



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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انس رضی اللہ عنہ سے نبی کریم ﷺ کے
عمر کے متعلق پوچھا گیا تو آپ نے فرمایا کہ
نبی کریم ﷺ نے ایک مردوں کی جہاں
سے آپ ﷺ کو مشرکین نے واپس کر
دیا تھا اور دوسرے سال (ا کی) عمر حدیبیہ
(کی قضا) کی تھی اور ایک عمر وہی قعدہ
میں اور ایک اپنے حج کے ساتھ کیا تھا۔
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Imran Khan has no interest in Army Chief appointment

Former Interior Minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed has asserted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has no 'interest' in appointment of army chief, ARY News reported on Sunday. Talking to journalists at Lahore's Zaman Park, the former federal minister said that Imran Khan has no 'interest' in the appointment of army chief as he just wants selection to be made on merit.



Governor Sindh agrees to lead Pak businessmen delegation to Ethiopia

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has agreed to lead a delegation of Pakistani businessmen which was likely to fly to Ethiopia Airlines that will commence its flight to Karachi by the end of this year or January 2023. The consensus between Kamran Tessori and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E Jemal Bekker Abdula reached during a meeting held here at the Governor House. (Report on Page 5)

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Loss and Damage Fund

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif gives National Statement at Sharm El-Sheikh Climate Implementation Summit -27th Conference of the Parties.



APP/ABB/FHA (File Photo)

PM lauds Loss & Damage Fund as a 'first pivotal step' to climate justice

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday while appreciating the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at the UN climate summit said it was the "first pivotal step" towards the goal of climate justice. According to the media reports, at COP27 held at Sharm el-Sheikh, the countries adopted a hard-fought final agreement at the COP27 climate summit early Sunday that sets up a fund to help poor countries being battered by climate disasters. What is being dubbed as a victory for the poorer nations that have pushed for the move for years, the Fund would earmark money for loss and damage

caused by climate change-induced disasters. "It is up to the transitional committee to build on the historic development. I appreciate (Minister for Climate Change) Sherry Rehman and her team for their contribution and hard work," the prime minister remarked. The prime minister along with his cabinet members including Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Climate Change Minister Senator Sherry Rehman had raised the voice for climate justice at the regional and global levels. The Fund would lead to the provision of assistance to the

countries impacted by climate change. It will also support Pakistan in the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people and the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure. According to a PM Office statement, the COP27 made history by taking a practical step comparing the Paris Accord and Green Marshal Plan. The COP27 summit was recently held on November 7-8 also participated by the prime minister at the invitation of the Egyptian president. He had also co-chaired a roundtable conference on "loss and damage" and his address to the session also mainly focused

on climate change-induced disaster and the measures to mitigate the losses. The prime minister had emphasised the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund to provide climate justice to the affected countries. The prime minister said as Chair of G-77 plus China, Pakistan had successfully led the effort for acceptance of the demand for Loss and Damage Fund. "It is a manifestation of excellent climate diplomacy that made this possible. My appreciation is due to FM Bilawal Bhutto and all the teams that worked on this file," he commented. Following the agreement on

the establishment of the Fund, Sherry Rehman said, "It has been a long 30-year journey from demand to formation of the Loss & Damage Fund for 134 countries" and called it an important first step in reaffirming the core principles of climate justice. "This is not about accepting charity," she said. "This is a down payment on investment in our futures, and in climate justice," she remarked. The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also welcomed the decision and said, "Clearly, this will not be enough, but it is a much-needed political signal to rebuild broken trust." APP/PID

Imran Khan, Arshad Sharif's assassination plots prepared in London: PML-N's Tasneem Haider

LONDON: The spokesperson of the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's London chapter, Tasneem Haider Shah, has alleged that the assassination plots against PTI chief Imran Khan and slain senior journalist Arshad Sharif were prepared by PML-N in London, ARY News reported on Sunday. Tasneem Haider Shah - the PML-N London spokesperson - levelled serious allegations against his party's top leadership and claimed that the assassination plots against former premier and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan and slain senior journalist Arshad Sharif were prepared in London. While addressing a press conference in London today, he claimed that he held three meetings with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif at Hussain Nawaz's office in London. "I am associated with the PML-N for the last 20 years. I was summoned for the meeting to prepare a plot to assassinate Imran Khan and Arshad Sharif." "The first meeting was held on July 8, the second on September 20 and the third on October 29. I was told to eliminate Arshad Sharif and then Imran Khan before the appointment of the new army chief. Nasir Butt introduced me to Nawaz Sharif as an influential person from Gujrat. Nawaz Sharif was told that Tasneem Haider had connections with the shooters who can complete the task." The PML-N London spokesperson claimed that Nawaz Sharif had asked him to provide shooters. He further alleged that Sharif had also vowed to spot a place in Wazirabad and the Punjab government will be blamed for the assassination plot. "After my rejection, I was told that they arranged shooters for the task. I have pictures of the meetings and I have informed the British police regarding the conspiracy. Only Nawaz Sharif and Nasir Butt were present in two out of three meetings." Shah claimed that he is ready to record his testimony before the investigation institutions of Pakistan. He added that Nawaz Sharif had asked him to start working on the plan after Maryam Nawaz reaches London. He directly blamed PML-N for carrying out the gun attack on Imran Khan and the assassination of Arshad Sharif. Tasneem Haider Shah revealed that PML-N was also aware of the journalist's location in Kenya and he was told that Arshad Sharif will be assassinated in Kenya. ARY

Loss and Damage Fund a 'major win' for Pakistan, developing world: Bilawal



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday said that the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund and financial arrangements to address the issue of climate justice, was a "major win" for Pakistan and all of the developing world. The foreign minister, in a statement, said that "In monumental achievement for climate justice & G77 led by Pakistan, the COP27 has successfully concluded with loss and damage as part of the agenda including a fund and financial arrangements to address this issue." He congratulated Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry for hosting a historic COP27. The foreign minister said that having experienced firsthand the scale and devastation of Pakistan floods, they travelled to the United Nations General Assembly to advocate for climate justice. He recalled that the Group of 77, chaired by him at the UN, unanimously adopted Pakistan's proposal to demand loss and damage be part of the COP27 agenda. Bilawal Bhutto said that in Egypt too, Pakistan's proposal as chair of G77 to include language on loss and damage on the agenda had achieved consensus. Upon conclusion of negotiations, we have sustained that consensus and also included necessary language on fund and financial arrangement, he added.

Public relief top priority, problems of people should be resolved, says Punjab CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said that the problems of the people should be resolved in any case and providing relief to public is their top priority. Chairman Chief Minister Complaint Cell Punjab Zubair Ahmad Khan called on the Punjab CM on Sunday. During the meeting, Zubair Ahmad Khan presented a report, on which Pervaiz Elahi emphasized on necessary steps for immediate redressal of public grievances. In this regard, Chief Minister Punjab said that the problems of the people should be resolved in any case and it is their top priority to resolve the problems of the people of Rawalpindi. The ongoing development projects in Rawalpindi will be completed. We have been serving the people and will continue to do so, he added. News Desk

'World Peace Conference' in March to sort out climate change, faith-based issues: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Inter-faith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi on Sunday said a 'World Peace Conference' would be organized in March next year to sort out the climate change and faith-based issues in the federal capital. Ashrafi who is recently re-elected Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC)'s chairman in an exclusive talk with APP, said Imam-e-Kaaba, Sheikh Al-Azhar, Pope Francis, Bishop of Canterbury and Muslim World League (MWL) Secretary General Dr. Muhammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa would be invited in the moot. He said the presence of these world-renowned faith-based leaders on one platform would give a positive message and help resolve the common issues being confronted by humanity for so long. He further informed that 'Pakistan Stability Conferences' and other seminars would be held to promote interfaith and intersect harmony across the country. Keeping in view the current situation, Ashrafi said political and religious parties should adopt an attitude of understanding and harmo-



ny for the economic stability in the country, and continue efforts for the elimination of interest-based economic systems, extremism, and terrorism. He proposed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership to start meaningful dialogues with the government and return in the parliament. "Reforms in the justice and electoral systems are essential to bring Pakistan at par with advanced countries," he maintained. He said malicious campaign against the Pakistan's security forces and officials should be stopped immediately, adding that the new army chief would be appointed in accordance with the Constitution and law. He was of the view that in the case of senior journalist Arshad Sharif's murder, attack on Imran Khan, and alleged illicit video-tape incident of Senator Azam Swati, "blaming the national security forces without any investigation and evidence was not right". Ashrafi also urged the Supreme Court to constitute a judicial inquiry commission in the following cases as requested by the prime minister on immediate basis. APP

PTI Long March Entry to Islamabad from Rawalpindi may be closed on Nov 26

ISLAMABAD: The federal police said that entry from Rawalpindi to Islamabad may be blocked on November 26 ahead of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) long march, ARY News reported on Sunday. Taking to Twitter, the capital police said Islamabad Inspector-General (IG) Akbar Nasir Khan chaired a meeting related to the law-and-order situation. The participants of the meeting reviewed the security situation of the federal capital. Speaking on the occasion, IG Akbar Nasir Khan any political activity in Islamabad would have to be in accordance with the law. "Police, FC and Rangers will be deployed to ensure the security of the Red Zone," the police chief said, adding that entry from Rawalpindi to Islamabad may be blocked on November 26.

Default risk's rumors 'PTI's propaganda': Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal categorically dismissed rumors related to default risks, terming it "Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) propaganda" for mere politicking. The minister said the country had adopted a path of stability and saved it from going to default. The minister made these remarks while addressing the Pakistani community at the Pakistani Consulate in Jeddah, where a large number of overseas Pakistanis had participated, according to a message received here on Sunday. The government would soon introduce the death insurance scheme for overseas Pakistanis, he further apprised to participants.

World Day of Remembrance

ISLAMABAD: Members of civil society and police personnel hold a candlelight vigil in connection with World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

President urges govt, world bodies to focus on Pakistan flood-hit children's needs

ISLAMABAD: As the international community observed World Children's Day on Sunday, President Dr Arif Alvi called upon the government, privileged persons, NGO's and international organizations to especially focus on the needs of a large number of children worst affected by the super floods in Pakistan.

