



**People's warmth, hospitality to stay with us forever**

Irish women cricket captain Laura Katherine Delany has said that the love, warmth and hospitality her team received during the 12-day tour to Lahore will remain a cherished part of their lives in the years to come. In an interview with APP after the third WT20I at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Wednesday, she said they were humbled by the hospitality extended to them by the PCB and the Lahorites during their brief tour of the historic city (Report on Page 7).



**Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Second World Conference**

Indeed, there is no doubt that the investments spent in the path of such a noble goal will pay off several times over in the future. Along with this, all of us are well aware that the basis of the child's personality is formed at the preschool age, during which the foundation for his intellectual and physical development is created. (See full speech on Page 5)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

**IDEAS 2022**

KARACHI: Visitors inspect military ammunition during International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS) 2022 at the Expo Centre in Provincial Capital.



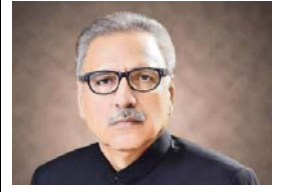
Photo: Online by Sabir Mazhar

**COAS visits IDEAS-2022**



KARACHI : Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Karachi today and witnessed various stalls at IDEAS-2022 at Karachi Expo Centre. COAS also interacted with cross section of visitors and delegates and held separate meetings with various visiting delegates including Bahrain, Italy, Sri Lanka, Libya, Zimbabwe and UAE. Later, COAS visited Malir garrison where he laid floral wreath at Martyr's Monument. During his farewell address to officers and troops COAS lauded their professionalism and devotion to duty. He also praised the troops for their untiring rescue and relief efforts to assist the people during recent heavy floods. Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Corps Commander Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed. Agencies

**Terrorism cannot deter nation's resolve: President**



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Wednesday said the cowardly acts of terrorism could not deter the nation's resolve to eradicate the menace from the country. Condemning the terrorist attack on police personnel in Lakki Marwat, he said the nation was proud of the valuable sacrifices laid by the martyred policemen. The president paid tribute to the six policemen martyred in the terrorist attack and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of their souls.

**Imran Khan must face transparent probe for selling Toshakhana gift: Asif**

ISLAMABAD :Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Wednesday said that the former prime minister must face a transparent probe for selling the Toshakhana gift of an expensive wrist watch gifted by the royal highness of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Addressing a live media talk here, the Defence Minister said his news conference intended to narrate the facts before the nation to provide the background for the recent scandal of Imran Khan. Khawaja said Imran Khan did huge mudslinging and vandalization of his political rivals during his tenure. He added that a letter pertaining to £190 million was presented in Khan's cabinet that he secretly gave to Malik Riaz's Bahria Foundation. "This is not new as Imran Khan's dishonesty continued to reveal after his ouster from power. He orchestrated hoax



narrative of foreign conspiracy and backed out from his own statements." The way Khan perpetrated false narrative and sold the precious gifts received from the dignitaries of a friendly country had damaged the honour and integrity of the county, he added. "We are not in a sound state internally due to our weak economy and owing to which it has reflection on our external relations as well", he added. The Defence Minister

all matter of record. He pointed out that previous day scandal of selling toshakhana watches had two important things as the dates were manipulated on which the wrist watches were sold in the market. The law was also manipulated to buy the toshakhana gifts on 20% value. The gift was given by the friendly country's Crown prince that had a unique prestige, he said, adding, "The dates of money deposited in the record have separate dates which should be probed." The Defence Minister underscored that the individuals involved in the sale of the gifts should be present in Pakistan and should record their statements during the investigation. "Imran Khan himself has been disqualified from ECP and he put the burden of resentment on the nation by hurling hoax propaganda."

Nawaz Sharif was lifetime disqualified for not declaring Rs10,000 and his daughter was also penalized whereas Imran Khan had crossed all ethical limits, he said. The government, he said was now demanding to hold Imran Khan accountable as per the law that disqualified Nawaz Sharif for hiding Rs10,000. "We have come to a turn where a clean judicial process not the one that indicted Maryam Nawaz and Nawaz Sharif rather a fare and impartial system should hold Imran Khan accountable." The channels of money received by Imran Khan should be probed as Khan was presenting a dubious record of his Ferozawala land having changing status from benamedar to self-owned or inherited property to confirm his income sources, he added. "There is rule of law in

**Imran urges SC to throw out contempt case against him**



ISLAMABAD :Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan Wednesday submitted a reply to the Supreme Court in the contempt of court case against him. Imran Khan's lawyer Salman Akram Raja submitted a detailed 23-page reply to the apex court. Imran Khan, in his reply, pleaded with the court to end the contempt proceedings against him.

**PM pays tribute to martyred police personnel of Lakki Marwat terror attack**



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack on a police van in Lakki Marwat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and paid tribute to the six martyred personnel. "The nation salutes the sons of soil who sacrificed their lives for the motherland," he said in a tweet. Shehbaz Sharif termed terrorists the enemies of the country and vowed to fight terrorism till its elimination. He lauded the role of police in safeguarding the



people from the menace of terrorism. He urged the KP government to announce awards and Shuhada Package for the martyred personnel. The prime minister extended condolences to the families of the martyrs and prayed for the elevation of the ranks of their souls.

**Govt to provide housing facilities to low, middle income groups: Dar**

ISLAMABAD : Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Wednesday expressed government's resolve to provide housing facilities to the low and middle income groups at affordable prices. Chairing a meeting on Mera Pakistan Mera Ghar (MPMG) Scheme at Finance Division, the minister advised the relevant authorities to work out feasible proposals, addressing and resolving the operational ambiguities in the existing programme and make it vibrant for the benefit of the population.

**Mariyum challenges Imran to go to court**

ISLAMABAD : Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday challenged PTI chairman Imran Khan to go to court on Tosha Khana issue. In a statement, she said that enough was enough, and Imran Khan would have to be accountable on foreign funding, corruption and money laundering. The minister said that Imran Khan bought the watch for Rs 20 million and sold it for Rs 280 million through handlers and its proceeds came to Pakistan as laundered money which was not declared. She asked Imran Khan instead of making announcements should give the date of filing the case. She challenged Imran to tweet the receipt of the sale of the watch along with the date of filing case in the court. She questioned what was the fault of Shahzeb Khan-



zada, Geo News, and Mir Ibrahim if Imran had sold the watch for Rs 280 million after purchasing it for Rs 20 million only. Mariyum Aurangzeb challenged Imran to disclose who brought the watch money to Pakistan and how. Taking a jibe at Imran Khan, she said that his handlers Farah Gogi and Shahzad Akbar have been caught. She said that Imran leveled false accusations against others, but when he himself got caught red-handed, he claimed the accusations were baseless. Mariyum Aurangzeb said Imran put political opponents in death cell on false charges, but when he was found guilty, he started mantra of baseless allegations.

**Govt failed to deliver, economy devastated: Sheikh Rashid**

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLPP) leader Sheikh Rashid slammed the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government and said that it has failed to deliver. Talking to Twitter, the former Interior minister went on to say that the economy is devastated while the government is not serious about it. He added that a chaos has been created on a very important appointment. In London, they say that they are consulting on the appointment, while in Pakistan, they say that the summary has not yet come. Pakistan is being mocked all over the world, the institutions and the judiciary have an important responsibility here, he said.

Organized by PAEI (Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry) and MEDIA PARTNER Jung Media Group.

**2nd PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY EXPO AND CONVENTION**

**NEW DATES**  
**16-17-18**  
December, 2022  
10:00 AM TO 8:00 PM  
Pak China Friendship Centre, Islamabad.

Participating companies include: PARKVIEW CITY, FAIR DEAL, SULTAN MARKETING, NOVACITY ISLAMABAD, KINGDOM VALLEY, CHAKOR VENTURES, EARTH LINK, MEGA CITY, MGC DEVELOPMENTS, SAMANA SMART CITY, ZEM BUILDERS, ZELCAN MARKETING, PREMIER CHOICE, LANDSTER GROUP OF COMPANIES, GIGA GROUP, GHAR, THE COLONNADA, MARKETING & BUILDERS, HS DEVELOPMENT, ALKARAM CITY, ASSET, JEewa, HANPER ASSOCIATES, B, AXIS MALL, PROPERTY ENVOY CONSULTANT & BUILDER, BISHI-LAW, ALKARIM, ALHADI, REZARCH, CAPITAL RESORTS.

For Information & Contact: Fahad Barlas (COO) Cell: 0311 888 8878 - 051- 2892004. Digital Media Partner: The Spokesman.



## Protection

ISLAMABAD: A view of plants covered with dry grass to protect them from cold weather at Srinagar Highway in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## IDEAS-2022 enters second day

KARACHI: The 11th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar IDEAS-2022 continues on the second consecutive day today (Wednesday) at the EXPO centre in Karachi. As Pakistan biggest defence exhibition entered into its second day, a large number of national and international visitors arrived at the Expo centre.

The modern defence artillery has been showcased including armed vehicles, missiles, tanks and fighter jets in nine halls of the Expo centre, Karachi. The IDEAS-2022 has surpassed all the previous records in terms of attendance and booking, as 522 diplomats from 52 countries and 285 delegations from 64 countries have participated in IDEAS-2022.



The visitors are showing keen interest in the sophisticated fighter jet JF-17 Thunder, Al-Khalid tank, the indigenously developed anti-ship cruise missile Harba and other potent weapons. Furthermore, a separate hall has been allotted especially for Kashmir in IDEAS-2022. The four-day International Defence Exhibi-

tion will continue till November 18.

The four-day International Defence Exhibition and Seminar IDEAS-2022 kicked off in Karachi on Tuesday under strict security measures. Defence Export Promotion Organization has arranged the exhibition, which brings together defence industries

from across the globe to showcase their latest technological innovations. A large number of senior civil and military delegations and trade visitors attended the exhibition.

Meanwhile, a traffic plan has been issued for the IDEAS-22, according to which Sir Shah Sulaiman Road will remain closed from

7 am to 6 pm during the exhibition and only vehicles with permits will be allowed to enter the expo centre. Traffic coming from Shariah Faisal, Nursery will not be allowed to proceed to the expo beyond the stadium.

Traffic coming from Karsaz, Drigh Road, and Sharah-e-Faisal will move to NIPA from Millenium Mall. Traffic from Rashid Minhas Road will not be allowed to go to Dalmia Road via the stadium. Apart from this, NIPA, Drigh Road to Sharah-e-Faisal to Safora and Gulshan Chowranghi to Sohrab Gothwala Road will remain open. Heavy and commercial traffic will not be allowed from NIPA to People Chowranghi.

## Pakistan stresses unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets 'pivotal' for rehabilitation roadmap

MOSCOW (RUSSIA): Special Representative on Afghanistan Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq on Wednesday stressing the region's role in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan said that exploring realistic pathways towards unfreezing Afghanistan's financial assets was pivotal.

"A roadmap for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan is equally important," Sadiq said while addressing at the 4th Meeting of the Moscow Format Member States.

