two short-range ballistic missiles into the sea

SEOUL: North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles (SRBMs) off its east coast on Friday, South Korea's military said, while wrapping up nearly two weeks of major drills aimed at deterring its neighbor.

The launch, at a time of growing fears that North Korea is readying for its first nuclear test since 2017, was the latest in a record year of tests, whether of short-range missiles, intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), or others.

The SRBMs were fired from the Tongcheon area of Gangwon province, on North Korea's east coast, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, four days after the neighbors exchanged warning shots off the west coast amid rising tension.

"Our military is maintaining full readiness posture," the JCS said in a statement, adding that it had stepped up monitoring and security while co-ordinating closely with the United States.

South Korean troops were set on Friday to finish the 12-day Hoguek 22 field exercises, which have included some drills with US troops, while South Korean and US aircraft are due to begin major drills on Monday. Reuters/Agencies

## Dead body found at Frankfurt airport in aircraft from Tehran

BERLIN: A dead body was found in the undercarriage of a Lufthansa aircraft that arrived at Frankfurt airport from Tehran on Thursday, German daily Bild reported.

The discovery was made by workers after the passengers of flight LH 601 had left the aircraft and the A340 had been moved to a hangar for maintenance. The same flight scheduled for Friday has been canceled, according to Lufthansa's website.

Lufthansa and federal police declined to comment. Frankfurt police was not immediately available for comment.

The incident comes amid widespread unrest in Iran, ignited by the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was detained by the Islamic Republic's morality police for "improper attire" and died in police custody. Reuters

### Security threats

## US diplomats' families told to leave Nigeria

WASHINGTON: The State Department on Thursday ordered the families of US embassy staffers in the Nigerian capital to leave due to heightened fears of a terrorist attack as it repeated a warning for all Americans to reconsider traveling to any part of the country and not to visit Abuja at all.

The announcement came just two days after the department said it would allow nonessential personnel at the embassy in Abuja to depart voluntarily due to elevated security concerns. It did not provide details but the change suggested the US has indications that an attack may be imminent. "The department (has) ordered the departure of family members of US government employees from Abuja due to the heightened risk of terrorist attacks there," it said in a revised travel advisory for Nigeria. AP

# Xi stresses striving in unity to fulfill goals set by Party congress

YAN'AN, SHAANXI: Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee stressed promoting the great founding spirit of the Party and the spirit of Yan'an, and striving in unity to fulfill the goals and tasks set by the 20th CPC National Congress.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, led Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Li Xi, members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, in a trip to Yan'an, an old revolutionary base in northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

The first stop for Xi and the other leaders on Thursday was the site of the Seventh National Congress of the CPC.

The congress held in 1945 is of milestone significance in the history of the CPC, marking the Party's becoming more mature politically, ideologically and in terms of its organization, Xi said.

Politically, the entire Party



was united under the banner of Mao Zedong, and ideologically, the guiding role of Mao Zedong Thought for the whole Party was established and Mao Zedong Thought was incorporated into the Party Constitution, Xi said.

Their next stop was former residences of Mao Zedong and other revolutionaries of the older generation. Comparing the revolutionary sites in Yan'an to a book worth reading forever, Xi said that they served as witnesses to the glorious journey of the

Party in leading the Chinese revolution and exploring ways to adapt Marxism to the Chinese context and the needs of the times during the Yan'an period.

A guide gave an introduction about how the well-known revolutionary song "The East is Red" was written and became popular.

Such songs extolling the Party and Chairman Mao were all created by the people spontaneously, which showed clearly that the people chose Mao Zedong and he enjoyed

their support, Xi said. Thereafter, Xi and the other leaders arrived by vehicle at the Yan'an Revolutionary Memorial Hall to visit an exhibition on the 13 years of the CPC Central Committee in Yan'an.

From 1935 to 1948, the Shaanxi-Gansu-Ningxia Border Region, of which Yan'an was the center, was the seat of the CPC Central Committee. It served as the center of political guidance in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression, and the general rear area of the Chinese people's struggle for liberation.

In an important speech delivered after visiting the exhibition, Xi hailed Yan'an as a holy site of the Chinese revolution and the cradle of New China. He noted that it was in Yan'an that the Party's Central Committee and veteran revolutionaries, including Mao Zedong, led China's revolutionary cause from a low point into an upsurge, reached a historical turning point, and transformed the prospects of the country.

# 31 killed as storm lashes southern Philippines

### The storm unleashed flash floods carrying uprooted trees, rocks & mud overnight

COTABATO, PHILIPPINES: Cotabato, Philippines, Oct 28, 2022 Agence France Presse: Landslides and flooding killed 31 people as heavy rain from an approaching storm lashed the southern Philippines, a disaster official said Friday.