"On this day, I call upon the government, privileged persons, NGO's and international organizations to specially focus on the needs of large number of children who are worst affected by the recent climate-induced super floods in Pakistan and to provide

them education, nutrition and shelter and protect them from disease and hunger," the president said in a message on the day.

He said the day was observed every year to promote and protect the rights of children around the world.

It was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and on this date in 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

The president said this year, the theme for World Children's Day 2022 was very apt which states 'Inclusion for every child'.



"From climate change, education and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future," he remarked.

He said on this day, Pakistan like the rest of the world, pledged to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights, translating into dialogues and

actions that would build a better world for children.

He said Pakistan commemorated Children's Day to reiterate its renewed commitment to safeguard the rights of children as a signatory to the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (ICRC).

It is also observed to reaffirm the commitment to make sincere efforts at all national, regional and international fora to protect the children and provide them access to development and participation opportunities without any discrimination of status, caste, creed or religion. APP/ PID

Sherry Rehman hails COP-27 for setting up 'loss and damage' fund as a landmark achievement

SHARM EL-SHEIKH: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Sunday, while representing G-77 plus China group statement at the concluding plenary of the international climate change conference termed the establishment of Loss and Damage Fund a landmark achievement and the international moot as an implementation conference by fulfilling the long-standing goal.

Addressing the 27th meeting of the conference of the parties (COP-27) concluding plenary, Senator Sherry Rehman said,

"Mr President (Sameh Shoukry) you promised us an implementation COP and you delivered an implementation



COP. Our all congratulations to you."

The minister said the ultimate test of the COP was that it responded to the voices of the vulnerable.

"We have struggled for thirty years for this path and achieved it. This fund is clearly the down payment in our joined futures and investment

cataclysmic floods impacted 33 million population and inflicted cumulative damages of \$30 billion.

Senator Rehman said, "We (G77 plus China) are also encouraged by the decision of operationalizing of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage."

Through constructive engagement all parties were able to arrive at a consensus that puts the network on a firm institutional footing with an advisory board and a Secretariat with the host to be selected through a robust process, she added.

The minister as chair of G-77 plus China mentioned that the group looked forward to enhancing the catalyzation

of technical assistance to all developing countries to equip themselves with knowledge and technology for better management of climate change.

While highlighting the observations of the Group on various significant observations, she said first, the Group regretted that for the new collective unified goal it could not get substantive guidance for 2023-24 but will get a workplan in the next moot.

Second, she said the Group noted the progress on the GGA framework program but the GGA substantive portions were not explained and elaborated on despite many partners' requests. APP

FTO establishes special cell for overseas Pakistanis to address their tax related issues

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government has established a special cell at the office of Federal Tax Ombudsman for overseas Pakistanis to address their tax-related grievances on priority basis.

Speaking at an awareness session at FTO office in Islamabad on Sunday, Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis said now the aggrieved Pakistani expatriates can get their legitimate issues resolved promptly.

Sheikh Rasheed Says Imran Khan has no interest in Army Chief appointment

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Former Interior Minister and Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rasheed has asserted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has no 'interest' in appointment of army chief, ARY News reported on Sunday.

Talking to journalists at Lahore's Zaman Park, the former federal minister said that Imran Khan has no 'interest' in the appointment of army chief as he just wants selection to be made on merit.

Sheikh Rasheed noted that doctors had advised the former premier not to travel, claiming that there was still a threat to the PTI chief's life. "Efforts will be made to arrange Imran Khan's address before the evening," he added.

Speaking of the PTI's long



march, Rasheed said people would march on Islamabad in the daylight. "We have only one demand, free and fair elections," he added.

The AML chief further said that if PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif wants to return to Pakistan, he has a diplomatic passport. "A politician never closes the door of negotiations," he added.

A day earlier, Imran Khan

called on his party workers and supporters to reach Rawalpindi on November 26. He asked the party workers and supporters to reach Rawalpindi between 1-2 pm. "I will meet you there," he added.

"You [workers and supporters] should try to reach between 1-2pm. I will myself address and give the next plan of action," the PTI Chairman added, reiterating that there was no other solution to the country's issues than fresh and fair elections.

"We can never achieve real freedom while sitting at home," the former prime minister said, urging the supporters to come out and forced the government to call snap polls.

He also criticized the incumbent government over 'failed economic policies', saying that the present rules do not have any plan or road map to lift the country out of crises.

"What Pakistan has achieved by regime change in the last seven months," he asked, adding: "Why they were them on the country?"

Imran Khan further said that the nation cannot afford to remain neutral at the current juncture. "I have no need to risk my life and set out but it was in my mind from childhood that death is better than slavery," he added.

PIMS staff announces strike, to shut OPDs today

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The out-patient departments (OPDs) will remain closed from Monday (tomorrow) as staff of the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) announces a strike, ARY News reported on Sunday.

In a statement, Federal Health Alliance (FHA) Spokesperson Dr Asfandiyar Khan announced that the out-patient departments (OPDs) at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) will remain closed from Monday, every morning (8:00 am to 2:00pm)

Dr Asfandiyar Khan noted that the PIMS staff will protest every morning (8:00 am to 2:00pm) from Monday.

However, the FHA spokesperson said emergency ward and indoor services will operate during the protest.

The PIMS employees have announced the strike to protest the delay in the signing of the bill by President Arif Alvi to repeal the Medical Teaching Institution (MTI) Act.

The bill to repeal MTI was passed by the National Assembly on October 18 and sent to the president for approval, as it was already passed by the Senate of Pakistan.

Earlier in November 2020, President Dr Arif Alvi promulgated the MTI Ordinance suggesting that the hospital will be run through a board of governors (BoG). According to the ordinance, the BoG would deal with all affairs of the PIMS.

Elections to be held in August 2023, says Amin Ul Haque

News Desk

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque has said that the upcoming elections will take place in August 2023 after the completion of Census in March.

While addressing the launching ceremony of Pakistan Social Media Association (PSMA) at Newports Institute of Communication and Economics here on Sunday, he said that the Information Technology (IT) industry was growing rapidly.

The federal minister said connectivity was very significant in the present era for the development and prosperity of any country.

He said 70 projects of worth Rs 65 billion had been initiated to improve connectivity in the country so the people could continue their work smoothly.

Amin Ul Haque said after assuming the charge of IT Minister, he started working on establishing mobile manufacturing plants and succeeded in it. He further said

that currently there were 22 mobile manufacturing plants in the country.

He said that IT industry was developing and people were being provided with e-banking, e-health and e-agriculture facilities.

He said the federal government had made Green Line Bus project operational for the citizens of Karachi.

Hyderabad University would commence its classes in December 2022 or January 2023, he added.

Amin Ul Haque speaking on PSMA, said that they would be provided with trainers for the proper training of Pakistani youtubers and would be ready for their support to get them recognized.

Earlier, Co-Chairperson of Newports Institute of Communication and Economics Zainab Taiyyeba aka Huma Bukhari while congratulating the PSMA said that Newports Institute would always facilitate people in their efforts.

She said that it was the era of IT, where one could establish their blogs, vlogs and perform other activities to get recognition.

'Pakistan Railways planning to restore all closed sections in Balochistan'



News Desk

QUETTA: Pakistan Railways is planning to restore all the closed sections in Balochistan province to facilitate the masses and augment business activities.

In a statement, Ministry of Railways told APP that Minister for Railways is taking keen interest in this

regard and asked the concerned official of the department to make a plan for restoration of different sections to generate income in the province.

The Ministry source said Pakistan Railways will also start rehabilitation work of a 33-kilometer track through sleeper renewal between Quetta-Bostan and Quetta-Chaman section.

Politics of protest marches not in country's interest: Traders

RAWALPINDI: The trader's bodies of the city have announced not to be part of any political protest march, saying that it would adversely affect business activities and the national economy.

President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Punjab Sharjeel Mir, in a statement, said that some political elements were creating anarchy-like situations for self-interests.

He said the politics of long marches would be destructive for traders and the country's economy.

Mir added that the country has been facing different challenges and cannot afford such activities that would cause political instability and adversely affect the economy.

President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Saqib Rafique, while talking to APP, urged all political parties to sit together and find a solution to pull the country out of the political crises so that trade activities could be restored.

He said that country's current political and economic uncertainty was "problematic", and if urgent steps were not taken timely it would further worsen the country's economy.

He said uncertainty had stagnated businesses and the entire economic system, with protests, sit-ins, and long marches.

RCCI former president Sohail Altaf said that political mistrust and polarization had led the country to such a point that if timely measures were not taken, it would be impossible to return, "we have to think for the country beyond political affiliation."

President Markazi Anjuman Tajran Shahid Ghafoor Paracha said that business activities were in decline, and there was a need to take the country out of confrontation.

Paracha said the sit-in and protest marches by some political parties would harm peace in the country, ultimately hindering economic growth. APP

Business community asked to tap Canada for trade and exports

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Canada is an import-oriented country and the business community of Pakistan have a good opportunity to tap this potential market for trade and exports. The Pakistani private sector can set up a base in Canada and capture the North American market. This was said by Faisal Kakar, Deputy Head of Mission-designate to Canada while exchanging views with the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Faisal Kakar said that he can facilitate online B2B meetings between Pakistani and Canadian entrepreneurs to explore areas of mutual cooperation. He said that Pakistan can export many products to Canada including rice, textiles, IT & software and others. He said that 6-7 Lac strong Pakistani community is living in Canada and some of them have reached the Canadian parliament, therefore, they can play an effective role in improving trade and economic ties between Pakistan and



Canada. He assured that he would try to share information with ICCI about business opportunities for Pakistan in Canada so that the private sector can make efforts to take advantage of them.

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

the bilateral trade between Pakistan and Canada in 2020 was just around US\$ 1.11 billion, which is not according to the actual potential of both countries. He said that with better efforts, bilateral trade can be increased to 3-5 billion US dollars. He stressed that both countries should focus on developing strong business linkages

between their private sectors to explore new areas of cooperation. He said that the Pakistani High Commission in Canada should explore the products that are in good demand in Canada and share such information with chambers of commerce & industry so that our private sector can capture better market share in Canada. He said that many sectors of Pakistan's economy offer great opportunities for JVs and investment and stressed that the Pakistani diaspora in Canada should be motivated to invest in Pakistan.