The fourth meeting of the Moscow format of consultations on Afghanistan was held in Russia, with the participation of representatives from Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Iran, Pakistan, China, Turkmenistan, India, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

Muhammad Sadiq said the international community should consider to cooperate with the Afghan authorities



on a 'hierarchy of priorities', especially where the Interim Afghan government had shown a commitment to act on countering terrorism and combatting drug trafficking.

He emphasized that the pressing humanitarian needs of the Afghan people must be de-hyphenated from any political considerations.

Beyond the confines of humanitarian assistance, he

said that "we should focus on generating economic activity within Afghanistan to ensure a sustainable future".

He said after four decades of war and bloodshed, Afghanistan had turned a new page in its history, however said that now that the war had ended, there was a unique opportunity to secure durable peace.

Muhammad Sadiq said Pakistan was a firm adherent

to the primacy of a regional approach to the situation in Afghanistan.

He mentioned that the international community had consistently urged the interim Afghan government to promote greater political inclusivity.

He, however, regretted that unfortunately, there was little to show on this count.

He mentioned that despite

assurances by the interim Afghan government, the rights of women and girls also appear to have regressed, not progressed.

He pointed out that the footprint of terrorist organizations in Afghanistan, had yet to be fully eradicated.

Sadiq said the advent of the Afghan winter had exacerbated an already dire situation – the World Food Programme had already warned that over half the Afghan population could face a 'winter of famine' this year. He said the international commitments to provide humanitarian support to Afghanistan remained largely unfulfilled.

He said Afghanistan remains cut-off from the international banking system and faces serious liquidity challenges.

"Billions of Afghan assets are frozen, thus deprived of being gainfully used for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan," he said. APP

### The India Study Centre and Institute of Strategic Studies signed a MoU

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies (ISSI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) on November 16, 2022 at 11:00 hrs. ISC was represented by Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry; while Mr. Hemanta Kharel, President, Nepal Council of World Affairs signed it for NCWA. The session was moderated by Dr. Arshad Ali, Director ISC at the ISSI.

Speaking at the occasion, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry briefed the President of NCWA about the working of the Institute.

## Role of media and academia needed to tackle maritime blindness

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: There is a dire need to tackle maritime blindness in the country by creating awareness among the masses, and contemporary media is pivotal in doing so, said the Guest of Honour Vice Admiral (Retd) Abdul Aleem HI(M) while addressing the webinar titled Raising Maritime Awareness and Launch of Economic Affairs Magazine (Special Edition), organized by National Institute of Maritime Affairs on 15th November. He emphasized the various stakeholders to not forsake the sector as the maritime geopolitical and strategic position of Pakistan, along with the country's dependence on its maritime trade and resources is critical.

Director NIMA Islamabad, Cdre (Retd) Bilal Abdul Nasir SI(M) apprised the audience



about the organization's contributions in raising maritime awareness as a premier maritime think tank of Pakistan.

The keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Azhar Ahmed underlined the potential of traditional and contemporary social media in promoting maritime awareness. He commended the initiative of the Economic Affairs magazine in collaborating with NIMA to highlight pertinent issues such as greener shipping and celebrating World Maritime Day by dedicating

a special issue on the subject.

Ambassador Mrs. Naghmana Hashmi referred to sea blindness and lack of focus on maritime issues among the public as 'central cataract'. The need for roadshows for awareness, maritime entrepreneurship, and the role of media was reiterated. She called for increased awareness throughout the nation about pertinent topics such as the IOR and CPEC, in liaison with other seafaring nations.

Mr. Adnan Samdani, General Manager, FOTCO apprised about the efforts to make their terminal greener and safer for operations, while conserving the associated marine ecosystems i.e., mangroves. He emphasized the country's vast dependence on imported petroleum and called for the need to provide terminal operators with essential technology and resources to transform their facilities that are in compliance with greener technology and a larger vision of UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Ismail Mahmud, Chief Executive Officer, Engro Vopak & Elengy Terminals Ltd. delved into the necessity of modernizing the current practices and tools with digitalization and automation by presenting their facility as a model for efficient, sustainable, and economically viable maritime trade.

## Six policemen martyred in Lakki Marwat terrorist attack



LAKKI MARWAT: Six policemen were martyred Wednesday in an attack on a police van in Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). According to police, the terrorists attacked the police van on Abbas Road, Wanda Shahab Khel, in the limits of Dadewala police station. Assistant Sub Inspector (ASI) Ilm Din and other officials were among the martyred policemen. Another policeman was martyred in firing by miscreants in Lakki Marwat last Friday. Head constable Sadar Nawaz belonged to Wanda Shahabkhel village of Kurrum Par area and was settled in Michenkhel locality of Lakki city. The latest shooting came on the heels of another joint operation by the CTD and police in Dera Ismail Khan on Tuesday. Four terrorists belonging to a banned organization were killed in the joint operation by police and personnel of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in Dera Ismail Khan.

The CTD and police personnel also recovered a large quantity of equipment used in making IEDs and landmines. According to sources, the joint CTD and police raided a hideout of the terrorists in DI Khan suburban area of Tehsil Kalachi and killed a terrorist during an exchange of fire. The other three terrorists were killed in IED and landmine explosions which occurred while the gunbattle was under way. The sources

further revealed that the slain terrorists used their hideout to build landmines and remote controlled bomb which are planted on roadsides. PM condemns terrorist attack Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the terrorists are the enemies of Pakistan and every possible step will be taken to safeguard the country. In a statement, Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemned the Wednesday terrorist attack on a police van in Lakki Marwat. He paid tributes to the martyred six police personnel.

He said the whole nation salutes the sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives for the motherland. He asked Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to immediately announce Shuhada package for the martyred police personnel. Commiserating with the bereaved family, Shehbaz Sharif prayed for the departed souls. Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah also strongly condemned the terrorist attack on the police personnel in Lakki Marwat. In a statement, the Interior Minister sought report from Chief Secretary and

IG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of the incident. KP CM notice KP Chief Minister Mahmood Khan has taken notice of the terrorist attack on the police van in Lakki Marwat, directing IGP to present a report to him as soon as possible. He condemned the attack, saying the sacrifices of the security men will not go in vain. INP

## Second Pakistan Property Exhibition to begin on Dec 16: Khursheed Barlas

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The meeting organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was chaired by Khursheed Barlas, in which after mutual consultation with all stakeholders, taking into consideration the political situation of the country, the second Pakistan International Property Exhibition and Convention, which is from 18 to 20 November was to be held at the Pak-China Friendship Centre.

After the unanimous decision, the new dates of the Second Pakistan International Property Exhibition have been announced, which will be held from December 16 to 18 at Pakistan-China Friendship Center.

A large number of various business community associated with bank projects and tourism industry including prominent builders, developers, allied construction



industry from across the country will participate in the three-day exhibition.

It is one of the most important investment fairs that will boost Pakistan's economy, creating great opportunities to attract investment from national to international levels.

## Ahsan Iqbal holds meeting with Egyptian Planning Minister



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Dr. Ahsan Iqbal held meeting with Minister for Planning and Economic Development Egypt Dr. Hala El-Said on the sidelines of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh and discussed matters of mutual interests.

The Egyptian Minister remarked that it is one of the largest events compared to previous conferences Egypt has hosted in terms of participation.

The Federal Minister noted that climate threat has rapidly turned into a new reality. It is not about North or South, it's about us, a message received here on Wednesday quoted Prof. Ahsan Iqbal as saying.

The events induced by climate

change are creating problems for developing countries due to acute fiscal crunch due to rising inflation and global slowdown, highlighted the Federal Minister.

He further said that in Pakistan, the worst thing happened during the recent devastating floods is that poorest of the poor suffered the most as disaster hit the poorest regions the most.

The Government is working on resilient recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (4R) strategy to build better adaptability for mitigating impacts of future disasters.

Both the Ministers exchanged views on solutions to problems being faced by developing world and agreed to share experiences in resolving such problems while benefiting from each other's experiences.



# President Barrister Sultan addresses sixth convocation of Poonch University

Bureau Report

RAWALAKOT: President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir while highlighting the struggle and sacrifices of the people of Poonch in the freedom struggle that culminated successfully in the shape of Azad Kashmir has said that the valiant people of the region had not only sacrificed their lives in 1947 but also in 1832. "It is because of the supreme sacrifices of our forefathers that we live a free and dignified life today", the president said while addressing the sixth convocation of the University of Poonch here today.

Former President and Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir Sardar Yakub Khan, Vice Chancellor Poonch University Prof. Dr. Zakaria Zakir, Sardar Imtiaz Khan, VCs of various universities, faculty members, senior government figures, civil society and others were present on the occasion.



Speaking on the occasion, the president while referring to the Modi government's hostile policies towards the Kashmiris said that Indian troops deployed in the occupied Kashmir were grossly involved in human rights violations in the region. He said that after abrogating article 370 and 35 A the Modi government was now hell bent on changing the region's demography.

"India is planning to install a Hindu Chief Minister in Occupied Kashmir to further suppress the freedom movement of Kashmiris",

He added. Denouncing the Indian Defense Minister's threatening statement, he said that the international community must take effective notice of the war-frenzy Indian regime that was hell bent to destroy the region's peace. Extending his heartfelt felicitations to the graduating students, the president urged the outgoing graduates to use their education, skill and talent to serve humanity. Dr. Zakaria Zakir in his address thanked Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry for his visit to Poonch University.

He said that the university has

given its best progress in the past due to which it is being counted as one of the best universities in the country. On the occasion, degrees were awarded to the students who graduated from the university. The President Azad Kashmir and Chancellor of Universities Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry gave gold medals and degrees to the students. Degrees and certificates were awarded to 1869 students who graduated from the university, out of which 35 students received gold medals from various departments.



The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh inaugurates the sports festival after releasing balloons in the air at Iqbal Stadium.

## Awami Theater Festival in Hyderabad

Spokesman Report

HYDERABAD: The people of Hyderabad, especially the artists, writers and poets expressed their happiness on the restoration of Awami Theater after 32 years and thanked the President of Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi Ahmed Shah and said that he has promoted art and culture in Karachi. The revival of public theater after 32 years is the beginning of healthy activities in Hyderabad.

Stage artists, writers, poets and journalists, separately met with President Arts Council, on the occasion of the opening ceremony of theater festival on Monday evening and thanking him for organizing the theater festival. Artists said that the last theater held at the Mehran Arts Council in Hyderabad was in 1992 and no such cultural program has been held since then.

The Mehran Arts Council had become barren, now the artists are very happy with its renovation and restoration. They expressed hope that like Karachi, literary and cultural activities will continue in Hyderabad under the patronage of Ahmed Shah. Writers and poets said that an Almi Urdu conference should be held in Hyderabad like Karachi.

President of Arts Council of Pakistan Muhammad Ahmad Shah while talking to the writers, poets and artists of Sindh said that in all the cities of Sindh where art and there is infrastructure for culture, there will be theater festivals and cultural programs. It has been inaugurated on November 14, 2022 from Hyderabad. Ahmed Shah said that Hyderabad is not only the second largest city of Sindh but also an important cultural city where a large population of Sindhi and Urdu speakers reside. Culture can serve as the best bridge for the need to connect the hearts of the two populations that have created hatred. He said that we will gather everyone, this is not the last program, now there will be continuous cultural programs here.

