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Pakistan to continue policy of engagement with global nations

Pakistan said it will continue its policy of engagement and consolidation of ties with countries across the globe. This was stated by Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch while responding to media queries during a news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday. She said Pakistan is revitalizing ties with Europe, America, countries in south East Asia and Africa.

trade agreement: Ambassador Yerzhan

ssador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin said a

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NA condemns propaganda against armed forces; demands action against culprits

a resolution on Thursday expressed solidarity with the country's armed forces and condemned the malicious propaganda campaign spearheaded by a political group against country's armed forces.

The resolution, adopted unanimously by the National Assembly, was moved in the House by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MNA from Multan Malik Ahmed Hussain Dehar. It paid tribute to the armed forces and the soldiers who had given the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation.

The resolution terming the army as a 'red line' demanded that whoever crosses the 'red line' and facilitates the enemy in achieving its objectives should be made an example of, as this was the need of the

Expressing solidarity with the armed forces, the resolution said the public fully supports the nation and that the House also reposes its full confidence in the armed forces.

"The House, a representative of over 220 million Pakistanis, strongly condemns a baseless, unethical, illegal and negative campaign spearheaded by a specific group to sully the image of armed forces."

The resolution demanded that the against those running an organized



government should utilize its powers campaign against the state.

nation was standing like a rock with the institutions. Agencies

The resolution stated that the whole country's brave armed forces and other

Children among 20 devotees killed in Khairpur accident

Mark Correspondent

SEHWAN: At least 20 devotees including children were killed and several others sustained injuries after a passenger van met an accident at Indus Highway near Khairpur on Thursday.

The ill-fated incident took place when a passenger van carrying devotees including women and children heading towards Sehwan Sharif from Khairpur fell in cut made for flood water.

According to police, 20 bodies have been retrieved from the cut and shifted to Syed Abdullah Shah Institute Sehwan Sharif. The dead also include eight women and 10 children and two men, while several others injured.

SC hears Imran Khan's petition challenging NAB amendments

minister Imran Khan's petition challenging amendments in the National the government.

A three-member SC bench, comprising Chief Justice of Pakistan mark? Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan and Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, heard the case.

During the course of proceedings, Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandithe National Accountability Bureau (NAB) law, said that the error was not in the law but in its misuse.

Khan's lawyer Khawaja Haris that stated that the law against corruption he was right that corruption was a disease and accountability of corrup-

tion was necessary for constitutional governance, adding the economy give instructions for a stringent law. was also affected due to this problem. He said that the question before the

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court fundamental rights had been affected. NAB laws was the legislation to deal on Wednesday heard former prime The fault was not in the NAB law but in its misuse, he added.

The Chief Justice said that corrup-Accountability (NAB) Ordinance by tion should be dealt with strictly. He and natural calamities. asked if the court reached this conclusion, then what would be its bench-

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that the court on a daily basis took decisions on matters that conflict with fundamental rights and added If a citizen stated that there was no al, discussing the amendments in anti-corruption law in Pakistan, then should court should ask the parliament to enact a law.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that The Chief Justice told Imran those citizens would come again and was not strict as people were being exempted, and give instructions to enact a strict law, then the court would

> He said that there was no greater threat to Pakistan than the climate petition against the NAB amend-

with climate change, he added.

He said that all of Pakistan was being destroyed as it was facing floods

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that in case a citizen came and stated that the law was not strict to deal with climate change, and order the Parliament to this effect.

Addressing Imran Khan's lawyer, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah asked whether it was court's job to do this

Khawaja Haris said that there were judicial precedents to address this question. On which, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah said that he was also waiting for this day.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that Khawaja Haris had pointed out that fundamental rights were eventually affected by corruption. The court adjourned the hearing on the court was where to draw the line that change. More important than the ments till November 29. APP

Pakistan, Russia sign road transport agreement

ISLAMABAD: A road transport agreement has been signed between Pakistan and Russia to pave way for promoting commercial and public relations between both countries.

Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mahmood had an important meeting with Russian Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev in which an international road transport agreement was signed, said a press release.

On the occasion, the Minister said Russia was a resource-rich and technologically advanced country. "This agreement will pave way for establishing commercial and public relations between the two

President for total peace, morality-based new world order

Arif Alvi Thursday urging the tive". need to shun destructive security paradigms and doctrines in international relations, said that the world order should be based on rules, morality and ethics for making the world a better place for everyone.

He added that doctrines such as Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), Humane Warfare, and Cold War mentality, should be discontinued and replaced with a philosophy of Total Peace, where war was completely eliminated.

The President expressed these views while addressing a special session of the Margalla Dialogue, an interactive and policy-driven discussion, on the theme of "Navigating the Great Power competition: language. APP

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Developing World Perspec-

The session, organized here by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute, was attended by diplomats, foreign dignitaries, members of the academia and intelligentsia, a press release issued by the President's Media Wing said.

The President said that destructive philosophies and ideas needed to be replaced with the philosophy of Total Peace where resorting to war was not an option.

This, he added, was possible when all nations and nationstates and people living in them were treated with dignity, honour and respect without any discrimination on the basis of colour, creed, race or

Musadiq demands Imran to show receipts of 'sold Toshakhana gifts'

ISLAMABAD: of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik on Thursday said that former Prime Minister Imran Khan was caught redheaded while misappropriating in Toshakhana gifts' sale and should provide the receipts of the gifts being sold to a Dubai-based businessman.

Toshakhana gifts being sold in the market".

He said as per rules, any gift received from foreign dignitaries was first deposited in the 'Toshakhana' and later on another procedure of market evaluation was carried out if the recipient wanted to keep it. "But $no\,such\,thing\,happened\,in\,this$ case" he alleged.

However, he said, as per the market evaluation that had been carried out in a thorough professional and technical way, its price stood at around \$12 million, almost Rs 1.7 billion at that time and now about Rs 2 billion.

He said Imran Khan bought the watch set at Rs 20 million only, without adopting the laid down procedure.

"And now, he (Imran) has confessed to committing two crimes which are buying and selling it." He regretted that the fited Karachiites. APP

Minister unique gift was not meant to sell in the open market as it was given as a gesture of great love and respect to Pakistan.

He criticized the PTI chairman for hiring the services of lobbyist David Fenton in the US, who was known as the founder of the denuclearization programme besides getting Addressing a press confer- money and land from Malik ence, he said, "Your theft has Riaz to protect his money-launbeen exposed, we have no dering and receiving millions of demand but Imran Khan pounds from Arif Nagyi, Chief must show the receipts of the Executive of the Abraj Capital and Investment Company, indicted by the US courts in a range of cases and could get up to years' imprisonment.

> The first plundering was of \$250 million by Malik Riaz in Bahria Town, which as per the Cabinet signed paper and Pakistani representative in the UK who signed the document in the British court; the amount was gifted to Malik Riaz and were deposited in his account. "It was given in lieu of 400

> kanals land which was registered in the name of Imran Khan and his wife," he alleged. The second case, he said was

related to Arif Masood Naqvi who was likely to be charged in the UK against money laundering. Imran Khan during his regime waived off Rs 250 billion investment to be made by K-Electric in Dattang Coal Project which would have bene-

Chairman NDMA, US delegation discuss post flood damages' management

ISLAMABAD: The US Delegation led by Commanding General of US Army Central, Lieutenant General Patrick D. Frank on Thursday visited NDMA and held a meeting with Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Inam Haider

Malik. The delegation exchanged aspects of mutual interest in post floods damages' management in Pakistan and sought insights into areas of future possibilities of engagement and cooperation, a news release said.

The chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) indicated an immediate requirement of developing intellectual and academic forums such as a new National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and visible presence of NDMA in global and regional platforms and events.

He underscored the envisaged areas of technological inputs to enhance capacity and futuristic risk projection by NDMA through newly conceptualized existing National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) and investment in building capacity of national emergency response and preparedness through sharing experience, training and transfer of technology in the field of Disaster Management.

The chairman hinted at great learning outcomes from the management of current floods and NDMA's planning for new proactive approach to engage all emergency response-related stakeholders for national-level preparedness of disasters. He also discussed the existing shortfalls in disaster management in Pakistan and emergency response structure.

The Spokesman

Presenting memento ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik presenting a souvenir to Lt. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, Commanding General of US Army Central on Thursday.

Current government is a national set up: Saad Rafiq

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique on Thursday said 'Fitna-e-Imraniya' would be countered through all possi-

Talking on the floor of National Assembly, the minister said constitutionally ousted Prime Minister Imran Khan and his accomplice were trying to malign the incumbent government and its allied parties through social media in a bid to build their politically motivated narrative in the

He also accused the PTI and its accomplice for making business of approximately billions of rupees through social media in the country and abroad.

He said the public had already rejected their narra-



bilizing the Pakistan Tehreeki-Insaf government.

He said Imran Khan had already convicted in prohibited foreign funding case and now he must be held accountable in Toshakhana case and the funds of Rs.13 billion, he collected in the wake of the flood-hit people through telethon.

He said it was not just a

tive of foreign hand in desta- matter of highly-valued wristwatch or a pen of diamonds, there was a huge list of precious gifts which he sold out in the international market for his financial benefits and submitted a nominal amount in the national exchequer and even

> actions in his tax returns at any forum.

did not mention these trans-

(RTS), the PTI government was imposed on the nation adding that no opposition party of then accepted the results but to continue the democratic process in the country, they joined the parliament under protest.

He went to say that keeping in view the sensitive condition of the country; the opposition parties of then did not adopt the way of rallies and agitations and let the PTI government to run its affairs smoothly.

Recalling his memory, he informed the house that he and other opposition party leaders were framed in the fabricated cases which they were still facing in the courts.

He termed Imran Khan the He said after freezing the 'biggest liar' who deliberately

Result Transmission System speaks lies and is involved in political mudslinging against his opponents. "Such a person has no future in the country's politics," he added.

He said Imran Khan was carrying out long march towards the federal capital to seek early elections in the country but he must be answerable of his wrongdoings during his tenure.

Raising a big question on the term of PTI government, he said it was yet to be decided either it would be counted in the parliamentary history of the country or not.

He termed the present set-up a 'national government' in which there was representation of all political parties hailing from every nook and cranny of the country.

At UN, Pak resolution reaffirming peoples' self-determination right adopted unanimously

UNITED NATIONS: A key Kashmir and Palestine. committee of the UN General Assembly on Thursday unanimously adopted a resolution reaffirming the right to self-determination for peoples who are subjected to colonial, foreign and alien occupation.

Co-sponsored by 72 countries, the resolution, submitted by Pakistan, was adopted without a vote in the 193-member Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

The resolution, which Pakistan has been sponsoring since 1981, serves to focus the world's attention on the people still struggling for their inalienable right to self-deter-

PAF performs air

during fighter jet

to air refuelling

deployment at BĪAS 2022

It is expected to come up for General Assembly's endorse-

ment next month.

Introducing the draft, Ambassador Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, said that the General Assembly has not the right to self-determination, but also further crystallized its status as customary international law.

"Almost all former colonies and subjugated peoples, who are represented in this Assembly today as sovereign nations, secured their independence by exercising their right to self-determination," he said. There were, howevmination, including those in er, situations where occupied

peoples were being systemat- rights of all peoples, includ- repression, discrimination, ically denied this right and are obliged to struggle for its realization.