Faod Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI said that Pakistan and Canada are agro-based economies and have good potential to enhance cooperation in this sector.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Raja Imtiaz, Khalid Chaudhry, Mehmood Ahmed Warraich and others were also spoke at the occasion and offered useful proposals to further improve bilateral trade ties between Pakistan and Canada.

Matnsaz is all set to revolutionize how we type Urdu on our phones



News Desk

LAHORE: Technologist Zeerak Ahmed has launched a first-of-its-kind app "Matnsaz", which features a reimagined digital keyboard layout that uses the layers of the Urdu / Arabic script itself to compress a large alphabet into an easy-to-use modern keyboard.

The brainchild of founder, lead designer, and engineer Zeerak Ahmed, the Matnsaz keyboard was created in the Harvard University Design Engineering program. Seeing that regional languages are treated as second-class citizens by the technological world, Zeerak created a new keyboard from the ground up to dispel beliefs that Urdu could not be the language of modern technology.

"For too long, typing Urdu has required the use of archaic layouts, shift keys, and bad correction. Modern technology has been built for Latin script first. Matnsaz changes this, it heralds a new era for Urdu computing," said Zeerak.

Talking about the future of the Matnsaz project, Zeerak added that "the goal is not just to build software, but to help our audience believe that high-quality computing can be experienced in Urdu and built by Urdu speakers."

Along with an innovative auto-correct system explicitly built for Urdu, the keyboard also changes its appearance depending on where a letter is being inserted, to better represent how Urdu is written in cursive.

Combined with a host of other Urdu-centric features, such as the ability to add "soft spaces" that are present inside many Urdu words, and the automatic addition of accent marks over certain letters, Matnsaz aims to make typing in Urdu a natural and seamless experience.

The app is built on top of a bespoke language dataset of scholarly Urdu writing, with continuous additions and improvements to make its predictive and dictionary functions better.

Learnings from the 5 years of research and development behind Matnsaz, can scale to other Arabic script-based languages as well, including Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi, Farsi etc.

Beautiful sculptures

KARACHI: A vendor is displayed handmade birds sculptures alongside a road at University Road in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Education Powers the Wheels of Hope - Cycle for Change

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Over 250 cyclists participated in The Citizens Foundation (TCF) Event Cycle For Change this year to help raise funds to bring flood-affected children in Pakistan back to school. A significant number of cyclist groups participated from various parts of Karachi and gathered at TCF School Shirin Sultan Dossa Campus, Qayyumabad to advocate for quality education. This is the second year into this event owing to its huge success last year and it will be celebrated as an annual TCF Event.

The event was also attended by various sponsors and supporters including Main Sponsor, Careem Pakistan. Mr. Feroz Jaleel, Country



Head Careem Pakistan stated, "We are immensely happy and overwhelmed to see that our colleagues and customers have donated wholeheartedly for the betterment of society. By leveraging the power of modern technology, we can together create a great impact in gathering donations for our affected fellow countrymen. Making a deeper impact is part of Careem's DNA and we are blessed to have this opportunity in partnership with TCF."

Currently, 3.5 million children in Pakistan are facing a learning disruption due to the flood crisis - worsening the education crisis in the country. Displacement, loss of family income and damage to the education infrastructure are forcing children to drop out of school; many are taking up work to support their families, while girls are at an increased risk of child marriages.

Another power tariff hike on cards

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said as per the directions of the IMF the government is set to increase the electricity tariff which will affect the people and the business community.

The price of electricity, gas, petroleum products and food items are already at record levels which have made life difficult for the people and further increases in power tariffs will erode their buying power, he said.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that instead of constantly increasing the price of electricity, the government should focus on reducing electricity theft and wastage and improving recovery.

The transmission and distribution system should be improved and agreements with IPPs should be



revisited, he demanded.

He further said that the government has failed to balance the supply and demand of cotton in the market due to which the stock of raw cotton in the country is rapidly depleting.

The scarcity of cotton will prove to be a major setback for the textile industry, which was showing encouraging signs.

At present, big companies are trying to import cotton but small mills which cannot import are trying desperately to stay afloat. Cotton imports will cost valuable foreign

exchange and increase the trade deficit, he said, adding that mills can get cheap cotton only if the government imports it on a large scale.

He added that fundamental changes in key policies have crippled the business community's plans which are affecting the economy.

He said that the private sector is working to increase revenue through production and exports, to provide employment, and to earn foreign exchange for the government therefore authorities should extend possible cooperation to this sector and avoid harassment.

Because of the lack of energy supply in Sindh and Baluchistan, many factories have closed, while many are producing less than what can be achieved, he observed.

Pak-American political group lobbying US lawmakers for a Pakistan flood-aid package

WASHINGTON: American lawmakers are awaiting flood-hit Pakistan's post-disaster needs assessment to develop a US assistance package for inclusion in the Congressional stopgap funding bill that is expected to be passed by mid-December, the head of a prominent Pakistan-American political group has said.

Dr. Ijaz Ahmad, chairman of the American-Pakistan Public Affairs Committee (APPAC), who, along with some of the commit-

tee members, met key US lawmakers at Capitol Hill earlier this week, told reporters that they had requested a \$600 million immediate assistance package to aid relief and recovery as the flood-affected people now face harsh winter conditions.

In this regard, he said that APPAC was working with both Democratic and Republican lawmakers.

The APPAC has also hired a lobbying firm, Hogan, to build up support for the U.S. relief package

with legislators of both the Democratic and Republican parties in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate, it was pointed out.

Dr. Ijaz Ahmad and members of the Committee met with Senator Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, who chairs the Foreign Relations Committee and also sits on the Senate Finance Committee, and Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who is a Ranking Member of the Budget Committee.

PMLQ launched in AzJK



Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Reactivating Pakistan Muslim League Khan Qayyum Khan was also launched in Azad Kashmir, President of Pakistan Muslim League Khan Qayyum Khan Syed Faqir Hussain Bukhari, President of PMLQ Azad Kashmir Jahangir Khan, Addressing the press conference along with Information Secretary Asad Mehmood, Deputy Information Secretary Faisal Anwar Bhatti, and In-charge Social Media Makhdoom Saqlain said that Pakistan Muslim League Khan Qayyum Khan is the original creator and founding party of Pakistan which has achieved the completion of Pakistan and freedom of Kashmir.

He has played a key role in this; this party is becoming active and active all over Pakistan while its organization has also been started in Azad Kashmir. The president of Azad Kashmir has been nominated who will organize the entire Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan including the refugee circles and overseas Kashmiris. Wisdom Here, he said that the peace and stability of South Asia are threatened by the ambitions of American and Indian supremacy against which it is the most important need of the hour.

Joint military exercises are a conspiracy to seriously affect the security and balanced environment of South Asia. The active and active circles for peace and security, including the United Nations military observer for the Jammu and Kashmir region, should take effective notice of this situation and these conspiracies. They failed. He said that the only major cause of instability in South Asia is not solving the Kashmir issue and depriving the Kashmiris of their basic birthright, so the international world has to find a peaceful solution to the

PUBLIC NOTICE PHATA

"New Airport City" Private Housing Scheme MouzaThatti Gujran Off Rawal Road, Tehsil Fateh Jang, District Attock. Public is hereby informed that Mr. Sajjad Hussain son of Ghulam Hussain (CNIC#61101-3412514-3) Resident of House No.28 Street No.63 Sector F-8/4 Islamabad Office #199-A Street No.50, Sector F-10/4 Islamabad. has applied to Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency for the sanctioning of a Private Housing Scheme located in MouzaThatti Gujran Off Rawal Road Tehsil Fateh Jang District Attock under Punjab Housing & Town Planning Agency (PHATA) Affordable Private Housing Scheme Rules 2020. The detail of area is as under:-

Khasra No.	Area		
	Kanal	Marla	Sft
1750, 1865, 1885, 1883, 1880/2, 1951, 1941/2, 1943, 1946, 1937, 1938, 1947, 1940, 1945, 1968/2, 1952, 1969, 1886, 1882, 1848, 1880/1 & 1884	802	-	-
Total	802	-	-

ANY PERSON having objection against sanction of "New Airport City" Private Housing Scheme MouzaThatti Gujran Off Rawal Road Tehsil Fateh Jang District Attock ownership/title documents of land mentioned above may, within FIFTEEN DAYS of publication of this notice, submit the same in writing to undersigned. Any objection filed after due date shall not be entertained.

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

واپڈاٹاؤن اسلام آباد

ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں

واپڈاٹاؤن اسلام آباد کو یورٹک کیلئے ٹینڈر مطلوب ہیں۔

- ٹینڈر نمبر-5000 روپے (تاقابل واپسی) ادا کرنا ہوگی۔
- ٹینڈر دستاویزات مورخہ 22-11-2022 بروز منگل زیر دستخطی کے دفتر سے حاصل کی جاسکتی ہیں۔
- فرم جو PEC سے رجسٹرڈ ہوں کیلئے اہل ہوں گی۔
- ٹینڈر کے ساتھ مجموعی قیمت کا 2% بیجاہت بصورت کال ڈیپازٹ کی صورت میں جمع کروانا ہوگا (بجٹیکٹری واپڈاٹاؤن اسلام آباد)
- ٹینڈر مورخہ 8 دسمبر 2022 بروز جمعرات دن 12 بجے تک پیش جانی چاہیے۔ جنہیں کٹی اسی دن پیشکش دہندگان کی موجودگی میں کھولے گی۔
- انتظامیہ کو اختیار حاصل ہے کہ وہ بغیر وجہ بتائے ایک یا تمام ٹینڈر منسوخ کر دے۔

سیکریٹری
واپڈاٹاؤن اسلام آباد

ڈاکٹرنچورہ پنڈو شمیری روڈ، برائے سنگھانی تحصیل ایسٹ، ضلع راولپنڈی، فون نمبر 0332-9614084

Oman to Celebrate 52nd National Day



The Sultanate of Oman will celebrate the 52nd National Day on Friday, the 18th of November. Omani people will mark the Renewed Renaissance and its glorious reign under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, who affirmed his constant quest to advance Oman's modern cultural and economic status and his keenness to make Omani citizens as true partners in their country's comprehensive development.