The storm unleashed flash floods carrying uprooted trees, rocks and mud overnight in mainly rural communities around Cotabato, a city of 300,000 people on Mindanao island.

Many residents were caught by surprise by the rapidly rising floodwa-

ters, Naguib Sinarimbo, the spokesman and civil defense chief for the regional government, told AFP.

"The water started entering the houses before dawn," Sinarimbo said, confirming that the death toll in the storm-hit areas had risen to 31 from the earlier tally of 13.

Rescuers retrieved 16 bodies from Datu Odin Sinsuat, 10 from Datu Blah Sinsuat and five from Upi town, he told reporters.

Teams in rubber boats had to rescue some residents from rooftops, Sina-

rimbo added.

Local filmmaker Remar Pablo told AFP he was shooting a beauty pageant in the town of Upi when the floodwaters suddenly came in after midnight and forced audience members to flee for safety.

A row of cars sat half-submerged on the street outside, his clips showed.

"We were stranded inside," said Pablo, who eventually waded into the water to get home.

Rescuers carried a baby in a plastic tub as they waded through chest-deep water, a

# Inflation vs abortion: two issues at play in US midterms

TRENTON: At a pizzeria along a noisy Ohio highway, Matt Kruse and his family have come to hear J.D. Vance, a Republican Senate candidate who has seized on soaring inflation as the pillar of his campaign.

Kruse, holding a daughter in his arms, is an eager listener, already angry about "runaway inflation." The message he wants the US midterm elections to send to Democrats is clear: "Stop spending money."

An hour's drive away, the tone is different: a dark minivan cruises slowly along a suburban street, looking for a specific house number. "This has to be 800," says Amy Cox, who gets out to hang a flyer on the front door.

Back behind the wheel, with a dog Toby sitting by the handbrake, the Democratic candidate for state office explains she is campaigning

for what moves her — abortion — because for many women "their rights are way more important than inflation."

With the approach of elections seen by both parties as hugely consequential, one issue is overwhelming all others: soaring prices.

And in the residential towns of Ohio, where Halloween pumpkins and election signs are numerous, Republicans are trying to exploit this theme to rally voters — while Democrats, determined to defend abortion rights, tend to dodge it.

To buy food for one's family, "Now, you're spending on one trip \$350, \$400, you know, for a family of four," says Kruse, a short-haired man who works in law enforcement. "In the past, it was costing you under 200 bucks."

"When they talk about abortion or whatever like that, that doesn't affect everybody. Inflation affects

every single person," Kruse adds.

That is particularly true in Ohio, gateway to the agricultural Midwest, where "a majority... are middle-class working people."

Until recently Ohio was America's premier electoral bellwether, holding up a political mirror to the vast nation as the state voted for every presidential winner since 1960.

But that bell was unringing in 2020 when Donald Trump won the state decisively while losing the White House to Democrat Joe Biden — and experts have predicted Ohio will continue tilting rightward.

That dynamic could well benefit J.D. Vance, one of many Republicans pinning blame for cost-of-living woes squarely on Biden.

"The inflation that we're going through right now in this country is a tax on the middle class," Vance

hammers out in Mt. Orab, where Kruse and his family came to hear him.

In 2020, Brown County surrounding Mt. Orab voted 78 percent for Trump, who is supporting Vance in one of the country's most-watched duels.

In jeans and white shirt, the 38-year-old bemoans the soaring price of eggs — "it's crazy" — while 30 or so curious sympathizers and local voters nod in agreement.

Vance makes sure to recall his own humble origins, which he recounted in his best-selling 2016 memoir, "Hillbilly Elegy."

"We have got to get back to a country where people like my mamaw can go to the grocery store without completely breaking the bank," he says.

"If the Democrats keep printing money... it's gonna get worse and we have to stop that," said Angela



Marlow, an annoyed tone to her voice. "We've got to get our financial house in order."

The 58-year-old mother of nine said she believes the state of the economy is pushing voters to cast ballots for Republicans.

Inflation is close to a 40-year high and by far the top concern for American voters.

But the Supreme Court's June

ruling reversing a constitutional right to abortion has also shaken the country, women in particular.

So it is with cold anger that Cox, a 44-year-old mushroom farmer, campaigns along autumn-colored tree-lined roads in Trenton, near the Indiana border.