"The means by which occupying powers continue to suppress the legitimate struggles for self-determination are often brutal and violent: only established the scope of including naked military force, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, rape and sexual violence, torture, curfews, communication blackouts, lockdown of civilian populations, illegal settlements and demographic changes," the

Pakistani envoy said. Under the terms of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reaffirm the universal realization of the ing those under colonial, foreign and alien domination, to self-determination as a fundamental condition for the effective guarantee and

observance of human rights. The resolution also declared the General Assembly's firm opposition to acts of foreign military intervention, aggression and occupation, since these have resulted in the suppression of the right of peoples to self-determination and other human rights in certain parts of the world.

It called on those States responsible to cease immediately their military intervention in and occupation of foreign countries and territories, as well as all acts of APP

exploitation and maltreat-

The assembly would also deplore the plight of millions of refugees and displaced persons who have been uprooted as a result of these acts and reaffirms their right to return to their homes voluntarily in safety and honour.

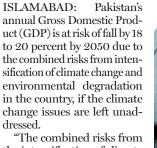
It urges the Human Rights Council to give special attention to the violation of human rights, especially the right to self-determination, resulting from foreign military intervention, aggression or occupation. It also requests the Secretary-General to report to the next Session of the General Assembly on this question.

Pakistan's annual GDP can fall 18-20% by 2050 due to climate change risks: WB

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) performed Air to Air Refuelling during the deployment of JF-17 Thunder aircraft at Bahrain International Air Show (BIAS 2022).

Although the PAF has been successfully conducting inland air to air refuelling during operational missions and exercises, however, the capability was further consolidated by conducting air to air refuelling on international waters through PAF's own tanker aircraft during a long haul ferry mission, a PAF news

release here received said. The PAF deployed three of its JF-17 fighter jets at Bahrain International Air Show with an in-flight support of its mighty IL-78 tanker aircraft.



the intensification of climate change and environmental degradation, unless addressed, will further aggravate Pakistan's economic fragility; and could ultimately reduce annual GDP by 18 to 20 percent per year by 2050, based on the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios", a report recently published by the World Bank said.

Between 6.5 and 9.0 percent of GDP will likely be lost due to climate change (in the optimistic and pessimistic scenar- year.



ios, respectively) as increased floods and heatwayes reduce agriculture and livestock yields. destroy infrastructure, sap labor productivity, and undermine health, the report added.

Additionally, water shortages in agriculture could reduce GDP by more than 4.6 percent, and air pollution could impose a loss of 6.5 percent of GDP per

The use of water for non-agricultural purposes is likely to increase significantly with climate change. Under a high-growth (4.9 percent per year) and high-warming (3°C by 2047) scenario, water demand is projected to increase by almost 60 percent, with the highest rates of increase coming

Damage induced by climate-related extreme events will likely have economy-wide impacts on growth, fiscal space, employment, and poverty. Global warming and extreme events affect economic activity through multiple transmission channels: impacts on lives, on infrastructure and assets, and on livelihoods, which can result in lost economic growth, worsening poverty and longer-term threats to human capital and productivity. Existing macro models can help assess the expected scale of such events.

The report added that household poverty is expected to decline over time, but even a 9 percent decline in GDP by 2050 is enough to stall poverty reduction, with disproporfrom the domestic and industionate impacts on rural house-

Korean govt provides \$1.5m humanitarian aid for Afghan refugees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of the Republic of Korea has provided US \$1.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the three United Nations Agencies for the year 2023 to alleviate the suffering of the

Afghan Refugees in Pakistan. A ceremony was held in this regard at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Islamabad, where the Korean Ambassador Suh Sangpyo signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Representative of the United Nations Luay Shabaneh, the Representative of the World Health Organi- steadfast support and humanitarzation (WHO) Dr. Palitha Mahi- ian assistance for Afghan refugees.

pala, and the Deputy Representative of the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) Ms. Rathi Palakrishnan, said a news release on Thursday.

Each of the United Nations Agencies received half a million USD aimed at providing lifesaving food assistance and continued healthcare to Afghan refugees along with

child, and the gender-based violence (GBV) projects. Speaking at the ceremony, the representatives of the UN agencies expressed their gratitude to the Population Fund (UNFPA) Dr. ambassador, Government of Korea and the Korean people for their

assistance specific to mother and

IMF to consider targeted assistance for poor,

ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indicated its willingness to sympathetically view the targeted assistance for poor and vulnerable, especially flood affected people of Pakistan, said finance ministry in a statement issued here Thursday.

flood-hit people

According to the statement, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held an online meeting with IMF Mission Chief for Pakistan, Nathan Porter.

The two sides discussed the progress made with the ongoing IMF work and targets for the current year. program.

"IMF indicated its willingness to sympathetically view the targeted assistance for poor and vulnerable, especially flood affectees," the state-

It was agreed that expenditure estimates for flood related humanitarian assistance during the current year would be firmed up along-with estimates of priority rehabilitation expenditure.

In this regard engagement at the technical level would be expeditiously concluded for proceeding with the 9th Review.

The finance minister reiteratprogram, particularly the impact of ed government's commitment to floods on macroeconomic frame- successfully completing the IMF

Pakistan, Kazakhstan agree to sign transit trade agreement: Ambassador Yerzhan



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin said a transit trade agreement between Pakistan and Kazakhstan is expected to be signed soon to

accelerate the bilateral trade. Ambassador as Chief Guest in a seminar organized by 'Pakistan in the World' in collaboration with the Centre of Pakistan and International Relations (COPAIR), said that air, railway and road links are very important for regional economic connectivity, for which a lot of progress has been made in both

Kazakhstan's national airline SCAT important in mutual trade. APP

cities of Pakistan including Islamabad and Karachi from January 2023, said a news release.

The Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that direct flights between the two countries will strengthen mutual economic and trade relations, along with the possibility of improvement in bilateral tourism.

The Ambassador said that the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev will soon visit Pakistan and it will be very important in developing close relations between the two countries.

On the occasion, he said that the Minister of Commerce and Industry of Kazakhstan likely to visit Pakistan in December and he will also discuss mutual trade and Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two countries.

He said that the Joint Working Group is already working for the improvement of economic relations and regional economic integration in Pakistan and Kazakhstan, which is an excellent forum for mutual discussions. He said that the current volume of mutual trade between the two countries is \$197 million, which can easily be taken up to \$ 1 billion.

He said that information technology, pharmaceutical, textiles and The Ambassador said that agriculture and food sectors are very

South African Defence Force Chief calls on CJCSC

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Chief of South African National Defence Force, General Rudzani Maphwanya who is on official visit to Pakistan, called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), General Nadeem Raza here at Joint Staff Headquarters.

During the meeting, both sides deliberated upon various areas of interest, bilateral cooperation including security, counter-terrorism and prevailing regional environment, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR)

news release said. The dignitaries dilated upon

measures to enhance the level and scope of military engagements between both countries and reaffirmed to continue to forge deeper ties. The CJCSC said that Pakistan was

keen to expand its existing bilateral military to military cooperation with South Africa. The visiting dignitary lauded the

professionalism of Pakistan Armed Forces and acknowledged their sacrifices in fight against terrorism. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff

Headquarters, a smartly turned out tri-services contingent presented 'Guard of Honour' to the visiting

trial sectors, the report said. Published by: Almass Ayoub Sabir from Zero Point Printers Rawalpindi.

Friday, November 18, 2022

Sugary drinks are real threat to public health and economy of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

PESHAWAR: Sugary drinks are threat to our public health and economy. NCDs especially obesity and diabetes are increasing at an alarming rate in Pakistan. Pakistan has the 3rd highest burden of diabetes worldwide with 33 million people living with diabetes and the rate in which diabetes is increasing Pakistan is world number 1 country with fastest growth of diabetes. Ulema in Pakistan have great influence over people.

They shall educate people on healthharms of sugary drinks in their Friday Khutba. This was stated by health, policy and economic experts in conference with Ulema organized by Pakistan National Heart Association (PANAH) at a local hotel in Peshawar. Event was attended by ulema, health professionals, civil society and media.

The workshop was hosted by PANAH's General Secretary Sanaullah Ghumman. The guests included Ex-Governor and senior leader of PML-N Mr. Iqbal Zaffar Jhagra, Major General (Retd) Maud Ur their consumption then we will have



Rehman Kiani, President PANAH, a severe challenge to our public health. Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator, Dr. Abdul Qayyum Awan, Senior Vice President PANAH, representatives from KPK Safety and Hilal Food Authority, civil society representatives, health professionals and journalists.

While addressing to conference, Gen. Masud Ur Rehman Kiania said that one of the major cause of recent alarming increase in NCDs in Pakistan is our unhealthy food choices. If government does not take effective policy actions immediately like imposing heavy taxes on SSBs to reduce

He urged ulema to play their role

in educating people on health harms of SSBs. Iqbal Zaffar Jhagra said that if we look at the life of our Prophet he encouraged healthy foods. We do not have healthy eating habits that's why NCDs like diabetes, heart are kidney diseases are increasing at an alarming rate. Ulema can very effectively tell people about health harms of unhealthy foods like SSBs. Mr. Munawar Hussain, Consultant Food Policy Program at Global Health Advocacy Incubator said that high consumption of sugary drinks is an increasing threat

to economy of the country. Pakistan has 3rd highest burden of harmful drinks.

people living with diabetes and the rate in which diabetes is increasing Pakistan is world number 1 country with fastest growth of diabetes. He said that PIDE estimated Rs. 428 billion as cost of obesity in 2015. Similarly, as per International Diabetes Federation, the annual cost of managing diabetes in Pakistan has been increased to USD 2640 million in 2021. If no policy action taken immediately, the number of people living with diabetes will increase to 62 million by 2045.

Mr. Sana Ullah Ghumman said that PANAH is engaged at all levels from general public to law and policy makers increase awareness in general public on health harms of sugar sweetened beverages and for laws and policies to reduce the consumption of these unhealthy drinks.

He said that ulema have great respect in our society and today we came to get their support to decrease the consumption of these unhealthy drinks. He urged ulema to demand government for taking policy steps including increase in taxes on these

Teresa Chang called on Faisal Kundi



ISLAMABAD: The Political Officer of U.S. Embassy Islamabad, Teresa Chang called on the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi at Islamabad.

Ms. Teresa Chang covers domestic political issues, human rights, and labour. She was accompanied by Muhammad Aftab Qureshi, a political specialist at the United States Embassy, Islamabad. Faisal Karim Kundi and Teresa Chang discussed matters of mutual interests.

Faisal Karim Kundi thanked her for the support US government provides to Pakistan in different sectors. While discussing the political situation in Pakistan, Faisal Karim

Kundi, said that politicians sit together and discuss the possibilities for the smooth running of the system. Despite the hard times in the Pakistan Peoples Party government from 2008-13, when terrorism was at its peak in Pakistan and the government was dealing with millions of IDPs, we tried to create environment of reconciliation in Pakistan, he added.

He said that the first priority of the present government is to restore the trust of the international and regional powers. He also said that political gains must not hurt the international relations of Pakistan.

Hanif Qureshi Elected Member of FIDE Education Commission

B Our correspondent

LAHORE: FIDE, the international governing body of chess, has appointed President Chess Federation of Pakistan (CFP) Hanif Qureshi as member of 'Chess in Education Commission' on Thursday.

The 23-member Commission has been elected out of 200 FIDE member countries. This is the first time in the last 50 years that FIDE has appointed anyone from Pakistan to an international commission.

This Commission will now be looking after Chess in Education programmes worldwide in consultation with different national chess

 $CFP\ officials\ and\ chess\ lovers\ congratulated\ Hanif\ Qureshi\ on\ being$ appointed member of Chess in Education Commission. "Definitely, it is a great distinction for Pakistan Chess that FIDE elected CFP President in the most important Commission of international governing body. It's a befitting reward for his decades-long untiring endeavours for the promotion of chess at national and international level," they said.

