





# PSDE 36th AGM and Conference on ‘Unleashing Tomorrow: Investment, Productivity, and Employability’

Bureau Office

QUETTA: Today is the 1st day of the 36th AGM and Conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE) on ‘Unleashing Tomorrow: Investment, Productivity, and Employability’, hosted by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Baluchistan University of Information Technology, Engineering, and Management Sciences (BUTEMS), Quetta.

Very refreshing and invigorating welcome remarks by the Chief Guest at today’s inaugural session of the Conference, Acting Governor Baluchistan, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali,

talked about the need for Baluchistan to have access to power and resources but limited institutions and thought on utilizing those most effectively to make Baluchistan a key province of Pakistan. Guidance from the rest of the country and from experts is needed to assist Baluchistani institutes in policy making.

The Honorable Acting Governor acknowledged the focus on provinces after the 18th Amendment but put forward the question of whether provinces have the capacity to carry out this responsibility?

Considering all this, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali said it is essential that all policy think tanks and intellectuals come together to guide and help

the provinces, including Balochistan, in formulating their policy.

Earlier, Dr. Ifkhar Ahmed, former head of the PIDE School of Public Policy and currently serving as the secretary of PSDE, delivered the address and said that the AGM was the most prestigious and important gathering of economists and public policy researchers in the country. He shed light on the theme of the Conference while acknowledging the crucial economic crisis and political polarization the country was going through.

The secretary thanked the sponsors of the 36th AGM, which is one of the biggest and most prestigious events where economists, academicians, and researchers from across the country

and abroad meet and discuss ideas. Research paper presentations, panel discussions, and guest lectures from Nobel laureates and esteemed academics further ornament the Conference. The PSDE has been organizing it since 1982, and currently, the 36th AGM is underway in collaboration with BUTEMS Baluchistan.

It is my first time in Quetta and Baluchistan province since I arrived here in Pakistan at the end of June. Therefore, I could not think of a better occasion than this Conference, which is coming at a challenging time for Pakistan, expressed Her Excellency Rima Klonka, Ambassador of the European Union to Pakistan as a guest of honor of the opening session of the Conference.

She stated that these are challenging times. The world is continuing to cope with the consequences of COVID-19 and high energy prices, inflation, and the onslaught of climate change. Climate is changing faster than we can adapt. Pakistan has witnessed a damaging impact in recent floods. In this context, Team Europe has also put in action the assistance of 138 million euros for Pakistan to alleviate immediate problems emanating from flooded areas, including Sindh and Balochistan.

You all must have been closely watching the developments of the COP27 Conference in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, HE Klonka said the

audience. Pakistan and its negotiators have played a critical role in harnessing a convergence point where a loss and damage fund for climate change mitigation has been agreed upon. You should be proud of it, as this is a historic moment. EU is also doing its part. It is responsible for 9% of global emissions but contributes 30% of global public financing for the climate.

She further said that Pakistan and the European Union are celebrating 50 years of bilateral relations this year. Both countries engage in political and economic issues – particularly on trade and migration, climate change, development cooperation, etc. So, all these things make up what we call a partnership of strategic nature.



Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi Ni(M) SBT along with Former Rector Bahria University Vice Admiral (R) Kaleem Shaukat Hi(M), newly appointed Rector BU Vice Admiral, Asif Khalil Hi(M), senior Naval Officers and top management of Bahria University, during Special 48th Board of Governors Meeting held at Bahria University Head Office Islamabad

## US-Pakistan Women’s Council and S&P Global commemorate Pakistan Million Women Mentors Initiative

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: S&P Global Pakistan (S&P Global) has successfully mentored more than 12,000 women as part of its pledge to mentor 20,000 under the US-Pakistan Women’s Councils (USPWC) Pakistan Million Women Mentors (PMWM) Initiative.

The company announced this milestone during an event co-hosted by the US-Pakistan Women’s Council and S&P Global commemorating Global Entrepreneurship Month that featured S&P Global employee mentors, women mentees, and civil society partners. US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome provided opening remarks.

Launched in 2020, PMWM is a movement led by USPWC member, Pod to connect one million women and girls in Pakistan to mentors. S&P Global was the first USPWC member to support the initiative, pledging in March 2019 to reach 20,000 women and girls to advance women’s participation and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers. In his remarks at the event, US Ambassador Blome said, “Mentorship is critical



to fostering the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs, and the Council’s Pakistan Million Women Mentors initiative is playing an important role by helping to encourage, inspire, and support future women entrepreneurs and leaders in STEM in Pakistan. Corporations in Pakistan and the United States have pledged to mentor more than 40,000 women so far, and we hope to continue growing this number. S&P’s commitment to mentor 20,000 women was critical to catalyzing other

companies to step forward in both Pakistan and the United States.”