A cap on her head, Cox paces across a yard and knocks on a door. An elderly woman opens,

and Cox hands her a leaflet bearing her name and that of Tim Ryan, a Democratic congressman vying with Vance for Ohio's open Senate seat.

"Are you going to vote on election day?" Cox asks.

"I vote at every election," the woman responds, sending Cox into a short spiel: "We're all about higher wages, better health care, better education for our kids, safer communities, and taking care of people — especially women."

The first point in her campaign flyer: a defense of abortion rights.

Cox climbs back into her van, joining Melissa VanDyke, who is also a candidate for the Ohio House of Representatives but from a neighboring district.

"I don't campaign on inflation, no, because we don't call it inflation. We call it corporate greed," VanDyke says. AFP

**RCCI concerns on termination of gas connection**

**Our Correspondent**

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has expressed concern over the notification of termination of gas connection and forced transfer to RLNG by Sui Northern Gas for commercial customers and demanded that it be withdrawn.

RCCI President Saqib Rafiq in a statement said that more than three thousand commercial consumers of Rawalpindi-Islamabad will be affected by the notification.

President Chamber said that it is very alarming that connections are being terminated with only five days' notice, without any consultation with stakeholders and orders have been issued to remove gas meters from November 1.

All cafes, bakeries, milk-shops, tea stalls, canteens, barber shops, laundries, hotels, malls, places of entertainment like cinemas, clubs, theatres, and private offices, corporate firms, owners of tandors etc will be affected if SNGPL suspends supply of indigenous gas to them, he added.

He said that traders are already suffering due to inflation and economic slowdown, the stoves of thousands of families will go off due to the said notification, he said. He demanded that the government in consultation with the stakeholders should devise a comprehensive plan for gas distribution in winters.

Appealing to State Minister for Petroleum Musadik Malik and MD Sui Northern, he demanded that the notification be withdrawn and old connections be restored for commercial users.

As per notification, SNGPL is now offering RLNG to such commercial consumers only who sign the RLNG supply contract prior to October 31, 2022. Indigenous gas supply to all commercial consumers will be disconnected; therefore, commercial consumers are requested to sign the contract before October 31, 2022 in order to ensure continuity of gas supply on RLNG tariff.

**FFC announces Q3 results for year 2022**

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) has announced its financial results for the period ended September 30, 2022 in its Board of Directors' meeting.

Company's Sona urea production of 1,808 thousand tonnes was 3% lower than last year mainly due to higher maintenance shutdown of plants during the period. Higher import prices of DAP resulted in contraction of DAP market thus the agriculture sector switched to urea. Urea demand in the Country thus increased as compared to last year. The increase in demand was met through higher production by RLNG based plants besides imports by the Government, which increased the competition in the industry. However, concerted marketing efforts enabled Sona urea sale by the Company of 1,795 thousand tonnes which was only 1% lower than last year. The Company achieved sales revenue of Rs.79.18 billion compared to Rs.73.59 billion last year.

The imposition of super tax of around Rs. 4.69 billion over and above the normal tax liability, combined with higher finance cost due to higher interest rates further impacted negatively on Company's profitability. Improved income on deposits and increased payout by the group companies led to other income of Rs. 10.28 billion compared to Rs. 5.92 billion last year. The Company was thus able to arrest the decline in profitability to Rs. 14.84 billion with an EPS of 11.67, which was only 7% lower than last year. The profitability in terms of US\$ was registered at USD 75 million compared to USD 101 million last year.

**BOP's total assets improved to Rs1,309.5b**

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: A meeting of the Board of Directors of The Bank of Punjab was held on Friday to consider and approve the un-audited Financial Statements for the 1st nine months of year ended on September 30, 2022.

The Board reviewed Bank's financial performance and expressed its satisfaction over results achieved during 1st nine months of year 2022. Despite very challenging economic conditions and tough operating environment, the Bank has shown improvement in all facets of operations.

Bank's Total Assets as at September 30, 2022 improved to Rs. 1,309.5 billion as against Rs. 1,197.0 billion as of December 31, 2021. The Deposits of the Bank also improved to Rs. 1,040.5 billion as against Rs. 1,003.0 billion as on December 31, 2021. Investments and Gross Advances were recorded at Rs. 576.2 billion and Rs. 598.4 billion, respectively. Equity improved to Rs. 64.4 billion and Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) stood at 14.14% against regulatory requirement of 11.50%. Whereas, Leverage Ratio stood at 3.89% as against requirement of 3.00%.