His Majesty the Sultan's vision for the future of this benign land reflected positively on the integration of government departments with private sector establishments and civil society institutions. This has in turn brought about tangible results in different social, economic and political fields.

The attention that His Majesty the Sultan accords to the study of decision-making mechanisms is aimed at serving the country's supreme interests. The outcome was a set of decisions, the most prominent of which the restructuring of the Council of Ministers on 16 June 2022. The decision was the second one after His Majesty the Sultan assumed the reins of power. It affirmed His Majesty's resolve to follow up the efforts exerted to improve government performance towards the realization of Oman Vision 2040. The establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council, under His Majesty's own chairmanship, was yet a step forward in founding a system capable of achieving the loftiest standards of justice, impartiality and transparency in line with pillars of Oman Vision 2040. The step also combines all parties of litigation into a single judicial schema.

The Royal Decree on enhancing the role of the governorates constituted a major step in achieving the modern approach to decentralize local administration. It empowers Oman's 11 governorates, defines their roles in development and defines their economic and social priorities to benefit from the comparative advantage among governorates. Decentralization also streamlines service procedures for citizens, an objective underscored by His Majesty the Sultan upon his chairmanship of the Council of Ministers on 11 October 2022. In the meeting, His Majesty the Sultan stressed the importance of coordination among units of the States' Administrative Apparatus and the governorates, the acceleration of electronic transformation, interconnection among governorates to streamline procedures, facilitate the execution of transactions, develop the quality of government services and address the existing challenges.

A decision was issued to add two new wilayats to Oman's administrative division—namely by according the status of "wilayat" to both "Al Jabal Al Akhdar" and "Sinaw", raising the total number of wilayats in Oman to 63. The decision was aimed at attracting investments, developing resources and upgrading services and activities in the two wilayats.

His Majesty the Sultan's keenness to hold direct meetings with sheikhs and dignitaries of Oman constitutes a strong manifestation of the leader's keenness to get firsthand knowledge about citizens' needs, despite the existence of public institutions such as the Council of Oman—a legislative monitoring body—and municipal councils, which undertake developmental and service roles in their respective wilayats.

The Royal-meet-the-people gatherings affirm His Majesty the Sultan's sincere desire to implement decentralization and make it the most straightforward administrative application for the future in Oman's governorates.

The new administrative setup offers governors and governorates direct authority to run their internal affairs, including planning and implementation of missions. This makes governorates' affairs more closely associated with the districts themselves, their governors and their municipal councils.

Much hope is pinned on elections of municipal councils, due to be held on 25 December for local voters and 17 December 2022 for citizens voting from abroad. The tasks of municipal councils keep pace with the Royal vision of His Majesty the Sultan and the role that the councils are expected to undertake.

Royal Decree No. 38/2022 introduces amendments to some provisions of the Municipal Councils Law, which aims to facilitate their missions in different governorates. This was stated by His Majesty the Sultan who has affirmed that time is ripe for decentralization of decisions pertaining to local communities. This brought to the limelight the role of governors and the role of municipal councils.

His Majesty the Sultan's emphasis on interaction between governors, municipal councils, Oman Investment Authority and Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry assumes a special significance. This interaction gains more impetus after the Governorates Development Programme's allocations were increased to RO 20 million and the addition of new development projects to previous projects endorsed for implementation during the rest of the 10th Five Year Plan (2021-2025) whose worth exceeding RO 650 million in different sectors. The Royal vision will spur economic growth and contribute to the continuity of services and the completion of infrastructure. It will also boost private sector activities and provide more employment opportunities for citizens.

Last January, Oman implemented the "System of Individual Performance and Institutional Proficiency" (Ejada) in 57 government institutions. The system, which covers about 175,000 government employees, aims at generating a quantum leap in government performance by enhancing the efficiency of human resources and improving the level of government services.

The Government Digital Transformation Programme is an executive arm of a digital economy and a basic enabler in achieving the priorities of Oman Vision 2040. It contributes to the establishment of a flexible and innovative government apparatus based on principles of governance and providing high-quality performance and smart government services.

Indicators for measuring the performance of the programme include raising the percentage of automation of government services from 34% in 2020 to 80% by 2050, with the expected investment volume for implementing the programme set at RO 170 million, which will be invested in improving procedures, re-engi-

neering government services, improving digital infrastructure, and empowering national competencies in the field of digital transformation.

The Sultanate of Oman has attached a great importance to protecting the environment and preserving its various natural resources. His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq endorsed the year 2050 as a date for achieving zero carbon emissions. A national plan prepared for this objective includes the establishment of Oman Sustainability Centre, based on the outputs of the Carbon Management Laboratory. This serves as a major step that aims at diminishing the impacts of climate change, striking a balance between sustainable development and effects of climate change, establishing a knowledge-based economy, benefiting from clean technology to achieve sustainable development and developing a diversified mix of energy sources.

His Majesty the Sultan issued directives to expedite the development of an early warning system and implement the best urban planning methodologies to limit the impacts of climatic conditions, disasters and related epidemics. This affirms the attention accorded by His Majesty the Sultan to the human being—Omani citizens and expatriates alike.

Royal Decree No. 54/2022 establishes the National Natural Park Reserve in Musandam Governorate. The park is aimed at achieving sustainable development by preserving natural resources, sustaining biodiversity and protecting wildlife and geological diversity. The park is the first one of its kind in Musandam Governorate and the 22nd in Oman.

The presence of Omani women in all fields and their impressive contribution to Oman's comprehensive development constitutes a direct outcome of the attention and care that women have received. This was confirmed by Her Highness the Honourable Lady Assayida Ahd Abdullah Hamed Al Busaidi, Spouse of the Sultan of Oman, on the occasion of Omani Women's Day, which falls on 17 October. It reflects the achievements the women have made in all fields and in different practical and scholarly sectors.

HH Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham Al Said, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, also stressed that Omani women showed their mettle over time as essential partners in Oman's march prosperity, as desired by His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. HH Sayyid Theyazin made the statement during the inauguration of the logo and identity of Women's Club for Sports and Cultural Innovation.

His Majesty the Sultan also accorded attention to the establishment of Omani women's societies and rehabilitation centres for people

with disabilities, both governmental and private, in all governorates of Oman, so that all could play their roles in domestic development. His Majesty the Sultan gave directives to provide appropriate financial support to those institutions and develop them. The result was that the Omani Women's Societies Development Laboratory launched 19 empowering and investment initiatives, with a set of themes in mind to achieve progress. The themes include governance, the application of laws and legislation, a supportive environment, funding and investment.

His Majesty the Sultan is following up efforts made by the government to care for young people and highlight their contributions. On the occasion of the Omani Youth Day, HH Sayyid Theyazin stressed that "youth are among the most important pillars of Oman Vision 2040, which seeks to achieve sustainability and prosperity for the present generation of Omanis and the future generations."

Addressing the citizens of Oman, His Majesty the Sultan affirmed the need to adhere to the principles and values of society and to be proud of their identity, "the core component of our personality". He added that the national identity constitutes one of the pillars of the history of this benign land, given the impacts of technology and information revolution on the world, including the spread of negative thoughts and alien customs.

His Majesty the Sultan stressed that openness to the world must be "in a balanced, clear-cut manner. We have to interact with technology positively, lest we might lose our originality or forget our identity", His Majesty explained.

He added that "The upbringing of children does not take place through social networks. Raising children is an essential part of the origin of Omani society. The success of the community lies in the fact that our children get imbued with our customs and traditions and adhere to the family and society." In this context, His Majesty the Sultan commended the effective role of Omani media in preserving and documenting Omani culture.

His Majesty the Sultan also underscored the role of education and vocational training sector in supplying the labour market with skilled national human resources. His Majesty advised that an integrated executive plan for the development of this sector be prepared in cooperation with some international institutions. He also called for aligning technical education and general education tracks so that the outputs from general education (technical specialization) would benefit from the Education and Vocational Training Programmes.

was emphasized by His Majesty the Sultan who expressed his satisfaction with the positive change in the course of the state's financial performance and Oman's ability to meet its financial obligations.

During this year and until the end of August 2022, the Sultanate of Oman was able to pay off loans and replace some high-cost bonds with low-cost ones valued at more than RO 4 billion. It also cut down the size of the public debt by about RO 2.4 billion as at the end of August 2022, to stand at RO 18.4 billion, thanks to Government measures taken to support economic recovery.

The ratio of public debt to the GDP decreased to 46.5%. This enabled the government to diminish public debt risks and reduce the cost of public debt interests to be paid in the future by about RO 127 million, besides improving the credit rating and other benefits to consolidate economic growth.

The increase in added value in oil and non-oil activities at the end of the second quarter of 2022 contributed to the growth of the GDP value at current prices by 30.4%, touching RO 20.4 billion, compared to RO 15.6 billion at the end of the corresponding quarter in 2021.

His Majesty's directives during his chairmanship of the Council of Ministers last March—to keep pace with global transformations in the field of green hydrogen and allocate appropriate sites for its production—will enhance foreign investment opportunities, localize this technology and benefit from its multiple uses to produce electrical energy and provide thermal energy for local industries.

To lend support to low-cost clean energy solutions, Ibri Solar Energy Project opened last January 2022 as the first solar power plant to be connected to the main electricity grid with the aim of diversifying sources of renewable energy, maximizing the contribution of clean energy projects, boosting the national economy and attracting investments.

His Majesty the Sultan's directives to add more than RO 650 million to implement additional development projects over projects already endorsed in the 10th five-year plan 2021-2025 and his Royal instructions to increase fiscal liquidity for Budget allocations by RO 200 million will contribute to promoting economic growth, completing infrastructure, supporting private sector activities and providing more employment opportunities for Omani citizens.

Fitch agency's raising Oman's credit rating and Moody's amending the country's future outlook from "stable" to "positive", while at the same time fixing the rating at Ba3 confirm the Omani government's commitment to implementing government measures within the framework of the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan to control financial conditions and benefit from the rise in oil prices. This enhances the confidence of investors in the stability of Oman's investment climate and the ability of the country to fulfill its obligations. It also affirms the strength of the banking sector.