Thanks to the artists of Hyderabad who welcomed us. The cultural and fly organizations of Hyderabad will also be brought together. The work will be done on 100% merit. Every artist will have equal respect. The land of Sindh is my mother. A committee will be set up in the Arts Council. Elections will be held after the membership. He said that Sindh Culture Minister Syed Sardar Shah wants all these institutions to be settled.

## Girls Sports Festival organized by the Association of Private Schools Pakistan

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh has said that students should also be given ample opportunities to participate in sports along with providing quality education so that they might move forward with energetic minds because these are the bright stars who will be the future of the country. He said this while speaking as a special guest at the Girls Sports Festival organized by the Association of Private Schools Pakistan at the Iqbal Stadium.

CEO District Education Authority Iftikhar Khan, Chairman Association of Private Schools Pakistan Khalid Hayat Kamooka, Secretary General Chaudhry Muhammad Saleem, Director Sports Mian Nasir Basheer, Chairperson Ladies Wing Suriya Zafar, Sajida Atta, Musbah Chaudhry, teachers and students were also present. The Deputy Commissioner acknowledged the abilities of the female students in curricular and extra-curricular activities and said that whether it is education or sports, our girls have made the name of the educational institutions and the district bright in every competition.

He said that for the personality development of the students, district govt. started the program of making a one-day honorary deputy commissioner and it is very gratifying that in the 118-year long history of the district, there has been no woman deputy commissioner till date but Marwa Basra, a talented girl who obtained matriculation from a government school and secured high position in co-curricular activities, got the honor of becoming one day deputy commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner saw the march pasts, tableaux and other variety programs of the students and took deep interest in them. He asked the students to prepare now to become honorary Deputy Commissioner for one day in next year and show their skills. He congratulated Association of Private Schools Pakistan Chairman Khalid Hayat Kamooka and his entire team for organizing a successful sports festival.

## Dangerous

KARACHI: A view of digging open manhole during construction work at Teen Hatti Road which may cause any incident at any time and needs the attention for concerned authorities in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

# Establishment of Journalism Academy

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has directed the Secretary Information Ms. Mudhat Shahzad and Director General Information Raja Azhar Iqbal to take requisite measures relating to the establishment of the Press Academy within three weeks. The Prime Minister also appointed two senior journalists Sardar Zulfiqar

Ali and Tariq Naqash as focal persons who would coordinate the efforts vis-a-vis the establishment of press academy, making press foundation proactive and protection of journalists.

The PM said that the Journalists Protection Bill should be made a part of the Press Foundation Act. With reference to the training of journalists, the PM said that comprehensive courses should be designed in the academy for the training of journalists and media

persons and seats should be kept for the training of journalists from other provinces of Pakistan.

"In this regard, the services of the Mass Communication Department of Azad Jammu and Kashmir University should also be taken." The establishment of the Journalism Learning Academy will provide ample learning opportunities to journalists, which will increase their efficiency and promote positive journalism", the PM said. He said that

the massive mass media development has turned the world into a global village.

"The current era is the era of hybrid war in which wars are not being fought in the fields but through media", he said, adding that the role of media persons was also very important in this regard. Terming the Press Foundation as one of the worthy state institutions he said that the government would provide the provision of resources required to make it more active and better.

## Bahawalpur Engineering Ltd started production of bicycles

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad unit of Bahawalpur Engineering Ltd (BEL) has started production of bicycles in addition to the manufacturing of parts for automobiles including copper wire with corrugated pipes. This unit is using the latest and state of the art technology to reduce carbon emission, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Inaugurating this unit in FIEDMC, he welcomed the BEL and said that it would play a major role in early colonization of industrial estates in addition to creating new job opportunities for the unemployed workforce. He appreciated that BEL is a major vendor of quality spare parts for Pak Suzuki Limited and is using the latest technology. He also gave his ambitious plan to facilitate the business community and resolve their issues on a top priority basis. He said that FCCI has 8,000 members belonging to almost all segments of the economy. He also appreciated the industrial estate developed by FIEDMC and said that M3 and Allama Iqbal Industrial Estates have been developed on modern scientific lines. "These industrial estates offer globally compliant facilities while the price of land is comparatively cheaper than other estates", he said and added that it is attract-

ing maximum industrialists for their future investment. He said that apart from local investors, foreign companies are also lined up to establish their units in these industrial estates which would not only generate much needed economic activities but also play their role in stabilizing our economy. He also underlined the need for positive behavioral changes in public attitude to promote green economy and in this connection, the use of bicycles should be promoted. He said



that "Ober" has launched cycle service in Islamabad which could also be started in Faisalabad in near future.

Mr. Abdul Rasheed Abbasi Chairman BEL endorsed the idea of controlling pollution through tree plantation and said that his unit would also play its role in promoting green areas. The guests also visited the different parts of the factory while Mr. Abbasi briefed them about the production capacity of the unit and new technology used by it. He said that this unit would produce hundred percent copper wire which is resistant to oxidation.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

"Model Town Chakwal" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Mureed, Chakwal Talagang Road Tehsil & District Chakwal. Public is hereby informed that Mr. Kaleem ul Hassan son of Fida Hussain (CNIC#61101-6057932-3) Resident of House No. 1255 Street No. 7 Modal Town Humak Islamabad, Office #72 MBR New Chakwal City Housing Scheme Talagang Road Opposite Murid Airbase Tehsil & District Chakwal, has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Housing Scheme located in Mouza Khinger Chakri Road Tehsil & District Rawalpindi under Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-

Khwat No.	Khatoni No.	Khasra No.	Area		
			Kanal	Marla	Sft
54	296 to 303	3748(min), 3749, 3758, 3991, 3992, 3994, 3995(min), 4000, 3748 (min), 3752, 3753, 3755, 3991, 3993, 3995, 3756, 3999, 4001, 3748(min), 3750, 3753, 3754, 3991, 3995, 3751, 3996, 4002, 3746, 3997, 3998, 3757, 3747	20	19	
54	296 to 303	3748(min), 3749, 3758, 3991(min), 3992, 3994, 399599(Min), 4000, 3748 (min), 3752, 3753, 3755, 3991(min), 3993, 3995, 3756, 3999, 4001, 3748 (min), 3750, 3753, 3754, 3991(min), 3995, 3751, 3996, 4002, 3746, 3997, 3998, 3757, 3747	20	09	
675	2098	4022,	09	02	
674	2090	4020, 4021	04	09	
664	2050 to 2053	3130, 3737/2, 4005, 4006, 4012, 4015, 4023, 4018, 4019, 4037, 4004, 4024, 3737/1	48	02	
666	2055 to 2061	3733, 3988, 3987, 4007, 4011, 3672(min), 4102 (min), 4106, 4107, 4003		13	
688	2120 to 2128	4017, 4025, 4026, 4034/2, 4013, 4014, 4016, 4032, 4035, 4036, 4033	02	04	
<b>Total</b>			<b>106</b>	<b>08</b>	

ANY PERSON having objection against sanction of "Model Town Chakwal" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Mureed, Chakwal Talagang Road Tehsil & District Chakwal ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained.

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**  
PUNJAB HOUSING & TOWN PLANNING AGENCY  
AIRPORT LINE ROAD NEAR WATER TANK  
GULZAR-E-QUAID RAWALPIND  
PHONE NO.051-5191753

## Shan Foods partners with Allah Walay Trust to provide meals for school children

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Global food brand, Shan Foods, has partnered with Allah Walay Trust (AWT), a non-profit organization, working on preventing hunger in Pakistan, to provide free of cost meals to the school children of Government Primary School located in Shora Kothi, Lahore.

Under its initiative, School Khana Program (SKP), Allah Walay Trust provides healthy & nutritious free lunch to the school students on a regular basis. Shan Foods, being one of the leading names in food industry and working to achieve the goal of zero hunger in Pakistan, has joined hands with Allah Walay Trust to support the programme and provide free meals to school children for a whole year.

Sharing her thoughts on the collaboration, Maria Rashdi, Head of Corporate Communications and PR at Shan Foods, said "At Shan Foods, upholding quality is the base of what we stand for, be it quality of our products or of our values. We have forged this alliance to make sure that school-going children get healthy diet along with quality education, further reinforcing our vision of

ensuring nutrition and healthy food for all. We aim to play our part in securing the wellbeing of our future generation through more such initiatives."

Shahid Lone, Chairman, Allah Walay Trust, commenting on the partnership, said, "AWT was founded to serve food to the needy beyond existing biases in today's world. Our vision is to provide food, water and nutrition to marginalized communities around us. Allah Walay Trust's School Khana Program (SKP) is first of its kind in Pakistan and will be serving 60,000 meals in primary schools in Lahore, Islamabad and Gilgit Baltistan. It's our mission to have a physically and mentally healthy nation and bright future of Pakistan under School Khana Program. As far results are concerned, teachers at schools have observed enormous improvement in attendance of students due to their interest in lunch. At the same time, it also enhanced students' health, learning ability, focus and level of physical activity.

We appreciate Shan Foods' contribution towards our cause and aim to provide highly nutritious, low cost, localized food to everyone."



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:14 am
Zohr	11:52 am
Asr	3:27 pm
Maghrib	5:04 pm
Isha	6:31 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**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

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

**FFC holds Third Corporate Briefing for the Year 2022**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC), held its Third Corporate Briefing for the year 2022, in collaboration with Khadim Ali Shah Bukhari Securities (Pvt) Ltd. as part of its best corporate governance practices.

FFC has been recognized by Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) as first amongst Top 25 Companies consecutively for 12 years attributed to its Compliance of Code of Corporate Governance, Company Performance and Efficient Management.

In the same backdrop the subject briefing for the period ended 30th September 2022 was virtually held from FFC's corporate Head Office, Rawalpindi. Prominent capital market analysts and dignitary from Pakistan Stock Exchange attended the event.

Company Secretary FFC, Brig Asrat Mahmood SI(M) (Retd) opened the briefing and apprised the house about significance of the event. Chief Financial Officer, Syed Atif Ali briefed the house about FFC's performance for first the period 2022 and assured Company's commitment to achieve higher standards of performance and sustained earnings.

**Tobacco Health Levy Bill must be presented in parliament to help generate 60 billion revenue**

Tooba Khan

ISLAMABAD : Tobacco Health Levy Bill is ready to be presented in parliament and its immediate implementation can generate 60 Billion Rupee revenue for government. This revenue can help in reducing the damage caused by tobacco industry to health and economy. These views were agreed upon during a briefing organized by Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) to urge the government to impose of Health Levy on tobacco products to save Pakistani children and youth from the pandemic of tobacco.

Dr. Shazia Sobia Aslam Soomro, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, shared alarming statistics that 1200 children beginning smoking daily and 170,000 people die due to tobacco induced diseases every year. She mentioned that Ministry of Health is committed to support all pro-child moves such as healthy levy because they are important to ensure that the number of smokers in Pakistan, which is already at 31 Million, does not go beyond our control.