**PM to address key issues of business community: Hanif Abbasi**

*Says Saudi Arabia has shown interest to invest \$30b in Pakistan, which would boost our economy*

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Former SAPM Hanif Abbasi said that he would arrange a meeting of ICCI delegation with the Prime Minister Mian Shahbaz Sharif to resolve the key issues of the business community including the establishment of a new industrial estate in the region and the representation of ICCI in the CDA board.

He said this while addressing as Chief Guest a dinner reception hosted by the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry to pay tribute to his role in de-sealing of the Centaurus Mall, which was attended by a large number of business community of the twin cities.

Hanif Abbasi thanked the Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah for solving this issue.

He said that Saudi Arabia has shown interest to invest US\$ 30 billion in Pakistan, which would boost our economy. He said that the government is working to reduce energy cost to facilitate the growth of business activities. He said that he will take up the issue of gas shortage for commercial consumers with the government. He emphasized that the business community should maintain unity in its ranks and assured that he will continue to raise his voice to protect



the interests of traders in future as well. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry paid tribute to former SAPM Hanif Abbasi for his great efforts in resolving the issue of Centaurus Mall and said that the business community of the region is grateful to him for this favour. He said that Hanif Abbasi has always raised his voice for the rights of traders, which is laudable. He said that

the trend of constructing high rise buildings in the Capital is on the rise and stressed that the CDA should arrange fire tenders for them to deal with any emergency situation. He said that SNGPL has issued notices to suspend natural gas supply to commercial consumers for three months in winter and they are being asked to switch to LNG gas which is very expensive. He said LNG will increase manifold the cost of doing business and badly hit many businesses

including the hotels and restaurants. He urged that the government should review its decision and address this issue in consultation with the stakeholders.

Group leader Khalid Iqbal Malik said that Hanif Abbasi has done a great job by solving an important issue, which has created positive feelings about the government in the business community of the twin cities. He lauded the efforts of the government for providing quality transport to the citizens of Islamabad as it will solve an old issue of the citizens and greatly facilitate their travelling.

Former MNA Anjum Aqeel Khan, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saqib Rafique, ICCI former Presidents Khalid Javed, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi and Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders President Tariq Jadoo, All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajirani President Ajmal Baloch, Markazi Tanzeem-e-Tajirani President Kashif Chaudhry, Rawalpindi Chamber of Small Traders Group Leader Malik Shahid Ghafoor Paracha and Islamabad Goods Transport Association Group Leader Chaudhry Wajid Ayub and Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI also spoke at the occasion and lauded the services of Hanif Abbasi for the traders.

**Gas shortage issue could not be solved in two decades**

*Rich benefiting from the gas subsidy, says Mian Zahid Hussain*

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said the problem of gas shortage in the country has not been solved in the last twenty years.

Despite the continuous increase in the price of gas, the losses of this sector have increased to eighteen percent and shortfall, as well as theft and other losses, are increasing, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that mismanagement in this important sector is on the rise due to which the current winter will prove to be worst for the people and the business community.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the circular debt of the gas sector will soon cross the milestone of one trillion rupees. He said that the situation of discovery of new gas reserves in the country is disappointing, plans to import gas from Iran and Turkmenistan are stalled,



while LNG purchases have become impossible as international suppliers are focused on European due to profits.

Pakistan cannot compete with EU nations to get LNG which is resulting in a crisis. Mian Zahid Hussain said that with the increasing population and industrial activities, the demand for gas in the country is also increasing, which is more than six billion cubic feet per day, while the production is only four billion cubic feet per day,

thus Pakistan needs additional two billion cubic feet gas per day.

Despite the shortage of gas, new gas connections are being given on political grounds compounding the problem. He said that in order to reduce the mismanagement in the gas sector, the supply of subsidized gas to the inefficient industrial units should be stopped while domestic, commercial, and industrial consumers should be immediately shifted to solar, wind, and LPG to improve the situation.

If gas is given only to efficient power plants and industrial units, other factories will be forced to improve their systems while the subsidy burden on the taxpayers will also be reduced, he remarked. The business leader noted that the rich are benefiting more from the subsidy on domestic gas as the poor mostly use LPG. It is also important to consider the unpopular option of price revisions to reduce domestic gas consumption. Unless the gas sector is reformed through tough and out-of-the-box decisions, the problems of the public and the business community cannot be resolved.

**Global crisis exposes weaknesses in the energy, food sector**

*Atif Ikram Sheikh says Pakistan should revisit policies to remain afloat*

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Friday said following the war between Russia and Ukraine, the global crisis has exposed weaknesses in the energy and food sector. Pakistan should revisit policies to remain afloat otherwise it will face unprecedented consequences, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that majority of the people in the world are spending a good part of their income to provide energy and food to their families. He said that the energy crisis in Pakistan is not the result of the current global situation but the result of decades of indifference and it cannot be resolved overnight.

