



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

سہل بن سعد رضی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے کہ رسول اللہ ﷺ نے فرمایا: "میں اور قیامت اسے نزدیک نزدیک بھیجے گئے ہیں اور نبی کریم ﷺ نے اپنی دو انگلیوں کے اشارے سے (اس نزدیک کو) بتایا پھر ان دونوں کو پھیرا یا۔" (صحیح بخاری)

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## Pakistan and Kazakhstan ties on an upward trajectory

Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, reiterated that Pakistan and Kazakhstan have been supporting each other for three decades, and the two are successfully cooperating in a bilateral and multilateral format. Over the years, this partnership has been strengthened through cooperation and outstanding diplomatic, economic, and political consultations. **Report on Page 5**



## Pakistan and Netherlands acknowledged the devastating impact of climate change

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands Henny Fokel de Vries said the climate was changing much faster than they expected. The world needed to be united to make sure every country was well protected, she added. **Report on Page 8**

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## Chinese support for Pakistan

BEIJING: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets President of People's Republic of China H.E Xi Jinping on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

# Xi assures support to Pakistan's strategic ML-1 project

China's continued support for Pakistan's sustainable economic and strategic projects

BEIJING: President Xi Jinping, in a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday, assured China's continued support for Pakistan's sustainable economic and strategic projects including the Main Line-1 (ML-1) rail track and announced an additional assistance package of RMB 500 million for the country's flood relief efforts.

In a meeting held here at the People's Great Hall, the two leaders reaffirming their mutual commitment to China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) agreed that as a project of strategic importance, both sides would make joint efforts to "launch the ML-1 as an early harvest project under the CPEC framework".

Both leaders also acknowledged the need for a mass-transit project in Karachi and agreed

to finalize all formalities for the early launch of the Karachi Circular Railway.

They also appreciated the signing of a number of agreements covering a broad range of bilateral cooperation during the visit.

PM Shehbaz Sharif congratulated President Xi on his reelection as General Secretary of the 20th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He also thanked him for China's invaluable assistance to Pakistan's relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the wake of the devastation caused by super floods in the country.

The two leaders reviewed the progress in Pakistan-China bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed their commitment to

the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between the two countries that has withstood the test of time. The two nations have stood firmly side by side, in realizing their shared vision of peace, stability, development and prosperity.

Reaffirming Pakistan's unique historic ties with China and the salience of bilateral friendship for regional peace and stability, Prime Minister Shehbaz strongly emphasized that Pakistan-China friendship enjoyed complete consensus across the political spectrum in Pakistan and was a model of inter-state relations.

Paying tribute to President Xi's leadership for China's prosperity and his vision for strengthening bilateral relationship, the prime minister said that Pakistan drew inspiration from China's

socio-economic development and national resolve to the country's progress and prosperity.

The two leaders discussed cooperation across a range of issues, including defence, trade and investment, agriculture, health, education, green energy, science and technology, and disaster preparedness.

The two leaders exchanged views on the rapid transformation in the international environment, which had exacerbated economic challenges for developing countries. They affirmed their shared belief in dialogue and cooperation based on equality and mutual benefit as critical for global peace and prosperity.

They agreed that contemporary challenges like climate change, health pandemics, and growing inequalities needed unqualified cooperation among

states, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. There was complete unanimity of views between the two leaders.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Xi Jinping also discussed key issues, pertaining to the region including the situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and in Afghanistan.

Both leaders acknowledged that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan would promote regional security and economic development and agreed that CPEC's extension to Afghanistan would strengthen regional connectivity initiatives.

The prime minister also extended a warm invitation to President Xi for visiting Pakistan at an early date, which the latter accepted graciously. APP

## 'Bloody march' continues to claim innocent lives, says Marriyum

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday said innocent people were losing lives due to the "bloody march" of Imran Khan, "who is bent upon creating chaos and anarchy to satisfy his ego in achieving ulterior motives".

"The people are fully aware that Imran Khan is a thief, dacoit, liar, incompetent and foreign-funded Fitna," she said in a news statement while reacting to Imran Khan's addresses to the long march.

She said the "foreign funded Fitna" had admitted that he was in pain for not getting an opportunity to appoint the new army chief.

Marriyum said Imran Khan's conspiracies would not work as it was Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who had legal and constitutional rights to appoint the new army chief.



The minister said Imran Khan had already admitted that he had offered a lifetime extension to the army chief for saving his government. The "mark of disgrace" was clearly visible on his (Imran) face, she added. "Whether he whines, screams or bemoans, nothing will matter as it is Shehbaz Sharif who holds the government (in center)," she asserted.

## IHC issues notice to ICT admn for not issuing NOC for PTI march



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the local administration for not giving a No Objection Certificate to the PTI for holding its long march and sit-in in the federal capital.

The court summoned the concerned officer of Islamabad administration to appear before it Thursday and explain the position.

Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition filed by PTI leader

Ali Nawaz Awan. The PTI lawyer said that the party had submitted an application seeking permission to hold its Haqeeq Azadi March in Islamabad but the administration was dragging the matter and was not issuing the NOC. He told the court that the PTI informed the administration that it wanted to hold its rally on Nov 6-7. The court after issuing notice adjourned the case till tomorrow. INP

## No talks with PTI leadership under any condition: Kaira

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira on Wednesday gave a clear message to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership that the government would not be blackmailed by any pressure from the Long March and there would be no talks with the PTI under any condition.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that Imran Khan wants to blackmail the government with his long march. He said that "we would not make decisions under any condition," adding that decisions would be made according to the constitution and law.

Kaira said if long march remains within the limits of law, govt would fulfill its responsibility and would not create any hurdle in way of protesters. "The govt cannot allow anyone to take the law into their own hands and those who try to violate the rules would be accountable," he said.

## Contempt case: SC seeks explanation from Imran Khan on May 25 events

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court on Wednesday sought an explanation from PTI Chairman Imran Khan on the events of May 25, 2022, related to the party's first long march, during the hearing of a contempt of court case against him.

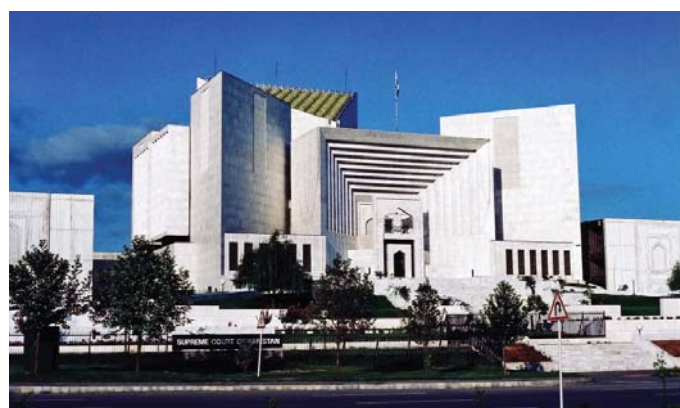
The federal government filed a contempt of court plea against the PTI chairman in the Supreme Court over his long march to the federal capital.

In its petition, the government said, "Imran Khan is making announcements to attack Islamabad," which it claimed was a violation of a court order. It urged the apex court to direct the PTI chief to ensure the implementation of its orders related to protests and sit-ins.

A five-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial was hearing the case, while SC Bar Association President Ahsan Bhoon appeared in the court.

Bhoon informed the court that he is representing PTI lawyers Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry, who had been served notices.

At this, CJP Bandial said that the court didn't serve any notices but only sought replies from the two lawyers. He said that the court will hear the arguments by the government's lawyer and the replies will be examined later.



During the hearing, Additional Attorney General Amir Rehman maintained that Imran Khan has sought time for a detailed response. "Khan had given a surety but he has expressed unawareness towards any assurance or the judicial orders," he said. At this, CJP Bandial inquired about the difference of time between the first and second order of the court on May 25.

After the response by additional attorney general, the CJP remarked that the time between the two orders was for taking directives. The court wasn't informed about from whom the directives were taken, he added.

At this, Rehman told the court that as per Faisal Chaudhry, the directives were taken from Asad

Umar as he couldn't speak to Khan. CJP Bandial asked that why wasn't the court informed if anyone couldn't be contacted.

"This needs to be explained. The court had trusted Babar Awan and Faisal Chaudhry. None of them said that they didn't get the directives," CJP Bandial said. CJP Bandial remarked how did Imran Khan know about the court order.

He said that the assurance was given by senior PTI leadership assured and it starts from Imran Khan.

"Imran Khan sought time for a detailed answer," he added. The court sought explanation from Imran Khan on the incidents that occurred on May 25. INP

## PTI's so-called long march turns as stop march; Faisal Kundi

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Wednesday said that the so-called long march of Imran Khan has become a stop march.

"The arrival dates of the long march, led by Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan, at Islamabad are continuously changing. The so-called long march has become a stop march which starts at noon and ends in the evening," he said during a presser flanked by Pakistan People's Party leaders, Senator Palwasha Khan and Akhunzada Chat-tan.

He said that Imran Khan is waiting for a telephone call, the way he was waiting for the call of United States President, Joe Biden in the past.

He said that Pakistan People's Party has defeated PTI in Karachi and Multan during the recent by-elections.

## A lot of Watermelons

BEIJING: Representatives of Chinese companies call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday.



Photo: PID

## Leading Chinese companies accept PM's offer to invest in Pakistan's solar, infrastructure projects

BEIJING: The leading Chinese companies during the official visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to China have shown their keen interest to invest in Pakistan's solar, water and other infrastructure projects. The prime minister invited the Chinese corporate heads to visit Pakistan and invest in the government's comprehensive solar power project aimed at generating 10,000 mega watt electricity. He also encouraged them to invest in Pakistan's alternative energy resources including the wind turbine power plants. Shehbaz Sharif stressed early

completion of the infrastructure of Gwadar International Airport, to which the Chinese companies assured to complete the project by the beginning of year 2023.

The prime minister in a meeting with Chinese investors and businessmen said the government since assuming power in April had resolved several issues pertaining to them and had paid them the pending dues of Rs 160 billion. An amount of Rs 50 billion has been paid to them yesterday, he added.

He said a revolving fund had been established by the State

Bank of Pakistan on the directive of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar with a seed money of Rs 50 billion.

He regretted the obstacles faced by the Chinese companies in the past on the matters concerning the payment of imported coal.

He vowed addressing on priority the issues relating to the land acquisition for construction of DiamerBhasha Dam and other hurdles in way to completion of Mohmand Dam.

Shehbaz Sharif assured provision of foolproof security to the Chinese person-

nel working in Pakistan and said that an across-the-board security would be ensured for those deputed on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project and other joint initiatives.

He extended condolences over the death of Chinese men and women who lost their lives while at work in Pakistan.

To address water shortage in Pakistan's metropolitan Karachi, the prime minister said the federal government along with the Sindh government was ready to collaborate with the Chinese companies to resolve the issue.

The prime minister expressed confidence that strong business and investment linkages between Pakistan and China would lead to further cementing of bilateral relations.

He thanked the Chinese companies in taking special interest in Pakistan's development projects particularly the Gwadar Port, Main Line-1 railway track and several other projects.

He also expressed gratitude over the generous support extended by China in the wake of massive flash floods in Pakistan. APP

## Punjab police get Rs50m for expenses during PTI's long march



ISLAMABAD: The Punjab government has initially released Rs50 million worth of funds for police to meet their expenses during the long march of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), it has been learnt on Wednesday.

According to the official sources, the funds will be utilised for providing food to the policemen and meeting other expenses of them. The Punjab inspector general of police (IGP) had

demanded Rs50.5 million worth of funds from the government. It is to be noted here that a large number of police personnel are on security duty across Punjab including Lahore. The funds have been released to the districts along the route of the long march, keeping in view the number of personnel deployed in each district. "If the duration of the long march is extended, more funds will be demanded," said the police. INP

## MoEA signs two financing agreements with WB worth US \$500 million

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA) signed two financing agreements on November 01, 2022, having a total funding volume of US \$500 million.

The breakdown of the said figure agreement with the World Bank (WB) is US \$200 million which will be allocated for "Punjab Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture Transformation Project" and the remaining US \$300 million is for "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Accessibility Project".

Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Affairs signed the Financing agreements on behalf of Government of Pakistan. Whereas, Country Director of Pakistan Najib Benhassine signed the agreements on behalf of the World Bank, said a press release issued here.

Punjab Resilient and Inclusive Agriculture Transformation Project (US\$200 million) is designed to enhance equitable access to, and productivity of, agricultural water and improving incomes of farmers' particularly small and medium landholders.

The project will contribute to transforming Punjab's agriculture into a more inclusive, productive, sustainable, and market-oriented sector. The project will help the Government of Punjab in addressing low water access equity and high on-farm water losses, low on-farm productivity, limited crop diversification toward high value crops and away from more water-intensive crops, low adoption of climate smart production practices and limited market opportunities for small and medium farmers.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rural Accessibility Project (US\$300 million) is aimed to improve safe and climate-resilient rural accessibility to schools, health facilities and markets in

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

The project interventions will help the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in upgrading and rehabilitation of provincial roads, improvement of climate resilience of infrastructure, including the raising of embankments, provision of side drains, bridges, improvement of culverts, ditches, vegetation, improvement of road safety infrastructure and equipment in the vicinity of schools, health facilities and marketplaces, provision of fiber optic infrastructure to facilitate the expansion of internet connectivity, safe and affordable school journeys for girls - subsidized school transport for girls from marginalized communities.