Economic consequences of tobacco consumption in Pakistan were shared by Dr. Ziauddin Islam—Country Lead—Vital Strategies; Former Technical Head/Director, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of NHSR&C; Former Technical focal Person of Govt. of Pakistan for WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). He mentioned



that the economic cost of smoking in Pakistan is PKR 615.07 billion which is equal to 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP but the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is only 20% of the total cost. In 2019, Federal Cabinet approved a bill to impose Health Levy (Additional tax) on tobacco Products to decrease consumption and generate 60 Billion Pakistani Rupees per Year. However influenced by the tobacco industry, many policy makers have continuously block the bill and hence tobacco products have become more affordable due to increase in per capita income.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager, SPARC, mentioned that children and low-income people are primary target of tobacco industry. He suggested that immediate introduction of Health Levy Bill in Parli-

ament is required so it can become an Act and can be implemented across the country. In addition, the prices of tobacco products must be increased to match inflation and increase in per capita income. But most importantly, strict monitoring of tobacco industry is required to ensure compliance of laws.

Shariq Mahmood Khan, CEO, Chromatic Trust stated that Pakistan is one of the lowest ranked countries in the world in terms of tobacco taxation and since tobacco products are causing us financial loss, the industry should be the one to pay for the imbalance it has created. Imposing health levy and spending the increased revenue generated on public health schemes, is the most needed sustainable solution to decrease tobacco consumption and improve our public health infrastructure.

**King's Day of Belgium**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghos Pasha and Ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan Charles Delogne cutting the cake during King's Day of Belgium ceremony at his residence in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

**JICA to assist NTDC in strengthening of transmission system**

Spokesman Report

LAHORE :The 2nd high-level meeting of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) was held at the NTDC committee room in WAPDA House Lahore, today. The meeting was attended by senior officer of the Power Division Islamabad, Joint Secretary Ministry of Finance & EAD Islamabad, Representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) headquarters Tokyo, the Chief Representative Pakistan Office, the Project Manager (Mr. Yoshida AEC Japan) and his team. The



Managing Director NTDC Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan convened the meeting along with his team. The first meeting of the same committee was held on 08 Dec 2021.

During the meeting, MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan said that with

the passage of time, new technologies are emerging in the power sector. Resultantly, training and equipment for strengthening the grid systems and operations and maintenance also require contemporary practices. He also thanked the Govt of

Japan for setting up a state-of-the-art simulator and model grid station at the TSG training center, in Lahore.

The JICA representative assured that the technical support will be extended to NTDC for planning a new system diagram, preparation of training scenarios for enhanced simulator training and provision of countermeasures for blackouts and brownouts in the Power system. Further, the Project Manager AEC Japan, Mr. Yoshida also presented the case study on the blackout that occurred on 09-01-2021.

**Sheikh demands revised power tariff**

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Wednesday said that a costly power tariff is hurting the economy, therefore, it should be revised to boost the economy and create jobs.

The authorities continue to burden electricity consumers with billions that are damaging the economy and resulting in inflation, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that frequent power tariff hikes are adding to the financial burden of the business community.

He said that Nepra starts public hearings as soon as it gets a request from Discos to upward revise the power tariff which increases the cost of state-run and private projects, surges the cost of industrial and agricultural production and hit the living standard of the masses.

He noted that government cannot stop or delay Nepra from increasing power tariffs but it can reduce losses by investing in this sector, introducing reforms, and reducing line losses to save a few hundred billion rupees annually.

The business leader said that all the IPPs and operators of Chinese power plants should be asked to reduce electricity and capacity charges, and extend the deadlines for repayment of loans.

Moreover, he said, recoveries should be improved so that there is no need to hike tariffs repeatedly while ignoring investment and reforms will push up the circular debt.

He said that despite an over 50 per cent hike in power tariff involving Rs1.2 trillion additional burden on consumers, the circular debt was continuously going up

While pleading its case at a public hearing for adding Rs43.34bn financial burden to the consumers in three months, Power Division told Nepra that circular debt that stood at Rs2.253 trillion by end of September last year had now reached Rs2.437 trillion, showing an increase of Rs185 billion.

Discos have reported that their sales and recoveries had dropped by 5-10pc between July to September period because of floods while the quantum of capacity payments remained unchanged and was to be charged on fewer electricity units.

Some bills could not be recovered from consumers because of stay orders issued by a high court against fuel cost adjustment. While these recoveries remained pending, capacity payments to power producers had to be made in time as required under the contracts.

**Financial support to be provided by the World Bank to subsidize urea**



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : The World Bank's Regional Director for Sustainable Development, John A Roome, in a meeting with the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Tariq Bashir said that the World Bank will provide financial support to subsidize urea for the floods and rains affected farmers.

Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that recent floods and rains have resulted in colossal losses of the farming community. "We are trying our utmost to provide relief and assistance to the poor farmers, and help them in rehabilitation," he added.

While appreciating the support extended by the World Bank for flood relief and rehabilitation of the affected farmers, Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema said that the natural calamity was unforeseen and the affected farmers need a helping hand to recover and return to normal.

While talking about the World Bank's Board meeting in December, John A Roome said that the World Bank plans to provide Pakistan financial support of \$1.3 billion for emergency, agriculture and housing relief.

Federal Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema assured full support from the Ministry for the projects and initiatives by the World Bank in Pakistan. He said that relief and assistance to the farming community will help in achieving food security.

**Action on banks to be taken by end month: NA body told**

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue was informed here on Wednesday that the actions against eight banks involved in overcharging on opening of Letters of Credit (LC) would be taken by the end of current month.

While briefing the Committee, Deputy Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Dr. Inayat Hussain said that in light of inspection findings, SBP is also in process of completing the enforcement action against the concerned banks.

The Committee met under the Chairmanship of Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh and discussed various issues pertaining to the Ministry and its attached departments.

The Chairman of the Committee said that now the monitoring process of the Central Bank has been tightened and no complaints have been received yet. APP

**PEPSICO and NUST launch student competition to drive circular economy for plastics**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: PepsiCo Pakistan is collaborating with National University of Science and Technology (NUST) to launch a competition for students to address the need to drive a circular economy for plastics through innovative thinking and research. Titled "Generation Green", the competition has been launched today on International Students' Day and will run for two weeks for the students of NUST and inspire them to come up with dynamic innovations that can practically support a circular economy for plastics in Pakistan.

Earlier this year, Dr Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector (RIC) NUST and Moham-

mad Khosa, Senior Director Commercial and Corporate Affairs PepsiCo Pakistan had signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) at NUST to collaborate on enabling a circular economy for plastics. This contest is a part of the collaboration and falls under PepsiCo's pep+ (PepsiCo Positive) agenda, which is centered on sustainability and finding bold, research-based solutions to the environmental challenges we face today.

"Generation Green" will be open for students and the winning team and project will receive a seed fund from PepsiCo Pakistan to help kickstart, advance and scale the students' innovative solution. PepsiCo Pakistan will also provide several mentorship and training

opportunities to the participating teams. Speaking about the contest, Mohammad Khosa, Senior Director Commercial and Corporate Affairs PepsiCo Pakistan said, "The student-led contest with NUST will add another layer of collaborators in PepsiCo's global ambition to ensure plastic never becomes waste. Young people like the brilliant students at NUST hold the key to our future successes and represent the best minds of their generation. At PepsiCo Pakistan, we believe in amplifying their genius to make it a better world for all."

Khurram Shah, Director Public Policy and Government Affairs at PepsiCo Pakistan added, "The collaboration between PepsiCo and NUST is

the perfect alignment of industry and academics. It will nurture the next generation of changemakers to promote positive environmental impacts with innovative concepts."

Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector (RIC) at NUST said, "The launch of Generation Green marks an important milestone in our partnership with PepsiCo to develop innovative and technology-based solutions in the areas of waste reduction and sustainability. It is a great example of industry and academia joining hands to solve some of the most pressing issues of our time and utilizing our brilliant young minds. We are happy to see such initiatives taking place and look forward to many more to come, paving the way for

research and development to flourish in the country."

The contest launched today will accept entries till November 30th, 2022, and will be judged by leading faculty members of NUST and leadership from PepsiCo, and other stakeholders from the burgeoning recycling industry in Pakistan.

PepsiCo Pakistan is geared to use its reach and influence as one of the leading food and beverage companies in Pakistan to help change the way society makes, uses, and disposes of plastics. PepsiCo has launched several meaningful programs to drive a circular economy for plastics in collaboration with strategic partners to strengthen the

recycling infrastructure in Pakistan. In collaboration with collection and recycling partners such as Green Earth Recycling, WWF, Novatex Limited, and Saaf Suthra Shehar, the company is running one of the country's largest collection and recycling programs to drive a circular economy of plastics and demonstrate tangible impact.

PepsiCo Pakistan has also recently launched Pakistan's first beverage bottle made from recycled plastic. This bold step towards sustainability and cutting down on virgin plastic has been welcomed by the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC), Government of Pakistan and is in line with their "Recycle Plastics" initiative.



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# US Assistance: Emerging Global and Regional Scenario



**Pashmina Mughal**

**T**he US has a culture of aid and economic assistance for indigent and war-torn countries. The US contains a long history of assistance programs for needy countries for humanitarian support, relief funds in disasters and catastrophes, military and security assistance, and development-oriented programs/funds for economic, political, and social requirements. The US provided economic Aid to various countries starting from Marshall Plan in 1948 for the European recovery to date for Ukraine against the Russian invasion in 2022.

Among the many aid recipient countries, Afghanistan remains the most difficult one with regard to US aid effectiveness. The US funding

brought about many developments including infrastructure and road buildings, growth in education and health sectors particularly for women, and the building of schools, banks, and hospitals. It also introduced reforms in governance and law while introducing a new constitution in 2004 under the presidency of Hamid Karzai.

However, it is widely agreed that the US bulk of aid and assistance hardly produced considerable results. Having a war-torn history over the centuries both internal and external made Afghanistan a difficult terrain for normal political and economic activity. Afghanistan's main dilemma is 'security'. Therefore, the major chunk of US financial aid was spent on security-related activities including the establishment of Afghan Security Forces (ASF) and the military aid that also remain indolent to create a viable security environment in the country.

Political instability in Afghanistan is the other major obstacle to the effectiveness of the US assistance program. The country remains political and socially bifurcated due to its multi-ethnic and multi-lingual historical divides. The

US efforts to establish a centrally legitimized government in Afghanistan could not materialized.

Similarly, despite the US measures of creating stable economic grounds for investment remain thwarted. The

Nonetheless, the US and international humanitarian agencies need to ascertain that Afghanistan is a dissimilar entity than their European experience during the cold war.

financial system in Afghanistan remains abortive to rationalize the investment of US financial aid in different sectors from an accountability perspective. One of the reasons was systemized corruption.

The absence of any check and balance to foreign funding and expenditures and a culture of corruption, smuggling, narcotics, illegal traf-

ficking, and weaponization were the prominent factors that prohibited foreign investors and donors to pour money into Afghanistan.