S&P Global partnered with leading non-profits to reach women across Pakistan including USPWC member the Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE), and the Society for International Education (SIE), She Means Work (SMW), Epiplany, xCircle and Caterpillr Hiers. These organizations conducted outreach and assessed the mentoring needs of the diverse profiles of girls and women across all regions of Pakistan.

## Deputy Commissioner SWTD visited DHQ Hospital Wana

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Deputy Commissioner SWTD Ashfaq Khan along with Assistant Commissioner Wana visited DHQ Hospital Wana. Different wards of the hospital including medical and surgical ward were inspected and the patients were inquired regarding the services provided to them. Laboratory and Radiology Department were also inspected and hospital staff were directed to display rate list for services provided to patient at prominent places.

Later on Deputy Commissioner also inspected the under construction block of the hospital where all the functionaries will be shifted in a couple of weeks.

Deputy Commissioner directed the staff to expedite the work and appreciated the state of the art facilities which will be inaugurated in near future to provide better health services to the people of area.

## Khurram Dastgir lays the foundation stone of 500 kV Suki Kinari Transmission Line Project

News Desk

LAHORE: The Federal Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan has said that the present government is concentrating on environment friendly, affordable green energy through hydro, solar and wind resources. He was addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of Suki Kinari transmission line project, held near Kaghlan in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The 75-kilometer-long 500 kV double circuit transmission line is being constructed with an estimated cost of PKR 18,704 million for evacuation of power from 884 MW Suki Kinari hydropower project. This transmission line will connect the 884 MW Suki Kinari Hydel power plant to National Grid, through which power will be further transmitted to load centres of Pakistan.

Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan said that the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project was started in 2017 under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) with an estimated cost of USD 2100 million. The project will generate around 3,129 billion kWh/units annually. Moreover, 6000 jobs plus will be created during the construction of this project. NEPRA had awarded levelized cost of S/S KINHYD at the rate of Rs. 8.8145/kWh in 2014. The power plant would start electricity generation in Nov. 2024.

The Managing Director NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan also spoke on the occasion and said that phase-I of 500 kV Suki Kinari transmission line is being constructed through loan from local banks. The transmission line will strengthen NTDC transmission network. It will also help to flourish industrialization along with creation of employment for the public that will further bring improvement in socio-economic condition of country. Cheap and clean energy produced from Suki Kinari HPP will be supplied to domestic, agricultural and industrial consumers. The construction of transmission line would be completed prior to the CoD of hydropower project.

Later, Minister for Power, Engr. Khurram Dastgir along with MD (NTDC), MD (PPH) and other senior officers of both from NTDC and Cines-completed the Suki Kinari Hydropower project. Local political leadership, large number of locals and NTDC employees were also present during the groundbreaking ceremony.



LAHORE: A woman vendor preparing traditional maize flour flatbread on her food stall during Family Mela at Race Course (Jilani Park) organized by Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) in Provincial Capital. Photo: Online

## AJK Govt. determined to hold scheduled civic polls: Tanveer

MIRPUR(AJK):

Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that the government was going to fulfill its commitment of holding local body elections despite strong opposition by major political parties.

“The people of Azad Jammu Kashmir were blackmailed by previous governments for 32 years in the name of local government elections but we did not compromise”, the PM said while talking to media in the federal metropolises on Tuesday. Tanveer added that for him values mattered more than the power.

“We won’t hesitate even if we had to sacrifice our power to give people their basic democratic rights”, he said.

“Opposition parties including People’s Party and PML-N tried to escape from the municipal elections but they miserably failed”, the PM said adding that the people would hold them accountable for their anti people policies by defeating them in the upcoming elections. “It is not the AJK government or anyone else is failing to take security from the federal government”, he said.

Terming Pakistan as part of his faith, the PM said adding that a few people want to spoil our relations with the state of Pakistan, but they would fail. He said that there was still time for a rethink and providing the requisite security so that the elections could be held in Azad Kashmir in a single day. Referring to Party Chairmans growing popularity, the AJK PM said, “Imran Khan is the most popular leader and the nation stands with his narrative”.

Voicing his concern over the growing unemployment in the state, he said that the unemployment in the state was at the highest level. In order to meet this challenge, he said that tax reforms were being introduced to provide jobs to educated youth and reduce unemployment. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the number of tax filers has increased from 7 thousand to more than 33 thousand.

He said that the government was not in favor of taxing taxes by suppressing the citizens, but efforts were being made to give the citizens confidence and bring them into the tax net.

“The IT sector, livestock, dairy and poultry sector are being made tax-free”, he added. Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said data related to cybercrime has been collected and action will be taken against them at any time. APP



## The Toji khel tribe belonging to Ahmadzai Wazir agreed on a three-point agenda

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: In Wana, Lower Waziristan, a grand Jirga was held for the unity and consensus of the sub tribe Toji Khel of the Ahmadzai Wazir tribe.