He said that the dysfunctional power



sector is the root cause of all the problems

which continue to deprive 35 percent of the population of grid electricity while 65 percent have been facing loadshedding. The business leader said that Pakistan satisfies 32 percent of energy demand through imported oil which is the biggest hurdle in ample power generation. He said that circular debt is enough to scare investors.

He said that the power transmission and distribution system has developed irreparable faults and in many places it is as old as the country is, adding that the power sector is the worst example of bad governance. There is no conservation plan and a lack of awareness that hydel power generation is the only sustainable way.

**Commerce Minister meets with EU Commission Executive Vice President**



BRUSSELS: The Federal Minister for Commerce and Investment, Syed Naveed Qamar, met with the Executive Vice President of EU Commission and EU Trade Commissioner Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis in Brussels on Friday. The Commerce Minister was joined by Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan.

During his meeting with Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, the Minister underscored that the GSP Plus facility had been mutually beneficial and played an important role in the growth of trade between the two sides.

He reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment towards the effective implementation of GSP Plus-related international Conventions and

hoped that the new scheme would continue to focus on its primary aims of sustainable development, good governance and poverty alleviation without overburdening the partner countries with fresh conditionalities.

The Minister conveyed Pakistan's desire to diversify its export portfolio to the EU by creating linkages between trade and investment. Minister Naveed Qamar stressed that investment from the EU in manufacturing and agro-food sectors will help Pakistan diversify its exports to EU in a sustainable manner.

While highlighting the importance of Pakistan-EU trade and investment relations, Vice President Dombrovskis, reaffirmed EU Commission's interest in further strengthening this partnership.

**Telenor Pakistan profits grow 10.7% in Q3**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan, the country's second-largest mobile operator, reported solid performance for the quarter that ended on September 30, 2022.

According to Telenor Group's financial results, Telenor Pakistan reported a total of NOK 1.32 billion (~Rs. 29.53 billion) in revenues during the quarter, up by 10.7 percent in terms of PKR as compared to the same period last year.

Telenor Pakistan's service revenues were strong despite the flooding situation. For the operator, high energy prices in Pakistan continue to be a headwind. With regard to the outlook for the year, Telenor maintains the expectation of low single-digit growth in service revenues.

Telenor Group's mobile subscription base in Pakistan was impacted by flood-

ing and network outages.

Pertinently, the total revenue is actually down in Norwegian currency rates at NOK 1.32 billion which is a decrease of NOK 10.5 million compared to NOK 1.42 billion in the same period last year when the PKR was trading well below 180 against the US Dollar. Total service revenue decreased from NOK 1.187 billion (Rs. 24.9 billion) to NOK 1.095 billion (Rs. 22.97 billion).

Reported operating expenses (Opex) increased by NOK 0.4 billion (Rs. 8.39 billion). Organic operating expenses increased by NOK 0.5 billion (Rs. 10.5 billion). Reported EBITDA before other items was NOK 13.1 billion which is an increase of 1.6 percent. Organic EBITDA increased by 2.5 percent.

Average Revenue per User during the quarter remained unchanged — when compared to the same period last year — at NOK 9 per user per month.

**PSL holds its annual corporate briefing session**

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Services Limited (PSL) conducted its third Corporate Briefing session at the Islamabad Marriott Hotel in compliance with the directives of the Pakistan Stock Exchange.

Senior Management of the Company, including M. A. Bawany, Vice Chairman-Hashoo Group and Director of the Company, Syed Haseeb Amjad Gardezi, Chief Operating Officer-Hashoo Group and Director of the Company, Tahir Mahmood, Chief Financial Officer, Muhammad Amir, Company Secretary, and Board Members, Shakir Abu Bakar, M. Ahmed Ghazali Marghoob, Shahid Hussain and Rohail Ajmal were present at the event. The event was



also attended by Chartered Accountants, Corporate Law Professionals, Lawyers and Company members.

Amir opened the programme by presenting PSL's brief profile and success story, followed by Tahir Mahmood, who shared

the company's financial highlights to brief the investors and analysts about the company's current financial performance and outlook.

On the occasion, Syed Haseeb Ajmal Gardezi shared details on all the recent

management agreements and introduced two upcoming five-star hotels, Pearl-Continental Hotel Multan and Pearl-Continental Hotel Mirpur. The event concluded with a comprehensive question-and-answer session.