The foundations upon which Omani foreign policy is based—notably good neighbourliness, respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in internal affairs, positive cooperation, mutual interests, justice, dialogue, humanity, and support for international peace and security—have made the Sultanate of Oman a reliable international partner at the local and global levels.

Oman's status among entities that are active in resolving regional crises and the country's presence at international events related to this matter is a direct outcome of the soundness of its foreign policy foundations. At the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Oman reiterated that its solid political approach is based on a deep and stable vision and a vast experience derived from its heritage and human history. Oman also affirmed that the pillars of its foreign policy are standing on solid grounds of truth and justice, boosted by positive cooperation and ties of friendship with all, with the prime aim of contributing to the consolidation of international peace and security.

Oman is also convinced that "establishing and maintaining peace in the world is necessary for the good of peoples, and that this stance can be maintained only if it is based on firm rules of justice and solid foundations of cooperation and harmony among all nations with the aim of engaging positively with countries of the world for a promising future of mankind."

The vision of His Majesty the Sultan is based on Oman's maintaining positive cooperation with all in various spheres and in a manner that promotes mutual interests. The results of the vision were manifest in His Majesty's visits to a number of countries, including the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Qatar, the United Kingdom and Federal Republic of Germany. A number of state leaders visited Oman, including Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, President Abdel Fattah el Sisi of the Arab Republic of Egypt, President Ebrahim Raisi of the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Samia Suluhu Hassan of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar. The visits culminated in signing of partnerships and memoranda of understanding, as well as executive programmes in investment, trade and other areas.

Oman also promoted the principle of humanity in its foreign policy and played an active role in serving contemporary issues regionally and internationally, most notably realizing the truce in Yemen that paved the way for the safe return of detainees to their countries. Oman took keen interest in reiterating the call upon the international community to exert more efforts and to establish means of effective dialogue to stop human rights violations, whatever be the motives and causes. Oman also stressed the need to establish stability and prosperity for all nations and peoples on the basis of justice and equality.

In this context, the Sultanate of Oman believes that the realization of a fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East requires the establishment of a Palestinian state on all its lands occupied since 1967. Oman stressed its rejection of all forms of systematic violations, expansionist domination and arbitrary arrests of Palestinians.

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Pandas for World Cup boost China-Qatar ties

Kheir Diabat

Qatar has attracted worldwide attention because it will host the Football World Cup from Sunday. On the other hand, China was in the global spotlight early this year for successfully hosting the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games. And not unexpectedly, China used the panda as the Winter Games mascot, as it has done for almost every major sports event, including the 2008 Summer Olympic Games, it has hosted.

There is a reason for that: Giant pandas are found in the wild only in China. In fact, the panda has become the symbol of China's friendly diplomacy, and promotes the country's relations with the rest of the international community.

From the Tang Dynasty (618-907) to the present, the panda has traveled from the forests to the rest of the world as a friendly envoy of China, contributing to the development of friendly relations between China and other countries.

Qatar's warm welcome for two pandas, named "Suhail" after

one of the brightest visible stars in the Gulf region and "Thuraya" which is the Arabic name for one of the most famous and brightest star clusters, reflects the extent of the growing Sino-Qatari relationship.

It seems the recent changes in the regional and international landscapes (the "Arab Spring" which began 2011, the 2017 Gulf crisis, the China-US tensions and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict) have had a direct impact on the rapprochement between the two countries toward strengthening their strategic partnership and expanding their circle of cooperation.

An ambitious country like Qatar, whose regional role has been growing in recent years, has found in China — a global power with global interests and global influence — a suitable partner that can help it expand its political and economic reach beyond its traditional sphere in the Gulf region and the Middle East. Thus, Qatar can demonstrate its regional and international standing, and expand its diplomacy in Asia, which is awash with conflicts and tensions.

Perhaps the success of Qatar's foreign policy in mediating between the Taliban regime and

the United States months ago, and Qatar's becoming a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization confirm this trend. This may help Qatar benefit from the efforts of the SCO members, led by China,

affect energy supplies to many countries.

Chinese foreign policy, in effect, is no different from Qatari foreign policy. China wants to ensure smooth energy supplies from the Middle East, many

the Belt and Road Initiative and helping build a community with a shared future.

Despite their historical, cultural, political and economic differences, Qatar and China can work together to maintain world peace and promote joint development, as well as strengthen bilateral relations, especially given their economic, commercial and energy interdependence, which brought the two sides together in the first place.

No doubt, there are many cooperation prospects that could enhance bilateral strategic relations, the most important being expanding trade relations, particularly in the field of energy and technology, and increasing the volume of mutual investments.

Moreover, strengthening political coordination and deepening security cooperation to combat international terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crime could also elevate Qatar-China ties to higher levels of effective interdependence in various fields.

The author is a professor at the International Affairs Department of Qatar University, Courtesy China Daily

War in Ukraine has global implications for Central Asia

Samarkand hosted a meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries of Central Asia and the European Union. The ministers discussed the ways to advance cooperation between the two regions in the political, diplomatic, trade, economic, investment, water and energy, environmental, social and cultural areas.

The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell attended the meeting on behalf of the EU.

Following the meeting, he made a statement in which he stressed that the Central Asia's role was becoming increasingly important in global politics and economics.

"A few years ago, speaking about Central Asia, perhaps we would have said that it is nowhere [on the world agenda]. But today Central Asia is everywhere. Because this region is becoming more and more respected part of the world—halfway between Europe and Asia. A place where we must make great efforts to create the infrastructure necessary to connect the two continents. This was true yesterday and much more true today, in light of Russia's war against Ukraine," Josep Borrell stressed.

He reminded that the previous time the Ministers of Foreign Affairs met was a year ago in Dushanbe.

"Since our last meeting, the world has changed a lot. And it has not changed for the better," said the head of European diplomacy. — Russian aggression against Ukraine has global implications for the European Union, as well as for Central Asia. We are both directly affected by the shock wave that the war has caused."

"But if we want to maintain cooperation, trade, fight against climate change, countering drug trafficking and organized crime around the world, we need more cooperation, more cohesion," Josep Borrell urged.

"The Russia's war against Ukraine is a violation of the international legal order. So now we have to face a much more dangerous world than before. And the only way to counter this danger is to cooperate more and better. And this is perhaps the most important thing for today," the high representative of the EU emphasized.

The head of European diplomacy also addressed the topic of Afghanistan.

"Last year everyone was talking about Afghanistan, it was the main topic. Today, Afghanistan is no longer on the headlines of the press. But it still exists," reminded Josep Borrell.

The Taliban's failure to live up to their commitment to an inclusive political process, to ensure the basic rights of women, girls and national minorities cast a shadow over the entire region, the diplomat said. "At the same time, terrorism and organized crime are on the rise, and you can see the impact of this on your countries as well. And, most importantly for you, there are many refugees in the countries of the region in the areas bordering Afghanistan," he added.

Josep Borrell added that the EU had provided 400 million euros over the past four years to the Afghan people.

"We talked in great detail about all these issues, including post-pandemic recovery and the climate situation, for about 3 hours," the diplomat concluded. "And it makes us appreciate our relationship more."



Extrajudicial killings in IOJK or Genocide in IOJK



Abdullah Syayf

State Security Forces or paramilitary groups, when these are not adequately investigated, prosecuted or punished. The investigation hardly takes place i.e., there is not even the proper complaint filed.

It straight away violates the human rights of individuals denying them any opportunity of contacting their legal representatives or legal advisors. According to human rights council "without respect for the right to life, no other human right can be upheld". Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions — meaning the deliberate killing of individuals outside of any legal framework—are a violation of this most fundamental right which is illegal and against basic human rights.

Extrajudicial killing of the Hurriyat leader Altaf Ahmed Shah, has once again confirmed all the concerns that international human rights organizations demonstrate about human rights violations in India and IOJK. As of my writing, 7,275 people have been victims of extrajudicial killings since 1990—armed struggle. After the armed struggle of 1990s, the number of extrajudicial killings in IOJK went high and as there is no official record of that era, so no one have defined the exact aggregate number of innocent people killed by the Indian authorities. As every now and

then we see mass and unknown graves coming up, these are the people who were arrested on assumptions, killed without any trial and buried at an undisclosed location. According to ex-Indian defense minister Subash Bhamre 50 cases were received from 2001 to 2016 where army personals were involved in extrajudicial killings. This shows that there is no record of previous decade. Out of those 50 cases which were received 47 cases are denied and 3 cases are still going on.

Problem here is the whole legal process which deals with extrajudicial killings in IOJK, which is so mucky and grimy that no one can prove extrajudicial killing a deliberate murder in the courts. Several notorious laws have been imposed in IOJK by India which provides shield to paramilitary and armed forces to guard their brutality. Armed forces Special Act 1990 had restricted boundaries of judiciary before armed forces in IOJK which gave Indian forces virtual immunity from prosecution process. AFSPA was imposed in 1990 in IOJK by declaring J&K a disturbed area but this act is blatantly used by Indian forces everywhere whether it was needed or not. Armed forces conduct search operations all over in IOJK claiming that they have news of terrorists. They arrest suspected people on

the basis of assumptions without any evidence. Sometimes even they made their suspicion on the basis of appearances of person. Among arrested people most of them are members of family who earn bread and their family depend on them which leaves their family helpless and scared. According to law police have to report District magistrate regarding the arrest of accused person to get remand for further compilation of investigation but in case of Kashmir it rarely happens. Instead of informing district magistrate about arrest, force take persons to unknown detention cells, where they carry out every kind of inhuman torture to make them confess of false accusation on which they have been arrested. Torture creates frustration in them and luckily if they got released, they straightly join armed struggle against forces to calm their resentment thorough aggression.