In this Grand Jirga, the Malik, Elders and other people of the three sub tribes of Toji Khel nation participated in the number of hundreds.

In which Chief Malik Jameel Khan, Malik Mir Aslam, Malik Farooq Malik Deen Salami, Malik Reza Gul, Malik Chani, Malik Abdul Ur Rahim and other elders were present.

So in this Jirga organized by Toji Khel tribe, there was a detailed discussion about unity and consensus.

A three-point agenda was presented in the Jirga, which includes the following points:



‘That if any person or persons seize the property of their relatives by force, that person will be considered as a joint criminal of Toji Khel tribe.

If a person or persons harmed any person or persons in Jikhel tribes by greed of money or wrongly, then that person will be punished by being a

criminal of the tribe.

The third thing is that if any member of the Toji Khel tribe violates any decision, then they will be punished by the Jikhel tribes for harming the consensus and unity and he will deserve punishment.

It is to be remembered that in this

regard, Jikhel tribes called another Grand Jirga yesterday, in which this three-point agenda will be finalized.

Chief Malik Jameel Toji Khel said during his address to the Jirga that the Toji Khel nation has made countless sacrifices for such unity and consensus in the past.

Blood sacrifices have been offered for unity and unity, the unity and unity of our forefathers will never be forgotten. God willing, Elders will maintain unity and agreement.

He said that from the Pak-Afghan border Angor adda to Wana Mechan Baba, the nation must create peace and unity among themselves.

Malik Jameel Toji Khel said that if any member of the Toji Khel tribe was looked at with an evil eye, he would be retaliated against



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr	5:10 am
Zohr	11:54 am
Asr	3:24 pm
Maghrib	5:02 pm
Isha	6:28 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance & Rescue Services	445122
Motorway Police	9266044
Motorway Police	9270051-20

Women Police Stations

Islamabad	9222596
Rawalpindi	9270601-20

ENQUIRY

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Railway inquiry	117
Emergency	9270825-5
WASA Rawalpindi	5555489
CAA	9281092

HOSPITALS

CMH	561111
MH	561116
Mind Hospital	9270907-11
DHQ	555631-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290327
PIMS	926170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	921334-43
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Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Environment Board	927010-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9209224
Potshoh Town	9209224
Rawal Town	5731343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-4 & F-11	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-4	9206336
Waste Islamabad	927579-80
Sui Gas Complaint	119, 9272249
Wasa Water Tanker Rawalpindi	0331-5021205

Tea imports up by 2.21% to \$192m in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The tea imports witnessed an increase of 2.21 percent during the first four months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding month of last year.

The tea imports during July-October (2022-23) were recorded at \$ 192.474 million against the imports of \$188.304 million during July-October (2021-22), according to data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

In terms of quantity, the tea imports however decreased by 8.90 percent during the period under review as these went down from 84,590 metric tons last year to 77,065 metric tons during the same months of current fiscal year, the data revealed.

On a year-on-year (YoY) basis, the tea import surged by 54.09 percent in October 2022 when compared to the imports of the same month of last year. During October 2022, the country imported tea worth \$57.72 million as against the exports of \$ 37.169 million last August. APP

Impose tobacco health levy to safeguard fundamental rights of children

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC) celebrated Universal Children Day 2022 by highlighting the need of imposing Health Levy on tobacco products to safeguard health of Pakistani children. Shedding light on this year's theme "Inclusion, for every child", speakers said that right to health, education, clean environment, and survival and development are for all the children and therefore they must be ensured. The speakers suggested immediate implementation of Tobacco Health Levy Bill to generate 60 Billion Rupee revenue to save children from harms of tobacco.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam-Country Lead-Vital Strategies; Former Technical Head/Director, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of NHT&C; Former Technical focal Person of Govt. of Pakistan for WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC); appreciated the participation of children on the occasion. He

mentioned that, children are more affected by the exposure to tobacco as these products are inexpensive and easily available to them. According to statistics, 10.7 percent of Pakistani youth, including 6.6 percent girls and 13.3 percent boys, consume tobacco products due to cheap prices of tobacco. Moreover, approximately 1200 Pakistani children begin smoking every day. As a society we must take a step to save our children from tobacco consumption by implementing health levy on tobacco products.

Khalida Ahmed, Member Board of Directors SPARC, mentioned that nearly half, 45% of our population – are children under the age of 18 years. Child rights are recognized and protected under the global commitments made by Pakistan such as UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Sustainable Development Goals. Tobacco is a pandemic which directly violates children's right to life, survival and development, health, education, and access to



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clean and green public places. Sharif Mehmood Khan, CEO Chromatic Trust, mentioned that tobacco industry is trying to conquer minds of children by manipulating them with different tactics of buying and using tobacco. In order to protect our children from tobacco, in 2019,

Federal Cabinet approved a bill to impose Health Levy (Additional tax) on tobacco Products to decrease consumption and generate 60 Billion. Pakistani Rupees per Year. However influenced by the tobacco industry, many policy makers have continuously block the bill and hence

the economic cost of smoking in Pakistan has reached PKR 615.07 billion which is equal to 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP but the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is only 20% of the total cost. Tobacco Industry has earned billions at expense of child health, it's about time the industry

try pays it back.