Taliban's victorious revival in August 2021 led to more worsening economic and financial condition followed by hunger, unemployment, social insecurity, harsh Taliban policies, and a shortage of food for Afghan people to survive. The new Taliban regime has yet to form a legitimate government structure. Comprising mainly of Pushtoon representation, yet they seem to be uncompromising.

On the other, China is expanding its influence through connectivity by establishing energy and transit corridors. Afghanistan holds a significant geostrategic location in Asia particularly connecting South and Central Asia which have emerged pertinent to global politics and the new great game. China is keen to align with Afghanistan in connectivity networks. However, the security and the issue of diplomatic recognition of Afghanistan are the paramount concerns of China. Besides China, Russia holds another significant actor in Afghanistan's neighborhood.

Both, China and Russia are desirous to encompass Afghanistan for their vested interests in the connecting regions. Taking into consideration the emerging global trends and the role of other powers, the US and its western allies are concerned to rethink their South Asian foreign policy, especially with reference to Afghanistan.

Nonetheless, the US and international humanitarian agencies need to ascertain that Afghanistan is a dissimilar entity than their European experience during the cold war. It holds a variant culture and a feud history.

The Taliban-led regime is direly suffering from a financial predicament. The US and the aid agencies should bargain with the Taliban through negotiations to create compatibility with international norms in order to get larger diplomatic recognition, and foster relations with the international community for productive foreign investment and a peaceful stable Afghanistan in the region.

*The author is Ph.D. scholar at Area Study Center for Africa, North & South America, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.*



Courtesy of Ashary Al-Awsat

## Faster implementation of 'climate finance' commitments

Sherry Rehman was speaking at the High-level Ministerial event on 'Loss and Damage: From Intention to Action', organized by the Government of Pakistan at the United Nations UNFCCC Pavilion. The event was conducted with high-level panelists from all over the world.

She said: "By the time the funds come to us, our climate needs change faster than the pace of funds released. From disaster recovery to a resilient future, the missing link is financed and it's dispersion, making sure that it reaches those who literally have to keep their heads above water."

She said: "As we navigate the finish line of intense negotiations at COP27, one thing is clear: climate finance is now at the heart of the climate emergency, whether it is achieving the Paris Goal of 1.5 C, or delivering on Adaptation and Resilience goals. For countries like Pakistan, facing new records of vulnerability, a crisis of climate impacts along with debt has created huge communities of fragility and impoverishment, where people are unable to reinvent broken lives on the ground they can no longer live or grow or build anything on. Global warming is triggering similar futures of climate distress, driven either by famine, drought, or flooding and rising sea levels which stalk the developing world, the Horn of Africa, the LDCs and the Small Island States, where the gap between needs and resources is too huge."

Sherry Rehman said: "Inaction is no longer an option. We see a commitment to higher goals here at COP27, but from our side of the burning planet, posing perils at multiple levels for societies that are no longer immune from what the Secretary General calls "a climate hell".

She said: "Pakistan's people and the economic system that has to drive the quality and pace of recovery from a flood that destroyed 33 million lives has sustained a huge exogenous shock. We are not big emitters but rather quite the opposite. We need urgent buffers from a debt overhang that is squeezing out fiscal options to rebuild almost half the country, while we also need climate resilience funds that can be accessed with speed and scale. Right now, all climate funding is very slow to access, nor is it available for the kind of rebuilding needed. The relief funds that came via a UN flash appeal were crucial for saving lives but they cannot help us rebuild, either with or without resilience. There is no immediate basket of accessible funds for climate resilient recovery, let alone disaster-assistance".

As G77 we have won a considerable victory by bringing this item on the agenda.

"Our main priority is to help countries to conduct systemic resilient assessments, and identify all the assets at risk so that solutions that are the best mix of green and grey can be devised protect this critical infrastructure network". Concluding the session, Mr. Simon Stiell Executive Secretary UNFCCC, urged the parties to converge constructively to place meaningful outcomes on the table.

## The Taleemi disorder in Pakistan

**Marryam Hashmat**

**T**he education system has always been in a crisis in Pakistan and the only solution deemed is doubling the education budget. But the issue with doubling the budget is that many teachers don't show up and more than half of the budget is going into the salaries of these teachers. After devolution in 2010, education became a provincial responsibility. Most of the time we hear that Pakistan spends 2% of its budget but it's the Federal budget only and if you add the provincial budget which is where the bulk spending is, Pakistan spends in total 13% of its budget on education nearing the US and UK which also spend 14% of their budget on education. In Pakistan, 60% of school-going children are in public schools while 40% are in private schools. Pakistan spends more than \$8 billion on education and Pakistani parents also spend another \$8 billion on the private education of their kids. Aspiring middle-class families spend a considerable amount of their income on private school fees and private home tuition as well so that their children would one day become successful and a source of their social uplift because the standard of teaching doesn't give

enough knowledge to students to at least pass exams. So expanding the budget is not going to solve the crisis, we need to disburse the finances better. Interestingly, the number of children getting into school reduced as our education budget increased from 2010. Pakistan doesn't have a crisis of out-of-school children (OOSC) but it has a crisis of children who are in school and learning nothing. Parents whose children whether



enrolled in private or public school still feel the need to send their children in-home tuition to help their kids in passing tests and increase their grades. The problem is with our teaching standard which is not delivering needed reinforcement and attention to students. Teachers in private schools are paid far

less than government teachers but they are still ahead of them in a way because they are held accountable. The curiosity and passion for learning new things get crushed under the burdening pressure of keeping a good grade record. Pakistani Schools and Universities are not delivering anything in the future knowledge economy. Our standards are below what is deemed basic and need an overhaul of its mecha-

nism by bringing logical, scientific, and critical thinking into the system. The need of the hour is to improve the status quo by shifting from current education standards to experiential learning through practical application in our primary, secondary, and higher education. We blame our country for its

flaws but no one is going to make our country great we have to roll up our sleeves and do it ourselves. No doubt some Pakistani schools and universities are top-rated in the education sector but only a privileged section of society has access to them. We need to stretch a bit and open doors for inclusivity which attracts creativity. We are always dramatically falling short of what is desperately needed. The conventional approach will only yield conventional results. Our Law books say that 5-16 years of children's education is free and that private schools must take in 10% of their seats and give them to disadvantaged students for free but most people are not even aware of these laws rest their implementation. Pakistan's future lies in developing a strong knowledge economy based on excellence in education, science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship. We can only achieve this excellence through better education standards for students. There are many new EdTech startups like Edkasa and Taleemabad which are filling the demand for better education equipped with good standards of teaching and are tech-savvy. There is a huge demand for such startups on the governmental level. If the government initiates such startups or sponsors them then their reach will increase and the demand will also fill up.

## Zakat in government-owned companies

**Dimah Talal**

**Z**akat is one of the pillars of Islam; it is a religious wealth tax based on the taxpayer's net worth — not income — and is applied to individuals as well as to companies according to specific regulations.

This article will discuss the most important zakat regulations, especially as they concern companies wholly owned by the government. State-owned companies are subject to a levy of zakat upon the fulfillment of several regulations. Where the company must have a commercial register, its scope of work or objectives can be attributed to the private sector, based on the company's articles of association, articles of incorporation, or any other legal document.

As for exclusion, companies wholly owned by the state can be excluded from being subject to the levy of zakat for the fiscal year if all of the company's investments are outside the Kingdom or if the state treasury finances the company's budget.

If the state treasury finances the company, the regulations stipulate several factors and conditions that must apply to such a budget. In that case, the nature of the company's activity must be a service to support government agencies in the performance of their own work, most of its clients must be from government agencies, and the company sales to the private sector must not exceed 10 percent of its total sales.

The company to which the regulations mentioned above apply can submit an annual request not to be subject to a levy of zakat. Such a request shall include an application to the



Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority in accordance with the form prepared for this purpose, accompanied by the documents requested by this authority.

The application must include the declaration of the information and the company's data, proving the regulations' fulfillment.

Moreover, the application must be submitted within the statutory period indicated in the executive regulations for levying zakat, which must not exceed 120 days from the end of the financial zakat year.

If the company delays submitting the application until after the end of the statutory period, the authority may accept the application if the company submits justifications acceptable to the authority.

If a company owned by the government fully owns more than one other company, then each subsidiary company must submit an independent request for exemption to the authority. This decision applies to the fiscal years beginning on or after 1/1/2023.



# Address by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Second World Conference

Distinguished conference participants! Ladies and gentlemen!

I sincerely congratulate you on the opening of the Second World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education in Tashkent.

I extend my sincere gratitude and best wishes to the distinguished guests, the heads of international organizations, the ministers and representatives of foreign countries participating in the international conference.

Welcome to Uzbekistan, dear guests! Dear friends!

We are particularly gratified that Madam Azoulay, the Director-General of UNESCO, is personally participating at the opening ceremony of the international conference.

In recent years, our cooperation with UNESCO in the areas of education, science, cultural heritage, information and communication has been rapidly developing.

In particular, with the support of this Organization, we have been effectively implementing a number of significant programs and projects to preserve the world cultural heritage sites in our country, restore existed ancient Great Silk Road cultural ties, improve the quality of the education system and raise comprehensively developed generation, and ensure Uzbekistan youth professional capacity building.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation to Madam Audrey Azoulay and all our foreign partners for their contribution to this important and noble endeavor.

Distinguished conference participants! Undeniably, there is a number of challenges in providing a qualified preschool education for young children worldwide.

In many countries, the preschool education is not provided for nearly 200 million children, which limits their access to primary education.

In its turn, it is no secret that the coronavirus pandemic has had an enormous negative impact on the education sector over the next few years.

In the time of such challenges, it is clearly important for all countries to deepen close cooperation, as well as for our people to unite and solve issues together.

In this regard, I believe that today's conference will help us generate new approaches and solutions to the issue of children's education, which is considered an important direction of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Dear friends! Based on the principle that "human dignity, his rights and interests are the highest value", we have defined the creation of decent living conditions for the people of our country as a priority of the New Uzbekistan's policy.

In this regard, we attach great importance, above all, to the care and practical support of young people and children, raising them physically healthy and spiritually mature generation.

Through early childhood development and providing a decent learning environment, we are building a solid foundation for children's full self-expression in the future.



Indeed, there is no doubt that the investments spent in the path of such a noble goal will pay off several times over in the future.

Along with this, all of us are well aware that the basis of the child's personality is formed at the preschool age, during which the foundation for his intellectual and physical development is created.

Currently, there are about 3 million children of preschool age in our country. Undoubtedly, they are our most valuable treasure, the creators of our free and prosperous life and our bright future.

It is also worth mentioning that in the recent past, the preschool enrollment rate fell to 27%.

Almost all preschool institutions lacked modern technologies and manuals, and their facilities were under renovation. This has limited the opportunity of our children to receive full quality education and upbringing.

Whereas, the role and importance of the preschool education system in our social life, which is considered to be the most important link in the upbringing of our children, cannot be measured and overstated.