In October, 2022, Ministry of Economic Affairs had also signed three other important projects worth US\$690million (including US\$82million grant), with the World Bank for land management and developing housing sector in Punjab Province and national level interventions in health sector to facilitate (i) improving land records; and identification of land for development, including land for housing programs in Punjab, (ii) strengthening housing institutions and systems and enhancing the quantity & quality of affordable housing supply in Punjab Province and (iii) equitable delivery and quality of essential health services at the primary health care level, in support of Universal Health Coverage in Pakistan.

Dr. Kazim Niaz, reiterated the commitment of Federal Government to extend all possible support to the Provincial Governments in addressing their financial needs necessary to overcome the development challenges and to achieve economic growth in the country that is more inclusive and sustainable. Agencies

## President for further strengthening Pak-Germany relations

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan highly values its relations with Germany, both bilaterally, and in the context of the EU, and wanted to further strengthen and expand the mutually beneficial ties. The President appreciated the continuous upward trend in bilateral trade between Pakistan and Germany and underlined the need to fully exploit the huge potential of trade, investment and business between the two countries.

President said this while talking to a delegation of a German political foundation working in Pakistan, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, led by Mr Mirco Gunther, Head of the Asia-Pacific Department at Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Talking to the delegation, the President said that Pakistan and Germany could have fruitful cooperation in learning from each other's experience in voting mechanisms for general elections, countering fake news and disinformation, and the agenda-setting role of social media, promoting justice fair play, equality and dignity and incorporation of universal ethical and moral values in international relations.

The President noted that Germany was one of the larg-



est foreign direct investors in Pakistan with a total investment of US\$ 380.5 million and appreciated the fact that over 35 German companies were successfully carrying out their businesses in Pakistan. He said that German investors should invest in Special Economic Zones under China Pakistan Economic Corridor and in the wind, solar and hydel energy projects and take advantage of new sets of incentives offered by Paki-

stan in these sectors. The President welcomed Germany's continued support for the continuation of GSP+ status to Pakistan and its continuous support for Pakistan for completing all the technical requirements of both the 2018 and 2021 action plans of FATE. He expressed Pakistan's desire to engage with Germany in terms of capacity enhancement of Pakistani institutions dealing with Climate Change, improving

people-to-people contacts, and strengthening cooperation in higher education.

The President also underlined that Afghanistan was in a dire humanitarian situation and there was an urgent need for the international community to further scale up its humanitarian assistance for the people of Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan desired good relations with all its neighbours, including India. He added that Paki-

stan believed that sustainable peace in South Asia remained contingent on the peaceful resolution of the Jammu & Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UNSC resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people. The President expressed the hope that Friedrich Ebert Stiftung would be positively contributing to the further strengthening of relations between Pakistan and Germany.

## Ayaz Sadiq meets Netherlands' envoy Henny Fokel de Vries

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday met with Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands Henny Fokel de Vries.

The minister Ayaz Sadiq highlighted the warm and cordial relations between the Government of Pakistan and Kingdom of Netherlands in a meeting with the Ambassador of Netherlands, said a press release issued here.

The minister stressed that the economic cooperation between the two countries needed to be more deepened and enlarged for the mutual benefit of the citizens of both countries.

"Pakistan appreciates the Kingdom of Netherlands' timely and very valuable humanitarian assistance during the floods of 2010 and the recent devastating climate calamity,"



said the minister. He added that Pakistan's contribution to global emissions stood at less than 1%. However, Pakistan was a badly affected country figuring among the top five most vulnerable nations globally.

He further remarked that Pakistan needed to be supported to fight the negative impact of climate, saving the most vulnerable and poor commu-

nities from the destruction of future disasters.

Henny appreciated the cordial relationship between Pakistan and Netherlands and acknowledged the devastating impact of climate change on the country.

She stated, "The Government of the Netherlands is trying to provide as much assistance as we can and we

are ready to assist for long-term recovery programs."

She said the climate was changing much faster than they expected. The world needed to be united to make sure every country was well protected, she added.

While speaking on enhancing Pak-Netherlands' relations, the minister for Economic Affairs stressed on revamping government-to-government development cooperation.

He stressed on reviving and allocating special seats in the Netherlands Fellowship Program & Scholarship.

He highlighted the provision of Technical Assistance in agriculture, especially, water resources and irrigation along with support in horticulture especially berries, vegetables, seed production, livestock and dairy as the Dutch have world-class technologies in these areas.

## Imran to be kept in Machh jail after arrest: Rana Sanaullah



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday said that the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan would be kept in Machh jail of Balochistan after arresting from Islamabad.

Imran Khan had misused the national institutions for making false cases against the leaders of Pakistan Muslim League-N, he said while talking to a private television channel.

The PTI leader has been involved in pressurizing the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), for registering false cases against the leaders of PML-N, he stated. The police personal, rangers and FC would arrest the chief of PTI from Islamabad for violating law and order situation, he said.

Imran Khan, he said had taken

unconstitutional step to attack on state institutions. He said Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's resources were being utilized to attack on Islamabad to regain power. The minister said that Imran's long march has been flopped due to less support of people.

He said a few thousand workers were behind the long march of PTI chairman. In reply to a question about freedom of expression, the minister said that government was not planning to cease power of freedom of press. He said, we would have discussion with stakeholders for amending laws to control objectionable material from the social media.

To a question about dialogue to melt down political temperature, he said the politicians in the country had a practice to hold talks for resolving political matters.

# UNODC hands-over two additional Mobile Crime Scene Investigation Units to Balochistan Police

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: UNODC Country Office in Pakistan continues to strengthen the rule of law in Balochistan through supporting the Police Department of Balochistan towards enhancing its operational capacity and efficiency in handling and investigation of serious crimes.

Under the gracious support of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL), UNODC is implementing a 5-year (2017-2022) 'Improving the Rule of Law in Balochistan-Pakistan' program in collaboration with the Government of Balochistan. The Program aims to strengthen trust between citizens and government in the security and justice sector. In addition to policy and legislation reforms, majority of the efforts are geared towards providing the Police Department of Balochistan both with forensic know-how as well as equipment through handing over state-of-the-art Mobile Crime Scene Units (MCSUs). Up until now eight MCSUs have been handed over to the Balochistan Police to enable scientific and systematic processing of crime scene including proper identification and



collection of evidence.

In continuation of the INL-led support, a gracefully hosted hand-over ceremony of two additional Mobile Crime Scene Units to the Balochistan Police was carried out by UNODC in collaboration with the Government of Balochistan in Quetta on 2nd November 2022. The event was attended by key stakeholders and dignitaries from the Rule of Law and Criminal Justice sectors, including the Police Department of Balochistan and UNODC. The participants welcomed the induction of two additional Mobile Crime Scene Units as a significant milestone that will further

enhance the capacity and outreach in crime scene investigation of the police in Balochistan increasing the total number of Mobile Crime Scene Units to eight.

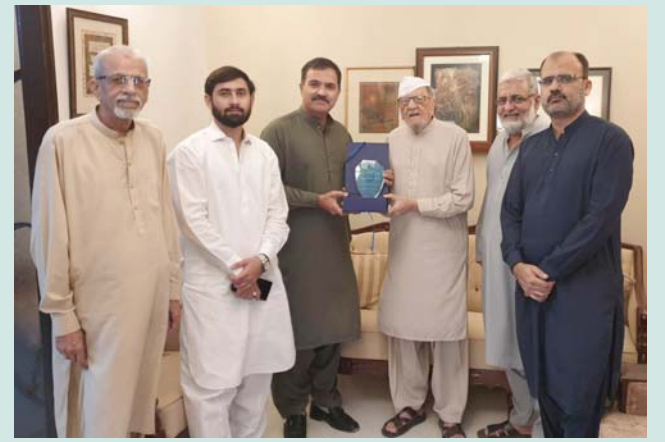
These Mobile Crime Scene Units will serve as mobile crime investigation labs, enabling increase in the timely outreach and conduct of extensive evidence collection and processing at crime scene sites to document, such as homicide crime scenes and investigations that involve casualties. The objective is to strengthen the capacity of the local police through deploying a Mobile Crime Scene Unit that acts as a mobile crime investigation and forensic lab staffed with trained technicians

who are equipped with skills to document and investigate crime scenes as well as recover and preserve any physical evidence.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Joushaida Hanano, Criminal Justice Advisor from UNODC reiterated UNODC's commitment towards improving the quality of investigation by strengthening the Balochistan Police Crime Branch through establishing four Forensic Collection Units in selected districts of Sibi, Khuzdar, Loralai and Gawadar. This will further enhance the outreach and capacity of the front-line police in the district to systematically collect evidence and process crime scene documentation in a timely manner.

The Inspector General of Police from Balochistan, Mr. Abdul Khaliq Sheikh appreciated the ongoing support from the INL and UNODC that has gone a long way in not just providing materials and equipment but enhancing the knowledge and capacity of the Police in crime scene investigation in Balochistan. He further added that as crime-control agents, police must fulfil its duty to deliver a more vigilant and peaceful rule of law, and crime scene investigation and forensics are important means to this end.

*Rafi-uz-Zaman Zuberi made the community proud in the field: Mumtaz Zuberi*



Shiraz Zuberi, President of Zuberi Association, presenting a shield to Rafi-uz-Zaman Zuberi in recognition of his outstanding services. Joint Secretary Anas Zuberi, Executive Members Mumtaz Ahsan Zuberi, Arsalan Zuberi, Secretary General KATI Nihal Akhtar and other officials are also present.

KARACHI: Shiraz Zuberi, Vice President of the Zuberi Association, has said that Rafi-uz-Zaman Zuberi has immense services in literature. He has made the Zuberi community proud around the world. Rafi-uz-Zaman Zuberi worked tirelessly for the improvement of literature, education and teaching for a long time.

Joint Secretary Mumtaz Anas Zuberi, Executive Members Ahsan Zuberi, Arsalan Zuberi, Secretary General KATI Nihal Akhtar and other officials were also present with him on this occasion.

Vice President Shiraz Zuberi said that Zuberi Association acknowledges the services of Rafi-uz-Zaman Zuberi.

And hope that Rafi-ul-Zaman Zuberi continues to guide the Zuberi community in the same way based on his vast experience. He prayed that Allah may grant Rafi-uz-Zaman Zuberi a long life so that the young generation can benefit from his efforts.

# Fears over inflation and business slump haunt economic report

*Latest economics condition survey from ACCA and IMA underline volatile business environment*

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Nearly three quarters of business are wrestling with increased costs, the highest proportion of respondents reporting increased cost pressures for the last decade and over one in three are worried about decreased income, according to the latest edition of the Global Economic Conditions Survey (GECS) from ACCA (the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and IMA (Institute of Management Accountants) with a similar proportion highlighting foreign exchange volatility as uncertainty and glimpses of recession dominate the latest economic outlook.

South Asia recorded an improvement in confidence, new orders, and capital expenditure. Although the region has faced similar macro headwinds as the rest of the world, including higher inflation and a tightening of monetary policy, it has proved relatively resilient. Confidence levels remain in line with the median of the past decade. Moreover, the rise in the new orders component in the latest survey takes it to the highest level seen in more than seven years.

Two developments further underlined the precarious nature of the commercial environment. First, an increase in the number of respondents reporting "problems securing prompt payment," which has risen to the highest level in four years. This could be the first sign of an increase in the number of organizations that may be experiencing cash-flow difficulties. At the same time, there has been a noticeable rise in the numbers reporting "problems accessing finance," with the most aggressive tightening of monetary policy in 40 years likely to hit corporate liquidity.

The data also shows confidence on the economic outlook remaining well below the median reading over the past decade, while the other three indicators that are

more closely related to economic activity – new orders, capital expenditure, and employment – all showed a further deterioration. Taken as a whole, the series are consistent with slower global growth for the remainder of the year, coupled with inflationary pressures rising.

Assad Hameed Khan, head of ACCA Pakistan, said: "Our latest Global Economic Conditions survey points to obvious ongoing challenges in the global economy, a reflection of the continued economic fallout from the Russia-Ukraine situation, a further tightening of monetary policy in key jurisdictions including Pakistan and a cost-of-living crisis. One of the key risks will be how much and how proactively central banks seek to provide responsive policies in the months ahead to tame inflationary pressures and ease forex pressures, and whether or not the global economy could slow more than business leaders expect in 2023."

# 'Implications of IMO Conventions in National and International Context and the Way Forward'

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: "The government of Pakistan wants to promote Ship Recycling industry by resolving its outstanding issues in line with the vision of Prime Minister of Pakistan for sustainable economic growth and United Nations 2030 agenda for sustainable development", said the Chief Guest Mr. Mathar Niaz Rana, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Maritime Affairs (MoMA) while addressing the webinar titled "Implications of IMO Conventions (Particularly HKC) in National and International Context and the Way Forward" – organized by National Institute of Maritime Affairs on 27 October, 2022. He emphasized that the geographical location of Pakistan's ship recycling yard and the nature of the beach have a competitive advantage over other recycling yards in the region, for which compliance of international obligation is critically important.