Prof Ch Muhammad Akram, Director Punjab College of Colleges, stated that this day is dedicated to our children and their rights which can't be taken away from them by anyone. He stated that letting our children and youth destroyed by the hands of tobacco industry will be ultimate shame for society which has already struggled to deliver its promises to its children. Delay in the implementation of Tobacco Health Levy Bill will only highlight the casual attitude of our society towards child rights.

Khalid Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC, mentioned that Imposing Tobacco Health Levy is in interest of our children and our nation. Under WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Pakistan has committed to implement tobacco control measures to safeguard children from harms of tobacco. Implementation of Tobacco Health Levy Bill gives us an opportunity to fulfill our promise to children.

Preventive measures

ISLAMABAD: Labourers covers plants with plastic sheet to protecting from frost and cold weather, in front of President House in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Dr. Lal Hussain of UAJK named in the world's top 2% of scientists list

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: A Professor of the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) has been included in the distinguished 2 percent World's Scientists List published by Stanford University's Elsevier list for his remarkable research contribution in the year 2021-22.

According to the details, Dr. Lal Hussain, Assistant Professor of Computer Science UAJK is included in the list for the years 2021 and 2022. Dr. Lal Hussain published 75 publications out of which 55 are impact factor journal papers with a total I.F. of more than 175. He is also the Principal Author of more than 40 publications (first and corresponding author + single author), 8

ISI indexed, and 10 international conference proceedings.

It is worth mentioning here that ELSEVIER is the world's most renowned publisher which publishes the world's scientific research papers on their authentic research contributions in their respective fields of study. The selection of the scientists is a complex process that does not depend on the number of publications and citations, whereas it uses more than 50 parameters including single author citations, first and corresponding author citations, and main contributing author citations, etc.

Dr. Lal had reviewed more than 60 manuscripts of highly reputed W and Q1 category journals of international repute in his field of exper-



tise. Recently, Dr. Lal also published the Book Chapter in Artificial Intelligence Cancer Diagnosis and Prognosis Vol. 3 edited by Prof. Dr. Ayman El-Baz, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, USA published by IOP book publishing. He is also serving as a Reviewer editor with Frontiers in Artificial intelligence and Big Data. Dr. Hussain is also serving as

an expert reviewer with the academic exchange information center (AEIC), in China since April 2021.

Dr. Hussain supervised 11 M.Phil. students and mentored more than 50 M.Phil. students of the Department of Computer Sciences & IT (DCS&IT). Moreover, he supervised more than 25 undergraduate students of DCS & IT and collaborated with different institutions of higher studies in Pakistan including Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (PIEAS), Islamabad, Mirpur University of Engineering and Technology, Hazara University, K.P.K. and Physics Departments where he mentored and co-supervised more than seven Ph.D. students.

Youth is the future torchbearers of Pakistan-China Strong friendship, Rana Ihsan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Youth is the future torchbearers of the Pakistan-China strong friendship. They are the ones who will move this ever-growing relationship forwards with their energy and a strong commitment to. These were the remarks by Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Commerce and Industries, who was speaking as Chief Guest at the Final Inter-University Speech Competition and Prize Distribution Ceremony organized by the Institute of Peace and Diplomatic Studies "Knowing Contemporary China" at Preston University Islamabad.

Rana Ihsan Afzal Khan said that young students must effectively utilize their time, explore several avenues for growth, and learn from the visionary leaders and wisdom from China. Moving ahead, he touched upon the close and cordial ties between the brotherly Pakistan and China. In this vein, he enunciated that Pakistan stands to learn immensely from China in terms of economic rejuvenation and sci-tech evolution.

Farhat Asif, President IPDS in her welcoming remarks mission of organizing the speech competition amongst the University students. This special inter-University Speech Competition was organized to promote an understanding of Contemporary China and encourage young students to build strong Pakistan-China bilateral strong ties further. Earlier the participating Universities, Muslim Youth University, Quaid-e-Azam University, Rawalpindi Women's University, Riphah International University, and Preston University, organized competition at the University level and send the nominations for the final competition and prize distribution ceremony.

The winners were then invited to compete in the final ceremony. The participants were given the sub-titles on the 20th Annual Congress of the Communist Party of China, Pakistan-China Relations, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Global Development Initiative (GDI).