Bid to smuggle foreign currency foiled at Torkham border; US\$40,000 seized

ISLAMABAD:: The Customs officials have foiled two smuggling bids of foreign currency at Torkham border and seized an amount of \$40,000 from two passengers traveling to Afghanistan during the last five days. According to the Customs department, the organization was carry-

ing out strict vigilance on specific information on the smuggling of foreign currency through borders. During the last five days, the department made two seizures total-

ing \$40,000 - \$20,000 each from two passengers during the body search and luggage scanning at the Torkham border crossing point. As per details, the Customs staff of Enforcement intercepted an Afghani passenger namely Aqdas Arial, daughter of Gul Muhammad

the Customs officials recovered US\$ 20000 from her shoulder bag. Similarly, on November 12, the Customs staff of Enforcement had intercepted a Pakistani passenger namely Azhar Akbar, son of Gul Taj

having Passport No. P00149377 on Thursday. During the body search,

Khan, bearing Passport No. WM1334701. During body search and scanning of the passenger's shoes, the officials recovered two plastic-wrapped packets in the shoe soles. Further unwrapping of the packets led to the recovery of US\$10,000

in each packet. Following the seizure of the foreign currency, the Customs department is taking further necessary action as per the Customs Act, 1969.

The crackdown on foreign currency smugglers is part of the government's efforts to discourage illegal channels of transactions which caused shortage of dollars in local market ultimately depreciating national currency and putting burden on the national economy. APP

Difficult to travel

KARACHI: Motorists facing difficulties due to accumulated sewerage water at Rashid Minhas Road in Provincial Capital.



Delegation of TDAP visit FCCI

腾 Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Close and result oriented liaison in between public and private sector is imperative to give a quantum jump to the exports through structural changes, procedural, improvement and aligning the TDAP's (Trade Development Authority of Pakistan) vision to the fast-changing global trends, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

He was talking to a delegation of TDAP Faisalabad that met him in his office here today. The delegation was headed by Madam Fareeha Khan Director TDAP Faisalabad. He appreciated the proposal to organize sector specific webinars through Pakistani commercial counidentification of potential



and B2B meetings delegations could also be arranged in order to ensure growth in exports.

He stressed the need to evolve a separate strategy for textile, engineer, IT and agri-FCCI in TEXPO2023 sched-

business houses and new entrants as major exporters could independently get stalls without any support of the chamber.

He underlined the need for matchmaking and said that culture sectors and said that our engineering sector should space may be allocated for move from low value products to high value products. sellors deputed in different uled to be held in May in Kara- He said that some institutions countries. He said that after chi. He said that FCCI would in Faisalabad are manufacturallocate this space to the small ing and providing parts for

vendors. He said that TDAP must focus on such institutions which would certainly inspire others to produce high value parts. He also pointed out that IT is a potential sector and TDAP could focus on its promotion at the global level. Director TDAP Faisalabad

aircrafts and BMW cars as

Madam Fareeha Khan said that agriculture, engineering, IT and textile EXPOs have been arranged and our focus is on inviting serious buyers from the other countries. Quoting previous engineering EXPO, she said that Ghazi and Millat tractors got sizable orders because of this event. She said that many foreign buyers from Africa and Central Asian Republics participated in this event at

She said that another exhibition is being held in Houston (America) and TDAP would bear 50% expenditures of the

their own expenses.

willing participants. She said that OIC is also organizing a trade fair in the month of June next year in Lahore. She said that businessmen from 56 countries are expected to participate in this exhibition and showcase their products. She said that TDAP could also arrange a single country exhibition in case of workable and result oriented proposals.

She said that the import substitution industry has also been included in the TEXPO as our textile export is heavily dependent on imports and its inclusion could help Pakistan to minimize its import bill. Vice President Muhammad Aslam Bhalli, Executive Member Muhammad Azhar Chaudhary, Maqsood Akhtar Butt, Rao Fazal-ur-Rehman Deputy Director and Hafiz Kamran Ahmad Assistant Director TDAP Faisalabad were also present during this

PTI will win local government elections with overwhelming majority: PM AJK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that PTI would win the upcoming local government elections with an overwhelming majority. He expressed these views while addressing a function organized by PTI Muzaffarabad Division here

"Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf is strong in all the constituencies of Azad Kashmir", he said adding that the people of the liberated territory would yet again repose their trust on the PTI leadership the way they did in the general elec-

tion. "More than 78 of our local councilors have been elected unopposed", the PM said adding that it was a reflection of masses' trust on the party (PTI). Tehreek-e-Insaf, he said, is the most popular political party of Pakistan.

The PTI's popularity can be gauged from the fact that the PTI candidates had won all seats during the recentlv held by-elections", he said adding that the PTI-AJK chapter would carry forward the Ik's mission and vision to turn Azad Kashmir into a self reliant social welfare state. The journey of development and prosperity that the PTI government has started in the Azad Kashmir in line with the vision

of Imran Khan he said would gain said, adding that the Interior Minisfurther momentum after the local elections. The mission of holding municipal elections, he said was the dream of the people of Azad Kashmir, which was going to be realized during the rule of PTI.

He said that Muzaffarabad will be made a modern model city. Expressing his solidarity with the party chairman, the PM said that the people of Azad Kashmir would stand like a solid rock with Imran Khan through every thick and thin. "All the contestants should vigorously campaign in their constituency and convey Imran Khan's message door to door", the PM

ter Rana Sanaullah has assured that he will provide security to the Azad Kashmir government for holding local elections.

Speaking on this occasion Khawaja Faruq Ahmed said that by holding the local government elections, the powers will be transferred to the lower level. Earlier on his arrival, the AJK premier received a warm welcome from the party workers. On this occasion, Senior Minister Khawaja Farooq Ahmed, Finance Minister Abdul Majid Khan, Deputy Speaker Assembly Chaudhry Riaz Ahmed, Member Assembly Asim Sharif and others were present.

ISSI's Third Thought **Leaders Forum (TLF)**

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD:"The government's vision of the energy sector is to energise the whole sector. Energise the poor and create the infrastructure that allows them upward social mobility," was said by the keynote speaker Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik while addressing the Thought Leaders Forum (TLF).

The Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized its third TLF on November 17, 2022 under title, "Pakistan's Energy Vision: A Harbinger for Economic Development." Senator Dr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of State Ministry of Energy, Petroleum Division was the keynote speaker.

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General, ISSI in his welcome remarks highlighted the relevance of the topic chosen for discussion. Earlier, Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China-Pakistan Study Centre, in his introductory remarks apprised the audience about the significance

Dr. Malik in his address said that the

subsidies have hindered the growth of energy sector infrastructure. Productivity needs to be increased in both the public and private sectors through innovation and technology infusion. The major problems of the energy sector include availability, affordability, and fiscal sustainability. Therefore, building pipelines especially from Central Asia to Pakistan like TAPI is necessary. Also, it is important to work on indigenising gas exploration in the country to build capacity and focus on renewable sources of energy.

He further stated that Pakistan is soon aiming to announce its refining policy and is expected to attract an investment of 12 billion US dollars to setup a world-class refinery in the country.

His address was followed by a Q & A session on a wide range of topics including energy security, circular debt, and self-sustainability in the nergy market.

Towards the end, Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Chairman, BOG ISSI, presented ISSI's souvenir to the keynote speaker. The event was received well across the board.





namaz	ıımıngs
Fajr	5:15 am
Zohr	11:53 am
Asr	3:26 pm
Maghrib	5:04 pm
Isha	6:30 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police

Stations 9222596 .. 9270601-20

ENOUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

CMH	56111
MH	56111
MH	56111
Cantt Hospital	9270907-
DHQ	5556311-
RGH	9290301-

Nearly 4.4m SIMS blocked

years, NA told

stan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in its

efforts to eradicate menace of illegal grey traffick-

ing, has identified a total of 4,395,566 Subscrib-

er Identification Modules

(SIMS) and subsequently

blocked them in last three

years (2020-2022) with

the resolve to curb illegal

grey telephony, Minister

Syed Amin-ul-Haq told

National Assembly.

for Information Technolo-

gy and Telecommunication

In a written reply to the

question of Moulana Abdul

Akbar Chitrali, said the

respective Cellular Mobile

Operators (CMOs) were fined Rs 150 million due

to irregularities. The SIMS

were blocked to safeguard

potential losses. No CMO

itself has been identified in

using such SIMs for grey

traffic termination, AI

in last three

ISLAMABAD: Paki-

Tasneem Qureshi for Improvement of Productivity to Compete Global Markets

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Industries and Production Mr. Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi visited National Productivity Organization (NPO) Head Office here on Thurs-

Speaking on the occasion, He recognised the critical role of NPO for improving competitiveness and productivity in Industry, Service sector and effective public governance. He stressed the need to improve productivity and competitiveness to remain competitive both in local and global markets. He assured that the Ministry of Industries and Production would support NPO it in its efforts to enhance the productivity.

Earlier, the CEO NPO Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry briefed the Special Assistant to Prime Minister regarding mandate, services offered and different projects of NPO Pakistan & APO

He informed that APO, Japan and NPO Pakistan are closely working together for Productivity improvement in Pakistan. APO is playing major role to promote Productivity drive in the region.

APO's services are reorienting the requirements

Showing solidarity

sectors in enhancing competitiveness and yielding higher productivity culture in the country,

CEO NPO explained that rise in production costs is a serious issue due to which our products cannot find their place in global markets.

Without improving competitiveness, it would be hard to compete globally and locally. The need of the current era of competitiveness both in the to focus on the reasons on why Pakistan runs low

ISLAMABAD: A view of portraits of Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa hang

on a poll at a road side, showing solidarity with Pak Army in Federal Capital.

domestic and global markets and support export on productivity", he said adding: There is strong need to create awareness on the emerging need of improved productivity.

> He said Singapore, Korea, Japan, China and Malaysia are few examples who transformed their economies based on improved competitiveness (basically improved productivity) and innovative strategies. Among the other key success facts, top leadership commitment and massive campaign are the basic requirements in bringing higher

Mountain Festival from

Staff Reporter

Dec 1

ISLAMABAD: All set to kick off a two-week long 12th edition of Pakistan Mountain Festival with a live painting competition on December 1. Other events include Trail-5 cleanup and an interactive session on mountain wildlife and biodiversity, Pakistan Mountain Youth Forum, and an exhibition of paintings.

The grand event including a conference on "Cultural Heritage in the Changing Climate, Food Security and Mountain Women" and awards will be organized on December 9-12 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) under the patronage of National Heritage and Culture Division at

Pakistan Poverty Alle-Programme (NRSP) are also supporting the grand event and confer-

12th Pakistan

viation Fund (PPAF) and National Rural Support

AIOU organizes a seminar on Iqbal and Maulana Rumi

ISLAMABAD: A seminar on "Iqbal and Maulana Rome" was organized by Allama Iqbal Open University in continuation of the celebration of Iqbal Week under the auspices of Iqbal Chair on Tasawuf and Muslim Thoughts at Allama Iqbal Open University. Prof. Fateh Muhammad Malik, Chairman Iqbal Chair presided over the ceremony, while Prof. Dr. Sahibzada Sajdul Rehman, Chairman Sirat-ul-Nabi Chair, was the chief guest of the ceremony. Professor Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir, Chairman Urdu Department, was the keynote speaker. Dr. Arshad Mahmood Nashad, Senior Teacher of Urdu Department was also among the speakers while Muhammad Rafiq Tahir, Incharge Centre of excellence hosted the function. While giving a lecture on the collaboration of Iqbal and Rumi, Dr. Abdul Aziz Sahir said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal liked Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, the most concerning divine knowledge, and used to acknowledge him as his peer and mentor.