If a member of family got murdered by armed forces, most of the families do not report about incident of extrajudicial murder because of army's fear. If someone reports and files FIR against army personal, officers in Police stations manipulate FIR to make cases weak as much they can. Manipulating in FIR includes wrong data and justifying extrajudicial killing by manipulating

Postmortem reports. If someone somehow luckily get succeeded in this process then proving your case in courts in front of judge is so difficult that one can pass a camel through the eye of a needle but he cannot do this. Courts face pressure from different levels to reject allegations against armed forces. This statement is justified because until now 50 cases have been received where army personals were involved in extrajudicial killings, out of those 47 cases are denied and 3 cases are still going on. So, the success ratio of proved cases about extrajudicial killing is zero, how is that possible in a state where 7,275 people had been victim of extrajudicial killings. If someone successfully wins the case in court against army personal, army personal can challenge it in military courts and plea of case cannot go and represent his case in there. Ultimately any appeals against army personal is going to be denied.

Examining the whole judicial system Indian army is enjoying virtual immunity from prosecution and using system as a shield to carry out their flagrant agendas. Increasing number of extrajudicial killings are undermining rule of law and questioning power of judiciary and democracy in India. It is difficult to make sense that without support of government and authorities such a huge

number of people are illegally killed by armed forces. Government of India fully support their armed forces for their inhuman extra-judicial killings as it is serving their national interest which is to decrease Kashmiri Muslim population from majority to minority. Efforts of changing majority population into minority comes under the definition of genocide and India is rapidly taking different actions in IOJK to change its demographics, so that they can held plebiscite in IOJK in those conditions which is going to favor Indian interests.

Continuous illegal deliberate killings can drive conflict to its worst form where conflict can convert to war. World must take notice of institutional and direct violence that Indian authorities are committing in IOJK. India should allow International human rights NGOs to visit and examine situation of IOJK so world can see actual face of self-called world's biggest democracy. It's time for India to realize that they are unable to control Kashmiri people resilience even after 75 years through peace and giving them their right of self-determination is only right and possible way to end Kashmir Conflict. Without solving Kashmir Conflict South Asian region cannot be peaceful. Long live Peace!

Inevitable Wheat Crisis?

Simil Zahra Khan, Lahore

Until a few years ago, climate change was perceived as a mere fable or a crisis associated with Europe. However, the past few years and this one in particular have proven to be an eye-opener for the entire nation of Pakistan. The endless misery of the recent floods has been felt deeply across the globe even. Thousands of people have been displaced from their havens over a couple of months. Moreover, people have lost their livestock and livelihood yet no serious objectives have been set in motion to deal with the anticipated wheat crisis. The farmers are distressed and yet the question remains. Who is to cover the expected shortfall? Is starvation going to be our New Year's Gift?

There have been numerous predictions of yet another spell of floods. The situation is getting out of hand with each passing day. The fear of further havoc and hunger is truly paralyzing yet the Government hasn't addressed the issue at hand.



Islamabad
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SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:17 am
Zohr 11:53 am
Asr 3:25 pm
Maghrib 5:02 pm
Isha 6:29 pm

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

Islamabad 9222596
Rawalpindi 9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA 9221334-43
CDA 9208301-04
Met Office 9250360-6
RDA 5555864
TMA 5770886
Cantonment Board 920151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan
Corporation 9209224
Potohar Town 9209224
Rawal Town 5773343

COMPLAINTS

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

HR bodies emphasized to protect rights of Kashmiri children

MUZAFFARABAD: Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat Jammu and Kashmir, a refugee organization, Uzair Ahmad Ghazali said that children in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were seeking the world's attention towards Indian atrocities against them.

In a statement issued here on the eve of International Children's Day, while drawing the attention of the international community and human rights organizations to the plight of millions of children in the occupied valley, Uzair said, "The biggest victims of India's brutal occupation are the innocent children of Kashmir."

"Kashmiri children are being killed by Indian soldiers under a systematic plan," he maintained. "Since 1989, more than 107,890 children have been made orphans in Jammu and Kashmir, including Tufail Mattu, while more than 1,100 innocent children have been martyred by Indian soldiers," he lamented.

He said that hundreds of Kashmiri children lost their eyesight due to the deadly pellet gun attacks of Indian soldiers.

He further said that Indian armed forces' nefarious acts were obvious and by such acts, they were trying to convert the Muslim majority state into a minority.

Chairman Pasban-e-Hurriyat called upon the international community, human rights organizations to put pressure on the Modi government to promote and protect the rights of Kashmiri children in accordance with international laws and norms.

He also demanded the UN and other organizations around the world to take notice of the war crimes committed by Indian soldiers against Kashmiri children.

Governor Sindh agrees to lead Pak businessmen delegation to Ethiopia

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has agreed to lead a delegation of Pakistani businessmen which was likely to fly to Ethiopia Airlines that will commence its flight to Karachi by the end of this year or January 2023.

The consensus between Kamran Tessori and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula reached during a meeting held here at the Governor House.

Both dignitaries discussed opportunities offered by both countries to each other in diverse sectors of economy such as agriculture, health care, textile, manufacturing, mining and information technology.

The ambassador said the delegation would be inclusive and would have representation from all the sectors including manufacturing, pharmaceutical, surgery equipment, textile, agriculture and others.

He said his government had opened the economy and there were a lot of opportunities for Pakistani investors to cash in.

"We are producing the best coffee and tea in the world which can be exported to Pakistan at affordable rates," he remarked. He said Pakistan could also import chickpeas, oil seeds and wheat as well.

Like wise, he said Pakistani businessmen could sell pharmaceutical, rice, textiles, construction and health care related materials to the Ethiopian market.

"We have opened financial sector some three months ago for foreign investment and going to launch first-ever stock



exchange to encourage foreign direct investment," the envoy noted.

He said his government had announced multiple incentives for the foreign investors as well as set up a one window facility to facilitate the investors and create ease of doing business in Ethiopia.

He said Ethiopia was set to become a manufacturing hub of Africa as it produced cheapest energy close to 96.4 per cent from hydro and geothermal sources.

"We are exporting energy to Kenya, Djibouti, and Sudan and efforts are afoot to sell the electricity to many countries and integrate through energy grid" he added.

He noted that currently the trade volume between the two countries was minimal which could be boosted by

establishing institutional linkages, business-to-business contacts, and people-to-people ties.

To this end, he said the visit of Pakistani businessmen delegation would play a critical role in taking the bilateral relation particularly trade to the next level.

The Governor Sindh thanked H. E. Jemal Beker for taking keen interest in boasting bilateral trade between the two countries. He further said this delegation is a part of 'Look Africa Initiative' that gave top priority for Ethiopia.

The business trade delegation is going to be held in Ethiopia between 16-20 January 2023. To this end, the Embassy will notify the detail programs and share with concerned authorities.

Solidarity with Pak Army

FAISALABAD: Members of Pakistan Soldier Organization hold a rally in favor of Pak Army at District Council Chowk in the city.



Photo: Online

Germany, Pakistan have been enjoying friendly relations as well as trade and investment ties

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Germany and Pakistan have been enjoying friendly relations as well as trade and investment ties which are decades old and quite strong. These relations are based on shared values of democracy, diversity, respect for human rights, cultural and religious diversity and economic liberalization. This was stated by Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI in his welcoming remarks at a meeting with the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr. Alfred Grannas who visited the FPCCI Capital Office, Islamabad. The meeting was attended by a large number of business people from different sectors prominently Aminullah Baig, Vice President FPCCI, Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman of Coordination FPCCI, Qurban Ali Former Vice Presidents of FPCCI.

Irfan Iqbal Sheikh while talking about the bilateral trade of Pakistan with Germany said, that Germany is the biggest trading partner of Pakistan in the EU with a trade balance in favour of Pakistan which reflects a good economic relationship between both countries.

He further said that the Current volume of bilater-



al trade is US \$ 4.1 billion. In 2021, Pakistan's Exports to Germany were US \$ 2.54 billion while imports from Germany are US \$ 1.56 billion. However, the trade statistics are still far beyond the existing potential between both countries and can be enhanced.

Irfan Sheikh expressed his gratitude to the German Government for extending marvellous support to thousands of young Pakistani people who are currently studying in there. Germany is one of the most popular destinations for young Pakistani students, he said.

The Ambassador of Germany expressed his gratitude for his warm welcome in FPCCI and said that he was quite impressed with the viability of Pakistani business people

who are subject-related. The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry is doing well and moving forward for making business easy in Pakistan and strengthening trade ties with other countries.

He said that the bilateral trade with a surplus in favour of Pakistan, off-course there is more space to enhance economic partnership. He appreciated the proposal of exchange of trade delegation and suggested to FPCCI to work with its counterpart chamber of comer in Germany. He said that they are planning a business delegation to Pakistan next year to explore new avenues of trade and investment.

He stressed diversifying Pakistan's exports as currently, Germany is importing

about 80% Pakistani textiles, however, this should be intensified and further areas of trade and cooperation should be diversified. He optimized the substantial growth of bilateral trade between both the countries in future.

Prominent Business Personalities from Women Chamber Rawalpindi, Women Chamber Attock Women Chamber Abbottabad Women Chamber GB, Attock CII, Chakwal CCI, Rawalpindi Chamber, ICCI, Islamabad Small CCI, Savabi Chamber, Mandi Bahaud Deen CCI, Members of Federal Chamber (Hunza, Gilgit, Nagar), Members of Marble, Sugar, Poltery, Oil & Ghee, Steel, Pharmaceuticals, Islamabad Chamber of Small Trades & Small Industry and Haj Umamah, and Custom Clearing Agent Association were also present in the meeting. And give fruitful views for trade and industrial development in the region.

Aminullah Baig, Vice President of FPCCI stressed the tourism development in Pakistan and highlighted opportunities for investment in the tourism sector of Pakistan.

Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman Coordination FPCCI Present Vote of thanks in the closing of above said meeting

Pakistan and UNESCO agreed to work out for establishment of Joint Centre of Excellence



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training held a bilateral meeting with Ms. Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education UNESCO on the sidelines of II World Conference on Early Childhood Care and Education, Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Ms. Giannini was previously Senator and Minister for Education, Universities and Research, Italy. Federal Minister Rana Tanveer Hussain informed about Pakistan's resolute commitment to overcome the major challenges in education sector and mainly in the areas of Out of School Children, Girls Education, urgent actions required to mitigate learning losses, Quality of Education referring to (pedagogy skills, faculty development & governance issues), introducing & embedding Skills learning in mainstream Education as well as use of technology & STEM to assist the conventional mode of education. He also emphasized on the damage caused by the recent unprecedented floods with recovery cost in education sector around USD918 million.