# Babar backs pace-heavy tactics as Pakistan are left on the brink

Pakistan's consecutive second defeat has put them on the brink of an early exit from T20 World Cup

PERTH: Pakistan captain Babar Azam conceded his team was "not up to the mark", but backed the selection gamble to field a bowling heavy line-up after their T20 World Cup semi-final prospects nosedived with a one-run defeat to Zimbabwe at Optus Stadium in Perth.

Just four days after a harrowing last-ball defeat to India at a packed MCG, Pakistan suffered more heartbreak after they were stunned by Zimbabwe having dominated the match for large periods on a fast and bouncy pitch expected to suit them.

"Today, we are not up to the mark in all three departments," Babar told reporters at his post-match press conference. "It's very hard as a team and as a captain."

Enticed by a green-tinged Optus Stadium pitch, where ball had mostly dominated bat in the previous two



matches, Pakistan decided to strengthen their pace attack with the inclusion of quick Mohammad Wasim at the expense of batter Asif Ali.

After restricting Zimbabwe to a

modest 129 for 8, it appeared a masterstroke with a fiery Wasim starring with 4 for 24, including the key wicket of Sikanar Raza followed by expert death bowling, but Pakistan's weakened middle-order

fell apart under pressure.

"I don't think so," Babar said, when asked if the strategy to go in with an extra bowler had ultimately backfired. "This pitch required fast bowlers, so we had that in the planning and that's why we had an extra fast bowler."

Pakistan's second consecutive last-ball defeat has put them on the brink of an early exit and ensured a must-win contest against the Netherlands, who are also winless, on Sunday again in Perth.

Babar, who gave his team a rallying cry after the defeat against India in a video that has since gone viral, tried to remain confident of Pakistan's chances as they once again face the challenge of rising up off the canvas.

"We have two days and we'll have a sit together and discuss the mistakes," he said. "We will come back stronger." Agencies

## Australia-England T20 WC clash washed out



MELBOURNE: The T20 World Cup clash between champions Australia and England was abandoned without a ball bowled due to rain on Friday, leaving both teams' semi-finals hopes hanging in the balance and disappointed fans booing at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

With the Ireland-Afghanistan match also washed out at the venue earlier on, England emerged from a miserable day at second in Group 1 among a logjam of teams on three points.

New Zealand, with a game in hand, lead the group on run-rate ahead of third-placed Ireland and fourth-placed Australia, but the Black Caps can break clear with victory over Sri Lanka in Sydney on Saturday.

With the top two sides advancing to the semis, none of England, Australia or Ireland can afford to lose another match in a tournament in which four out of 14 Super 12 games to date have been lost to rain. Reuters

## Commentary panel for Pak-Ireland women series announced

Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Former Pakistan women's team captain Sana Mir and former women's international player Marina Iqbal will be joined by Ali Younis, Andrew Leonard, Sikander Bakht and Shah Faisal as commentators for the upcoming women's series between Pakistan and Ireland.

Sana will be involved in the T20Is only to be played on 12, 14 and 16 November.

The three-match ODI series will be played from 4 to 9 November, the series is a part of the ICC Women's Championship. All six tour matches will be played at

the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

The PCB, will live-stream the series on its YouTube channel. The production set-up will comprise 10 HD cameras.

Marina Iqbal, who featured in four ODIs and five T20Is against Ireland, said: "It's a very encouraging thing that international teams are coming to Pakistan. Ireland women's team has created an impact in world cricket, and they are going to give a tough time to the home team in the T20Is."

"Every player dreams of playing in front of their home crowd, I could still remember

making my debut and playing in front of the fans at home. The series will provide a great chance for players to excel and it also gives a chance to try bench strength. "I will urge the fans to come to the stadium to support both sides."

Renowned TV presenter, Zainab Abbas said: "It's huge that teams are coming to Pakistan, whether it's men or women. Ireland women's team coming to Pakistan will encourage young boys and girls to come to the stadium and support their team."

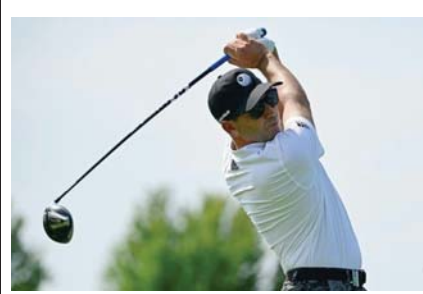
"Support from the fans will help young girls to come forward and play this sport. The players put their heart and soul in the game,

come out and support them because they are representing the country. All age group people should come to the ground and show to the Ireland team that we take our cricket seriously."