He said that the focus of the poetry and mystic teachings of the two senior leaders is love for the Prophet Peace Be Upon Him. He said that Allama Iqbal used to write Maulana Rumi "Pir-e-Romi" and himself "Mureed-e-Hindi" in his work. He explained in detail the intellectual connections between Allama Igbal and Rumi, and the influence of Maulana Rumi on Iqbal's thoughts. Abdul Aziz Sahir said that Iqbal and Maulana Rumi have represented the nation in similar difficult times (Halako Khan, Genghis Khan, and Imperialism).

Dr. Abdulaziz Sahir also narrated the story of Mi'raj and shared the story of Maulana Rumi and Shams Tabriz's friendship and love. He said that in the world of Islam, Maulana means only Maulana Rumi, while Allama means Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Referring to the Chishti order, he said that Maulana Rumi has only one monastery which is in Konya while his books are available everywhere.

Convocation of CUST University on Dec 15



跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST) Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mansoor Ahmed met with President of All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association Rawalpindi Division Abrar Ahmad Khan, Colonel R. Fawad Hanif and Managing Director Education Resource Prof. Mahmood Jiaz Butt in his office.

In the meeting, student's affairs were discussed. Abrar Ahmed Khan said that CUST University is an example of its own for higher education in various fields of students and the students who have studied from this university are doing their services in the dimensions of the country.

Humanity Survival is in Strong Basic Sciences Programs: NSU Vice Chancellor

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: There is an urgent need to popularize basic sciences for sustainable development across the Muslim World. This was jointly stated by heads of various science organizations across the country, including Prof. Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar, Vice-Chancellor of National Skills University Islamabad, and Vice Chairman, National Technology Council, Pakistan.

The event to celebrate World Science Day for Peace and Development was organized in the jam-packed auditorium of the COMSTECH Secretariate Islamabad. During the opening ceremony, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General COMS-TECH, Prof. Dr. Shahid Mahmood Hayat, Secretary General Paki-



stan Academy of Science, a message from Dr. SeyedKomail Tayebi, President, ECO Science Foundation, Ambassador Dr. Mohammad across the globe besides arousing Nafees Zakaria, Executive Director of COMSATS and Dr. Youssef Baig, Chairman Pakistan Science Filali-Meknassi, Director UNESCO including Prof. Dr. AslamBaig, Foundation, Prof. Dr. Tasawar highlighted the importance of basic science in saving human lives from

infectious diseases and pandemics, promoting socioeconomic benefits, long lasting peace and harmony

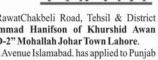
Prominent National Scientists, Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Dr. Nazeer Mohammad & Dr. Shahid

basic science initiatives likealleviating poverty; continued evaluation of beneficial science throughthink tanks in the country; promoting policies in the country relevant to basic and applied science and their relation to humanity besides enhancingteachercompetencies and infrastructure for training students and importance of critical things in basic sciences.

The Vice-Chancellor of National Skills University Islamabad urged all scientific organizations in Pakistan, including Muslim World, that it is a time for urgent actions and initiatives for programs toward judicious evaluations of basic science and how emerging new inventions can be utilized for socioeconomic development in Pakistan and Muslim countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooper-

Khewat Khatoni

PUBLIC NOTIC T



Total Landed Area

"Muhafiz City"Private Housing Scheme Mouza Ferozi, RawatChakbeli Road, Tehsil & District Rawalpindi. Public is hereby informed that Mr. Muhammad Hanifson of Khurshid Awan (CNIC#33100-0922596-3) Resident of House No.9, Block "D-2" Mohallah Johar Town Lahore. Office Address:- 12th Floor, Sate Life Tower, Blue Area, Jinnah Avenue Islamabad. has applied to Punjal Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Hosing Scheme located in Mouza Ferozi, Rawat Chakbeli Road, Tehsil & District Rawalpindiunder Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-

KhasraNo.

No.	No.		Kanal	Marla	Sft
-	-	101, 102, 103, 118, 119, 120, 135, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 149, 150, 151, 152, 157, 176, 182, 184, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 201, 202, 223, 227, 228, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 236, 243, 244, 246, 247, 262, 263, 264, 290, 321, 322, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 355, 374, 375, 55, 75, 76, 77, 93, 94, 95, 200(min), 254, 284, 250(min),	102	19	17 4
÷	-	254, 84, 276, 42, 43, 44, 3(min), 401, 15, 16, 17, 19, 47, 48, 63, 18(min), 52, 70, 69, 05, 12, 06, 1/1, 307, 308, 07, 01, 04, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 39, 440/125, 57, 58, 59, 251, 252, 40, 41, 14, 379, 419, 64, 37, 38, 253	63	16	98
43/42 42/41 80/81 36/35 81/2/81	115, 116, 113, 114, 192, 193, 194, 70 to 104, 192 to 194,	250(min), 254, 84, 266, 101, 102, 103, 118, 119, 120, 135, 137, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 147, 149, 150, 151, 152, 157, 176, 182, 184, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 201, 202, 223, 227, 228, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 236, 243, 244, 246, 247, 262, 263, 264, 290, 321, 322, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 355, 374, 375, 55, 75, 76, 77, 93, 94, 95, 200(min), 255, 556, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261,	120	•	5
	1/2-	TOTAL	286	16	-

NY PERSON having objection against sanction of "Muhafiz City" Private Housing Scheme Mouza Ferozi, Rawat Chakbeli Road, Tehsil & District Rawalpindior ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within FIFTEEN DAYS of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objectionfiled after due date shall not be entertained. (The notice shall not be taken as commitment of Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for sanction of the scheme).

AZHAR SAEED AWAN Deputy Director

Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency Airport Line Road Near Water Tank Gulzar-E-Quaid Rawalpindi Phone No.051-5191753

JS Bank, EXIM Bank & CRCC partner to enhance green export financing

👺 Bureau Report

KARACHI: JS Bank - one of the fastest-growing Banks in Pakistan and the country's first private-sector institution to have been accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the world's largest climate fund - has partnered with CRCC (Specialized Business Unit of NRSP) and EXIM Bank (Export Import Bank of Pakistan) to enhance Pakistan's green export capacity through Green Financing.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was inked in Islamabad by Syed Raza Jafar, Group Head Investment Banking & International Banking, JS Bank; Irfan Bukhari, President & CEO, EXIM Bank and Kash-



CRCC. The ceremony was attend- the Green Climate Fund in Pakied by other senior representatives from all institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Syed Jafar Raza said, "As the only mala Kakakhel, Strategic Partner, commercial bank accredited with intermediation and have actively

stan, we believe that JS Bank can play a big role in making the export industry of Pakistan 'Green'. We believe in responsible financial

promoted renewable & clean energy availability for residential and SME sectors." Mr. Irfan Bukhari, President

& CEO EXIM Bank added, "The provision of Green Financing in support of modernization and expansion of production capacity will contribute to positioning Pakistan as a Green Exporting country. This is an initiative EXIM Bank will want to scale up with time."

This collaboration will not only position Pakistan as an environmentally responsible country but will also be beneficial for Pakistani exporters. Through such initiatives, JS Bank continues to add value to the economy of Pakistan, while serving its valued customers with world-class products and

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0346-5008408 Whatsapp:

S Arabia and S Korea: A fruitful and enduring partnership

he arrival of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Seoul on an official visit to South Korea has underscored the depth of the bilateral relationship 60 years after the two countries established diplomatic

The crown prince and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol held talks on Thursday, during which they both pledged to strengthen relations in the fields of energy, defense industry and building projects.

Clearly, relations between the two G20 members have come a long way since 1962, when Saudi Arabia forged formal ties with the Republic of South Korea during the reign of King Saud bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the presidency of Park Chung-hee.

South Korea opened its embassy in Saudi Arabia in 1973, while the Kingdom's diplomatic mission in Seoul opened the following year.

The partnership assumed a strategic dimension in 2016 when the Saudi crown prince held talks with then-South Korean President Park Geun-hye, on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' Summit in Hangzhou, China.

The two leaders acknowledged the need to activate the work of the Saudi-Korean Joint Committee to enhance cooperation in various fields and encourage stronger trade relations. The committee was established more than 40 years ago to strengthen relations and common interests.

In 2017, the two countries launched the Saudi-Korean Vision 2030, forming a joint committee of representatives from relevant government agencies to review the partnership, approve projects, and implement plans.

Vision 2030 is Saudi Arabia's social reform and economic diversification agenda, launched in 2016 to help wean the Kingdom's economy off hydrocarbons and to promote youth and women's participation in new sectors, from leisure and tourism to renewable energy.

South Korea is among eight countries cooperating with the Kingdom to help achieve the aims of Vision 2030, working on 40 shared projects and initiatives.

These projects are divided into five sub-groups: energy and industrialization; infrastructure and smart infrastructure; digital transformation and capacity building; healthcare and life sciences; and small- and medium-sized enterprises.

The crown prince's visit to South Korea in June 2019, at the invitation of then-President Moon Jae-in, marked another important turning point in relations, with an agreement to expand the scope of cooperation in all aspects of bilateral relations.

The companies involved in the investments include Samsung, International Maritime Industries, Rabigh Electricity Company, Alia Polymers Company, and Saudi Steel Pipes Company.

Samsung Engineering and Hyundai Group obtained a contract to implement work at the Jafurah gas field project in Saudi Arabia with a value of more than \$11 billion.

In 2021, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property registered 447 industrial models, 2,881 trademarks, and 543 patents among the filings of Korean companies. Samsung Electronics alone has 145 registered industrial models, while Daewoong Pharmaceutical has the highest number of registered patents,

Saudi Arabia and South Korea also share compatible plans to combat climate change, with the latter aiming to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 and the Kingdom aiming for the same goal by 2060.

The foundation of future China-Tanzania relationships

Li Hangwei

ast week, Chinese President Xi Jinping met Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan and the two leaders agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership. As the first African head of state received after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Hassan's visit was symbolic as it fully shows Tanzania's endorsement for cooperation with China, the closeness of China-Tanzania relations, and the significance of China-Africa ties in China's overall diplomacy.

In their meeting, Presidents Xi and Hassan emphasized the importance of people-to-people and cultural exchanges and encouraged more academic and media exchanges between the two countries, as well as continuing to advance the friendship between the two peoples. Why do people-to-people exchanges matter? What can be done to strengthen mutual understanding between the Chinese and Tanzanians?

First, as Chinese engagement with Tanzania continues to grow, it is imperative for Chinese companies, entrepreneurs and workers to gain a better understanding of local situations, such as costume, culture and regulations. Growing bilateral relations allow both sides to develop pragmatic cooperation in multiple forms, including approaches and mechanisms

aid, trade, investment, financing and contract, and in a variety of sectors including information, Communication and Technology (ICT), infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, mining and trade. According to the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), China is Tanzania's largest foreign investor, contributing to approximately 150,000 direct local jobs and generating substantial revenues and foreign reserves for the country.