FootBall League Tournament Organized in Twin Cities to Promote Young talent



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: -AAA Associates, in its successive initiatives and efforts to promote sports activities for the public and community, keeps providing exciting opportunities like thrilling matches and games.

AAA Associates has always inspired and encouraged organizations and communities in conducting sport-related activities across the country. Sports in a variety of ways are an essential part of the core of the business. Every year sportsmen and teams sponsored or owned by AAA Associates participate in multiple sports events. One such event was held last week in which AAA Associates' football team FC AAAA took part.

To encourage the local football teams a tournament was held in Total Football Ayub Park, in which the top 12 teams of the twin cities participated. The tournament was divided into various matches among League A and League B teams. The top six teams of the "A" league included FC AAAA, Team Eighteen, Troll FC, Red Devils Garrison FC and Smurfs FC. While top 6 teams of the "B" league were Islamabad Wolves, Croods FC, Smurfs Jr, Jinnah FC, Al-Hamra FC and FCTK. FC AAAA exhibited their top game in the group matches and defeated their opponents Troll FC and Al-Hamra FC with 4-1 and 8-0 goals respectively.

Violation of tobacco laws is a slap on the face of government. Sanaullah Ghumman

Hasna Khattak

ISLAMABAD: We are ready to fight any force to save the future of Pakistan. The tobacco industry is using various tactics to attract the youth. We have to save our people from this deadly disease and expose every conspiracy for it. This was said in an event organized by Panah in a local hotel in Islamabad. The host of the event was Sanaullah Ghumman, Secretary General of PANAH. The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Samina Matloob, MNA. Among the guests were Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head of Tobacco Free Kids, Sharif Khan of Chromatic Trust, former Head Tobacco control cell Dr. Ziauddin Islam and senior journalists from electronic and print media were present.

While talking to the guests, Panah Secretary General Sanaullah Ghum-



man said that Panah has been running a campaign for the last 40 years to make people aware of the harms of smoking and is trying to make such laws so that smoking can be reduced in the country and The number of young people who are suffering from this addiction can be reduced and their People can be saved from dying and our young generation can be saved from

addiction. If the government does not take measures to prevent smoking, it will cause irreparable damage. Tobacco kills 50% of its users. Around 500 people die every day in Pakistan due to tobacco related diseases. Around 5000 go to the hospital every day. According to PIDE, more than 615 billion rupees are being spent on diseases caused by tobacco, while the industry is paying

110 billion rupees for killing people. We will go to any extent to save our young generation from destruction

Chief Guest Dr. Samina Matloob said that the primary responsibility of any government is the health of its people. Our government is well aware of this responsibility. Malik Imran said that the tobacco industry is using the policy makers for their own purposes by misleading them with wrong information.

There is a ban on tobacco advertising in Pakistan, but the tobacco industry is promoting its products under various pretexts. Sometimes through better Pakistan, sometimes by promoting itself in innovative ways of Tree Sponsor, sometimes by killing jobs, sometimes by using our heroes, it entices innocent children towards tobacco, from which 1200 smokers start smoking in Pakistan every day.



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## UNGA adopts Pakistan-steered resolution on strengthening UN-OIC ties

The United Nations General Assembly Monday adopted by consensus a resolution, introduced by Pakistan, on cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), urging the UN system to enhance collaboration with the Jeddah-based body in areas of mutual interest.

Under the terms of the resolution, "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation", the 193-member Assembly affirmed that the UN and OIC shared a common goal of promoting and facilitating the Middle East peace process with the goal to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It also affirmed that it shared a common objective of fostering peaceful and political solutions to other conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and Security Council resolutions.

Introducing the resolution in the 193-member Assembly, Ambassador Munir Akram, speaking in Pakistan's capacity as chair of the OIC member states group in New York, said it highlights the two organizations' desire to work together on shared concerns, including global security, self-determination, respect for territorial integrity, decolonization, and combating terrorism.

The Pakistani envoy said the draft is consistent with the spirit of the resolution which, in 1965, invited the Islamic Organization to participate in the work of the United Nations and its subsidiary organs as an observer. "This year's resolution", he told the General Assembly, contains technical changes, and invites all member states to observe the International Day to Combat Islamophobia in an appropriate manner.

In its operative paragraphs, the draft recognizes the continuing cooperation between the Islamic Organization and United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

Cooperation between the two has never been more important than in these challenging times, Ambassador Akram said.

Addressing complex challenges together brings countries and international organizations together.

Ambassador Akram thanked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his constant engagement with OIC and its members, recognizing ancient tradition of visiting Muslim communities during the holy month of Ramadan to demonstrate solidarity and exchange views on pressing issues.

"The OIC Group believes that addressing complex challenges requires a coordinated and comprehensive multilateral response that brings countries and international organizations together," the Pakistani envoy added.