From the early days of reforms, we have decided to fundamentally modernize the existing education sector, in particular, the preschool education.

For this purpose, and for the first time in the history of our country, we established a Ministry of Preschool Education.

We place great emphasis on raising kindergartens to a new level according

to time requirements, wide application of advanced methods and techniques, and strengthening the educational and material base.

We have created favorable conditions for the entry of the private sector to the extensive development of the industry.

The State budget subsidies were also available for each foster child in kindergartens.

In recent years, the number of kindergartens in our country has increased sixfold. Thousands of family kindergartens were established in remote and out-of-way areas.

The number of educators and teachers has also increased threefold and reached 160,000. Furthermore, practical work has been undertaken to improve the qualifications of more than 160,000 pedagogic personnel.

This, in turn, provided an opportunity to increase the number of children receiving education and training in kindergartens from 600 thousand to 2 million, the rate of children's coverage increased to 70%.

Distinguished conference participants! You are well aware of the wise saying, "Life is a constant learning experience."

Therefore, in the course of democratic reforms in Uzbekistan, we are prioritizing raising the education system to the level of modern requirements.

In particular, more than 10,000 secondary schools are currently operating in our country.

In recent years, the number of higher educational institutions has increased by almost 2.5 times and reached 186. 31 of them are branches of the world's

leading universities and institutes. It is worth noting that the university admission quota has increased by 3.5 times and enrollment in higher education increased from 9% to 38%.

It is well known that our country, located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, has been contributing to the development of the world civilization and culture since ancient times.

Famous scholars of our country like Al-Khorazmi, who founded the concept of algebra and algorithm, Al-Biruni, who laid the foundation of the science of mineralogy, Ibn Sina, a famous medical scientist known in the world as Avicenna, Mirzo Ulug'bek, a great astronomer who accurately determined the position and movement of one thousand and eighteen stars, Ahmad Fargani, who created a unique device for measuring the level of the Nile River, made a significant contribution to the development of the First and Second Eastern Renaissance in the Middle Ages with their invaluable works, scientific and creative discoveries.

Speaking about this, it is worth mentioning that in the past more than 300 madrasahs, which were universities of that time, functioned in Bukhara, and about 120 existed in Samarkand.

Since time immemorial, our country has attached great importance to upbringing along with education.

It is well known that the great Uzbek poet and thinker Alisher Navoi promoted the idea of a perfect human being who is harmoniously developed in all aspects, possessing high knowledge and spirituality.

The words of Abdulla Avloni, a great

enlightener, famous writer and pedagogue who worked at the beginning of the 20th century: "Education is a matter of either life - or death, either salvation - or destruction, either happiness - or disaster" serve as an important program for us even today.

We are setting the Third Renaissance building in our country as a strategic task and bringing it up to the level of a national idea.

We consider preschool and school education, higher and secondary special education system, as well as scientific and cultural institutions as four integral links of the future Renaissance.

We believe that kindergarten teachers, school teachers, professors and scientific and creative intellectuals to be the four pillars of the new Renaissance.

In this regard, we will strive to achieve our goals by pooling our national experience and the world's best achievements.

It is obvious that where there is education and training, there will undoubtedly be science, culture and development.

Radicalism and extremism will never take root in a highly educated society.

We will consistently continue the work we have begun and take all necessary measures in the future to reach enrollment of 80% of young children in pre-school education in 2025.

In addition, as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we aim to have six-year-olds fully enrolled in school preparation program by 2025.

Dear event participants! The fact that the representatives from 150

countries of the world are visiting our conference is a clear testament that the development of preschool education is of global importance today.

I am confident that this conference will create new opportunities for further expansion of international cooperation in order to define policies related to the field of pre-school education until 2030 in the world and thereby provide quality education to young children.

Proceeding from this, we consider it reasonable to put forward the following important proposals:

First, in today's world preschool children, who are the most vulnerable, are also suffering by the increasing threats of violence.

Therefore, it is very urgent to effectively solve the issue of quality education for young children at the global level, to develop joint solutions and systematic approaches to these issues.

Taking this into account, we propose to hold this international conference regularly.

Second, I hope that you will support our initiative to establish a UNESCO Regional Center in Tashkent in order to systematically coordinate all our efforts on education in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

I also propose to develop a Comprehensive Program to conduct joint projects and research with the World Organization for Early Childhood Education, to prepare new methods of education and methodical manuals.

Moreover, we are putting forward an initiative to create an International Community of Educators to share world best practices, modern interactive teaching methods, rich practical knowledge and skills in this direction.

Third, it is important to include the issue of early childhood education as one of the main topics on the general agenda of the forthcoming summit to be held by the United Nations in 2024 and dedicate a separate session to that.

Based on the outcomes of this international conference, it would be appropriate to adopt a special resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations that recognizes raising and educating young children as an important factor in achieving universal development.

This document should reflect significant issues such as increasing the role of parents in ensuring children's quality education and upbringing, spiritual and physical maturity, and their responsibility to fully manifest their abilities and potentials.

Dear ladies and gentlemen! I believe that today's conference will be held in the spirit of intense discussion and mutual exchange of ideas, and new initiatives, specific proposals and recommendations will be developed.

Undoubtedly, the Tashkent Declaration to be adopted following the conference will serve as the foundation for our future collaborative efforts in this area.

Taking this opportunity, I wish all of you a sound health, best of luck, and immense success in the work of the conference.

Thank you for your attention.

## Pakistan has great scope to enhance trade and exports with Vietnam: Envoy



### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan said that Vietnam's turnover in the first 10 months of 2022 was US\$ 675 billion with imports of US\$ 333 billion and exports US\$ 342 billion, therefore, Pakistan has great scope to enhance its trade and exports with Vietnam. He said that Vietnam is importing many products including cotton & yarn, medicines, surgical instruments, leather products, fabrics, chemicals, meat & mutton products, pet food, fertilizers and Pakistan should enhance exports of these products to Vietnam to take

the bilateral trade to over US\$ 1 billion. He said that Pakistan has a talented workforce in IT and software field and Vietnam has good demand for these professionals, so Pakistan can increase the export of its IT manpower to Vietnam. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Vietnam Ambassador said that ICCI should form a delegation for Vietnam and he would fully support in making its visit successful. He said that exchange of trade delegations is important to explore new avenues of mutual cooperation. He termed consistency, continuity and stability as

key requirements for Pakistan to attract foreign investment from Vietnam, ASEAN and other countries. He appreciated the ICCI plan for organizing Pak-ASEAN Forum and assured that he would fully support it.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Vietnam are enjoying cordial relations, but their bilateral trade was just around US\$ 700 million in 2021, which was far below their actual potential. He said that the main reason of low trade is the lack of awareness about business opportunities between the enterprises of

both countries. He stressed for promoting strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation in order to make significant growth in trade volume.

ICCI President said that Pakistan and Vietnam can cooperate in many sectors including IT & software, agriculture, education, energy and culture. He said that both countries have been discussing a Preferential Trade Agreement, which should be finalized to boost bilateral trade. He said that Vietnam is an important member of ASEAN block and close cooperation of Pakistan with it can

provide us easy access to the big ASEAN market. He stressed that the investors of Vietnam should explore business opportunities in CPEC and in other sectors of Pakistan's economy. He said that Vietnam should consider investing in smartphone and computer chips, parts and accessories in Pakistan as Vietnam is one of the most advanced and large-scale producers of these products.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, Mian Shaukat Masud and others also shared useful ideas for improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Vietnam.

## Biden says missile that killed two in Poland may not have come from Russia

WARSAW: A missile that killed two people in Poland was probably not fired from Russia, US President Joe Biden said on Wednesday after holding talks with leaders of Western allies amid concerns the Ukraine conflict could spill into neighbouring countries.

The explosion on Tuesday at a grain facility near the Ukrainian border came as Russia unleashed a wave of missiles targeting Ukrainian energy infrastructure, attacks that Kyiv said were the heaviest in nearly nine months of the war. The Polish foreign ministry said the rocket fell on Przewodow, a village about 6 km (4 miles) from the border with Ukraine.

According to US officials, initial findings suggested that the missile that hit Poland was fired by Ukrainian forces at an incoming Russian missile, the Associated Press reported, having earlier cited a senior US intelligence official as saying the blast was due to Russian missiles.

Polish President Andrzej Duda had also told reporters earlier that it was "most likely a Russian-made missile", but there was no concrete evidence of who fired it, and the incident was a one-off.

A resident who declined to be identified said the two

victims were men who were near the weighing area of a grain facility.

Russia's defence ministry denied that any Russian missiles hit Polish territory, describing such reports as "a deliberate provocation aimed at escalating the situation". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had no information on an explosion in Poland.

Police officers stand at a blockade after an explosion in Przewodow, a village in eastern Poland near the border with Ukraine, November 16, 2022. — Reuters

Police officers stand at a blockade after an explosion in Przewodow, a village in eastern Poland near the border with Ukraine, November 16, 2022. — Reuters

"There is an attempt to provoke a direct military clash between NATO and Russia, with all the consequences for the world," Dmitry Polyanskiy, the head of the permanent mission of Russia to the United Nations, said on his Telegram channel. Any Russian strike on Poland could risk widening the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are committed to collective defence under its Article 5. (Web Desk)



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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
42,983.75	42,796.85	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
43,097.57	42,728.67	
Index Value	Change	
5,242,733,609	+186.90	
Percentage	Time	
+0.44%	16 Nov, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,357.79	-11.65	
Percentage	Time	
-0.16%	16 Nov, 3:42 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,631.02	+38.10	
Percentage	Time	
+0.11%	16 Nov, 10:43 am GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
28,028.30	+38.13	
Percentage	Time	
+0.14%	16 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.18	151.43
Bahrain Dinar	589.2	593.7
Canadian Dollar	166.79	168.14
China Yuan	31.44	31.69
Danish Krone	30.89	31.24
Euro	242.5	245
Hong Kong Dollar	28.31	28.66
Indian Rupee	2.74	2.82
Japanese Yen	1.55	1.6
Kuwaiti Dinar	719.56	724.56
Malaysian Ringgit	48.82	49.27
New Zealand \$	136.75	137.95
Norwegians Krone	22.23	22.53
Omani Riyal	576.27	580.77
Qatari Riyal	60.86	61.36
Saudi Riyal	62.5	63.1
Singapore Dollar	161.7	163
Swedish Korona	21.23	21.53
Swiss Franc	234.54	236.29
Thai Bhat	6.23	6.33
U.A.E Dirham	64.4	65
UK Pound Sterling	276.3	279
US Dollar	225.4	227.65

# IDEAS2022 seminar stresses pragmatic tech-oriented research to make Pakistan a global AI hub

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The unconstrained potential in AI progress demands Pakistan to keep abreast with the advancements in AI and match its pace through research, an imperative for making Pakistan a global hub of AI, data science, Internet of Things (IoT), and others. In this regard, an essential role is played by universities, which serves as key institutions of research, creativity, collaboration, and combining expertise.