However, language barriers and cultural differences can sometimes cause misunderstandings, and could put the sustainability of the relationship at risk if both sides do not actively work to mitigate them. In my last field trip in Dar es Salaam in 2016, I witnessed Chinese companies organizing learning workshops, some of which focused on Swahili, while others focused on Tanzanian culture and labor law. The Chinese community and enterprises in Tanzania have also actively engaged in corporate social responsibility initiatives that aimed at improving the livelihoods of ordinary people in the local communities. Such efforts are crucial in facilitating a deeper understanding of locality.

Second, deepening peopleto-people exchanges is of major practical importance to build China-Africa community with a shared future. Under the umbrella of FOCAC (the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation), many efforts have been made to develop new

edge-sharing and-building. For example, China Agricultural University (CAU) launched the "Simple Technology Big Harvest" project in 2011, along with the Tanzanian Government and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro province. The project has helped scale up maize production and boosted farmers' income, and has been featured in the UN publication Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development. In 2018, in collaboration with the Morogoro authorities, CAU initiated another agricultural cooperation project called "Small Bean and Big Nutrition", aiming to promote the intercropping of maize and soybean for local farmers and improve their nutrition structure. Following demand-driven and multi-stakeholder approaches, these two projects are concrete examples of people-to-people exchanges and China-Africa cooperation for resilience and food security. Through exchanges, communications and coordination, Chinese experts, Tanzanian officials and farmers explored creative and inclusive ways to foster mutual learning and better understanding of each other's

Third, people-to-people exchanges can encourage a sense of common pursuit between these two countries. During President Hassan's visit, China and Tanzania agreed to strengthen their cooperation on global issues such as climate change and the it comes to reporting China-Af-

development experience.

for technology transfer, knowl- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable rica relations, which include Development. This demonstrates the two countries' consensus in boosting common development and prosperity. People-to-people exchanges, especially exchanges of students, experts, scholars and non-government organizations, could inspire collective efforts in pursuing the greater good and shared interests. Poverty alleviation and the exchange of development experience are among the common interests between the two countries. As indicated in the joint statement between China and Tanzania, the two countries will increase exchanges on governance experience and boost common development and

China's conspicuous success in alleviating poverty could be of valuable experience for Tanzania in its fight against poverty and pursuit of sustainable development. This summer, a group of African students from CAU visited multiple villages in Yunnan Province to learn about Yunnan's practices and experiences of poverty alleviation. Many of the African students found the visit meaningful and they appreciated the interaction with local villagers and officials, which allowed them to gain a comprehensive understanding of China's rural governance and experiences in eliminating extreme poverty.

Last but not least, to create high-quality people-to-people exchanges, media workers must play a greater role. Scholars have pointed out a number of challenges and problems when

but are not limited to fake news, misinformation, sensationalism, stereotypes and generalizations. Despite scholars' continued efforts to debunk myths, stories such as "debt-trap" "land grabbing" still regularly appear in Western and some African media platforms. Lazy journalism has become commonplace due to a lack of fact-checking. A thorough and competent coverage of Africa as well as China-Africa relations requires imagination, reflection and in-depth communication between media professionals from Chinese and African organizations.

It is anticipated that President Hassan's successful visit in Beijing will result in increased exchanges between the Chinese and Tanzanians, as well as between non-governmental organizations, think tanks and the media, strengthening the relationship between the two countries, and laying a more solid foundation for a stronger China-African community. The upgrading of ties between the two countries could inject much-needed impetus into Tanzania's economy, which has been heavily disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the turbulent global economy, and help the country move faster towards industrialization and modernization.

 $Li\, Hangwei\, is\, an\, associate$ professor at the College of International Development and Global Agriculture, China Agricultural University.



Climate change: conflict multiplier or diplomacy trigger?

Sinem Cengiz

or the next two years, two countries in the Middle East and North Africa region will host the annual UN climate change conferences. Egypt will host COP27 this month and the UAE is due to host COP28 next November. The world's most prominent climate change summits will allow countries in the region to highlight their climate challenges, shed light on the importance of multilateralism to restore the MENA ecosystem, and focus on the geopolitical factors related to climate diplomacy.

This is not the first time that MENA countries have hosted the climate change conferences. Previous annual forums were held in Morocco in 2001 and 2016, and in Qatar in 2012. However, no serious action has been taken since then regarding climate-related problems. This is due to several factors, including a lack of serious awareness among people in the region about the severity of the issue; lack of a proper scientific research relevant to this region; lack of seriousness among governments downplaying the effects of climate change; and, most importantly, a lack of cooperation among countries in the region when it comes to solving their common and most dangerous future problems: climate-related migration, and food and water scarcity.

Despite the fact that MENA is vulnerable to drought, flood, fire, food and water insecurity, this region has been a relatively small actor at the global climate change diplomacy table. However, as of national security, countries in the region have plagued by poverty after decades of war. The same

policy implementations and take a more active role in the global arena in regards to climate diplomacy.

In particular, the consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on food and energy security has exacerbated the importance of multilateral cooperation on climate-related problems. Shocks to the global food supply chain caused by the Russia-Ukraine war have again highlighted the MENA region's food-security challenges, as well as the importance of food security.

The MENA region has struggled with water challenges and extreme temperatures for years. Growing population and conflicts have turned the spotlight on these challenges with greater urgency. Aisha Al-Sarihi, a Gulf scholar specializing in climate change-related problems, argues that the Arab uprisings that swept the MENA region were linked to climate change. She believes that protests in Tunisia in 2011 were the result of drought that affected food prices and led to conflict. Thus, she links climate change to the national security and stability of states, suggesting governments integrate climate change into their policy implementation strategies.

Climate-related problems, such as water scarcity, have also been a source of conflict between neighboring countries in the region, including Turkiye, Iran, Iraq and Syria, which view the issue from a national security perspective. Transboundary water plays a critical role in sustainable development of these countries and, thus, induces huge potential risks and benefits associated with development.

Iraq is the most vulnerable of these countries to the effects of climate change, including water threats to food, water and health become a part and food insecurity. Iraq may be oil rich, but it is

started to place climate change at the center of their applies to Syria. Falling water levels in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers are a huge concern for Syria and Iraq, which are both engulfed by instability with no end in sight.

> Turkiye also faces challenges in management and development of water resources, while working on maintaining water quality, and is expected to become a water-stressed country by 2030. Population growth and economic development are the two most serious challenges in regards to water, energy and food security.

> In the past, the transboundary water issue has even brought Turkiye and its neighbors to the brink of crisis, yet there is still no mutual understanding on this issue. These countries are now at the brink of climate disaster. Mutual cooperation is no longer a matter of bargaining, but a necessity for survival. Scarcity of water and food is a serious threat to national security, as much as conventional threats. In recent years, several agreements on climate change have been inked among countries in the region, such as the UAE, Turkiye and Saudi Arabia, which are also committed to reach-

ng net-zero emissions in the next 25 to 40 years. Therefore, Egypt's hosting of COP27 this year comes at a critical juncture. It not only shifts the center of gravity in climate diplomacy to the MENA region, but also offers countries in this region the chance to play key roles in climate change adaptation and mitigation. It will also allow countries such as Turkiye, Iraq and Iran to focus more on their common climate-related problems and turn the water issue from a source of tension to a tool

of cooperation. · Sinem Cengiz is a Turkish political analyst who specializes in Turkiye's relations with the Middle East.

As India takes over chairmanship

Spokesman Research

ndian Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised on Wednesday to make the G20 a catalyst for global based Observer Research Foundation, told change, as India took over the G20 presidency from Indonesia.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo handed over the rotating G20 presidency to Modi at the closing session of a leader's meeting that marked the culmination of his chairmanship over the past year.

G20 leaders adopted a joint declaration despite divisions in the bloc over the war in Europe, with most members "strongly" condemning the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

Modi acknowledged the many challenges facing the world while pledging a presidency that would be "inclusive, ambitious, decisive and action-oriented."

He said: "India is taking charge of the G-20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill effects of the pandemic.

"Over the next one year, we will strive to ensure that the G20 acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate

collective action." Modi said the G20 must convey a strong message "in favor of peace and harmony" and announced the theme of "One Earth,

One Family, One Future" for its chairman-

India's G20 presidency will be an opportunity for New Delhi to "reflect on its own journey as a global leader," Harsh V. Pant, head of strategic studies at the New Delhi-

At a time of severe geopolitical turmoil, India may seek the role of a "bridge between the developed and developing worlds," as well as "a bridge between Russia and the

Though India had initially been reluctant to condemn the invasion of Ukraine. Modi told Russian President Vladimir Putin in September that "today's era is not of war."

The challenge ahead for India is the fragmentation and polarization in global politics, Pant said.

"An economic platform like G20 is being torn apart because of geopolitical differ-

Indonesia, as G20's previous chair, had to navigate the complexities brought about by the war in Ukraine just three months into its chairing the group, as the conflict triggered a global food and energy crisis. There were concerns that the Bali

summit would not produce a leaders' declaration, as G20 members were divided over the causes of the crises.

"I think India, which wants to shape the global developmental agenda...will have to navigate some of these currents of geopolitical contestation of major powers," Pant said.

First Plenary Session of the Foreign Investors Council

Address by the President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan



Dear ladies and gentlemen!

Dear guests!

First of all, I give a warm welcome to all participants at the First Plenary Session of the Foreign Investors'

It gives me great pleasure to see the leaders of the world's leading companies and financial institutions-our dear friends and partners-present at today's

I would like to thank the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development H.E. Odile Renauld-Basso for facilitating today's event which is of great socio-economic importance.

Dear friends!

The world is undergoing major global change today.

The global community is facing new challenges and tribulations before it has growing confrontations and conflicts between different forces.

In such really difficult circumstances, the role of a close partnership based on mutual trust and respect multiply

That is why I believe that today's meeting of the Foreign Investors' Council is of particular importance.

Dear participants of the event! As you know, over the last few years we have been implementing large-scale reforms and transformations in Uzbek-

One of the main goals of the reforms we have defined is the openness of the and transforming industries and accelnational economy and the creation of all the necessary conditions for its inte-

gration into the global economy. foreign exchange market, opened up public spheres of education and health. access for private investors to sectors such as energy, exploration, chemicals and petrochemicals, medicine and

education. The fight against corruption has become a top priority of state policy

in our country. A separate agency has been created to ensure systematic work in this area. We have taken revolutionary deci-

sions to support private business, the driver of today's economy. We abolished more than two hundred licences and permits. The total number of taxes has been

reduced from 13 to 9, and the rates of next year, the VAT rate will be reduced from 15% to 12%.

We are very aware of how important foreign investment is for the development of our economy.

In order to provide investors with

separate law on investment.

We have also introduced the institution of Business Ombudsman under the President of Uzbekistan.

These measures we have taken have helped the national economy grow even against the backdrop of global turbulence and crises.

Thus, in the midst of the pandemic, and despite the difficult situation in foreign markets, we have maintained positive economic growth.

Last year the figure exceeded 7%. This year our economy has also continued its growth (over 5%).

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude to all the business people who have supported our reforms and continue to walk on this path with us.

Dear investors!

As a result of the reforms carried recovered from the pandemic. There are out to create a favourable investment climate over the last 5 years, the amount of foreign investment in our economy increased tenfold, reaching about \$40

> We have set ourselves the goal of doubling our gross domestic product over the next 10 years. We have both the will and the capacity to do this.

To achieve these lofty goals, we expect to increase investment to \$120 billion over the next 5 years, including at least \$70 billion of foreign investment.

We have already developed specific projects and programmes to channel these investments into modernising erating the development of production, utilities and transport infrastructure.