# The world is making fun of us!



Prof. Fazel Tanha Gharshin

**Analysis**

On his return from a two-day visit to Russia, Imran Khan felt that something is rotten in the state of Pakistan. On March 27 in a rally, he waived a threat letter "Cypher", considering it a foreign conspiracy aimed at ousting him by a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly. As he feared, the same happened. Without holding general elections, dynasty-oriented political alliance (PDM) ascended the throne. It was hoped that inflation may be reduced, the situation of freedom of expression would improve and political vendettas might come to an end. All hopes and expectations ended in smoke. Ryan Reynolds says: "When you see yourself, you are setting yourself up for disappointment."

No sooner had the sad saga of the regime change averted, than the deluge hit the country.

Due to the floods, one-third of the state submerged; sixteen hundred people died; 2.4m acre cropland destroyed; 1m livestock washed away; a number of bridges and dams burst down; and kilometers of roads wiped away. The deluge deprived people of life, health, work and identity. The deluge was not divine's wrath indeed, rather it was the result of chronic administrative negligence and massively omnipresent corruption. Soon after the floods, the shocking and barbaric incidents plotted by unknown assailants started to occur.

On August 1, a Pak Army helicopter crashed killing six personnel, including Lieutenant General Sarfaraz Khan on board. On October 23, a renowned journalist Arshad Sharif was killed in Kenya. A senior senator Azam Sawaati was physically tortured in Islamabad. Ex premier Imran Khan survived an assassination attempt. A number of journalists are at self-exile due to receiving death threats from unknown assailants. The fear of the unknown has become the greatest fear of all. Nowadays, neither politicians nor journalists are secure. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Tolerance and coexistence have said good bye to Pakistan.

Recently, Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari forced Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar to resign as senator, and Mahmood Khan Achakzai expelled Sardar Ubaidullah Babat and Muhammad Raza Lala from the party. P-MAP just on the grounds that they had critical and rational political approach. Pakistan has been ruled by dictators or dynasties since the day one. "A dynasty is nothing but the success-

ous threat to the soft image and security of Pakistan. Countering terrorism needs political solutions rather than military ones, but politicians seem powerless in this matter. Shahbaz Sharif goes to London on a daily basis to consult his elder brother even on minor issues. The appointment of new Army Chief has become a test case for the powerless premier. At least,

but everywhere he was seen clamoring for flood compensation, IMF, World Bank and other brethern countries hesitate to lend Pakistan money. The world is fighting against poverty, overpopulation, global warming and gender discrimination, but Pakistan is suffering from revelations, allegations and accusations. Education, health, women empowerment, human development, tourism and peace have not been the subject matter of Pakistani politicians; and the masses have no desire for change either. The first and last aim of our politicians is to strengthen dynastic political system rather than democracy.

On the other hand, Joe Biden has declared Pakistan as the most dangerous country in the world. According to a survey, Pakistan's default risk has soared to 70 per cent due to political and economic instability. Solution to all the problems of Pakistan lies in holding free, fair and fresh general elections. In the 75-year history of Pakistan, such an unfavorable inflation, unbelievable political vendettas and severe public criticism on Pak Army have never been seen. So, it is the right time to save Pakistan. The world is making fun of us.

Writer is Lecturer at degree college Pishin.

Education, health, women empowerment, human development, tourism and peace have not been the subject matter of Pakistani politicians; and the masses have no desire for change either. The first and last aim of our politicians is to strengthen dynastic political system rather than democracy.

ful orchestration of treachery." Democracy is the first prey to dynasty. Dynastic politics is the root cause of a nation's downfall. The recent by-elections, won by the PTI proved that Pakistanis have fed up with dynastic politicians. Democracy must be restored.

Similarly, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are suffering from the re-emergence of terrorists. The chronic issue of "enforced disappearances" has become a seri-

there should be a clear and simple law for the appointment of a new Army Chief. It needs political maturity, economic stability, free media and courage to address problems of the country.

Great leaders make decisions rather than kowtowing to the already decided decisions. Great leaders determine the direction of policies, rather than receiving orders from others. Shahbaz Sharif participated in the UNGA, SCO and COP



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi.  
(Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

## Drugs and lucidity

Simil Zahra Khan, Lahore

This generation surely makes its question our times. Booze, drugs and parties have become a trademark of the kids in Pakistan. Is this the epoch that Iqbal dreamt about and the Quaid fought for? It is depressing to see the future of this country wasting their lives away in quick fixes and fleeting pleasures.

Drug addiction is a grave issue embedded in the folds of our society. Kids these days are either pressured by peers or voluntarily indulge in it.

The continuous aspect of taking drugs is reflected by the casual approach to it. Young adults willingly get addicted to it either to seem "cool" or to transcend into their creative process, achieved only in the state of being high! What sort of rubbish is that? No one talks about the come-down. Once

the effect of the drug wears off, the pain is unbearable.