Director General NIMA Vice Admiral (R) Abdul Aleem HI(M), in his welcome remarks highlighted the significance of International Conventions particularly HKC which offers avenue for green ship recycling by ensuring safe and environmentally sound practices.

On the occasion, the Keynote speaker Mr. Moin Ahmed, Director General International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) briefed about the evolution of Hong Kong Convention its needs and preparedness requirement. He added that there is a need for improved infrastructure and capacity building.

Mr. Jun Sun, technical officer, IMO deliberated HKC's requirements, status, foreseeing and IMO's efforts towards its promotion. He apprised that HKC offers a pragmatic, realistic and gradual way to improve safe and environmentally sound recycling of ships. Prof. Dr. Raphael Baumler, World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden added that there is a need to develop curriculum including mandatory safety training programme for recycling facilities, which is important for the accession to HKC.

# Tetra Pak donates Rs22m to PRCS for flood victims



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Tetra Pak donates PKR 22 million to PRCS for flood victims Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari says Red Crescent is grateful for the generous relief support from Tetra Pak Pakistan, which will help us in mobilizing thousands of people to safety and providing them with critical relief and much-needed assistance. Mr. Misbah Burney says that Tetra Pak believes in serving its part by supporting a major humanitarian actor such as the PRCS that has been actively involved in driving relief efforts across the country with great financial diligence and use of local capacity Islamabad, November 2, 2022: Tetra Pak Pakistan has also stepped forward to donate a generous sum of PKR 22 million to support the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) in response to their emergency appeal to maximize flood relief efforts across the country to tackle the alarming situation. The donation cheque was presented by Mr. Misbah Burney, Finance Director of Tetra Pak Pakistan, to Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent.

# The relief provided to the people on orders of Ombudsman Punjab Azam Suleman Khan

LAHORE: The Bahawalpur administration has re-functionalized seven filtration plants to provide clean drinking water to the locals. This action has been taken in compliance with the own-motion notice of Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan over a news item about the public problems after the closure of the filtration plant in the Head Panjnad area.

# AOG, NFEH, CSR Club signed MOU's to help genuine charities in Pakistan

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Art of Giving (AOG) organized its first-ever Open House at the Port Grand to provide an opportunity for the leading non-profits of the country to display their philanthropic and noble social work to prospective donors.

The AOG joined hands with the nfeh CSR Club Pakistan to combine at one place leading charities, philanthropists, and donors for mobilizing maximum resources for genuine charitable causes in the country.

AOG CEO, Raheel Aslam, said the Open House was organized to celebrate the fact that eight out of every 10 citizens in Pakistan fully believed in the concept of charitable donations irrespective of their socio-economic status.

He said that these generous Pakistanis donated an average of Rs 10,000 every year but this money didn't reach genuine charitable causes and instead



had become the reason behind the massive increase in the menace of beggary in the urban centers.

He said that despite such a massive charity every year by such a large number of concerned citizens Pakistan still ranked at 107th position on the World Giving Index only because a very large chunk of the donations in the country ended up in the hands of beggars.

Aslam said the AOG also showcased on the occasion its latest innovation i.e.

Pakistan's first-ever automated kindness machine that provided an opportunity for the prospective donors to use a transparent, digital, and fully accountable mechanism to get associated with up to 20 leading non-profits in the country on a real-time basis.

He said the new automated donation machine would be installed at 10 different locations in the next three months for generating maximum resources for the leading charities of Pakistan through a computerized system.

# Textile exports decline alarming for economic growth & sustainability: Jawed Bilwani

*Govt must take imperative measures to support textile export being lifeline of economy and highest foreign exchange earner & employment provider*

ISLAMABAD: Declining trend in Textile Export to the tune of USD 1.335 billion in October 2022 as compared to USD 1.60 billion same period in October 2021 with (16.56%) decline in exports is alarming for sustainability of economy and national exports. Resultantly, the growth rate of textile export has also declined which had witnessed 26% increase during last fiscal year. This decline of (16.56%) and increase of 26% of last fiscal year shows negative growth. It is indeed a great irony and most unfortunate that Textile Exports which had seen highest exports in the history of Pakistan and acts as lifeline for the economy, high-

est foreign exchange earner and highest urban employment provider has been left unattended by the Government. Value-Added Textile Exporters fear further downfall in textile exports. Gravity of situation demands immediate priority and attention of the Government to the burning factors which have impeded the export efficiency and slowed down the wheels of value-added textile export industry. This was stated by Muhammad Jawed Bilwani, Chairman, Pakistan Apparel Forum.

Jawed Bilwani articulated that the Value-Added Textile Export Industries have delivered beyond excellence and

total national exports recorded to the tune of USD 31.76 Billion in FY2021-22 in which total textile export is worth approx. USD 19.4 Billion with a historic increase of 26 percent worth USD 4 Billion whereby Karachi has, as usual, taken lead to achieve the milestone in exports with its more than 50 percent share. The new increase of 26 percent in value-added textile exports also tantamount to 26 percent enhancement in employment and as well revenue generation and taxes. Provided the Government had ensured uninterrupted supply of energy/ gas, the export would have enhanced more than 26 percent. More than 40 allied indus-

tries of Textile have also excelled in their growth and performance.

The said great accomplishment spurred new confidence in the value-added textile exporters to further excel and enhance their exports. Nonetheless, it is highly unfortunate that the economic turmoil emerged due to political wrangling, unrest and regime change has diverted the attention of the Government to unproductive areas whereas the Economy and Exports should remain Governments top-most priority.

Bilwani voiced that the Value-Added Textile Industry previously was in take-off mode and was accelerating to

# Prominent builder Paracha's successful venture launched



**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: Renowned and established Builder Zulfikar Paracha and his team with Architect Sharjeel Hamid recently hosted an exclusive open house at Khayaban-e-Amir Khusro, off 26th street, DHA Phase 6.

The event was held in a luxury home inspired by Spanish architecture and was organized in celebration of another successful venture by the Builder. Marking another one of Zulfikar Paracha's myriads of fine workmanship, the exclusive viewing of his latest luxury property development was also powered by other notable brands such as S. Abdulla Home, COLISH, Living T, and Zerrita Flowers. The open house was primarily hosted by Team Zulfikar Paracha and Architect Sharjeel Hamid. Attendees of the exclusive open included an array of guests some of whom were celebrities, influencers, and other

leaders as well as trendsetters in their respective fields.

The property was evidently inspired by Mediterranean homes which offer a calming and warm living environment. With an open space that harmonizes with the outdoors and complements the interiors, the home is completely aligned with its conceptualized theme. The 1000-yard home also harbored a large pool and water features with plenty of room for natural light. "I wanted to create a different and exclusive house for those who have an eye for high-end products. A beautiful fusion of a rustic Spanish exterior and a gorgeous luxurious interior was what I had in mind for this project," stated Zulfikar Paracha. Zulfikar Paracha was initially in the team of his family business of high-rise buildings for nearly 42 years until 1999 when he launched a bottled water business as an entry into the consumer market.

Islamabad  
23° - 38° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:03 am
Zohr	11:51 am
Asr	3:37 pm
Maghrib	5:15 pm
Isha	6:39 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**AIOU announces results of MA, M.Sc**

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the results of the four master's degree programs offered in the autumn semester 2021. These programs include M.Sc Sustainable Environmental Design, M.Sc Public Nutrition, MA Special Education and M.Ed Special Education. Results have been provided on CMS portals of students. Results of 7 different masters programs had been announced last week.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum introduced the Academic Calendar to organize the academic activities of the University. All the relevant departments were directed to conduct and arrange the academic activities according to the schedule provided in the calendar. These results have also been announced as per the schedule given in the calendar of annual activities. It is an important step to overcome the complaints of students regarding delays in results.

**Late diagnosis of breast cancer resulted in an increased mortality rate Begum Alvi**

90,000 to 100,000 women in Pakistan suffered breast cancer every year

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Begum Samina Alvi, wife of President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday said one in nine women in Pakistan faced the risk of breast cancer and stressed early diagnosis as the best way to recovery.

Speaking at the breast cancer awareness event held here at Health Services Academy, she said 90,000 to 100,000 women in Pakistan suffered breast cancer every year and expressed concern that the survival rate of the country touched 50 percent compared to 80 percent in the developed world.

Begum Alvi pointed out that late diagnosis of breast cancer resulted in an increased mortality rate and also led to high costs of treatment.

She mentioned the breast cancer awareness campaign launched from the platform of the Presidency for the last four years, which she said, helped in educating a large number of the population.

In this regard, she said programmes through television, radio, newspapers, and social media were conducted for mass awareness about breast cancer.

She said in 13 hospitals in Sindh, eight in



Punjab, three in Islamabad, five in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and three in Balochistan were providing free-of-cost mammography facilities.

Begum Alvi said according to the estimates by Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital, the number of patients suffering from breast cancer doubled in the country.

She advised women to practice self-examination every month to rule out any chances of breast cancer.

She said although breast cancer was common in women, however, in a few cases, men with a family history of breast cancer could also suffer from the disease.

Dr Usman Qureshi said according to international research, a delay of four

weeks raised the risk of breast cancer by 10 percent.

He emphasized streamlining the process from the detection of breast cancer to its treatment at a fast pace to prevent further growth of cancer cells.

Head of the Radiology Department and Federal Breast Screening Centre at Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Dr Ayesha Ehsani Majeed said every woman over 40 should visit the doctor for mammography.

She said the media played an important role in educating the masses about breast cancer and mentioned that at her screening centre, 39 persons visited for scanning in 2015 while the number increased to 3,000 in 2021.

**Winter arrivals**

RAWALPINDI: A worker is busy preparing Cotton in filling quilts in his workplace at Railway Workshop Road in the city.

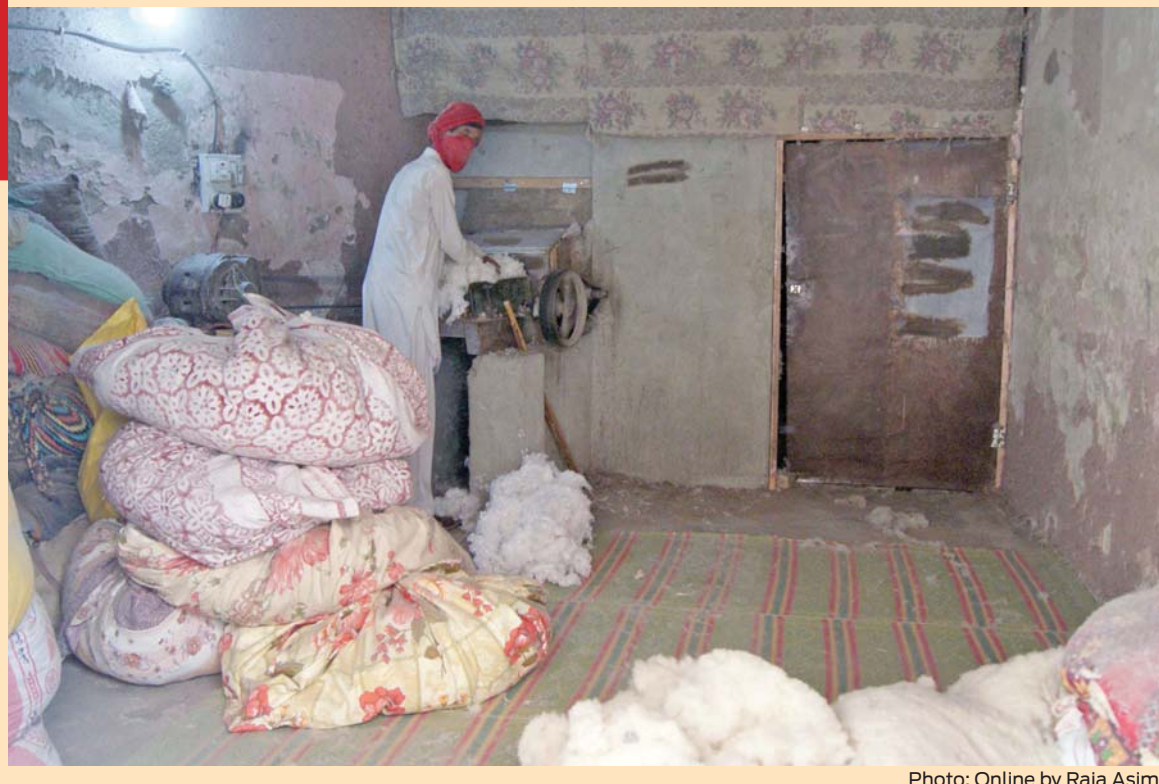


Photo: Online by Raja Asim

**Qatari Ambassador lauds services of Pakistan Sweet Home**

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani Wednesday met with the children of Pakistan Sweet Home and said that it was best work to educate the orphan children and make them stand at their feet.