This was discussed during the second day of the seminar 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Defence Market: A Paradigm Shift in Military Strategy and National Security', which was organized at Expo Centre, Karachi, on November 16, 2022, as part of IDEAS 2022, in collaboration between Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, and Defence Export Promotion Organization (DEPO).

The forum was graced as chief guest by Muhammad Israr Tareen, Federal Minister for Defence Production. Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman delivered the introductory remarks while Dr Yasar Ayaz, CPD/Chairman at National Center of Artificial Intelligence (NCAD), moderated the seminar. The speakers included Lt Colonel Dr Ghulam Murtaza, College of EME, NUST, Dr Muhammad Tayab Ali, NCAI, NUST, Major Aon Safdar, College of EME, NUST, Dr Waleed Bin Shahid, MCS, NUST, Lt Colonel Usman Zia, MCS, NUST, and Sqn Ldr Javeria Farooq, CAE, NUST. The session was followed by a very thought-provoking discussion by a highly proficient panel.

Acknowledging Pakistan's progress in the industrial and defence sectors driven by artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), Tareen stated that the country can become a global hub for AI, data science, cloud-native computing, edge computing, blockchain, augmented reality, and internet



of things (IoT) by reshaping and revolutionizing education, businesses, and research through the adoption of cutting-edge technologies and AI-driven applications.

While highlighting the role of academia, research scholars, and data-savvy individuals in development, he emphasized that the country's talented youth should be provided opportunities in the field of AI and Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) through initiatives like the Presidential Initiative for Artificial Intelligence and Computing (PIAIC).

Apart from social, political, and economic changes, advanced technologies, 5G, and AI have also changed the whole dynamics of contemporary warfare, battlefields, tactics, and strategies, he underscored. With such strate-

gic shifts, the concept of security has widened beyond conventional terms and rudimentary procedures to include sophisticated mechanisms and technology-driven procedures. These pose new challenges to the states, he added.

Accentuating the role of human intellect and research in the process of development, Khalid Rahman highlighted that humans through research have been able to maximize knowledge, store it, make it retrievable, process it as quickly as possible, and then analyze and act upon it.

In this regard, universities have served as the key platforms to set the pace for humanity in the key areas of society, culture, economics, and the environment and, more particularly, in the field of AI, which reflects in every other field of life.

Dr Ghulam Murtaza presented his study on automated fault detection/isolation of artillery and tank gun barrels using deep learning and advocated for robotic inspections as a cheap and more accurate alternative to manual examination.

Dr Tayab Ali highlighted the threats of the dissemination of misinformation and misrepresentation and the need to devise AI-powered tools and mechanisms, such as smart media monitoring and analytics system, to enhance the defense capabilities and face the challenges of the 5th generation warfare.

Major Aon Safdar showed how accurate real-time automatic target detection and recognition (ATR) from thermal infrared imagery is a challenging computer vision task and proposed a model called YOLOatr, a modified anchor-based single-stage detector, to attain up to 99.6% ATR performance.

While presenting his research, Dr. Waleed Bin Shahid pointed out the surge in web application attacks, calling for deep learning based-approaches and frameworks. He also presented an AI-based attack detection framework based on Static Application Security Testing Technique (SAST) output.

Usman Zia highlighted the advantages of transforming remote sensing images to textual descriptions. He proposed a model that can enhance information exchange between the frontline and command center and effectiveness in remote sensing image retrieval (RSIR) and image analysis.

Pointing out the performance degradation of object detectors caused by unseen data, Javeria Farooq proposed a two-step approach to improve the generalization of the domain randomization model for low-resolution 2D datasets for the detection of foreign object debris. Retraining the model improved detection accuracy to 92%, she highlighted.

## Visits of VIPs postponed due to political instability: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Wednesday said Pakistan's economy is at a critical crossroads.

At this critical juncture, Pakistan cannot afford to annoy the IMF or any other international institution.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that violations of the agreement with the IMF should be stopped otherwise Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the agreement made with the IMF is not respected, the arrival of its staff mission will be further delayed, which will have a negative impact on the economy.

He said that the IMF has objected to some of the government's measures because it will reduce income and increase expenditure, but the government is adamant about implementing



these measures, which has led to problems.

The IMF believes that in the future the income of the government will be less and the expenditure will increase, so responsibility should be shown in this regard so that the IMF's ninth review can be started.

Mian Zahid Hussain further said that if the IMF staff is not satisfied with the performance of the government, the execu-

tive board of the international organization may take tough decisions, while the possibility of getting any concession from this organization in the near future may end.

If this happens, the attitude of other institutions and countries may also change, which will affect the restoration of infrastructure and people affected by floods.

He noted that nine million people are going below the poverty line due to the floods, which requires resources for rehabilitation, for which loans are essential.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that due to the sit-in in the country a few years ago, the important visit of the Chinese President was delayed for a year, which delayed the investment of 65 billion dollars, while now due to the ongoing political instability in the country, the visit of Saudi Crown Prince has been delayed due to which the total package of 17 billion dollars has been delayed which is unfortunate.

Political instability along with our breach of promises has also played a role in the delay in the visit of the IMF mission, he said.

## Grand opening of NAMI ZUMI at Marriott Hotel Karachi



**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Food enthusiasts in the city of lights can now enjoy a new variety of Pan Asian cuisine at the recently launched NAMI ZUMI Restaurant at Marriott Hotel, Karachi.

Previously known as Suzie Wong, the restaurant was relaunched as NAMI ZUMI unveiling its new menu during an exclusive and grand opening event hosted at the Hotel on 10th November.

The specialty Chef, Yair Binyamin, has worked extensively to recreate the menu, introducing specialties from Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Mongolia, in addition to Chinese cuisine.

Present amongst the guests were Consul Generals from different countries, Corporate Executives, celebrities, influencers, socialites and Management from Karachi Marriott Hotel. The event entailed a red-carpet reception followed by a musical performance and a Chinese dragon dance, while the guests sampled through the latest culinary

additions on the revamped menu such as Singapore Kung Pao Lobster, Indonesian Wok Chart Shrimps, Szechuan Crispy Caramelized Sticky Fish, Singapore Rock Shrimps, Beijing Crispy Beef, Soups, Panna Cotta, Crème Brûlée and fancy mocktails.

"We wanted to create a space where people can experience a taste of modern Pan Asian cuisine," said Mr. Gregor Schmidt Kiefer, the hotel's General Manager. "You can come by yourself or arrive as a group and experience a selection of delicious dishes from nine countries, all under one roof. It's a place for people to connect over good food," he added.

A little dessert neatly rounds off the new menu, putting an Asian spin on classic French desserts. For instance, there's Crème Brûlée flavoured with lemongrass, but dessert lovers should also look out for the delicious Coconut Milk Ice Sago, to get a real taste of Southeast Asia.

NAMI ZUMI will prove to be a great addition on the culinary map of Karachi, with its all-authentic Pan Asian menu.

## Governor Sindh & President FPCCI Discuss Imminent



**Bureau Report**

KARACHI :Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI & Mr. Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh, have discussed the economic challenges faced by the Sindh province; and, their pragmatic and strategic solutions.

He also congratulated him for the assumption of his charge on behalf of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan.

It is pertinent to note that FPCCI is the apex trade body of the country with more than 250 chambers, associations and trade bodies under its umbrella. The meeting took place at Sindh Governor's House Karachi.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh was accompanied by a high-profile delegation of FPCCI; including, Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI; Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, Senator Haji Ghulam Ali & Mr. Zakaria Usman, former Presidents FPCCI and Mr. Sultan Rehman, Coordinator Head Office. Veteran business leader, Mr. Akhtar Khan was also present on the occasion.

Mr. Suleman Chawla, SVP FPCCI, said that the government should immediately look into the matters pertaining to export-oriented industries as those are the ones who earn the precious foreign exchange for the country; run the economy through revenue generation and create the maximum number of jobs due to their labor-intensive & industrial production-based operations.

## Social Responsibility Award

Lahore: Jazz received the annual Shaukat Khanum Social Responsibility Award for the sixth consecutive year in recognition of its CSR and sustainability initiatives. Picture shows Fahad Rehman, Head of Sustainability at Jazz, receiving the award from Dr. Faisal Sultan, CEO of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital, during a ceremony in Lahore.



## Khushhali Microfinance Bank repairs Wacha-Wana Bridge in Tirah valley

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Khushhali Microfinance Bank Limited has supported major repair work of the Wacha-Wana suspension bridge in Tirah valley to recommence-commuting and restore transportation infrastructure in the Khyber Tribal District. Elevating the quality of life is the focal point of Khushhali Microfi-

nance Bank's social initiatives, and this award-winning financial institution contributes generously towards community welfare and sustainability.

The president and CEO of Khushhali Microfinance Bank, Mr. Ghalib Nishtar said, "We are pursuing a vision to accelerate socio-economic growth in Pakistan. Restructuring this important bridge in Tirah

Valley is also a part of our resourceful efforts for the well-being of the masses. Khushhali Bank is expanding its network for the financial inclusion of Pakistan's vast, unbanked, underserved population. Customer-centric innovations and deployment of advanced technologies have enabled Khushhali Microfinance Bank to enrich its operational performance."

This project is a part of "Khush-



hali for Everyone" – an exemplary "Corporate Social Responsibility" program by Khushhali Microfinance

Bank to invest in human development, empowerment, plantation, and environmental sustainability.



# People's warmth, hospitality to stay with us forever, says Irish Captain

LAHORE: Irish women cricket captain Laura Katherine Delany has said that the love, warmth and hospitality her team received during the 12-day tour to Lahore will remain a cherished part of their lives in the years to come.

In an interview with APP after the third WT20I at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Wednesday, she said they were humbled by the hospitality extended to them by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the Lahorites during their brief tour of the historic city, adding that the people had been incredibly welcoming.

The Irish women won the WT20I series 2-1 after they defeated the Pakistan women team by a comfortable margin of the 34 runs in the last match of the series. Earlier, the Ireland women had lost the WODI series by 3-0 against Pakistan women.

She regretted the fact that they had a brief tour and could not explore the beautiful city as they would have liked to, but admired the incredibly welcoming people at every place they visited like the Gymkhana Golf and Country Club and the Wagha border crossing.

About their visit to the Wagha border crossing to witness the iconic flag-lowering ceremony, she said it was an unbelievably brilliant experience and they thor-

oughly enjoyed it, adding that they did not have such opportunity back in Ireland.

Delany made a special mention of the blustering parade by the Rangers jawans during the flag-lowering ceremony (Beating retreat ceremony) and the enthusiasm of the spectators on both sides of the border.

About the Pakistani cuisine, she said she fell for the Saag (a leafy green vegetable prepared from mustard greens) during her sojourn and the Naan bread, adding that although the girls avoided Pakistani spicy food, all of them developed a liking for roti (flat bread made from wheat flour).

About the conditions, she said the batting-friendly pitches were a joy to play, adding that the weather was also pleasant. She hailed cricket facilities at the Gaddafi Stadium and the batting-friendly pitches as they trained there and played their matches.