The craving is tormenting. While it costs about 10 US cents for a gas-powered car to travel one kilometre, only about three cents are required for an EV to cover that distance. With oil prices rocketing because of the global energy crisis, it is wise to choose an EV. But despite being popular in China, EVs generally can cover 300-600 km after being charged, not enough for long-distance driving. True, there are EVs that can cover about 800 kilometres after one charge, but that's possible only with more than one fully charged battery, not because of any breakthrough in battery technology.

This culture has been normalised with the passing years and serious actions by authorities are yet to be witnessed.

## Domestic EVs are driving green revolution

Kang Bing |

China is already a world leader in the production and sales of electric vehicles, and judging by their popularity, more of these eco-friendly vehicles will be seen on the roads, writes a veteran journalist with China Daily.

Driving on Beijing's congested roads, I often find myself sandwiched between cars with green-color license plates which signify they are electric-powered vehicles. Sitting in my gas-powered car, I can't help but feel guilty for not being eco-friendly enough to buy an electric vehicle (EV).

The presence of so many EVs on the roads suggests the central authority's decade-old efforts to promote EVs are paying off. More and more eco-friendly cars, buses and heavy trucks are plying on the roads across China.

While in 2014, only 74,763 EVs were sold nationwide, the number increased to a whopping 3.5 million last year, making China the world's biggest market for EVs.

In fact, the central government's goal is to set up at least 20 million charging points before

2025 to make it more convenient for the EV owners to charge the batteries of their vehicles. Also, the government offers subsidies to those buying an EV or replacing a gas-powered car with an EV. While transportation authorities are replacing gas-powered buses with new energy-driven vehicles in the air pollution-prone Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the goal is to have 80 per cent of all heavy trucks running on new energy by 2025.

Beijing has taken the lead in popularizing EVs. The capital now has 560,000 EVs, and set a target of increasing the number to 2 million, or 30 per cent of the total number of vehicles, in the next three years. To encourage the sales of EVs, the Beijing municipal government has implemented a rule that gas-powered vehicles can be on the road for only six days a week to ease traffic jams and reduce carbon emissions, but EVs can be driven on all seven days. Any other local governments, inspired by Beijing's eco-friendly program, are offering extra subsidies to EV buyers, ranging from 10,000 yuan (\$1,400) to 30,000 yuan, which could cover about 20 per cent of the price of an EV.

Friends who own an EV have been urging me to replace my car with a new energy vehicle.

They say the operating cost is much cheaper. While it costs about 10 US cents for a gas-powered car to travel one kilometre, only about three cents are required for an EV to cover that distance. With oil prices rocketing because of the global energy crisis, it is wise to choose an EV. But despite being popular in China, EVs generally can cover 300-600 km after being charged, not enough for long-distance driving. True, there are EVs that can cover about 800 kilometres after one charge, but that's possible only with more than one fully charged battery, not because of any breakthrough in battery technology.

Besides, recharging stations are difficult to find, and even after finding one, one has to wait for a long time in "queue" before getting a chance to charge the car's battery, because even a rapid charging station takes more than half an hour to fully charge a battery. But given the government's all-round support and the rapid development of new-energy cars in China, I believe EV prices will come down and recharging will become more convenient.

PS: I have decided to replace my old car with an EV before the end of 2025.

The author is former deputy editor-in-chief of China Daily.

## Media literacy crucial to stopping the spread of misinformation

Maha Akeel

A news item, a video or a photo with a caption is circulated among WhatsApp groups or Twitter or Facebook about the death of a prominent figure or a disturbing incident or riot or the spread of some disease. A myriad of such content comes to our attention every day, causing fear, tension and anger. Most often, it turns out to be fake, yet it continues to be circulated and, unfortunately, believed. Some are political in nature, others are just malicious. Even the most intelligent, well-informed and skeptical people can fall prey to distorted, manipulated news.

We are constantly bombarded with information. The stream of media content we receive every second on our electronic devices, email accounts and social media is overwhelming. It affects us physically, mentally and emotionally in an exhilarating roller coaster that impacts our reactions, perceptions and relationships.

About 60 per cent of the global population uses the internet, especially the youth, with more than 70 per cent of the world's young people online. However, we are negligent about offering wide-scale and sustainable media and information literacy training for all. The spread of online and offline disinformation and misinformation, conspiracy theories, hate speech and the misuse of social media should be such more attentive and responsible in facing this threat.