Entry for spectators to the stadium will be free and four enclosures namely Fazal Mahmood, Imran Khan, Rajas and Saeed Anwar will be open for fans to witness the action live between the both sides.

**Series Itinerary**  
4 November - First ODI  
6 November - Second ODI  
9 November - Third ODI  
12 November - First T20I  
14 November - Second T20I  
16 November - Third T20I

## Garcia says Ryder Cup exile 'hurts'



DORAL: Sergio Garcia says it "hurts" to be out of the picture for the Ryder Cup after joining the LIV Golf series but said he does not want to be a "burden" for the European team.

Garcia is the all-time points leader at the Ryder Cup and has made ten appearances in the competition since his debut in 1999.

The Spaniard's decision to skip the Mallorca Open, earlier this month means he won't meet DP World Tour membership criteria to qualify for the Europe team for next year's Ryder Cup which will be held in Italy.

In September Garcia had pulled out of the PGA Championship at Wentworth, the flagship event for the DP World Tour, and has said he didn't like the way he was being treated.

"Obviously I knew some of the things that might happen if I joined here, but at the end of the day, as we're seeing, you can see that some of the guys on the other side don't really want me there," Garcia told a press conference ahead of LIV Golf's season-closing team championship.

"I don't want to be a burden to anyone and even less in a Ryder Cup. I'd rather be away from that as much as it hurts and make sure that Europe has the best chance of winning than me being there and three or four guys that are going to be there are going to be upset or something," he added.

Garcia is strongly associated with the Ryder Cup having been on the winning European team on seven occasions and enjoying some memorable moments.

But the 42-year-old said that he doesn't regret his move to the Saudi-backed series.

"I can only speak for myself, but I've definitely made the right decision. I feel like I'm where I want to be," he said.

"I think the Ryder Cup is bigger than any of us or me for that matter, even with my record, and I'm happy to be able to be here and enjoying my time with my three (team) partners and trying to build something that is very exciting and that we're extremely proud of," added Garcia. AFP

## World Cup will help Qatar battle 'prejudice': Infantino

FIFA president believes Qatar should use World Cup as an opportunity to present itself to the world as another light

RIYADH: The upcoming football World Cup is a chance for the Gulf region to push back against "prejudice", FIFA's president said Thursday, defending host Qatar from criticism of its rights record.

Gianni Infantino was speaking via video-link at an investor conference in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, which is reportedly in talks with Greece and Egypt about a separate proposal to host the World Cup in 2030.

The four-week tournament in Qatar, which begins November 20, offers "an opportunity for Qatar and the whole region to present itself to the world in another light, another way, and get rid I think once and for all of some of the prejudice that sadly still exists," Infantino said.

His comments came two days after Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, hit out at "double standards"



unleashed in an "unprecedented campaign" of criticism related to issues including treatment of foreign workers and LGBTQ and women's rights.

FIFA awarded the World Cup to an Arab country for the first time in 2010. It has since spent tens of billions of dollars on preparations but has faced intense scrutiny over human rights.

The Gulf state has received heavy criticism over its treatment of the foreign work-

ers who have built the infrastructure for Qatar's economic miracle.

Foreigners make up more than 2.5 million of the 2.9 million population.

Conditions and safety standards on construction sites were long condemned by international unions.

Rights groups including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have insisted that Qatar and FIFA should do more to compensate workers who died or

## Focused Frankfurt ready for 'gigantic' Dortmund clash

FRANKFURT: Eintracht Frankfurt host Borussia Dortmund in Saturday's Bundesliga highlight, with both teams enjoying an improvement in form after difficult moments this season.

Despite sitting outside the Champions League places in fifth, Dortmund have secured progress to the next round of Europe's top-tier competition and German Cup in the past two weeks, along with putting five past a hapless Stuttgart last weekend.

Dortmund's impressive fortnight got even better on Tuesday, with the news that striker Sebastian Haller, currently undergoing treatment including chemotherapy for testicular cancer, returned to individual training for the first time since his diagnosis.



Frankfurt, who sit in fourth place in the table, are on the cusp of joining Dortmund in the last 16 of the Champions League.

The Eagles need to win away at Sporting Lisbon next week to progress, although manager Oliver Glasner was careful not to look too far over the horizon for the ambitious club.

"Wait, was Dortmund cancelled?" Glasner joked late on Wednesday when asked how he would prepare his side for their crucial next fixture against Sporting.

Speaking after Frankfurt notched a 2-1 victory over Marseille, Glasner hoped his side could help him achieve his personal goal of claiming at least a point against Dort-

mund.