According to a press release issued here, the ambassador said that he did not know Pakistan was looking after orphan children at such a large scale. He said the courage, passion, and confidence of the children had inspired him. The ambassador said Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Home Zamarud Khan and his team were fulfilling a great mission of serving humanity and the country.

He also assured that the government of Qatar would be ready for any possible cooperation in that regard.

On this occasion, Zamarud Khan said that Qatar had always been striving for the welfare of Pakistan and played a role for the



education and training of orphans.

The children of Pakistan Sweet Home entertained the audience with a colorful performance of Pakistani culture.

Head of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamarud Khan, and the children presented a commemorative shield to the Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.



ISLAMABAD: MGC Real Estate and Best Western Hotel Group conducted their inauguration ceremony today in Islamabad for the launch of Best Western Plus in MGC Jewel, located in Lake View Junction, Bahria Town. The event was attended by Best Western Group's Thailand and United Kingdom teams and their Best Western CEO Pakistan, Mr Ch.Abdul Wahid.

**Naatia Book 'Who Na Hotay Agar' launched at PAC**



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: A Book launching ceremony titled "Who Na Hotay Agar" held at Punjab Arts Council is collaboration with literary and Training Organization Mashreq and the International Writers Forum Pakistan.

The event was presided over by internationally renowned poet, writer, intellectual and philologist Professor Dr. Maqsood Jafari Sahib, while well-known writer Muhammad Tawfiq, Director of Sports (POF) was the chief guest. Social leaders Chaudhry Rasib Khan Pakhadal Minhas, Abrar Ahmed, Divisional President APPSMA Rawalpindi, Syed Asif Ali Hamdani took special part in the event.

While addressing the ceremony Professor Dr. Maqsood Jafari said that Shahid Jameel Minhas is a sensitive poet. His love and emotions are visible in his Natia poetry. I congratulate you on the publication of the book.

Raja Amjad Minhas, Attaur Rehman Chaudhary, Taslim Ikram, Chairperson Bazm Taslim Ikram, Farzand Ali Sarwar Hashmi and Professor Mahmood Ijaz Butt expressed their views about the book. All the speakers praised the efforts of the poet while evaluating the intellectual and technical merits of Natia collection.

Chairman literary and Training Organization Mashreq Naveed Malik thanked all the participants in his closing remarks and said that such events will continue in future also. Along with the promotion of literature, creative and literary projects will also be created for educational institutions, he added.

**British Pakistani Dr Almas Rashid render her services to The Diabetes' Centre**

ISLAMABAD: British Pakistani Dr Almas Rashid, resident of Bradford UK render her services on her visit to The Diabetes' Centre Main Hospital here in Islamabad today

With 35 years of experience in medical field in UK, she was given a warm welcome on her arrival. She was taken on round of hospital and also met Chairman, TDC, Dr .Asjad Hameed and CEO Mr Tahir M. Abbasi.

Both lauded her spirit to work for a Diabetes free Pakistan while being in UK

Dr Almas Rashid appreciated TDC management for their state of art hospital and world class treatment

**Health Levy - Sustainable Solution for Tobacco Control in Pakistan**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) shared a press release to urge the government to impose of Health Levy on tobacco products to sustain tobacco control efforts in Pakistan.

Malik Imran, Country head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, said that in June 2019, the federal cabinet decided to implement a healthy levy on tobacco products. This decision was made to put a barrier against tobacco industry which has caused severe damage to public health and economy in Pakistan. However, some key policymakers kept blocking this move because of their strong working relationship with tobacco industry.

He mentioned that the use of tobacco causes annual an economic burden of 615 billion, which is 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP. On the other hand, the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is 120 billion. This imbalance can only be covered by imposing additional health tax on these products otherwise; our struggling health infrastructure won't be able to bear the burden. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager, SPARC, mentioned that children and low-income people are primary target of tobacco industry.

**Pakistan is on the way to 62 million diabetics by 2045**

Government shall increase tax on Sugary Drinks instead of Fuels

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD: Government of Pakistan has further increased the petroleum levy due to which the benefit of decrease in petroleum products worldwide cannot be transferred to general public. Government should increase tax on Sugary drinks instead of increasing levy on petroleum products. This will not only generate revenue of the government but it will also improve public health. Pakistan has the 3rd highest burden of diabetes worldwide with 33 million people living with diabetes and the rate in which diabetes is increasing Pakistan is world number 1 country with fastest growth of diabetes. This was said by health, economic and policy experts while addressing to the media workshop organized by Pakistan National Heart Association at local hotel in Islamabad. The workshop was attended by the senior journalists, civil society representatives, health, economy and policy



experts. The workshop was hosted by PANAH's General Secretary Sanaullah Ghumman. The guests included Mr.



Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Dr. Khawaja Masood Ahmed National coordinator Nutrition and NFA MoH, Sqn. Leader Ghulam Abbas, civil society representatives, health professionals and journalists.

While addressing to workshop, Mr. Sana Ullah Ghumman said that beverage and tobacco industry is misguiding policy makers at every step and creating barriers to the policy process. PANAH is engaged at all levels from general public to law and policy makers increase awareness in general public on health harms of sugar sweetened beverages and for laws and policies to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy drinks. He said that

it is unfortunate that such an important "Health Contribution Bill" submitted by Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination is stalled at cabinet. Earlier the bill was stalled at FBR and PANAH filed a petition in 2020 to ombudsman to revitalize the bill and got success. However, beverage and tobacco industry is trying to block the bill at every step due to their corporate interest and they don't have any interest with the health of public.

Dr. Samina Matloob MNA, said that non-communicable diseases are increasing at an alarming rate in Pakistan. We need to focus on causes of these diseases and sugary drinks are major cause of obesity, diabetes and other NCDs. Kh. Masood Ahmed Director Nutrition MoH said that we must decrease the consumption of sugary drinks for a healthy Pakistan.

Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that passing

health contribution bill is great opportunity for government of Pakistan to generate revenue to fund the health and nutrition programs. The bill can bring revenue of more than 55 billion annually and will also help in reducing the diseases burden due to reduction in the consumption of sugary drinks and tobacco.

He said that high consumption of sugary drinks is an increasing threat to economy of the country. He said that PIDE estimated Rs. 428 billion as cost of obesity in 2015. Similarly, as per International Diabetes Federation, the annual cost of managing diabetes in Pakistan has been increased to USD 2640 million in 2021. He urged media to raise their voice for imposition of higher taxes on SSBs. Pakistan is ranked 3rd highest globally with 33 million people living with diabetes in 2021. If no policy action taken immediately, the number of people living with diabetes will increase to 62 million by 2045.

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# Leading role of CDA and RDA against urban flooding

**Chaudhry Muhammad Latif**

**R**ecent climate resultant flooding in Pakistan has given a wakeup call to harness natural blessing of rain water to tackle simultaneously probable drought in 2025 and urban flooding to avoid human catastrophe in the future. It has been felt advisable to adopt ground water recharge wells technology as a national policy to counter urban flooding and to build reservoirs big or small as many as possible so as to be ready to save every drop of rain water.

The rain water storage solutions like artificial lakes on micro level commencing from housing societies and artificial recharge wells would help manage rain water. We will have to either reduce ground water extraction mostly by tube wells or increase water table recharge in urban areas in particular. Luckily the Capital Development Authority Islamabad has taken a healthy and useful initiative of establishing 100 recharge wells and 90 monitoring stations from its own resources in Islamabad, the capital city. This realization has taken place after decade of neglecting this vital requirement of its residents. Out of 100 proposed recharge wells 50 have been accomplished with conservation of 10 million gallons of water which

at first replenished the ground water and has also reduced NullahLeh flooding this year. This quantity of water if released to NullahLeh the result could be urban flooding as experience by the twin cities several times. This experience indicates that if this type of reservoirs are built up in all cities the menace of urban flooding could be minimized. The havoc of urban flooding in Karachi demands immediate steps in this direction.

Now the need of the hour is to bind down the housing societies to build water reservoir in their respective catchment areas on top priority basis. The issue of urban flooding dictates to build artificial lakes even in parks and similar vacant spaces available. A sincere effort could be solicited to the management of big mosques to build reservoirs of pure ablation water.

The CDA is a very powerful and strong agency in Islamabad. They can issue a regulatory policy of building lakes by housing societies preceding the commencement of construction of houses and commercial plazas. The CDA should add its administration a wing to monitor and supervise the construction of lakes by all housing projects and it should also undertake construction of lakes in all contributory nullahs of NullahLeh. Simultaneously the useless Mulberry trees in Islamabad causing nuisance of allergy every year should be uprooted, eradicated, and we replace by fruit bearing trees. The

area reclaimed and retrieved from the blockade of small nullahs should be utilized for plantation of fruit trees. The luxury of ornamental trees should be dispensed with. The fruit trees in open and unfenced areas should be open to the poor segment of our population. It will be a noble idea and enviable example for other development authorities in big cities.

The Director General Military Land and Cantonments, Major General Tariq Zameer has recently inaugurated an underground rain water storage tank in Rawalpindi Cantonment General Hospital colony. The tank has a water storage capacity of 50,000 gallons which would be used by the residents of the colony. The general emphasized that every Cantonment should make efforts to collect and preserve rain water while constructing new buildings. This is an admirable initiative which needs to be multiplied on top priority basis.

It goes without sayings that the implementation of such positive proposals is possible more promptly in Cantonments than in a civil organizations. Cantonments are available in almost all big cities. Therefore the Cantonments should go ahead without any loss of time. The Cantonment Board could seek public participation in Defense Housing Societies/authorities for building rain water reservoir. This is an ideal practical demonstration for the Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA). They should not be

mere spectator to lament on the devastation caused by NullahLeh or the problem of ground water level going low day by day due to the huge number of tube wells.

In between the twin cities there are big housing projects mainly launched by DHA and the Bhabra Town Housing Authority. The function and designs of housing authority must make it mandatory to build lakes in their sphere of areas, prior to the start of construction of building. There are numerous beautiful spots where natural lakes available which could be rendered in a shape of regular lake with meagre investment but with multipurpose benefits in return. The building of lakes in housing projects could reduce the cost of construction, could feed the requirement of water for vegetation, vegetables and fish farming.

In Gulburg Green scheme Islamabad where houses have been built but the ideal lake sight has not been undertaken so far. Similarly, in the Golf Club area in Phase-VII of Bhabra Town potential of a big lake is available. In Phase-VIII a lake view sign board has been displayed for the last so many years simply to charge higher prices for plots and flats in Domanian Mall but no work of construction of a lake has so far been started.

*The author is a Retired Additional Chief Secretary and Advocate Supreme Court of AJK.*

## Pak exports to African countries surged by 20.10% during first quarter

**E**xports to African countries rose to \$369.21 million during the first quarter (Q1) of 2022-23 from \$307.42 million in the same period of last fiscal year, the Ministry of Commerce data says.

Kenya remained the largest exports destination in the African continent during Q1 with exports' volume of \$60.44 million, registering 34% growth against the same months of 2021 when exports' volume was recorded \$45.12 million.

Exports to South Africa recorded \$54.738 million during the period under review compared to \$46.03 million in the corresponding quarter of the last year, with an increase of 18.90%.

With the exports' volume of \$33.56 million, Egypt registered as the third largest market for Pakistan in Africa during August. Exports to Tanzania grew to \$21.12 million during July-September this year from \$11.48 million in the same months of last year.

Exports to African countries also grew by 22.32% in September 2022 compared to the same month of the last year. Exports to African countries were recorded \$128.69 million in September this year against \$105.2 million in the corresponding month of 2021.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan's top export destinations in Africa include Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar, Tanzania, Egypt and Nigeria. It also showed that Pakistan's exports to most of its top destinations in the African Continent are increasing over the time, which indicates that Africa's top economies are becoming attractive for Pakistani exports.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan's top exports to African countries are cereals, cotton, wadding, made-up textile, sugar, confectionery, man-made staple, salt, sulphur, beverages, spirits and vinegar, pharmaceutical products, optical photographic, plastics paper and paperboard, machinery, miscellaneous chemical and toys.