At the same time, the current invest-To this end, we have liberalised the ment agenda covers the traditionally

> We invite foreign investors to develop and jointly implement new mutually eneficial projects.

the conditions for investors in the New Uzbekistan to feel free and work with full confidence in the future.

That is why we are creating a new Council with investors who are our closest and most trusted friends.

I am confident that together we can raise long-term and mutually beneficial investment cooperation to a qual-

itatively new level. Dear friends!

I want to assure you that we will some of them have been halved. From ever diverge from the path of reforms that we have embarked on to build an open and rapidly developing modern state in our country.

I am sure that each of you has concrete and constructive suggestions.

I would like to briefly highlight a few legal protection and to clearly define areas that, with your support, we intend their legal status, we have adopted a to develop within the Council.

law as one of the main priorities of the New Uzbekistan. Unprecedented measures have been taken to ensure the inviolability

of private property and to protect the rights of owners. From now on, the property rights of citizens and entrepreneurs will be unconditionally secured and protected through a transparent and fair legal

and judicial system. Yesterday, at a meeting on the judiciary, we identified priorities for the next stage of reform in this area.

I propose the creation of a permanent Committee under the Council to protect the rights of investors with a view to introducing the best foreign practices and experience in Uzbekistan.

Second, we intend to deepen reforms in the banking and financial sector.

It is a question of creating healthy competition in this sphere and actively attracting foreign banks to Uzbekistan and creating an effective stock market.

We are very pleased to see in this hall I can assure you that we will create all our foreign partners who have invested in the banking sector. We are open to suggestions and initi-

atives from foreign investors aimed at further improving the banking and financial sector.

Third, reducing the state's share of the economy and deepening privatisation remains one of our main objectives. In recent years, 1,200 state enterpris-

es have been privatised in Uzbekistan. Next year, we intend to privatise about a thousand more companies and properties.

introducing public-private partnerships in all sectors of the economy. In a very short period, we have been

At the same time, we are actively

able to achieve considerable success in In the energy sector alone, Uzbeki-

stan has attracted more than \$8 billion

First, we have identified the rule of in foreign direct investment through PPP mechanisms.

I am also pleased to see our partners at the event today who are investing to these projects.

Members are welcome to activeparticipate in privatisation and public-private partnership programmes.

Fourth, we see enormous potential in the development of Uzbekistan's rich natural resources.

As you know, our country has the world's 2nd largest gold reserves, 7th largest copper and 8th largest tungsten, 9th silver, 12th uranium reserves.

In order to attract more investment to the development of mineral deposits, we have declared open geological data. We reduced tax rates on the devel-

opment of more than 10 types of strategic minerals, abolished land tax and exempted imported exploration equipment from customs duties.

We have prepared specific projects Let me give you one example. Every year, 150,000 tonnes of copper are mined in Uzbekistan, but only 70,000 are processed.

In the next few years, we will increase our copper output to 500,000 tonnes. In this regard, we have embarked on the creation of a copper cluster.

It has launched projects to produce copper foil, electric motors, solar panels, cable and wire products and other high value-added products.

In addition, we intend to establish an electric car industry

We invite you, our esteemed investors, to establish practical cooperation in this area.

Fifthly, Uzbekistan pays special attention to attracting investment to digitalisation. We have approved the Digital Uzbek-

istan 2030 Strategy.

This document envisages the digital-

isation of all important sectors. We are setting up IT parks in all

regions of the country. Residents of these parks are exempt from all taxes and mandatory contri-

We understand that the full development of this sphere is impossible without the active participation of foreign

investors and technology. We therefore look forward to effective cooperation with Council members in

implementing joint projects in this area. Sixth, Uzbekistan is actively involved in the development of green economy

In accordance with the Strategy we have adopted, we plan to increase the share of energy from alternative sourc-

es in total generation to 25% by 2026. We also intend to develop scientific and technical potential, create conditions for applied research, and train specialists in renewable energy sources.

Together with the European Bank for the deep processing of raw materials. for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank, we have started to develop a strategy for the deep decarbonisation of the national economy

> We are interested in further attracting foreign investment in green projects and would welcome the participation of Council members in these projects. Dear members of the council!

> Unfortunately, the time available will not be enough to discuss all the promising areas of our cooperation.

> In this regard, I consider it necessary to organise work with foreign investors

A working group on investor support will be set up under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Trade to implement each of these priorities.

under the Foreign Investors Council and deal with comprehensive and systematic support for foreign investors.

This Working Group will operate

In particular, it will provide all services from meeting the investor at the airport to issuing the necessary permits and business licences on a one-stopshop basis.

The new Working Group will be coordinated by First Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Laziz Kudratov.

He will be relieved of all other affairs and will focus only on working with

Deputy Prime Ministers J.Khojaev, D.Kuchkarov, J.Mirzamakhmudov will ensure that appeals received in their

areas are resolved positively.

The Working Group together with the Council Secretariat should develop a roadmap based on proposals from foreign investors, with specific projects, legislative improvements for implementation, deadlines and responsible

Dear participants of the event! First and foremost, I express my ncere thanks for all your valuable

ideas and suggestions. We highly appreciate your attention and intention to develop constructive and long-term cooperation with Uzbek-

I will repeat: We will take all meas-

ures to ensure that your business in Uzbekistan is successful and that you feel confident, free and comfortable in The proposals you have voiced will be

included in separate roadmaps. Once again, I give my appreciation

to H.E. Odile Renauld-Basso for the European Bank's unwavering support to reforms and transformations in Uzbekistan as well as for the implementation of joint programmes and initiatives. I wish everyone good health, pros-

perity and great success. Thank you for your attention!

JICA provided 12,500 wheat seed bags to ensure food security

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan office provided 12,500 certified wheat seed bags to flood affected farmers of five districts Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Soubatpur, Jal Magsi and Kacchi in Balochistan Province. The Japanese assistance enables 2,500 flood affected farmers families to cultivate wheat crop on their 12,500 acres of land during this Rabi season which will ultimately ensure the food security through availability of sufficient wheat yield in next harvesting season.

This year intense rainfall in monsoon season caused severe flooding across Pakistan and impacted a large number of people and households including deaths of people, damages of infrastructure, destruction of agricultural area and push millions of people into poverty and hunger. As per Rapid Need Assessment (RNA) conducted by Government and FAO Pakistan, in Balochistan province 4,972 km2 agricultural area (1,228,531 acres, 15 percent of the total agriculinundated and Nasirabad Division is the severely affected districts. Furthermore, Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) report on Pakistan flood 2022



Rabi season through land clearance and land preparation, and the distribution of agricultural inputs (seeds and fertilizers) to small and medium agricul-

On the request of Government of Balochistan, The Government of Japan and JICA Pakistan office decided to extend the critical support to ensure food security in flood affected areas in Balochistan province. Mr. Yasumitsu ture area in Balochistan) has been Kinoshita, JICA Pakistan office and

Wahab Kakhar, Director General, Directorate of Agriculture Extension, Government of Balochistan signed also emphasized for immediate needs by Minutes of Meeting on the additionensuring preparedness for the incoming all assistance for support for livelihood

improvement of agriculture farmers affected by flood 2022 in the selected districts of Balochistan province under JICA's ongoing technical cooperation project "The Project for Capacity Development of Agriculture Extension Services in Balochistan Province".

JICA hired the service of Taraqee Foundation, local organization in Balochistan for quick assessment of 2,500 affected farmers families from five districts Nasirabad, Jaffarabad, Soubatpur, Jal Magsi and Kacchi which will be provided 5 bags (for 5 acres of land) of certified wheat seeds to each farmer after verification process by the district's authorities of Government of Balochistan.

Zonergy Launch a Multi-lingual website To implement its Globalization Strategy

跨 Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: In order to better serve our global customers and partners, Zonergy Corporation revised and upgraded its official website (www. zonergy.com), as well as built a new "Zonergy Cloud" platform. The official website was officially launched on November 16th, which has fully integrated the introduction to our solar storage products, product videos, technical support, solutions and other content. It can support the free switching of 15 languages simultaneously, including Chinese, English, Italian, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese, Hungarian, Russian, Urdu, Arabic, Turkish, Polish, Thai and Japanese, thereby providing strong support for the implementation of Zonergy's globalization strategy.

The new official website of "Zonergy Cloud" adopts the "simple, convenient and visible" design concept, which provides easy access to product information and solutions, as well as the latest information about Zonergy. Ournew product videos and installation videos are also available online



display and online services for global users and partners, which is comprised of six sections as follows: About Us, Products, Service and Support, Solution, News, and Contact Us, thereby providing a more intuitive, convenient, and accurate user experience for visitors. In order to provide global customers, distributors, partners and visitors with a better access experience, 'Zonergy Cloud" has set up a number of communication channels such as a service hotline, online communication and social media and so on, highlighting the concept of customer first, strengthening interactions and real-

uously enrich the content of the website and improve user experience. As a smart microgrid integrated solu-

tion provider with a world reputation, Zonergy will rely on its existing industrial advantages, consolidate resources and accelerate the implementation of the globalization strategy. The official launch of the brand new "Zonergy Cloud" will also provide strong support for Zonergy's global market development, customer services and support. Zonergy will spare no effort to make contributions to the global zero-carbon process! (Official website: www. zonergy.com)

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

inaex	Fluctuation	
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close	
42,819.72	42,983.75	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
43,099.75	42,769.37	
Index Value	Change	
4,365,088,784	-164.03	
Percentage	Time	
-0.38%	17 Nov, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index	
Index Value	Change	
7 2 4 0 4 1	-1.70	
7,349.41	-1.70	
Percentage	Time	
Percentage -0.023%	Time 17 Nov, 3:28 pm	
Percentage -0.023%	Time 17 Nov, 3:28 pm GMT	
Percentage -0.023% USA: Dow Jones I	Time 17 Nov, 3:28 pm GMT ndustrial Average	
Percentage -0.023% USA: Dow Jones I	Time 17 Nov, 3:28 pm GMT ndustrial Average Change	

-0.35%GMT+9 **Open Market Forex Rates**

<u> Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average</u>

Change

-97.73

Time 17 Nov, 3:15 pm

Index Value

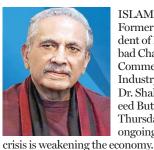
27,930.57

Percentage

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	149.49	150.74
Bahrain Dinar	590.47	594.97
Canadian Dollar	166.47	167.82
China Yuan	31.32	31.57
Danish Krone	31.02	31.37
Euro	243.5	246
Hong Kong Dollar	28.31	28.66
Indian Rupee	2.74	2.82
Japanese Yen	1.6	1.64
Kuwaiti Dinar	720.84	725.84
Malaysian Ringgit	48.86	49.31
NewZealand \$	136.75	137.95
Norwegians Krone	22.23	22.53
Omani Riyal	576.63	581.13
Qatari Riyal	60.86	61.36
Saudi Riyal	62.6	63.2
Singapore Dollar	161.7	163
Swedish Korona	21.23	21.53
Swiss Franc	235.05	236.8
Thai Bhat	6.23	6.33
U.A.E Dirham	64.7	65.3
UK Pound Sterling	279.2	282
US Dollar	227.25	229.5

Country in grip of serious political crisis

Example 2 Commerce Reporter



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Thursday said the ongoing political

The enemies of the country are celebrating the continuing political chaos in the country with no sign of any relief, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the country has been pushed into a serious political crisis for the sake of political interests, for which the people are paying

He said that the economy is weakening due to the negative tactics of some frustrated politicians and if this process is not stopped, Pakistan will become a banana

Dramas continue to be played in the name of democracy and the country is no

longer able to run without debts, he added. The business leader said that politicians are not concerned about the economy of the country and the repetition of failed

experiments continues He noted that the Pakistani people are facing rising inflation, gas and diesel shortage, wheat crisis, and mismanagement which has pushed about 80 million

people below the poverty line. More than 200 million children are out of school, inflation is higher than in any other country in South Asia, and the cost of living is steadily increasing along with

the scarcity of necessities. International institutions and a large number of people are also not satisfied with the economic mismanagement. The common person is not getting any relief

while the poor are being squeezed contin-Pakistan is now a debt-driven economy dedicated to the service of a handful of elites who have damaged the economy for

personal gains. He sai \bar{d} that there is a dire need for reforms and structural changes in the economy, which have been continuously neglected.