"It's my fourth season in Germany and I haven't scored a point against Dortmund yet," Glasner, who previously spent two seasons at Wolfsburg, told the post-match press conference.

"It's a personal goal and I hope my boys will experience that."

Former Dortmund midfielder Mario Goetze said he was looking forward to a "gigantic" match this weekend.

"I spent my youth in Dortmund. I played there for many years and I had many good moments."

Dortmund will want to stop a worrying trend at Frankfurt's Waldstadion, with the Yellow and Blacks having lost their past three Bundesliga games away from home.

## Ronaldo scores on United return

Striker helps club bag 3-0 win in Europa, just one week after he was axed from squad

PARIS: Cristiano Ronaldo scored on his first Manchester United appearance since his refusal to come on as a substitute last week in a 3-0 win over Sheriff Tiraspol in the Europa League on Thursday.

The victory, with goals from Diogo Dalot and Marcus Rashford adding to Ronaldo's strike, guaranteed the Red Devils a place in the next round, where they will join Barcelona who were knocked out of the Champions League at the group stage 24 hours earlier.

United manager Erik ten Hag left the Portugal forward out of the United squad for Saturday's draw at Chelsea and he was only allowed to return to first team training this week.

"Seeing Ronaldo get his goal was great," Dutchman ten Hag told BT Sport. "He created, the team created for him and we know he has the capability to finish. "He needed a goal and now I'm confident there will be more



goals," he added.

Ronaldo, 37, started up front with 18-year-old Argentinian winger Alejandro Garnacho, who was making his maiden senior start. Right-back Dalot opened the scoring just before the break before Rashford doubled the lead with 25 minutes to play. Ronaldo claimed his 701st club career goal and made sure of the three points with nine minutes left. Arsenal, who have already reached

the last 16, lost for the first time in the group stage as they went down to a 2-0 defeat at PSV Eindhoven.

Gunners coach Mikel Arteta said afterwards that defender Pablo Mari, on loan at Italian club Monza, was having medical treatment after being stabbed in a Milan shopping centre in an attack which killed one person and injured three others.

"I just found out," Arteta told reporters. "He is in hospital. He seems to be OK. I will get a briefing now about what happened." Surprise early season Bundesliga leaders Union Berlin kept alive their hopes of a place in the knockout round of the second-tier European competition thanks to a 1-0 win over Braga.

In the Conference League, West Ham maintained their 100 percent record by beating Silkeborg 1-0 and Fiorentina clinched their spot in the last 16 with a 2-1 win over Istanbul Basaksehir. AFP

## Shadab Khan breaks into tears as Zimbabwe outfight Pakistan



KARACHI: Shadab Khan, Pakistan's all-rounder, who partly provided Pakistan with a springboard to victory after neutralising a trio of batting threats, burst into tears after underdog Zimbabwe waltzed away with a one-run win in their second T20 World Cup 2022 Super 12 clash in Perth.

After being humiliated at the hands of India in their opening encounter at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) on Sunday, the Babar Azam-led Pakistan direly needed a confidence booster to head into Thursday's match at Optus Stadium with their chins up.

However, they fell short of meeting the 131-run target by Zimbabwe due to a batting collapse, in which top-order batter Shan Masood was stumped and two more were dismissed in the final two deliveries, and Pakistan were ultimately defeated.

On the face of it, the shocking loss hit Shadab like a wrecking ball not physically but emotionally. A video of him in which he can be seen falling to his knees and crying his heart out with his hands clasping his face, lamenting the embarrassing defeat, went viral on social media.

It must be noted here that Pakistan must win the remaining three matches of their Super 12 to make it to the semi-finals. However, their chances of qualifying for the last four will also depend on the results of other matches.

Pakistan will next cross swords with the Netherlands in their third Super 12 clash at the Optus Stadium on Sunday, October 23. Agencies

## Perez aims for home win as Mexico extends F1 race deal

MEXICO CITY: Mexican Sergio Perez said he was "super-proud" his country had secured an extension of its Formula One race to 2025 on Thursday and was determined to be the first home winner.

Formula One and local promoter CIE had earlier announced a three-year deal keeping Mexico City's Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez on the calendar.

Red Bull's Perez has won twice this season and Sunday will be another chance to celebrate with his home crowd after finishing third last year.

"I've dreamed a few times already about it (winning), and it would be massive for me. Obviously, that's the target for Sunday," he told reporters.

Team mate Max Verstappen, winner of the race last year, has already clinched his second drivers' title while Red Bull won their first constructors' crown since 2013 in Texas last weekend. Victory for Verstappen on Sunday would be a record 14th in one season for the Dutch driver. AFP