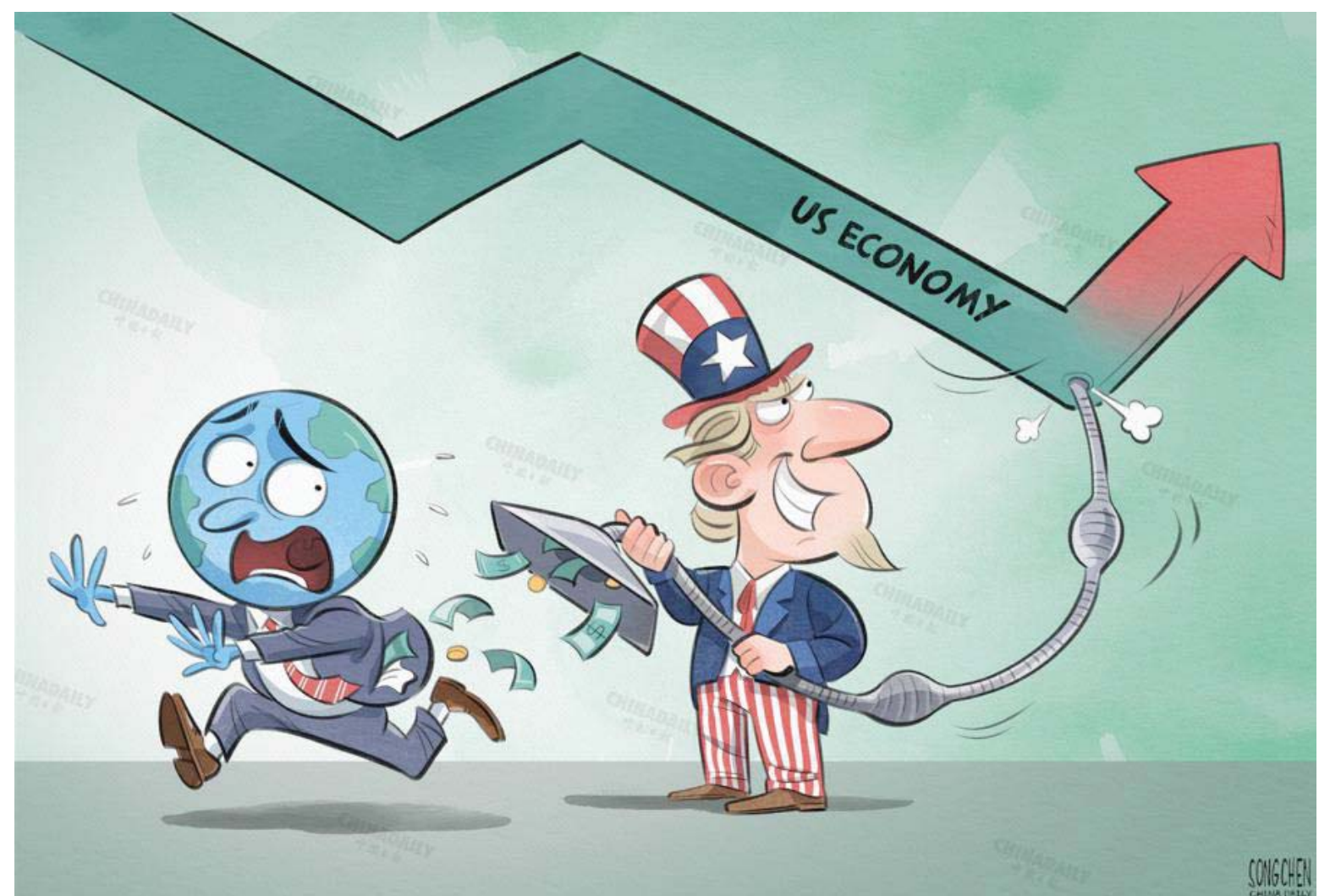
Pakistan imports tea, coffee, crude oil, iron, steel, inorganic chemicals, cotton and textile products from the African region. Kenya is the largest source of tea import for Pakistan in terms of quantity as well as value. According to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade, Pakistan imported tea worth over \$480 million from Kenya in 2021.

According to a study of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Africa is rich in natural and mineral resources and is called world's storehouse of strategic raw materials.

Lack of information, mutual understanding, business interactions, connectivity and people-to-people contact between Pakistan and African countries are the ground of low economic relations and trade.

According to the TDAP, Africa is an untapped market for Pakistani exports. Products such as tractors, transmission apparatus, surgical instruments and non-Basmati rice hold immense export potential. Pakistani products are in huge demand in Africa. Africa should be Pakistan's primary focus for export market diversification. The current trade volume between Pakistan and Africa is low. If Pakistan focuses on brand development and pursues market-friendly policies, the bilateral trade has the potential to increase.

The Ministry of Commerce under its "Look Africa" initiative organized a business conference in Nigeria last year for Pakistani industrialists and importers so that they can explore the African market and assess the business environment. WealthPk



## MENA nations making rapid progress on climate technology

**Dr. Bashayer Al-Majed**

**S**ustainability and carbon-neutral businesses have finally become the mainstream and the Middle East is now on board. This time last year, the London School of Economics published a report stating that people in Kuwait, and the Middle East in general, had little understanding of climate change, with it not being covered in school curriculums. And while there were laws in place, they were not enforced, with companies more likely to pay fines than implement expensive methods to cut carbon emissions. The lack of momentum came from a lack of understanding that climate change will have a very real impact on us and our lifestyles, and within our lifetimes.

But Middle East and North African countries have come a long way since. The COP27 climate change conference will take place in Egypt this month and will discuss sustainable solutions to the economic and humanitarian challenges facing the world. The 2015 COP21 in France saw 196 countries sign the legally binding Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius, and ideally to below 1.5 C, submitting their "nationally determined contributions" on how they would achieve this and contribute to a climate-neutral world by 2050. Just last week, Saudi Arabia hosted the 6th Future Investment Initiative conference, with a theme of "Invest in Humanity," which had a strong focus on sustainability. "Net-zero carbon" and the "circular carbon economy" are the new buzz phrases, with businesses making real commitments to realize change, but is it enough?

There is a strong drive in the Middle

East to invest in green hydrogen, which is a very efficient method of storing energy once it is generated, although it is relatively expensive to generate. Oman, the UAE and Saudi Arabia already have plants initiated or planned. Scientists at the UK's Imperial College London believe it is viable to fully run a city on renewable/clean energy, but it would require a combined approach, using several sources in a system, such as nuclear, wind, solar, green hydrogen or wave, to ensure a full, continuous supply in a cost-effective manner.

With large expanses of desert, Middle Eastern countries can really use their natural resources to their advantage to create green hydrogen and solar power stations. The issue with new forms of energy generation is how they can be applied to the technology in which they are needed, i.e., development would be required to integrate more electric energy, rather than oil or gas. Alongside this is a joint venture by Kuwait, the UAE and Qatar to develop carbon sequestering initiatives.

In April, the FII published an article summarizing data from the International Energy Agency, assessing the energy efficiency of employees working from home once a week, now that this has become more common since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It compared the additional home energy consumption versus the energy saved from not commuting. It found there was a net energy saving of 8.5 million tons of fuel and 24 million tons of carbon dioxide if 20 percent of employees worked from home once a week. However, it reported that, while this was worthwhile and reduced carbon emissions, companies should work on reducing their overall carbon footprint and energy consumption

as a workplace, as this resulted in the largest impact.

The FII conference put discussions on sustainability and the circular carbon economy high on the agenda. It was pointed out that ethanol from sequestered carbon had already been used as fuel in an airplane flight from Orlando to London.

It was also discussed that nongovernmental organizations should be involved with helping businesses implement sustainability measures. There certainly needs to be a central source of information, guidance and perhaps auditing to share knowledge about what has worked and how sensible measures that are uniform across all businesses, along with legislation to back up these measures, can guarantee change.

The FII was a positive run-up to COP27 and it has hopefully inspired governmental, business and community leaders in the Middle East to engage with their colleagues and teams to look at what discussions and actions they can bring to the upcoming conference in Egypt. Governments need to support entrepreneurs with ideas for pioneering technologies or routes to implementing them. It is good to see the MENA region not just engaged in these discussions, but also implementing real routes to meeting Paris Agreement targets with investments in circular carbon economies, leading change and using their natural resources to generate clean, renewable energy for sustainable new cities and potentially wider uses too. The next step is for all nations to truly work together to share best practices and knowledge for both technological implementation and corporate auditing.

*Writer is a professor of law at Kuwait University and visiting fellow at Oxford, courtesy with Arab News*

## Urgent funds needed to tackle climate crisis in Asia

**Sunil Acharya/Kalina Tsang**

**C**limate change has become an undeniable reality. It's not just obvious in the poles where ice caps are melting at an unprecedented pace, nor is it an issue of the future. It's what's happening now in our own backyards here in Asia.

In the summer of 2022, China experienced the strongest heat waves — in terms of intensity, impact, scale and duration — since the country began compiling complete meteorological records in 1961. Close to 1 billion people across central, eastern and southern China were exposed to temperatures above 35 degrees Celsius, with 360 million people experiencing temperatures above 40 C.

In Pakistan, after eight failed monsoons, a deadly flood claimed more than 1,600 lives and affected 33 million people, nearly 8 million of which were displaced from their homes.

Earlier, India and Pakistan saw one of the hottest springs in recorded history, with temperatures topping out at 50 C in some places, impacting hundreds of millions of people.

If the world was just, these scenes of surreal and terrifying stories from across the region would be different. Sadly, many more people across the developing world are living through similar stories. Most often, people from marginalized and lower-income backgrounds experience the worst effects of the climate crisis and are the least prepared to deal with the consequences. But those people who have been suffering have done the least to cause this crisis.

Because the providers of finance fail to embrace locally led climate finance, local communities on the front line of climate change do not have sufficient say in how the climate finance affecting them is governed. Currently, only about 0.5 percent of the total finance to South and Southeast Asian countries can be estimated to be "locally led".

Forced to invest, on their own, in reconstructing and rebuilding after being hit by climate disasters, developing countries are cutting expenditure on vital public services such as health, education and social protection. As a result, more people are pushed back into poverty.

Already, 50 percent of Asia's population lives below the \$5.50 per day poverty line.

Despite this suffering, developed countries, which are historically responsible for the climate crisis, are running away from their responsibilities. Back in 2009, they committed to provide \$100 billion per year to developing countries by 2020 through to 2025, which was reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement in 2015. Compared with the investment needed to avoid dangerous levels of climate change, this pledge is almost inconsequential. But the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow last year made it clear that developed countries have failed to deliver on this promise and are shifting the goal posts.

We must come together to ease the pain of those suffering the most through solidarity and collaboration. That ball rolls at the Climate Change Conference in Egypt in November.

Governments and the providers of climate finance must urgently ensure that scaled-up and grant-based adaptation finance reaches vulnerable communities at the local level to respond to their actual needs. They should also clearly outline the pathways to meet their commitments including the doubling of adaptation finance by 2025.

Climate change is an urgent and severe threat to humanity. We need to see significantly more commitment and action at the climate conference in Egypt and beyond — a step change away from continued underfunding of climate finance pledges and upholding the past agreements and the vital ambitions therein.

*Sunil Acharya is the regional policy and campaigns coordinator at Oxfam in Asia, and Kalina Tsang is the director general at Oxfam Hong Kong. Daily The Spokesman publish the article just for information with courtesy of China Daily*

**Improving Meager Trade Volume**

# Brazilian Envoy for face-to-face interaction between business communities

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Ambassador of Federative Republic of Brazil Olyntho Vieira has stressed that instead of having online meetings, the business communities of Brazil and Pakistan must look into the possibilities of holding face-to-face interactions which would certainly help in enhancing trade ties.

"The best way of doing business is to regularly meet each other and directly examine and feel the goods being produced by Brazil and Pakistan", he added while exchanging views at a meeting during his visit to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI).

President KCCI Mohammed Tariq Yousuf, Senior Vice President Touseef Ahmed, Vice President Muhammad Haris Agar, Former President Majd Aziz, Honorary Consul General of Brazil Omer Adil Jaffer, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Brazil Fabio Maneghatti and KCCI Managing Committee members were also present at the meeting.

Brazilian Ambassador, who was on his first visit to Karachi after assuming charge around two-and-a-half years, said that although his job was to promote



President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI) Mohammed Tariq Yousuf presenting crest to Ambassador of Federative Republic of Brazil Olyntho Vieira during his visit to KCCI. Senior Vice President Touseef Ahmed, Vice President Muhammad Haris Agar, Former President Majd Aziz, Honorary Consul General of Brazil Omer Adil Jaffer, Deputy Head of Mission Embassy of Brazil Fabio Maneghatti and KCCI Managing Committee members are also seen in the picture.

Brazilian exports to Pakistan but he would like to see enhanced trade from both sides as improved trade from one side only was no good business.

He was of the view that Pakistan and Brazil were good in producing textile products hence, the businessmen of both countries associated with this sector can join hands to become a big force. This collaboration could prove favorable for

Brazilian businessmen who may get into some kind of an arrangement with Pakistani counterparts for producing Brazilian goods in Pakistan and supplying them to the Asian markets which would bring down the shipment cost, he opined, adding that Brazil can offer many good quality products at good prices to Pakistan as the country has been producing almost everything from food

to aero planes.

He said, "Pakistan has many competitive advantages that we could benefit from and we can work together in different sectors of the economy particularly the IT sector which has developed rapidly in Pakistan."

Brazilian Envoy extended full support and cooperation to the business and industrial community of Karachi and assured to link them with relevant Brazilian businessmen and industrialists.

Earlier, President KCCI Mohammed Tariq Yousuf, while welcoming the Brazilian Ambassador, expressed deep concerns over Pakistan's extremely low export share of just 0.3 percent in the Brazilian market hence, there was a need to look into the possibility of exporting sports goods, surgical and pharmaceutical goods and textile products etc. to Brazil so that the meager trade volume could be improved.