Ms. Stefania Giannini informed that UNESCO has been doing its best to support Pakistan's education sector along with its other partners (UNICEF, WFP, WHO etc) in emergencies. She appreciated Pakistan's commitment to address the educational challenges faced by the country. She also assured for mobilizing the global partners to provide all possible assistance to Pakistan's education sector. Ms. Stefania Giannini welcomed the proposal of Pakistan's Education Minister for establishment of Pak-UNESCO CoE. The Director of UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education informed that the said proposal/project will be covered under the component of learning recovery and education for all of the Bangkok declaration, for which Pakistan will submit its formal proposal.

Both sides decided to further engage on the level of technical teams for working out the modalities regarding the principally agreed establishment of Pak-UNESCO Joint Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Teachers Training and STEAM learning at Islamabad. It was also agreed that UNESCO will enhance its efforts for capacity building of the officials of Pakistan National Commission for UNESCO (PNCU), whereas Pakistan's Education Ministry will ensure adequate workforce at PNCU. Both sides also agreed to engage on possibility of holding an International Conference in Pakistan in a mutually agreed area in line with SDG-4.

Investor awareness session held at FFC by PSX



Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) conducted an Investor Awareness Session at Fauji Fertilizer Company Limited (FFC) Head Office, Sona Tower Rawalpindi for its employees.

Ms. Raeda Latif, Chief Marketing and Business Development Officer covered aspects of mutual interests like investment in stock market, financial products, and investors' attitudes towards budgeting, saving, debt management, financial negotiations, rights and obligations. She apprised the participants with PSX mandatory Disclosure requirement on Company share transactions by employees. Brig (R) Asrat Mahmood, the Company Secretary FFC and Ms. Raeda Latif presented respective shields to each other, as a token of appreciation.

District Coordination Committee meeting held in DC Office

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: District Coordination Committee meeting was held in DC Office under the chairmanship of District Convener/MNA Faizullah Kamooka. Provincial Minister Latif Nazir, parliamentarians Chaudhry Ali Akhtar, Shakeel Shahid, Adil Parvez Gujjar, Mian Khayal Kastro, Mian Waris Aziz, Firdous Roy, Habkook Gill were participated.

The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh, while giving a briefing on the public welfare initiatives taken by the district administration in the last three months, said that coffee counter and mobile charger desk were established at the DC office reception, from which a large number of citizens are benefiting daily. He said that he and other officers are sitting at the DC office reception for an hour every day and listening to public issues so that the applicants have direct access to them and through the regular desk, applicants is also being continuously informed about the progress in solving their problems. He said that after accounting honorary DC for one, the top position holder of the government school in curriculums and extra-curricular activities was made honorary deputy commissioner for one day and this initiative was appreciated not only in Pakistan but also internationally.

The Deputy Commissioner said that a free shuttle service was started to provide the quality accommodation and food services to those passing nights over the footpaths and green belts, through which hundreds of passengers have been benefited. The anti-beggar campaign against beggars is going on which is getting encouraging results. He said that My Plant My Class Fellow program was started under which the class VIII children are jointly planting saplings which will be promoted with students in next class, the purpose of which is to make the measures against environmental pollution effective in the young generation. He said that the DC Price Monitoring Squad equipped with modern cameras is active in 24 critical markets of the city, which is under the control of the District Emergency Operational Center established in the DC office and by monitoring and checking the presence of price boards on the fruit and vegetable shops, the squad uploads the violation on the Price Punjab app and later the relevant price control magistrate takes action.



Turkiye keen to boost bilateral trade with Pakistan up \$5b in next few years: Dr. Mehmet

Both countries should promote strong business linkages between their private sectors: Ahsan Bakhtawari



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD : Turkiye and Pakistan enjoy heart-to-heart relations and Turkiye is keen to boost bilateral trade with Pakistan at least up to US\$ 5 billion in the next 2-3 years as the current volume of trade is not reflective of the actual potential of both countries. This was said by H.E. Dr.Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of Turkiye while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye was also present at the occasion.

The envoy said that he was assigned by his government to increase Turkiye-Pakistan bilateral trade to US\$ 5 billion in 3 years as a first step and added that both countries have the potential to go beyond this target. He said that Turkiye wants to enhance cooperation with Pakistan in trade, industry, investment, education, health and other fields. He said that the entrepreneurs of both countries should know each other more and work hard to expand trade and economic relations while he assured that his Embassy would fully cooperate in such efforts.

Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor of Turkiye gave a detailed presentation at the occasion about investment opportunities in Turkiye.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that despite enjoying exemplary cordial relations, Pak-Turkiye bilateral trade is just around US\$ 1.2 billion and stressed that both countries should promote strong business linkages between their private sectors to improve trade volume. He said that Turkiye can invest in a number of sectors in Pakistan including engineering, chemicals, housing & construction, electrical appliances, machinery, defence, irrigation, food processing, halal meat, agricultural productivity and solar energy. He said that ICCI is organizing in partnership with the Ministry of Housing



Photos by Ghulam Farid

& Works the first International Housing Expo on Dec: 8 to 11, 2022 and invited the investors of Turkiye to actively participate in this mega event and introduce their projects in Pakistan. He said that both countries are part of ECO and D8 Economies and they should take advantage of these platforms to further strengthen their trade ties. Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader said that Turkiye

is a strong economy of the Muslim world with a GDP of around US\$ 800 billion and it should focus on promoting trade and economic relations with Pakistan that would be more beneficial for both countries.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI said that Turkish airlines have flights to over 129 countries and it should connect Pakistan with Central Asia and D8 countries. Road

and railway links with Turkey should be upgraded and PTA should be converted into FTA to improve bilateral trade. He further said that Pakistan-Turkiye-Azerbaijan free trade market should be established. Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Maqsood Tabish, Raja Imtiaz, Muhammad Shabbir and others were also present at the occasion.

PM extends best wishes as Qatar set for FIFA World Cup kickoff today

ISLAMABAD: Hours before the opening of FIFA World Cup 2022 in Qatar, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday extended best wishes to the country's leadership and the people for hosting the biggest football event – the first-ever in the Middle East.

"On behalf of the government and people of Pakistan, I extend our best wishes to His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir and brotherly people of Qatar for hosting the football World Cup," the prime minister wrote on Twitter.

Thirty-two teams from across the world are participating in one of the most-watched sporting events to be played from November 20 to December 18.

The launch of the biggest football event is preceded by 12 years of preparations that transformed Qatar introducing a new metro rail, a new airport, the new buildings and parks across the capital Doha which has profoundly affected the lives of citizens and workers of Qatar which is set to face Ecuador in the opening match.

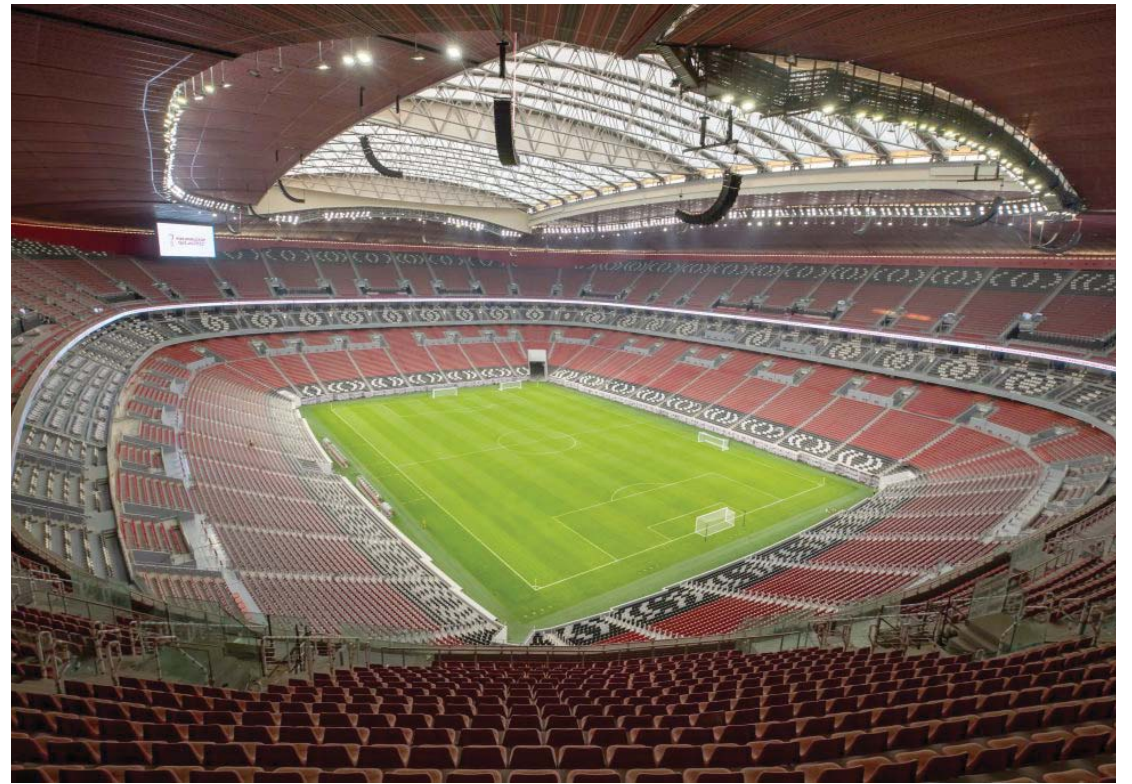
"The world will experience the best of Qatar's history, culture and hospitality,"

Groups			
Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Qatar	England	Argentina	France
Ecuador	IR Iran	Saudi Arabia	Australia
Senegal	USA	Mexico	Denmark
Netherlands	Wales	Poland	Tunisia
Group E	Group F	Group G	Group H
Spain	Belgium	Brazil	Portugal
Costa Rica	Canada	Serbia	Ghana
Germany	Morocco	Switzerland	Uruguay
Japan	Croatia	Cameroon	Korea Republic

Prime Minister Shehbaz commented as a slew of world leaders including UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have already landed in Doha before the opening ceremony slated to kick off at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium. Qatari journalist Mohammed

al-Subaie told Al Jazeera that the World Cup would expose many to Arab culture for the first time.