The Irish captain expressed the hope that their visit to the cricket-loving country would inspire more and more young girls and promote women cricket in this part of the world.

To a question, she said the team looked forward to return for another bilateral series to a country which worships cricket. APP



## MOU between Pakistan and Korean Taekwondo Federation

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In a welcome step, the Pakistan Taekwondo Federation (PTF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the prestigious Gyeonggi-do Taekwondo Association of Korea intending to cooperate in the development of matters of mutual interest of this sport in both the countries. The two agreed as partners for development in matters such as mutual health; to develop and execute joint projects.

On Pakistan's behalf Col (R) Waseem Janjua President, PTF; Mr. Omar Saeed, CEO; and Mr. Murtaza Bangash, Secretary; Mrs. Saba Shamim President Women Wing and Mrs. Farah Saeed Executive Member were present at the MOU ceremony while for Korea, the following team of persons was present: President GTA Kim Kyueng-duk, Executive director, Kim Pyeong, Director GTA Moun Houison, and Chairperson Om Kan Gso. Gyeonggi-do Taekwondo Association has great organizational power from the 17 cities of



the country.

The entering of the MOU between this prestigious Korean Association and the PTF is a good augury for the development of the game of Taekwondo. Under the MOU, the two taekwondo federations will share information and other related plans aimed at enhancement of the game at each and every level with the view to improving the working of both Federations in their respective arenas. Joint projects will be pursued together by both these federations so that they can see the light of day. They are also bound to share information when required regarding

joint projects being pursued by the duo.

"Exchange of visiting teams and persons between Pakistan and Korea, safeguarding each other rights and interests, exchanging information through means of communications available; and also focusing on areas which are underprivileged and under development. In the case of cultural exchange, the respective countries will bear their expenses, the content of the MOU says. Moreover, Taekwondo talent discovery, education support and visiting each other in time of need and other matters for mutual interest is also

the objective.

It further reads: About the period and notice, the MOU says: the agreement is effective for two years from the date of the signature of the representative of each organization. The agreement is changed or amended through cooperation in the event of any cause for change in the contest of the agreement, it further reads. Other clauses include: The contract shall be automatically extended under the same conditions unless there is a signature notice regarding the denial of this contract from either party one month before the expiration of the contract.

## FCL final played between Lahore Green and SA School today

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: The CEO of Salman Associate Salman Khan said that the Friends Cricket League (FCL) final will be played today at Cricket Center Model Town Cricket Ground Lahore today between Lahore Green and SA School and this will be 30 overs match.

He said that there were 15 teams took part in this tournament and three teams could not qualify for the next round and remaining 12 teams divided in three pools and in every teams played the matches in League basis where Quarter



finals, Semi Finals were played after completion this process today we are organizing this final match today. Salman Khan who is also

the Captain of Lahore Kings further said that I unified the Sponsors for FCL league and I received wonderful response from the all the teams and players and I create the idea in every team I included one President who also play as a players for his team and also he can organize his team well and I also adopted the policy that every team President who played vital role as a sponsors will do the opening for his team and in 30 overs game each bowler can bowled 6 overs but President will bowl 7 overs if the need regarding the match situation and due to this

idea every sponsors who will be the President of the team will take keen interest and will support his team and tournament enthusiastically in future at last Salman said that we are starting another tournament very soon.

He said fifteen teams who took part in the tournament included Lhr Greens, SA School, Dar-e-Arqam, Ashiana Boys, Bostan Seniors, Friends Stars, Ch.Electronics, Bright Morning, Tool Max, Lahore Kings, Taj Water Tank, Alfateh Senior, Income Tax Senior, Best Vetern, and Punjab Cottage.

## Babar Azam climbs to 3rd spot in ICC T20I Rankings

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Skipper Babar Azam has climbed up to No 3, in the MRF Tyres ICC Men's T20I Batting Rankings after the conclusion of the T20 World Cup.

The Pakistan skipper scored a match-winning fifty in the semi-final against New Zealand, gaining one spot to climb up to No 3 in the rankings, said a press release.

South Africa batter Rossouw also jumped up to seventh after New Zealand's Glenn Phillips dropped to the eighth spot. Rossouw had scored a magnificent century against Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup.

Other batters in the top

five other than Suryakumar and Babar are Mohammad Rizwan, Devon Conway and Aiden Markram. Both Rizwan and Markram have managed to hold on to their second and fifth positions respectively, whereas Conway dropped down to fourth after losing his third position in the rankings to Babar.

Meanwhile, India middle-order batter Suryakumar Yadav retained his position at the top of the T20I Batting Rankings. Suryakumar became the No.1 T20I batter after a superb showing in the Super 12 stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, where he smashed three fifties in just five innings.

That performance helped him to achieve a career-best rating of 869 points. Although his rating dropped to 859 after his dismissal for 14 in the semi-final against England, his position has remained undisturbed as other batters in his vicinity failed to produce any eye-catching performances.

Suryakumar Yadav unleashes his full repertoire of shots as he finishes the India innings off in style.

The 32-year-old amassed 239 runs during the World Cup at an outstanding average and strike-rate of 59.75 and 189.68 respectively, and also finished as the third highest run-scorer in the

event.

Alex Hales, who smashed an unbeaten 86 from 47 deliveries in the semi-final against India, was also seen making a big jump in the rankings as he climbed 22 places up to No 12. Hales finished as England's second-highest run-scorer in the T20 World Cup, with 212 runs at an average of 42.40.

Hales has been in superb form ever since his comeback to the England side earlier this year. He has amassed 430 T20I runs in 2022, at an excellent average of 30.71 and an equally good strike-rate of 145.27.

Alex Hales scores a quickfire half-century as England start



brilliantly in their semi-final chase against India.

Other batters who made progress in the top 10 are Babar



Pakistan Olympic hosted reception in honour of newly elected President FIH Muhammad Tayyab Ikram A group photo with POA President Lt General Retd Syed Arif Hassan and General Secretary Khalid Mahmood and others team members of POA.

## ITF Pakistan J7 World Juniors Tennis C'ships continues

ISLAMABAD: The ITF Pakistan J7 World Juniors Tennis Championships leg-2 continued here at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Wednesday.

Tariq Mahmood Murtaza President-Islamabad Tennis Association (ITA) and Chairman Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) was the chief guest at the opening ceremony, which was attended by a large number of participants and tennis lovers. He interacted with the players, their parents and the coaches.

He welcomed the participants from abroad and also showed satisfaction over the arrangements which were in place for the conduct of the event including the provision of security by Islamabad Police.

In Boys Singles 2nd Round, Imran Khatibev (UZB) beat Penn Charusorn (THA) 7-5,3-0-Retd; Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Aryan Giri (NEP) 7-5,7-6(2); Bugra Ozkoc (TUR) beat Bilal Asim (PAK) 6-2,1-6,6-3; Amir Asykozhaev (RUS) beat Matthew Goh (MAS) 6-1,6-4; Sami Zeb Khan (PAK) beat Ibrahim Furkan Deniz (TUR) 6-2,6-3.

In Girls Singles 2nd Round, Melissa Jangarashva (KAZ) beat Natalia Zaman (PAK) 6-2,6-0; Polina Kaibekova (RUS) beat Fatima Ali Raja6-0,6-0; Deren Ozel (TUR) beat Soha Ali (PAK) 6-0,6-0; Zainab Ali Naqvi (PAK) beat Thaniya Sarai (IND) 6-2,6-0; Lia Belibova (MDA) beat Madina Omarova (-KAZ) 6-4,7-5.

In Boys Doubles 1st Round, Ibrahim Furkan Deniz (TUR), Imran Khatibev (UZB) beat Amir Asykozhaev (RUS), Mikael Svanidze (GEO) 3-6,6-2(10-8); Kou Fujikawa (JPN), Thad-pong (THA) beat Hamid Israr Gul (PAK), Ahmed Nael Qureshi (PAK) 6-2,7-5; Matthew Goh (MAS), Abdul Hanan (PAK) beat Amir Mazari (PAK), Nabeel Ali Qayum (PAK) 6-2,6-2; Aarav Samrat Hada (USA), Aki Zuben Rawat (NEP) beat Ahtesham Humayun (PAK), Arkhip Kozlov (RUS) 7-5,6-0; M. Talha Khan (PAK), M. Huzaiifa Khan (PAK) beat Ada Guler (TUR), Bugra Ozkoc (TUR) 6-3,5-7(10-7); Muhammad Zaryab Khan (PAK), Azat Sarsembaev (KAZ) Bilal Asim (PAK), Sami Zeb Khan (PAK) 6-3,7-5; Aryan Giri (NEP), Zaidh Zihar (SRI) beat Asad Zaman (PAK), Shehryar Anees (PAK) 6-1,6-0; Penn Charusorn (THA), Teetawat (THA) beat Mars Argun (TUR), Kivanc Bedir (TUR) 6-1,6-3.

In Girls Doubles 1st Round, Zhansaya Bakytzhan (KAZ), Zatalia Zaman (PAK) beat Zainab Ali Raja (PAK), Sheeza Sajid (PAK) 6-1,6-3; Neha Krishnan (USA), Defne Yuksel (TUR) beat Soha Ali (PAK), Amna Ali Qayum (PAK) 6-7(4),6-2(10-5).APP

## Ireland women win the T-20 cricket series against Pakistan by 2-1



Tahir Amin Malik

Ireland Women cricket team clinch the T-20 cricket series by 167 for 2-1 against Pakistan Women cricket team on the third T-20 match by 34 runs. Irish women team skipper Laura Delany won the toss and decided to bat first they scored 167 for 4. Gaby Lewis played outstanding knock of 71 runs with the help of eleven fours and one six Amy Hunter 40 and Orla Prendergast 37 were the other scorers. From Pakistan Nidar Dar, Nashra Sandhu and Ghulam Fatima got one wicket each. In reply Pakistan Women team all out 137 runs with Javeria Khan 37, Nida Dar 26, Fatima Sana 14 and Muneeba Ali 11 were the main scorers. From Irish Captain Laura Delany 3/20, Arlene Kelly 3/19, and Jane Magnire got 2/26 were the successful bowlers. From Ireland Gaby Lewis were declared women of the match. The 3rd T-20 match played with Pink Ribbon between Pakistan and Ireland women teams, Both teams Captains and players, Match Officials and Commentators worn the Pink Ribbons and the aim of pink ribbon was to high light the campaign and create the awareness of breast cancer and PCB supported this campaign of Pink Ribbon.

Other batters in the top

performances in the semi-final against India and the final against Pakistan. Rashid registered figures of 1/20 and 2/22 in the two matches respectively, gaining five spots to move up to No 3.

His compatriot Sam Curran also gains two spots to move to No 5, after a Player of the Match performance of 3/12 in the final against Pakistan. Wanindu Hasaranga continues to remain the top-ranked bowler, followed by Rashid Khan.

In the all-rounders' rankings, Shakib Al Hasan, Mohammad Nabi and Hardik Pandya continue to occupy the top three spots.

Azam and Rilee Rossouw.

In the bowling charts, Adil Rashid has been the biggest gainer after his extraordinary