He also stressed the need for having bilateral trade agreements between Pakistan and Brazil as no such agreement exists. If both countries could agree upon any mutually beneficial preferential treatment or a duty-free regime, this would prove favorable in furthering trade relations between the two countries.

## Azerbaijan Ambassador call on Shah Owais Noorani SAPM



ISLAMABAD: A meeting was held between Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Shah Owais Noorani and Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov at the Prime Minister's Office, Islamabad. The unity of the Muslim Ummah and the challenges faced by Ummah were discussed during the meeting. In order to combat challenges being faced by Muslim Ummah, we should devise a common strategy Shah Owais Noorani, SAPM has said. The SAPM also briefed the Ambassador of Azerbaijan about devastation caused due to recent floods in Pakistan which left hundreds of thousand poor people homeless.

Special Assistant to the PM and Ambassador of Azerbaijan reiterated for stronger ties between the two countries.

## For fear of defeat, opposition running away from polls: PMA7K.



**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that for fear of defeat the opposition was running away from local body elections. "Government is ready for the polls, there is no issue of security or resources, elections won't be postponed in any circumstances", the PM said, adding that the PTI won't let the PDM alliance to run away from the polls.

He said that the government was also ready to fulfil the opposition parties' demand for conducting the polls under the supervision of Army. "The government is committed to fulfill the masses' dream of holding municipal polls after 31 years in accordance with vision of party chairman Imran Khan", the PM said, adding that the people should lend their full support to the government in thwarting the oppositions' conspiracy to postpone the polls under the pretext of security.

Referring to the UNCIP resolutions, the PM said, "The federal government is bound to maintain peace and order in Azad Kashmir according to the resolutions of the United Nations". He said that the federal government should provide security so that the elections could be held as per the scheduled time. "There is no security issue in Pakistan, the PTI long march is peaceful", the PM said, adding that the issue of security would hopefully be sorted out before the scheduled date (March 27).

The Prime Minister said that the people and potential candidates were extremely enthusiastic about the local body elections being held after the gap of 31 years. The PTI candidates, he said, were vigorously engaged in the election campaign. "Since the public opinion in Azad Kashmir is in favour of the PTI, the opposition after seeing its defeat is now looking for excuses to get the elections postponed", the PM said, adding that the government won't let this conspiracy succeed. "The Election Commission and the government have written letters to the

# The UK announces first projects for Pakistan's climate finance accelerator initiative

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The UK has announced that seven innovative low-carbon projects from across Pakistan will be part of the first cohort of projects for the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA), Pakistan. The chosen projects, selected from over 50 applications, are from the energy, transportation, AFOLU (agriculture, forestry and other land uses), waste, e-mobility, and industrial and manufacturing sectors.

The projects will receive tailored support ahead of an event in February 2023. The support includes individual needs assessment discussions and analysis of each of the projects from a financial, technical and gender equality and social inclusion perspective, to ensure they are in the best position to attract investment. These

projects have the potential to benefit communities across Pakistan through pollution abatement, employment opportunities, access to energy, effective waste management, e-mobility and by supporting gender equality and social inclusion efforts.

The CFA is part of the UK Government's efforts to help Pakistan in accessing climate finance and meeting the priorities set out in its Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement. This work comes alongside the provision of UK humanitarian support to Pakistan following the devastating floods that have killed over a thousand people and affected more than 33 million. During his visit to Pakistan last month, FCDO Minister Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon announced a further £10 million of humanitarian aid, bringing the UK Govern-

ment's total contribution to £26.5 million. This uplift in funding comes after the British public raised over £30m in donations via a Disaster Emergency Committee appeal and the UK's Ministry of Defence gifted in-kind life saving equipment.

British High Commission Development Director, Jo Moir, said: "Businesses are playing a vital role in tackling the climate emergency in Pakistan, as we have seen in the response to the devastating floods. The UK is committed to assisting innovative and exciting low-carbon projects joining CFA Pakistan and building Pakistan's climate resilience. We are ek saath against climate change."

Khurram Lalani, Team Leader from DAI said: "Today, we are delighted to launch the first cohort of the Climate Finance Accelerator, which aims to catalyse

private finance and investments in projects that are vital to Pakistan's green economy success; in renewable energy, electric transport, and sustainable housing. I am sure the support provided through CFA will enable these projects to make scalable and groundbreaking products for our collective greener future."

The CFA projects are: ACT Engineering Services; ACT Engineering (ACTES) provides standardised solar solutions for residential and commercial clients. The company has already installed 6 MW of distributed solar all over Pakistan, and aims to implement further 20 MW industrial and commercial solar projects through CFA support in a bid to scale up solar energy solutions in Pakistan.

Digital Dera by Agriculture Republic: Digital Dera is Pakistan's first climate

## MOL Pakistan conducts free eye camp for the residents of Karak

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR : Over the request of local elders and community, MOL Pakistan Oil & Gas Company B.V., in collaboration with the implementation partner Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Kohat, conducted a free eye camp in district Karak where a large number of residents received the required treatment.

The one-day camp was arranged at the Government Primary School, Bakha Banda located in tehsil Banda Daud Shah. Medical team comprising of specialist doctors, refractonists and supporting staff from Al Shifa Trust Eye Hospital Kohat provided services at the camp. OPD of the camp remained operational for the whole day where patients including senior citizens, men, women and children got appropriate treatment. As per their condition, most of the patients were provided with spectacles and medication after a detailed check up. Some of them were referred to hospital for further investigation and some were taken to the Al-Shifa Trust Eye Hospital for surgery.

# Opium cultivation soars in Afghanistan despite Taliban ban: UN

UNITED NATIONS: Opium cultivation in Afghanistan in 2022 soared by almost one-third, with one of the biggest harvests in the last three decades despite a ban on opium poppy imposed by the Taliban in April, according to a new UN report.

The report, "Opium cultivation in Afghanistan," is the first such analysis by the Vienna-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) since the Taliban came to power in August last year.

Opium poppy plantations increased by 32 per cent over the previous year, reaching 233,000 hectares, making the 2022 harvest

the third largest in the last three decades, after 2017 and 2018.

This year's harvest may turn into up to 380 tons of high-purity heroin, the deadliest drug around the globe, of which Afghanistan supplies 80 per cent of the demand.

On their part, the authorities banned all cultivation of opium poppy and all narcotics under strict new laws, in April 2022.

Opium is the essential ingredient for manufacturing the street drug heroin, and the class of medical prescription opioids, which millions rely on for pain medication worldwide, it was pointed out. Opioids have also been increas-

ingly abused, causing widespread addiction issues in countries such as the United States.

This year's harvest was largely exempted from the decree, said UNODC, and farmers in Afghanistan must now decide on planting opium poppy for next year amid continued uncertainty about how the Taliban will enforce the ban.

Sowing of the main 2023 opium crop must be done by early November this year.

"Afghan farmers are trapped in the illicit opiate economy, while seizure events around Afghanistan suggest that opiate trafficking continues unabated," said UNODC Executive Director

Ghada Waly, launching the new survey.

"The international community must work to address the acute needs of the Afghan people, and to step up responses to stop the



criminal groups trafficking heroin and harming people in countries around the world."

According to UNODC findings,

cultivation of opium poppies in Afghanistan increased by 32 per cent over the previous year, to 233,000 hectares, making the 2022 crop the third largest area under cultivation since monitoring began.

Cultivation continued to be concentrated in the southwestern parts of the country, which accounted for 73 per cent of the total area and registered the largest crop increase.

In Helmand province, one-fifth of all arable land was dedicated to opium poppy cultivation.

Opium prices have soared following the announcement of the cultivation ban in April.

Income made by Afghan farmers from opium sales more than tripled, from \$425 million in 2021 to \$1.4 billion in 2022.

The new figure is equivalent to 29 per cent of the entire 2021 value of the agricultural sector. In 2021, the farm-gate value of opiates was only worth some nine per cent of the previous year's agricultural output.

However, the increase in income did not necessarily translate into purchasing power, the UNDP survey notes, as inflation has soared during the same period, with the price of food increasing by 35 per cent on average. Following a drought at the start

of this year, opium yields declined from an average of 38.5 kilograms per hectare (kg/ha), in 2021, to an estimated 26.7 kg/ha this year, resulting in a harvest of 6,200 tons - 10 per cent smaller than in 2021.

The 2022 harvest can be converted into 350-380 tons of heroin of export quality, said UNDP, at 50-70 per cent purity.

Seizure events collected by UNODC's Drugs Monitoring Platform suggest that opiate trafficking from Afghanistan has been ongoing without interruption since August 2021. Afghan opiates supply some 80 per cent of all opiate users in the world.

# Pakistan and Kazakhstan relations on an upward trajectory for regional connectivity: Kazakh Ambassador

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kazakhstan are on an upward trajectory to collaborate and promote regional connectivity. Both countries, having strong three decades of bilateral cooperation, are contributing towards shaping the regional future by encouraging peace, dialogue, and trade.

Kazakhstan has played its key role as regional peace and dialogue hub and, over the years, has made substantial political, parliamentary, and administrative reforms to move the country forward in peace and progress. These were the remarks by the speakers during the Round Table on "Day of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Political Reforms in the framework of building a New Kazakhstan,"

organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomacy (IPDS), Embassy of Kazakhstan to Pakistan and Riphah Institute of Public Policy, Riphah International University. Scholars from Pakistan and Kazakhstan spoke on occasion in the hybrid format.

In her opening remarks, Farhat Asif, President of IPDS, said Roundtable is organized to revisit the important contours of the relations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan and understand the new Kazakhstan.

In his keynote address Ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan, reiterated that Pakistan and Kazakhstan have been supporting each other for three decades, and the two are successfully cooperating in a bilateral and multilateral format. Over the years, this partnership has been strength-

ened through cooperation and outstanding diplomatic, economic, and political consultations.

He said that through the joint efforts from both sides and the implementation of essential energy projects for cementing the Pakistan and Turkmenistan relationship. While highlighting the recent speech by the President of Kazakhstan and the steps taken by the government for the political reforms, Ambassador said that these are meant to create a path for peace, development, and inclusiveness in the society for the people to contribute towards building new and prosperous Kazakhstan.

While speaking on occasion, Dr. Lidiya Parkhomchik, Chief Researcher, Eurasian Studies Program Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP), Kazakhstan, enunciated that

Kazakhstan has a multivector policy and the country is playing its constructive role in bridging the divide between the east and west. She spoke at length about Pakistan-Kazakhstan's relations in the international arena. Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana, Former Vice Chancellor of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women's University, highlighted the role of Kazakhstan in playing its humanitarian and peacebuilding role for regional peace and prosperity. She said that Kazakhstan and Pakistan are collaborating in this regard.

Toktarov Yermek Bauyrzhanovich, Head of the Political Research Department of Kazakhstan, Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, explained the political reforms and overall process that led to



these important steps for the country. Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Peshawar, Pakistan, highlighted prospects for scientific and education linkages between Kazakhstan and Pakistan and said there should be deeper-rooted knowledge

exchanges between people from both sides.

Dr. Kaliyeva Elmira Abdykova, the Deputy Director of the Institute of Parliamentarism, Kazakhstan, spoke about the constitutional transformations in Kazakhstan and their contribution to changing the role of

the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Dr. Muhammad Munir, Head of the Department of International Relations at Muslim Youth University, spoke about the collaboration between Pakistan and Kazakhstan in regional and international organizations. Dr. Gauhar Khalilova Beiseeva, the Head of the International Relations Department Foreign Policy Research Institute, Kazakhstan, shed light on the current state and prospects of Kazakh-Pakistani cooperation. Finally, Dr. Mushab Yousafi, HoD, Department of IR, Riphah International University, Islamabad, thanked the participants. The event was attended by foreign diplomats, prominent politicians, heads of think tanks and public organizations, universities of Pakistan, businessmen, and local media representatives.

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

**Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index**

Current	Prev. Close
41,944.59	41,808.69
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,004.90	41,727.15
Index Value	Change
4,308,124,374	+135.90
Percentage	Time
+0.33%	2 Nov, 2022 5:00 pm

**Europe: FTSE 100 Index**

Index Value	Change
7,145.94	-40.22
Percentage	Time
-0.56%	2 Nov, 1:49 pm GMT

**USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average**

Index Value	Change
32,513.45	-139.75
Percentage	Time
-0.43%	2 Nov, 9:49 am GMT-4

**Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average**

Index Value	Change
27,663.39	-15.53
Percentage	Time
-0.056%	2 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9

**Open Market Forex Rates**

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	140.9	142.15
Bahrain Dinar	586.1	590.6
Canadian Dollar	161.54	162.89
China Yuan	30.19	30.44
Danish Krone	29.25	29.6
Euro	231	233
Hong Kong Dollar	28.07	28.42
Indian Rupee	2.66	2.74
Kuwaiti Dinar	711.15	716.15
Malaysian Ringgit	46.66	47.11
New Zealand \$	127.92	129.12
Norwegian Krone	21.19	21.49
Omani Riyal	572.33	576.83
Qatari Riyal	60.54	61.04
Saudi Riyal	62.4	63
Singapore Dollar	155.75	157.05
Swedish Korona	19.94	20.24
Swiss Franc	220.26	222.01
Thai Bhat	5.79	5.89
U.A.E Dirham	64.4	65
UK Pound Sterling	267	269.5
US Dollar	225	227.25

# 500 Global and JS Group partner to support startups in Pakistan

*500 Global plans to bring its world-class programs and continue to invest in Pakistan*

KARACHI: 500 Global, one of the most active venture capital firms in the world, has partnered with JS Group, one of Pakistan's leading financial services conglomerates, to support startups in Pakistan.