Iconic high-rise planned in the Federal Capital

Example 2 Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: A group of leading developers has planned to construct one of the tallest buildings in Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad to cater to the needs of consumers.

The 25-story structure will be one of the most iconic buildings in the Federal Capital having hundreds of luxury residential apartments, showrooms, shops, play areas, restaurants, etc.

The environment-friendly project will also have swimming pools, a fitness center, a movie theatre, and other facilities.

Talking to media, the group of developers including former VP FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh, former president ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas who also owns The Centaurus Mall, owner of Silver Oaks Ch. Naseer, and former $\label{eq:continuous} \mbox{VP FPCCI Karim Aziz Malik said that there is}$ a need for the construction of high-rise buildings in the Federal Capital to control its inappropriate expansion.

as an identity for a country, therefore provi- facilities in Islamabad is necessary, they added. ment was providing opportunities for a secure Atif Ikram Sheikh.



ISLAMABAD: Renowned Developers of Islamabad Atif Ikram Sheikh, Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Ch. Naseer Ahmad and Karim Aziz Malik during media briefing.

The Federal Capital was always considered sion of the latest residential and commercial

Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the govern-

investment in the country. Valuable revenues will be generated from the commercial and residential projects that could be spent on welfare projects.

He said that the project with a magnificent design and international standards will cost billions of rupees and will be completed in time which will be a great addition to the iconic buildings in Islamabad as top architects, consultants, and contractors of the country with good reputation have been hired to complete the job.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that the construction of such buildings will also enhance the beauty of the city and make Islamabad one of the developed cities.

Despite the uncertainty, runaway inflation, and economic contraction in the country and real estate remains one of the most promising markets in Pakistan which is attracting heavy investments, and improving laws can help attract billions of dollars from abroad as there is a big housing deficit in Pakistan, said

Game Bird Edition hackathon highlights the potential of Exports

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Telenor Pakistan's corporate accelerator, Velocity, held the closing ceremony of a month-long hackathon 'Developer's Game Jam: GameBird Edition', at its 345 Campus in Islamabad. The hackathon was aimed at enabling an ever-growing community of game designers, developers, artists, and writers to come together on a common platform, to learn new skills and create video games of the future.

This edition of the Game Jam received more than 200 applications. Thirty-eight teams, represented by artists, content writers, developers and gamers participated in the second edition of Game Jam. Fifteen games were submitted to the month-long game designing extravaganza, with Chuk Chuk Rail Gari winning the top prize. Chacha Qinchi Wala and Phaday Baaz finished on second and third position. The winners received cash prizes, and the winning games a chance to be featured on-Pakistan's first Esports platform, Game-

Given the vast, untapped potential of the games industry and the low number of game designers, developers, and artists in the sector in Pakistan, Developer's Game Jam: GameBird Edition provided as these provide a promising opportunity a hands-on experience with workshops,



included in the jam covered topics such as game ideation, game design fundamentals, game narrative design and production, best practices in designing player journeys and developing games.

Aisha Moriani, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication said, "Despite the continuous growth in the gaming industry worldwide, Pakistan falls short in terms of developing a robust infrastructure to support this growing segment, despite having excellent talent potential in game designers and programmers. Events such for us to showcase our talent and potential.

immense potential, particularly in innovation and talent, as evident from the progress of the local gaming industry. I believe it is our collective responsibility as a society to nurture talent and bring it at par with the rest of the world. This year's Game Jam once again, offered a glimpse of all that the young people of the country can do if provided with the right platform."

Game Jam is a hackathon for the gaming industry whereby gamers, game developers, artists, and content writers come together to create new games. The hackathon was a collaboration with Epiphany, a consulting firm that develops and executes game jams, offering young and upcoming game develmentorship and live feedback sessions to
Irfan Wahab Khan, Chief Executive opers/designers, artists, and illustrators to the participants. Some of the workshops Officer, Telenor Pakistan said, "Pakistan has create games and showcase their talent.

Govt urged for prompt implementation of Kissan Package

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC) Thursday urged the government to ensure prompt implementation of Rs 1.8 trillion Kissan Package to provide solace to flood hit aggrieved farmers and reap its benefits across the coun-

Talking to a delegation of progressive agriculturalists led by Jawad Hafeez, PFC CEO Mian Kashif Ashfaq said now what we urgently needed is it's immediate implementation so that hard hit growers and farmers could reap its benefits by sowing their crops time-

es for purchasing fertilizers, diesel, tractors and other inputs essentially required for proper cultivation. He said that it must be

disbursed to poor farmers under one window operation to alleviate their sufferings, adding that the best quality disease resistant free seed should be given to flood affected farmers because the quality seed does matter for bumper

He said agriculture is backbone of economy and genuine grievances of farmers must be addressed on top priority without any ly besides meeting expens- political alignment. APP

foodpanda collaborates with KalPay to help their riders buy smartphones on easy installments



Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said

has collaborated with KalPay to facilitate their riders by offering them access to purchase the latest smartphones via their Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) service that is also Shariah-compliant. This collaboration will ensure that the riders have suitable phones to help them navigate and operate the application conveniently. Speaking about the part-

Director Operations at foodpanda Pakistan said, "Our riders are our driving force and we at foodpanda contin-

ISLAMABAD: foodpanda as we can. The partnership will empower our riders to purchase smartphone of choice on easy monthly installments using KalPay's Shariah-aligned smartphone financing facility. A well-functioning smartphone is always instrumental in bringing efficiency in delivery process."

This initiative is a testament to foodpanda's commitment to enhancing nership, Farhan Khan, the overall experience for its riders through KalPay.

Boom in Housing Sector to revive the economy: Iftikhar Ali Shallwani

ISLAMABAD: Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Works said that the boom in the housing and construction sector can turn around the economy, create more jobs and attract investment. He said that Dubai in 2008-09 was facing economic problems and the construction of only one mega project "Burj Khalifa" helped revive its economy. He said that many countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, China and Japan achieved better growth by focusing on the housing and construction sector, which showed its vital role in the economy. He said this while addressing the pre-launch ceremony of the first International Housing Expo being organized by the Ministry of



Housing & Works in collaboration with the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry under the theme "Shelter for All" on Dec: 8-11, 2022 at Convention Centre, Islamabad. A large number of builders, developers and realtors attended the event participate in the Expo. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani said that

International Housing Expo is to stimulate the business and

economic activities and provide affordable housing to people. He said that the government wants to promote the housing sector with public-private partnership to address the housing needs of people. He said that housing is the fundamental right of every and showed keen interest to citizen and the government wants to fulfil this right in collaboration with the private sector. the purpose of organizing the first He said that the Expo would attract local and international

investors and would be a right

ing a deficit of millions of houses due to rising population and stressed that the government should support the housing and

construction sector to ensure shelter for all. He said that the growth in housing and construction would boost the business activities of all allied industries and help revive the economy. He said that timely delivery of credible housing projects on public-private partnership would improve the confidence of the buyers and attract more investment. (PR)

step towards providing shelter

that the country was witness-

MMBL, U Microfinance Bank sign MoU to offer Housing Finance Solutions for their Employees

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), Pakistan's largest digital bank, and U Microfinance Bank Ltd. (U Bank), Pakistan's fastest-growing microfinance bank, have entered into a strategic partnership for providing housing finance facility for their employees.

The MoU was signed between Ghazanfar Azzam, President & CEO-MMBL, and Kabeer Naqvi, President & CEO-U Microfinance Bank, at a ceremony held in Islamabad, in the presence of senior officials from both organizations. Under this partnership, U Bank and MMBL employees can seek housing



tunity to access affordable housing ment, or plot for construction, as finance from each other. Eligible finance of up to PKR 3 Million to well as to construct a house on a employees would have the oppor- purchase a new house, flat, apart- pre-owned plot or add an extension

to an existing housing unit. The Naqvi, President & CEO - U Microloan application process has been finance Bank said, "Our people are simplified to facilitate fast-track processing and efficient disbursement of the loaned amount.

"Financial inclusion is not merely a customer-facing ambition but rather encompasses any and all people who wish to upgrade their quality of living through economic empowerment", said Ghazanfar Azzam, President & CEO, MMBL. "As an employer of choice, we are vigilant of opportunities to holistically support our greatest assetpeople, as much as possible. This partnership with U Bank will help enable our valued human resources with financial security during the uncertain economic conditions of

our most valuable asset. We aim to continue to provide services which improve their wellness and living

They are at the heart of who we are. We are pleased to collaborate with MMBL to facilitate employees on both sides. This also reaffirms U Bank's belief that the microfinance industry as a whole can synergize and work in harmony to attain mutual goals."

With influential positions in the market and reputations for exceptional employee culture, both MMBL and U Bank have been at the forefront of several initiatives driven toward the sustainable development of their customers

the modern era," remarked Azzam. Also sharing his thoughts, Kabeer

and employees.

Saud Shakeel hopeful of making his Test debut against England



ISLAMABAD: Saud Shakeel is a firstclass cricketer and the captain of Sindh in the Quaid-e-Azam (QeA) Trophy for 2022–23. In the upcoming home series in December, he hopes to make his long-awaited Test debut for Pakistan against England. The left-handed batter has been with the national team race of finals," Saud said. on their last few tours, so he might be

kept on for the home series.

The 27-year-old is excited to wear the Test cap at home this year. He has three centuries under his belt from the domestic QeA Trophy. "First of all, our team Sindh is going too well in the tournament, and Alhamdulillah we are in the

enjoyed myself playing this season," the batter said Saud played his first first lass game in 2015.

In this year's QeA Trophy, he has an average of 57.30.

"Yes, I am very excited about "My performance is satisfactory so England's Test tour to Pakistan,"

far. I have scored three centuries and responded Saud, hopeful for his Test debut but not thinking much about it. "Only performance is in my hands, and I am focused on that.

There is a thought every time about scored 573 runs in seven games, with representing Pakistan in Tests. My first target is to make Test debut for Pakistan and then think about performing,"

Lahore Green won the FCL final

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Lahore Green won the 3rd edition of Friends Cricket League (FCL final against SA School by 16 runs here a Cricket Center Ground Model Town Lahore. Lahore Green won the toss and decided to bats first they scored 270for 8 in allotted thirty over match at one stage Lahore Green 8 batsman were out in just 84 runs but fine partnership established gor the 9th wicket between Saeed Ahmed 36 and Muhammad Imran 48 both added 86 runs for the 9th wickets.