"It helps to broaden their vision about how the Middle East is other than what their perception of the Middle East is," he said. APP



Sindh made a fantastic start against Balochistan

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Sindh made a fantastic start against Balochistan at the NBP Sports Complex. Led by centuries by opener Danish Aziz and captain Hasan Mohsin, Sindh reached 296 for three in their first innings. The left-handed Danish celebrated his birthday with a 119-run knock. His innings included 14 fours.

Hasan was unbeaten on 100 when stumps were drawn for the day, the right-hander has so far hit 16 fours in his innings.

Central Punjab who have already bagged the championship continued their outstanding run in the tournament by scoring 353 for four on the opening day of their match against Southern Punjab at the UBL Sports Complex.

Ali Zaryab scored an unbeaten 151 off 230 balls (17 fours, one six). Fahad Munir who opened the innings contributed 65 while Mohammad Waleed scored



54 runs.

Tahir Hussain and Faisal Akram took two wickets apiece.

Northern were bowled out for 240 in their first innings against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the KCCA Stadium. Saad Nasim top-scored with 65 while Taimur Khan contributed 56 runs. Pacer Mohammad Amir Khan was the pick of the bowlers with four wickets for 31 runs in 14.3 overs. Zeeshan Ahmed

took three wickets.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had reached 21 for no loss at stumps.

Scores in brief:

Balochistan vs Sindh – NBP Sports Complex, Karachi
Sindh 296 for 3, 84.4 overs (Danish Aziz 119, Hasan Mohsin 100 not out; Jalat Khan 1-55)

Central Punjab vs Southern Punjab – UBL Sports Complex, Karachi

Central Punjab 353 for 4, 90 overs (Ali Zaryab 151 not out, Fahad Munir 65, Mohammad Waleed 54; Tahir Hussain 2-94)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vs Northern – KCCA Stadium, Karachi

Northern 240 all out, 77.3 overs (Saad Nasim 65, Taimur Khan 56; Mohammad Amir Khan 4-31, Zeeshan Ahmed 3-44)

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 21 for no loss, 14 overs

Shaheen Afridi undergoes appendix surgery ahead of England Tests

KARACHI: Pakistan ace pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi on Sunday revealed that he underwent an appendectomy ahead of the home Test series against England, scheduled to commence on December 1.

Shaheen, who had been advised two weeks of rehabilitation in light of his knee injury, which he sustained in the recently-concluded ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 Final, has now undergone appendix surgery in a local hospital.

Talking to Twitter, the left-



arm pacer shared a picture of himself resting on a hospital bed and informed about

his surgery, while also urging his fans to pray for his speedy recovery.

"Had an appendectomy today but Alhamdulillah feeling better. Remember me in your prayers," wrote Shaheen.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan will lock horns with England in a three-match home Test series from December 1 to 21.

Consequently, England's Test squad for the tour is anticipated to land in the country on November 27, while the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is yet to announce the squad for the series.

Chinese footballer Wu Chengshu makes debut in Australian league

ISLAMABAD: Chinese international Wu Chengshu made her debut in the Australian women's football top flight on Saturday.

Wu helped Canberra United seize a 2-2 draw with Perth Glory in the first round of the new season. On a rainy afternoon, home side Canberra United took the lead twice in the Australian capital, but failed to secure the opening victory in front of the home fans at McKellar Park.

Wu hit the bar with a right footed shot from outside the box in the seventh minute. The midfielder also created some chances in the second half.

Her debut ended after 70 minutes when she was replaced, drawing cheers and applause from the home crowds.

Usually playing as a wide midfielder, Wu, 26, has emerged as a major attacking threat for China's national team, scoring the first goal against Japan in the 2022 Asian Cup semifinal earlier this year.

On Saturday, she played a central position in the midfield and felt satisfied with the overall performance.

"Today I played in a new position. I think I did well in the first half, when I kept a good defending position," she

told Xinhua after the match. "Overall, I am happy with the first match and looking forward to doing better in the future."

Canberra United last week announced the signing of Wu on loan from Chinese Super League club Jiangsu FC for the 2022-23 season of A-League Women.

Wu, who has spent about 10 days in Canberra, said she is gradually adapting to the new environment.

"It's a good experience. At first, I felt a bit lonely, but now I'm slowly getting used to it, and I feel pretty good," she said.

"I think I prepared a lot before I came here, there is

nothing that I can't handle." Wu, who seldom cooked in China, revealed that she needs to learn how to cook when she comes to Canberra.

"Cooking may be my daily trouble. After breakfast, I have to consider what to eat at noon, and after lunch, I have to think about dinner. I feel that my brain cannot completely rest," said the footballer, smiling.

Head coach Njegosh Popovich said he was satisfied with Wu's first week performance in the club.

"Xixi (Wu's nickname) was amazing during the week. She can participate in the full practice," said Popovich.

HOLDERS France rocked as injury rules Benzema out of World Cup



DOHA: France's hopes of successfully defending the World Cup were dealt a huge blow late on Saturday as Ballon d'Or winner Karim Benzema was ruled out of the tournament in Qatar with an injured left thigh.

The 34-year-old Real Madrid striker had been struggling with the injury for some time and had played less than half an hour of football in his club's last six games before the World Cup.

On Saturday, he took part in full training for the first time since the World Cup holders gathered last week ahead of the tournament.

He was forced to withdraw from the session at the home stadium of Qatari champions Al Sadd with the injury and was taken for tests.

The French Football Federation (FFF) later said in a statement that the injury "will require a recovery period of three weeks", ruling out any prospect of him being fully fit for the tournament which finishes on December 18.

"I am extremely sad for Karim, for whom this World Cup was a major objective," France coach Didier Deschamps was quoted as saying in the FFF statement.

"Despite this new blow for the France team I have full faith in my squad. We will do all we can to rise to the huge challenge that awaits us."

The 36-year-old Olivier Giroud is set to benefit from Benzema's absence by coming into the France attack alongside Kylian Mbappe and Antoine Griezmann.

However, under FIFA rules Deschamps can still call up a replacement for an injured player until Monday, on the eve of their first game.

France begin their defence of the trophy on Tuesday, when they take on Australia in Al Wakrah.

They will also play Denmark and Tunisia in Group D as they aim to become the first team since Brazil in 1962 to retain the World Cup.

Yadav's century powers India to thump New Zealand in second T20I



News Desk

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Top-ranked T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav's blistering century propelled India to seal an emphatic 65-run victory over New Zealand in the second T20I of the three-match series, here on Sunday.

India, batting first, on the invitation of New Zealand captain Kane Williamson, posted a mammoth 191/6 in their quota of 20 overs, thanks to a quickfire century from Yadav.

Earlier, Indian openers – Rishabh Pant and Ishan Kishan – failed to provide their side with a solid start as New Zealand managed to get their first breakthrough in the sixth over as the former perished after a struggling 13-ball six.

India were 36/1 when Yadav came out to bat and courtesy of his magnificent striking turned things around for his side.

The right-handed batter stitched an anchoring 33-run partnership with Kishan, who fell after scoring 36 off 31 deliveries as India lost their second wicket inside 10 overs at a combined score of 69.

Yadav then joined hands with Shreyas Iyer and could add 39 runs for the third wicket before Iyer sustained a bizarre dismissal off Lockie Ferguson and walked out after scoring 13 off nine.

Following Iyer's dismissal, Yadav charged on the Kiwi bowlers and set the scoreboard on fire with his fierce onslaught and added 82-run partnership with skipper Hardik Pandya.

Yadav was the core aggressor of India's highest partnership of the match as Pandya could score a run-a-ball 13 before Tim Southee outdid him to take the first of his hat-trick.

The veteran pacer Southee then bagged two more wickets – Deepak Hooda (0) and Washington Sundar (0) – in consecutive deliveries to complete his second T20I hat-trick.

Yadav, on the other hand, remained unbeaten with his astounding knock of 111 runs off just 51 deliveries, laced with 11 boundaries and five sixes.

Southee led the bowling attack for New Zealand with 3/34 in his four overs, while Ferguson bagged two wickets.

Set to chase 192, New Zealand's batting lineup crumbled on a paltry 126 and thus handed a resounding victory 65-run victory to India. The hosts had a poor start to their run chase as their hard-hitting opener Finn Allen fell for a two-ball duck.

Following the early slump, skipper Williamson and Devon Conway attempted to anchor the run chase with a gritty 56-run partnership for the second wicket.

The pair, however, conceded too many deliveries in the proceedings and thus left with no choice but to counter-attack the Indian bowlers.

Kids football club contributes 4 Japanese national team players

ISLAMABAD: Japan are in Group E with Germany, Spain and Costa Rica at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar. As one of the traditional powerhouses in Asia for the past 20 years, Japan couldn't have developed so well without the support of the country's youth development system.

The system is much bigger than a few professional academies, but deeply rooted in Japan's football culture.

The Saginuma SC children football club in Kawasaki, Kanagawa of Japan, is where four members of the Japanese national team – Shuichi Gonda, Ko Itakura, Kaoru Mitoma and Ao Tanaka – went through their foot-



ball enlightenment.

Sawada Hideharu, manager of the club, said he was so excited to see the four players join the national team and appear at the World Cup.

"Mitaoma was very talented when he was a

kid. I remember that, when he was in either the first or second grade, he played in the summer camp game against high school students and scored four or five goals. Normally it's very difficult for players at his age," Hideharu said in an interview with

Xinhua News Agency. "Gonda was already 1.75 meters tall in grade 6 and he always behaved like a captain. Whenever there were players making mistakes, he would go to comfort and encourage them. Tanaka was eager to outdo others even when he was in kindergarten. He cried after attending our event for kindergartners. I asked him why and he told me the practice was too easy. That event was designed for those who don't know how to play football. It wasn't good enough for him. Itakura was very active in the games against high school students even though he was only in grade 2," Hideharu added.