With this collaboration, 500 Global aims to bring its range of startup and investor education programs to Pakistan. It will also continue to scout for top founders and high potential technology startups to invest in.

As the world's fifth most populous market with a young population that is rapidly digitizing, Pakistan aims to become a regional technology hub. The number of venture-backed deals nearly quadrupled between 2018 and 2021 to 86, with funding rising more than 20-fold during the same period to \$332 million. Pakistan is at a tipping point for global venture-backed deals, attracting \$304 million in funding in the first nine months of 2022, 92% of total 2021 funding, according to data firm MAGNITT.

The partnership underscores 500 Global's mission of uplifting people and economies around the world through entrepreneurship. With \$2.7 billion under management, the Silicon Valley-based firm has invested in more than 2,700 companies in 81 countries, and counts 49 unicorns in its portfolio (companies



valued in excess of \$1 billion). In addition to its investments, 500 Global has run more than 80 accelerator programs worldwide, providing startups with the tools they need to set them up for success.

JS Group will continue to build on its vision to support the Pakistani startup ecosystem, creating category-defining technology businesses, employment opportunities and a new generation of entrepreneurs. JS Group and its subsidiaries have already built a track record of investing in and backing some of the country's

leading SMEs and start-ups — taking them from seed to IPO.

"We've been watching Pakistan's startup ecosystem evolve and I've also had the opportunity to meet a driven and thriving community of talented founders and their supporters, both in Pakistan and abroad. With JS Group's experience and offerings as a leading financial institution in Pakistan and with our experience investing globally in early stage technology and delivering programs, we'll each be well placed to help the next generation of founders

in Pakistan to build and scale their companies with strong infrastructure and know-how," said Courtney Powell, Chief Operating Officer and Managing Partner of 500 Global.

500 Global made its first investment in Pakistan six years ago and by teaming up with JS Group, the firm intends to deepen its commitment to building a thriving and sustainable startup ecosystem. Despite macro-economic pressures, both organizations recognize that the country's most innovative entrepreneurs will successfully navigate current economic challenges to create businesses that can scale growth in Pakistan and beyond.

"With close to a billion dollars in venture financing since 2018, the growth of Pakistan's young, connected middle class is underpinned by policies and infrastructure designed to advance the technology and venture capital sectors. JS Group has been at the forefront of Pakistan's financial sector and today is pioneering the provision of growth capital for the country's pathbreaking entrepreneurs. Together with 500 Global, we aim to enable access for homegrown startups to early stage financing and nurture innovative talent through a global network of experts," said Salaal Hasan, Director-Venture Capital of JS Group.

## QNET convention returns as an international-scale event, with exciting new launches for home and health

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI/DUBAI: International direct selling company QNET welcomed more than 15,000 participants from 30 countries to Penang Island, Malaysia, for its annual convention V-Malaysia 2022 after a 3-year hiatus. The highly anticipated convention, which serves as the company's flagship event, was also the first major international event in Malaysia in 2022. The 5-day convention held from October 7 to 11 included a mega product exhibition of QNET's health, wellness, and lifestyle brands, a series of training programmes, new launches, entertainment segments, and an international sports star as a guest speaker.

QNET, which prides itself on offering high-quality, exclusive products to help customers live a more holistic lifestyle, announced three new product launches at V-Malaysia 2022.

1. HomePure Viva – The newest addition to the company's Home and Living

range of products is a customisable water filtration system equipped with 11 task-specific modes that offer bespoke benefits for different usages (such as drinking, cleaning, washing, or preparing food). The star feature of this smart filtration system is its ability to produce hydrogen-rich alkaline water that can support the body's gastrointestinal function, quickly and effectively rehydrate the body and skin, and deliver health-boosting benefits in the long term. The Viva results from QNET's partnership with leading research laboratories in Europe and Japan and is manufactured in South Korea.

2. EDG3 Plus—This sugar-free powdered supplement is a part of QNET's nutrition portfolio, LifeQode. EDG3 Plus uses a science-backed formula with an optimal blend of turmeric, Vitamin D3, and a patented glutathione to strengthen the immune system, lower blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and increase the body's natural defense against diseases.

3. ProSpark Enhanced – An upgrade to ProSpark, a customer-favourite in the QNET personal care range, this powerhouse fluoride-free toothpaste combines two key ingredients to take care of your oral health. Astaxanthin, an antioxidant powerhouse found only in certain microscopic algae that grow in marine environments, and ProImmune\*, a patented amino acid formulation that increases glutathione production in the body.

QNET CEO Malou Caluzo, says, "Now more than ever, personal health and well-being are top-of-mind for many. Our health, well-being, and nutrition portfolio have seen a huge upsurge in interest over the past three years due to this shift in customer mindsets. Therefore, our goal moving forward is to create accessible, approachable, and holistic products that meet this increase in demand. We are proud to partner with world-class laboratories, researchers, and manufacturers to ensure our products are effective, beneficial, and made to the highest standards."

## ICCI calls for amending firefighting rules for commercial and industrial buildings

**Tariq Khattaq**

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry invited Syed Kashif Shah, Director, Emergency & Disaster Management, MCI and discussed with him the concerns of the business community on the firefighting rules of MCI. He briefed him about the difficulties being faced by the business community in implementing the firefighting rules of MCI in industrial and commercial buildings.

He said that it was not possible to implement these rules in the existing industrial & commercial buildings as it needed a lot of changes in building structures. He stressed that MCI should implement these rules in new buildings and amend them in consultation with stakeholders to make them practicable for old and existing commercial and industrial buildings.

He proposed that a Committee comprising representatives of ICCI and MCI should be formed to review and amend the building codes and firefighting requirements of MCI to make them implementable in the



existing industrial and commercial buildings and assets.

Syed Kashif Shah, Director, Emergency & Disaster Management, MCI said that he was not authorized to amend the firefighting rules. However, he assured that he would convey the reservations of the business community on these rules to the relevant authority of MCI. He said that MCI wanted to implement these firefighting rules in public and private sector buildings in a uniform way for the safety of occupants

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President, Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry and others also highlighted the difficulties being faced by the business community in implementing the firefighting rules of MCI and stressed for amending them to make them affordable and implementable for business community.

## Khushhali Microfinance Bank continues to support the flood-affectedees

ISLAMABAD: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited is a leading financial institution in Pakistan, which has achieved operational excellence over the years while contributing generously towards the country's socio-economic development. Responding to the devastating floods in Pakistan this year, Khushhali Microfinance Bank has launched another resourceful initiative to provide relief for the large number of families, who need food, shelter, and rehabilitation after this catastrophe.

With the winter season approaching soon, the situation is likely to be unfavourable for the flood-affected families. This is why Khushhali Bank is extending its full support in ensuring families who have lost their homes and livelihoods in this calamity are provided with adequate relief such as warm clothing, tents, and medical assistance. Through its flood-relief program, Khushhali Microfinance Bank is committed to mitigating the losses faced by flood affectees across the remote regions of Sindh, Balochistan, and Punjab provinces. It is now arranging food-ration distribution drives in the affected villages surrounding; Sukkur, Larkana, Hyderabad, and Mirpurkhas too.

The bank has mobilized its volunteer teams, who are participating enthusiastically in the relief efforts, all across the affected areas. Initially, Khushhali Microfinance Bank provided food packages to flood victims in the surrounding villages of DG Khan and Taunsa, to fulfil the immediate requirements for food and nutrition. In the second phase of this initiative, the bank provided tents, sheets, and food packages to the affectees of Khairpur. Medical camps are also being arranged in the surrounding villages, to provide free health checkups and medicines to a large number of deserving people, including women and children.

## FMPAC irked by operational hiccups of Track and Trace System

**Staff Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: The Track and Trace System installed on fertiliser plants is suffering from serious operational issues. The industry is of the view that the system appears to be imported without technical feasibility study in relation to the obtaining environment in Pakistan. Moreover, no reliable evidence of global performance has been found in the fertiliser industry. The fertiliser industry was forced to make a huge investment in the installation of the system despite apprehensions expressed in various meetings. The performance of the system has been dismal in the open environ-

ment, and the consortium that provided equipment has been unable to attend to the issues. The fertiliser industry demands replacement of the system or a refund of the amount so invested. Moreover, industry is of the view that enforcement of the system in its present form will lead to a serious disruption in the supply of fertilizer.

In a letter to Federal Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, fertilizer manufacturers of Pakistan Advisory Council (FMPAC) requested the government to review the enforcement of non-compatible track & trace system installed on the fertilizer manufacturing facilities.

# A.P. Moller–Maersk continues the record streak with strong Q3 results

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK: A.P. Moller–Maersk (Maersk) delivered strong results in Q3 2022 with higher earnings in its three main businesses: Ocean, Logistics & Services and Terminals, compared to the same quarter last year. Revenue increased by 37%, and both EBITDA and EBIT increased around 60% compared to Q3 2021. Continued momentum in the strategic transformation, growth in Logistics, and Ocean contract rates above the previous year were the main drivers of improved performance.

"Our third quarter result was another record and the 16th quarter in a row with year-on-year earnings growth. Ocean freight rates, which have driven the exceptional results we have delivered in 2022, were again up both year-on-year and compared to the second quarter. However, it is clear that freight rates have peaked and started to normalize during the quarter, driven by both decreasing demand

and easing of supply chain congestion. As anticipated all year, earnings in Ocean will come down in the coming periods. Our overall transformation momentum remained very strong as we continue to grow our Logistics business rapidly. For the first time, revenue in Logistics exceeded USD 4bn in one quarter, and we expect to continue to outgrow the market in Logistics based on new customer wins," says Soren Skou, CEO of A.P. Moller–Maersk.

Revenue for Q3 increased to USD 22.8bn, EBITDA increased to USD 10.9bn and EBIT increased to USD 9.5bn. Profit was USD 8.9bn for Q3 and USD 24.2bn for the first nine months. Return on invested capital (ROIC) was at 66.6% for the past 12 months.

"With the war in Ukraine, an energy crisis in Europe, high inflation, and a looming global recession there are plenty of dark clouds on the horizon. This weighs

on consumer purchasing power which in turn impacts global transportation and logistics demand. While we expect a slowdown of the global economy to lead to a softer market in Ocean, we will continue to pursue the growth opportunities within our Logistics business. As a trusted partner, we are ready to support our customers in rethinking their supply chain needs through what is likely to be a period of a more volatile business environment," says Soren Skou.

In Ocean, revenue increased over the quarter to USD 18bn and EBIT rose to USD 8.7bn mainly driven by significantly higher freight rates on contract and shipment on routes from Asia to Europe and to North America, partly offset by a decrease in volumes and by higher costs related to bunker, container handling and network.

In Logistics & Services, Maersk continued to invest in its portfolio and capabil-

ities. The acquisition of LF Logistics was completed, the intended acquisition of Martin Bencher Group was announced, and the warehouse, distribution center and cold storage footprint was significantly expanded with 21 incremental facilities across key markets like Latin America, Europe and India. Revenue in Logistics grew 60% to USD 4.2bn and EBIT increased to USD 258m mainly due to added revenue from acquisitions and higher volumes, in particular among Maersk's existing top 200 customers.

In Terminals, revenue grew to USD 1.1bn and EBIT increased to USD 357m, mainly driven by higher volumes and prices as well as the completion of the divestment of the Terminal's share in Global Ports Investments in Russia.

Demand for logistics services moderated across global supply chains in Q3 2022. Supply-side bottlenecks continued to pose challenges, but there are signs



of easing as demand slows and COVID 19-related restrictions in China diminish. Freight and charter rates declined in Q3 2022 relative to the previous quarter as the expected normalisation gained momentum through the quarter. Global container volumes are estimated to have declined -3% year-on-year in Q3 while global air cargo volumes, measured in CTAs, dropped by 9% in July/August (IATA). As a result of slowing economic activity, global container demand is expected to contract between -2 and -4% in 2022.

Full year guidance confirmed for underlying EBITDA of around USD 37.0bn, an underlying EBIT of around USD 31.0bn and a free cash flow above USD 24.0bn. Given the unfolding economic slowdown, which is also expected to continue into the coming year, APMM has lowered its outlook for the growth of 2022 global container demand to between -2/-4% decline from previously the lower end of the +1/-1% range. Capex guidance for 2022-2023 remains unchanged at USD 9.0-10.0bn.

# 10 Pakistani Youth is the architect of the country's bright future

Masood Khan Emphasized the need to deepen Pak-US Commercial ties

## Spokesman Report

WASHINGTON DC: "Pakistani young entrepreneurs are engines of growth and with their talent and expertise are the architects of the country's bright future," said Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States. "You are shaping the thriving startups ecosystem in Pakistan through your innovative and creative entrepreneurial potential," he continued.