2/27 and Captain Hammad School dismissed 154 in 27.2 overs Rana Bilal was top



Madir Khan scored 17 from Lahore Green Hafiz Zahid Khan got 4/43, Sultan and Khalid Japani took two wick-From SA School Ghulam ets each Hafiz Zahid was Abbas 3/25, Tanzeem Anjum declared man of the match awards of his brilliant bowl-Magbool 1/19. In reply SA ing spell. The Chief Guest was Muhammad Tariq Qureshi,DG Sports Punjab scorer he made unbeaten and Ceo Salman Associ-40, Zahid Khan and Waris ate and Organizer Salman made 14 runs each while Khan son Umar Suleman ate Salman Khan said that

Khan who distributed the prizes among the players on this occasion Mohsin Aftab Qarshi, Amir Ilyas Butt, Hammad Magbool, Rizwan Nisar, Fiaz Wureshi, Tariq Qureshi, HussainMujahid Haneed, Behzad Anwar and Manzoor Ali Arif were pres-The Chief Organizer

and Ceo Salman Associ-

this was 3rd edition of FCL which has concluded today and we saw much discipline and sportsman spirit between the teams and he further said our next tournament is going to start coming week and we will organize more better arrangements of upcoming tournament at last he thanked all the participants teams and guests who watched the final.

Indian drums, Argentina fans greet Messi's arrival in Doha for World Cup

ISLAMABAD: Indian drums drowned out Argentina's diehard fans as hundreds waited hours to get a glimpse of a bus carrying Lionel Messi outside his World Cup team base in Qatar. The drummers and Indian beat dancers again showed how Qatar 2022 is going to be a differ- country, many of whom have Saudi Arabia in Group C, ent experience for players and visiting fans.

Supporters from the subcontinent had outnum- Thursday from Abu Dhabi, bered England fans when where they beat United they greeted Harry Kane's



spent thousands of dollars to get to the World Cup.

The team flew in early Arab Emirates 5-0 in their final World Cup warm-up A crowd of more than 500 on Wednesday night with that had waited until nearly Messi, 35, scoring his 91st 4:00 am (0100GMT) to see international goal. One of the arrival of their heroes was the favourites going into this split evenly between Argen- year's World Cup, the South tina's Indian fans and those Americans will begin their from the South American campaign on Tuesday against

which also includes Mexico

and Poland. Members of the Argentina Fans In Qatar club, who claim more than 5,000 members, brought drums decorated with "Leo" Messi's portrait to the team base at Qatar University. "If this is also borrowed nearly \$8,000 going to be Leo's last World Cup there can be no better place for it," said Munish that was also a concern. "All Sharma who recalled seeing Messi score the winning goal

when Argentina beat Brazil 1-0 in a friendly match in

Indian fans have already made their mark with thousands taking part in a march and wearing the jerseys from top football nations, including Argentina, Brazil and England. "They do make a lot of noise," said Laura Valero who arrived from Buenos

Aires on Tuesday. "If those drums are going to play here every night then the team will never get to sleep," she said.

Valero, 24, said she had from her parents to make the World Cup trip to Qatar and my friends are here so I could

Pakistan's participation in FIH Nations Cup in doldrums

LAHORE: Pakistani hockey team's participation in the FIH Nations Cup is in the doldrums as the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) is yet to release funds for the international event.

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has not received any response from the PSB despite approaching the latter thrice for funds, revealed well-placed sources.

The Pakistan team is supposed to leave on November 22 for South Africa, ahead of the FIH Nations Cup, but it still doesn't

have money for tickets and accommodation. If Pakistani team doesn't participate in the event, the FIH could take severe action against the PHF since the latter has already communicated that they will feature in the

It must be noted that PHF Secretary Haider Hussain also highlighted the importance of Pakistan's participation in the upcoming FIH Nations Cup after the Green Shirts won a bronze medal in the Sultan

Azlan Shah Cup 2022. "Participation in FIH Nations Cup is very important for us. Winning the event will nelp us qualify for the Olympics, where we haven't played for the past eight years," said

"We don't have funds for our trip to South Africa, which is why I want to request the prime minister [Shehbaz Sharif] to help us in this regard," he maintained. "Not participating in the FIH Nations Cup will also affect the team's ranking."

The FIH Nations Cup offers top-level competition to the best-ranked teams not participating in the FIH Hockey Pro League and gives the winning team the option to be promoted to the FIH Hockey Pro League next season.

Therefore, the FIH Hockey Nations Cup marks the start of the promotion-relegation principle for the FIH Hockey Pro League, with the winning team of the first FIH Hockey Nations Cup having the chance to be promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Pro League.

The FIH Pro League champions in 2023-24 and 2024-25 will earn direct qualification to their respective 2026 Hockey World Cups. The winners in 2025-26 and 2026-27 will then qualify for the 2028

The FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup will take place at the North-West University of Potchefstroom, South Africa, from November 28 to December 4, 2022.

Pakistan are placed in Pool A alongside France, Ireland and hosts South Africa. Meanwhile, Canada, Japan, Korea and not say no," she declared. INP | Malaysia are part of Pool B.

Shai Hope shows class to give Barbados Pride crucial win



ISLAMABAD: West Indies top calls batsman and Captain Shai Hope played a high-class match-winning knock to power Barbados Pride to a five-wicket victory over Leeward Islands Hurricanes in their crucial contest of the CG United Super50 Cup.

Faced with a challenging revised target of 271 off 48 overs in the day/night Zone B encounter at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, Pride stitched together a vital run chase to reach their target with an over to spare.

At the centre of the effort was the enterprising Hope, the stylish right-hander top-scoring with 88 off 67 balls his third half-century of the campaign coming three days after celebrating his 29th birthday. Opener Zachary McCaskie struck a patient 49 from 70 balls, Nicholas Kirton lashed a breezy 39 from 34 balls while Kyle Hope – weighed in with 36 from 62 balls at the top of the order.

All-rounder Roshon Primus put the finishing touches on the chase, blasting two big sixes in a sizzling 21 not out off just 10 balls, including the winning runs – a mighty blow over the ropes at mid-wicket off the expensive left-arm pacer Colin Archibald.

"There's never a need to panic. I always think we have much more time than we think, and that's something I like to portray to the dressing room and I think we need to do it a lot more in the West Indian culture. If it's 10 runs an over [which is required], that literally means we just need 10 runs in the last over to win the game," Hope said.

Earlier, Hurricanes posted 273-7 from their 50 overs after being sent in, captain Jahmar Hamilton hitting his third successive half-century with 51 off 70 balls, Rahkeem Cornwall getting 46 from 38 deliveries and left-handed opener Kieran Powell carving out 40 from 56 balls.

Brian Lara on panel to review West Indies' T20 World Cup flop



LAHORE: A three-member group of independent professionals has been named by Cricket West Indies (CWI) to conduct a comprehensive review of the early exit by the West Indies Men's team from the recent ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia. CWI announced that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Review

Group will undertake a holistic assessment of all aspects of the team's preparation and performance at the global tournament. The three members are: Brian Lara, the West Indies batting

legend and current IPL T20 Head Coach; international cricket coach, South African Mickey Arthur; and Justice Patrick Thompson Jr., a High Court Judge at the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court; who will

serve as Chair of the Group who have already begun their work. The West Indies team failed to qualify for the Super12s phase (second round) after losing unexpectedly to lower ranked teams, Scotland and Ireland. The losses caused great disappointment

and frustration among all West Indies cricket stakeholders. The Group B qualifier round was played at Bellerive Oval in Tasmania where the team achieved their only victory over Zimbabwe, a team that qualified ahead of West Indies by defeating both Scotland and Ireland. The three-member panel will submit a Report to the CWI Board of Directors, with relevant insight and clear recommendations. It is also intended that this

review will establish a process and template for future perfor-

The Terms of Reference (TOR) will be published. "CWI is fortunate to have such a knowledgeable and totally independent panel agree to serve West Indies Cricket under challenging circumstances. I am especially grateful for their commitment to lend some of their valuable time to this important review

Cricketing legend Shahid Afridi geared up to take a shot at PSL 8

KARACHI: Former Pakistan skipper Shahid Afridi is gearing up to give a shot to the upcoming Pakistan Super League's

(PSL) eighth edition. Afridi, who didn't last long in last year's PSL due to a back injury while representing Quetta Gladiators, said he will consider

playing another PSL season if any franchise offers him. "I have no idea where will I go. If a franchise offers, I will surely go along. I will work as it's about Pakistan," said the flamboyant all-rounder.

Afridi was part of the PCB's first-of-its-kind Pakistan Junior League (PJL) as a mentor of the Mardan Warriors.

He represented four out of the six PSL franchises since the first season.

When quizzed about which side he enjoyed playing the most with, the batter replied: "I had a really great time with Peshwar Zalmi. We had plans to give an opportunity to young talent, especially from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Secondly, I had fun during my stint with Multan Sultans. A professional team with good

The PSL 8 will be held from 9 February to 19 March 2023.

Atizaz, Maaz bowl Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to thumping win over Southern Punjab

tunkhwa recorded a resounding victory over Southern Punjab lochistan ninth round Cricket Associations Championship 2022-23 season match ended in a draw.

According to details provided by PCB, Balochistan resumed their second innings at 186 for two at the KCCA Stadium.

Mohammad Junaid who yesterday completed his second century of the match, top-scored for his side with 127 off 214 balls (nine fours, two sixes). Balochistan declared their second innings at 255 for seven to set Central Punjab a 302-run target in less than two sessions on the final day. Mohammad

Balochistan's second innings.

Central Punjab scored 154 for while the Central Punjab-Ba- three in 54 overs when stumps were drawn for the final time in the match. Fahad Munir followed his first innings score of 72 with 78 not out in the second innings. The left-hander hit eight fours in his 129-ball effort. Raza-ul-Hasan took two chi wickets for 26 runs

Over at the NBP Sports Complex Ground, Karachi, Southern Punjab who were set a 406-run target, resumed their second innings at 58 for two on day-four. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa spinners Atizaz Khan and Maaz Khan ran through the Southern

Punjab batting order. Humayun Altaf with 38 off 97.4 overs (Fahad Munir 72,

offer some resistance against the spin twins as Southern Punjab capitulated for 159 in 47.4 overs. Atizaz took five for 30 while Maaz finished with four wickets for 49 runs

Scores in brief:

Balochistan vs Central Punjab - KCCA Stadium, Kara-

Balochistan 319 all out, 106 overs (Mohammad Junaid 101, Mohammad Ibrahim Senior 87, Abdul Hanan 40; Ahmed Safi Abdullah 7-92) and 256 for 7 (declared), 82 overs (Mohammad Junaid 127, Mohammad Ibrahim Snr 68; Mohammad Naveed 5-59)

Central Punjab 273 all out,

ISLAMABAD: Khyber Pakh- Naveed took five for 59 in 87 balls was the only batter to Abdul Samad 42, Saif Badar 40; Jalat Khan 4-83, Aftab Ahmed 3-89) and 154 for 3, 54 overs (Fahad Munir 78 not out, Muhammad Irfan Khan 36 not out; Raza-ul-Hasan 2-26)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa beat Southern Punjab by 246 runs - NBP Sports Complex, Karachi

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 282 all out, 73.5 overs (Nabi Gul 85, Mohammad Nisar Afridi 47; Mohammad Junaid 5-106, Mohammad Shan 4-65) and 326 all out, 86 overs (Afaq Ahmed 70, Mohammad Nisar Afridi 64; Mohammad Junaid 5-115, Tahir Hussain 4-88).

Southern Punjab 203 all out, 66.5 overs (Yousuf Babar 69, Mohammad Umair 29,



4-26, Mohammad Amir Khan all out, 47.4 overs (Humayun 27; Atizaz Habib Khan 5-30,

Moinuddin 29; Irfanullah Shah 2-49, Maaz Khan 2-52) and 159 Altaf 38, Mohammad Junaid Maaz Khan 4-49). APP