"With the fifth largest population in the world, approaching 230 million, a median age of 22, one of the fastest-growing middle classes, more than 110 million mobile broadband subscribers, and a tech savvy young human capital, Pakistan provides ideal conditions for the US investors and entrepreneurs to explore, invest and expand their businesses," he added.

Ambassador Masood Khan made these remarks while talking to a delegation of Pakistani Young Entrepreneurs who are currently visiting the United States on a State Department's Professional Fellows Program (Entrepreneurship) in partnership with the University of Oklahoma.

The program empowers, connects and supports the next generation of young entrepreneurs from the four South Asian emerging economies (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) by providing them the access and opportunity need-



ed to advance their careers.

The fellows work with entrepreneurs in Oklahoma who focus on the same business sectors as them and learn the best practices from each other. This year five (05) successful, creative, innovative Pakistani youth entrepreneurs were selected from Pakistan out of the total 20 participants from 04 different countries.

The delegation comprised of Ms. Yumna Iftikhar, Manager Business Incubation, Balochistan, Zeeshan Khan, Founder Celebrity Soul, Ms. Rabbia Iqbal, Senior Manager, Organizational Development & Total Rewards Jungu Tech Pvt., Ltd., Mr. Ali Bin Masood, CEO GOHO Rooms.

These entrepreneurs were running hotel management, tourism, incubation and acceleration, B2B retail supply and

travel blogging businesses. The Ambassador congratulated young entrepreneurs on being selected for the program and getting an opportunity to represent the country at an international stage.

He also appreciated the utility of such exchange programs and advised the participants to use the opportunity as a platform to further strengthen their networks and forge robust professional linkages.

Ambassador Masood Khan while highlighting the impressive performance of Pakistan's exports to the US market, acknowledged that in the past 18 months, the Pakistan based tech startups alone have earned around \$1.5 billion out of which 60% has been funded by US based Venture Capital firms primarily in San Francisco.

Top American Venture Capital firms like Kleiner Perkins, Tiger Global and Sequia have started funding Pakistan's successful startups at the pre-seed, seed and incubation stages.

He emphasized the need for a continued Pakistan and the United States engagement to further promote trade and investment between the two countries as well as to enhance cooperation in the health, agriculture and tech sectors. The Ambassador said that concerted efforts were being made to create strong linkages at all levels including government-to-government, business-to-business and most importantly people-to-people contacts.

Responding to the questions by the group, the Ambassador said that Pakistan is streamlining its tax system to attract more tech startups. It was also taking additional steps to build tourism infrastructure sufficiently equipped to host foreign tourists.

The Ambassador also identified several business opportunities for the entrepreneurs to link up with their potential counterparts. The visit of Pakistani entrepreneurs took place at a time when the United States is celebrating National Entrepreneurship Month. President Biden in his proclamation said that during this month "we celebrate the doers, dreamers and job creators whose vision and grit fuel our economy."

# Virat Kohli becomes highest run-scorer in men's T20 World Cups

ADELAIDE: A master of the modern game, Virat Kohli has surpassed ICC Hall of Famer Mahela Jayawardena as the most prolific run-scorer in ICC Men's T20 World Cup history.

Tucking Taskin Ahmed for a single off his hip Kohli edged past Jayawardena's 1016 in 23 innings, eight innings quicker than the Sri Lankan, at an average of over 85 and a strike rate of 131.

It came with KL Rahul at the other end, who vitally found form with a score of 50 from just 32 deliveries.

Despite a lean trot earlier in the year, the 33-year-old found his groove in the Asia Cup and in bilateral series against Australia and South Africa leading up to the event, and hit the ground running in the much-anticipated meeting with Pakistan at the MCG in front of over 90,000 people to begin his



tournament.

Runs against the Netherlands pushed Kohli closer towards the thousand mark, and despite a blip against South Africa, he joined Jayawardena as the only men to boast a four-figure tally.

A glowing embodiment of the modern day athlete, Kohli's record doesn't just stack up well with others in the game, but those across other sports.

Meticulous in his preparation, laser-sharp in focus,

and perhaps still at the peak of his fitness, his results in a game are hard to comprehend, especially in a game known to be so fickle.

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Meticulous in his preparation, laser-sharp in focus, and perhaps still at the peak of his fitness, his results in a game are hard to comprehend, especially in a game known to be so fickle.

"When he finished, we had shots of him kneeling down and punching the pitch surface, punching it to relieve the pressure on himself."

# South Africa to target Pakistan's struggling top order in all important clash



SYDNEY: South African cricketer David Miller feels that his side should exploit Pakistan's struggling top order when the two teams meet in the ICC T20 World Cup match at Sydney Cricket Ground on Thursday.

Speaking ahead of the game, David Miller said that Pakistan has very good match winners and they expect a fully charged Pakistan side to show up at its must-win game.

"Against Pakistan, you've got to make sure that you're on your A-game as an opponent, so just making sure that we're sticking to our processes and what has worked in the past to implementing it tomorrow," he said.

"Pakistan are a great team, and they've got some serious match winners, but we've just got to take it as it comes, and definitely the boys are up for it, and then I suppose Pakistan — it's a must-win game for them, so they're going to be coming and charging, and we're definitely prepared for it," said the middle order batter.

When asked if Pakistan's struggle at the top order gives his team an edge over former champions, the 33-year-old said that Pakistan's top order problems is an area South Africa can exploit.

"This game is all about confidence, and yeah, they haven't probably performed the way they've wanted to, but they're world-class players, and we're expecting them to come out and bring their A-game and be up for the challenge," the South African cricketer said.

"It's by all means not just going in there and expecting to get them out first ball or early up. We've got to work hard for every wicket, and hopefully we can, get them early and put the Pakistan middle order under pressure a little earlier than later," he concluded.

Pakistan play South Africa on Thursday in Sydney and must win their remaining two matches and hope other results go their way to stand any chance of making the semi-finals.

# The International Hockey Federation 48th Congress, will be held on 4-5 November.

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: The upcoming meeting of the supreme organ of hockey's world governing body includes the election of the new FIH President, which will take place on 5 November.

Mohammad Tayyab Ikram from Pakistan is a Candidate for FIH President in the upcoming election.

Mohammad Tayyab Ikram has a diverse portfolio which includes his roles as CEO of Asian Hockey



Federation, FIH Executive Board Member, Treasurer FIH Foundation, Inter-

national Olympic Committee Commission Member, Olympic Council of Asia Vice

Chair Athletes Committee among various other roles in International Sports bodies.

Opposing Tayyab Ikram in his FIH President Candidacy is a candidate from Belgium.

The participating delegates from National Associations from around the world will cast their vote to decide who should take the helm of the International Hockey Federation.

We wish Tayyab Ikram the best and offer our fullest support for his FIH President Election.

# Pakistan aim to win second successive ICC Women's Championship series at home

## Tahir Malik

LAHORE: Bismah Maroof-led Pakistan are hoping to carry forward the winning momentum gained in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup as they take on Ireland in the first of the three ICC Women's Championship ODIs at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore on Friday.

Ireland, on their maiden tour to Pakistan, will play three T20Is from 12 to 16 November at the same venue following the conclusion of the ODI series.

These ODIs will be Ireland and Pakistan's second series in the ICC Women's Champi-

onship 2022-25. While Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka 2-1 in Karachi in June, Ireland lost all three matches to South Africa in Dublin in June.

The hosts enter the series on the back of a productive five-day pre-series camp, which included two intra-squad matches and intense training and practice sessions. Pakistan—who are number eight in the ICC Women's ODI rankings are ready to make an impression in the 50-over format in familiar playing conditions. Meanwhile, Ireland occupy the ninth spot in the ODI rankings.

Pakistan enjoy an historic edge

over the tourists in ODIs, having won 12 out of the 18 matches played between the two sides to date. The last time the two sides competed in One-Day Internationals was in February 2017 with Pakistan winning the match by 86 runs courtesy two wickets for 25 in 10 overs from left-arm spinner Nashra Sandhu.

Pakistan captain Bismah Maroof while talking to PCB Digital, said: "After a good performance in the recently concluded ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup, we are now focused on delivering our best in the ODI series which is a part of the ICC Women's Championship.



"Our aim like other teams would be to get points from the

series. We have good blend of experience and youth in our side and it is really good to see young players performing and helping the side to win.

"We are here to play a good game of cricket and we want fans to come to the stadium and support the team."

Ireland captain Laura Delany said: "We are delighted to be here in Pakistan, it's a pretty historical moment for an Irish cricket team to travel to Pakistan for the first time and we will relish the opportunity.

"The ODI series will be a competitive one as ICC Women's Championship points will be up

# Eligibility for funds of sports federations linked with performance: Ehsan Mazari

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari on Wednesday said that the ministry would release funds and provide grants to the sports federations on their performance basis.



Talking to PTV, he said there were 42 sports federation links with the IPC ministry. The ministry is hosting Asian Taekwondo Tournament where teams from 25 countries are participating in this mega event, he added.

The government has prepared a comprehensive national sports policy which would be approved by the cabinet, soon, in a bid to give a boost to sporting activities in the country.

Mazari said the incumbent government would resolve every issue of the sports sector with the support of all stakeholders to revive the sports culture in the country.

The government had restored departmental sports, which was one of the pressing demands by the young players as they were left jobless, he said.

The minister said that government had established a hockey stadium in Gilgit-Baltistan to provide the best facilities to sports figures and promote the national game, also adding that the government had been taking steps to engage youth in healthy activities.

# Pakistan Football Federation announces Disciplinary Committee

## Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) has announced the Disciplinary Committee as per Article 65 of the PFF statute.

The Committee would be comprised of Azeem Akram (Chairman), Muhammad Ali (Deputy Chairman), Malik Maqsood Ahmed (Member), and Zarak Zaman Khan (Member).

The Disciplinary Committee shall perform its duties independently, according to the PFF statute. The formation of an independent Disciplinary Committee is obligatory as per the PFF statute which also remains a key factor and steps towards holding free and fair PFF elections.

The Committee has jurisdiction with regard to disciplinary matters regarding the clubs' disputes in light of the FIFA and PFF statute. The PFF legal department will assist the Disciplinary Committee in order to reach the matters pertaining to disciplinary measures in accordance with the laws of FIFA, AFC, and PFF.

The aggrieved shall have the right to appeal against the decision of the Disciplinary Committee.

# India inch closer to semis after nervy win vs Bangladesh

MELBOURNE: Inaugural champions India put a foot in the semi-finals of the T20 World Cup following their nervy five-run victory against Bangladesh in a rain-hit Group 2 humdinger in Adelaide on Wednesday.

Virat Kohli made an unbeaten 64 to maintain his red-hot form and KL Rahul (50) ended his run drought as they fired India to a commanding 184-6 at the Adelaide Oval.

Chasing a revised target of 151 in 16 overs following a rain interruption, Bangladesh looked on course with Litton Das (60) going great guns but his exit unhinged his side who eventually finished on 145-6.

India moved to the top of Group 2 with six points, one ahead of South Africa who have played one game fewer.

"Shortened games can go either way... but we held our nerves pretty well when the game started after the break," India captain Rohit Sharma said. "Some of the catches we took today under pressure, it was great to watch."

Put into bat, India did not have the best of starts with Taskin Ahmed proving quite a handful even though the seamer went wicketless. Hasan Mahmud (3-47) dropped Rohit in the deep but almost immediately made amends dismissing the batter for two.

Kohli, who was adjudged player-of-the-match, did not look convincing initially but was soon in his elements, while Rahul also looked in great touch at the other end.

With scores of 4,9,9 in his previous three matches, Rahul was under pressure to justify his selection and the opener responded by clubbing four sixes en route to a 31-ball fifty as India reached 86-2 at the halfway stage.

Suryakumar Yadav played a typically breezy 30 off 16 balls on a day he replaced Pakistan's Mohammad Rizwan as the top-ranked T20 batter. Kohli accelerated in the penultimate over, registering his third fifty in four innings and also overtook Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardena as the leading run-getter in the history of the tournament.

Litton gave Bangladesh a rollicking start scoring 56 of Bangladesh's 60 runs in the first six powerplay overs. He raced to a 21-ball fifty before rain halted play with Bangladesh on 66 for no loss after seven overs.

When play resumed with a revised target, Das was beaten by Rahul's direct throw from deep midwicket and it triggered a batting collapse.

Bangladesh needed 20 from the last over from Arshdeep Singh and Nurul Hasan hit a six and a four but it was not enough in the end.

"It's been the story when we play India. We're almost there but we never cross the finishing line," Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan rued.

Omama Sohail, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Umm-e-Hani

Ireland ODI squad: Laura Delany (c), Amy Hunter, Arlene Kelly, Cara Murray, Celeste Raack, Eimear Richardson, Gaby Lewis, Jane Maguire, Leah Paul, Louise Little, Mary Waldron, Orla Prendergast, Rachel Delaney, Rebecca Stokell and Shauna Kavanagh.

**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