The intense, deliberate and highly professional disruptive content has progressively eroded trust in governments and the media in recent years. However, studies suggest that, where citizens are exposed to media and information literacy at a policy level, they have a higher capacity of resilience to disinformation. We need policies and programs at organizational, institutional, national and regional levels that enhance the capacities of people to think critically and effectively engage with information and content,

and ensure equitable access to quality information. The UN General Assembly in 2012 unanimously adopted a resolution proclaiming a Global Media and Information Literacy Week from Oct. 24-31 every year. Although the occasion has been commemorated around the world, it is not as widely recognized in the Middle East, even though this region witnesses a high rate of misinformation and disinformation. The occasion came and passed last month, as every year, without noticeable initiatives by media and education institutions or regional and international organizations.

There is a need to include this skill in school curricula at all levels, hold workshops and lectures, organize public campaigns to build the capacity of the public to critically read and think about the information they receive, and restore trust in credible sources and reliable journalism. As the traditional media is being challenged by social media and is, unfortunately, losing the fight, it needs to exert extra effort to play its role in providing quality information, filtering, checking and analyzing the facts and debunking false information.

Our children and youth are spending hours of their day on their electronic gadgets being influenced by content that might be dangerous and harmful, including hate speech and extremist ideology. While policies are targeted to regulate and control social media providers, it is also important to raise awareness and build the capacity of the receivers to distinguish between good and bad content. Media and dialogue forums and campaigns that address promoting tolerance should include in their agenda enhancing the knowledge and capacity of children and youth in terms of media and information literacy, so that they are better able not only to recognize and dismiss misleading and false information but also to create and develop quality content.

Before you click, share, think and do not be a part of the spread of false information. Simply writing "as received" does not absolve you from responsibility.

Maha Akeel is a Saudi writer based in Jeddah.



# Kim's sister warns US of 'a more fatal security crisis'

News Desk

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA: The influential sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned the United States on Tuesday that it would face "a more fatal security crisis" as Washington pushes for U.N. condemnation of the North's recent intercontinental ballistic missile test.

Kim Yo Jong's warning came hours after U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council that the U.S. will circulate a proposed presidential statement condemning North Korea's banned missile launches and other destabilizing activities. After the meeting, Thomas-Greenfield also read a statement by 14 countries which supported action to limit North Korea's advancement of its weapons programs.

Kim Yo Jong, who is widely considered North Korea's second most powerful person after her brother, lambasted the United States for issuing what she called "a disgusting joint statement together with such rabble as Britain, France, Australia, Japan and South Korea."



Kim compared the United States to "a barking dog seized with fear," she said. North Korea would consider the U.S.-led statement "a wanton violation of our sovereignty and a grave political provocation."

"The U.S. should be mindful that no matter how desperately it may seek to disarm (North Korea), it can never deprive (North Korea) of its right to self-defence and that the more hell-bent it gets on the anti-(North Korea) acts, it will face a more fatal security crisis," she said in a statement carried by state media.

During the Security Council meeting, the United States and its allies strongly criticized the ICBM launch and called for action to limit North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

But Russia and China, both veto-wielding members of the Security Council, opposed any new pressure and sanctions on North Korea. In May, the two countries vetoed a U.S.-led attempt to toughen sanctions on North Korea over its earlier ballistic missile tests, which are prohibited by U.N. Security Council resolutions.

## Ukrainians brace for bleak winter as Russian strikes cripple power capacity

News Desk

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed to Ukrainians to conserve energy amid relentless Russian strikes that have halved the country's power capacity, as the United Nations health body warned of a humanitarian disaster in Ukraine this winter.

Authorities said millions of Ukrainians, including in the capital Kyiv, could face power cuts at least until the end of March due to the missile attacks, which Ukraine's national grid operator Ukrenergo said had wreaked "colossal" damage.



Russia's targeting of Ukrainian energy facilities follows a series of battlefield setbacks that have included a pullout of Russian forces from the southern city of Kherson to the east bank of the mighty Dniipro River that bisects the country.

The systematic damage to our energy system during strikes by the Russian terrorists is so considerable that all our people and businesses should be mindful and redistribute their consumption throughout the day," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address.

Ukrainians are starting to dip below zero and are expected to drop to -20 Celsius (-4 Fahrenheit) or even lower in some areas during the winter months.

Russia's targeting of Ukrainian energy facilities follows a series of battlefield setbacks that have included a pullout of Russian forces from the southern city of Kherson to the east bank of the mighty Dniipro River that bisects the country.

## Indonesian rescue workers race to find victims of deadly quake

CIANJUR: Indonesian rescue workers were racing on Tuesday to reach people still trapped in the rubble a day after an earthquake devastated a West Java town, killing at least 162 people and injuring hundreds, as officials warned the death toll may rise.

The epicentre of the shallow 5.6-magnitude quake hit on land close to the town of Cianjur in a mountainous area of Indonesia's most populous province. The tremor on Monday afternoon prompted panicked residents to flee onto the streets as buildings collapsed.

Many of the fatalities were caused by falling buildings, the head of Indonesia's meteorology and geophysics agency, Dworika Karnawati, said in a statement.

Overnight a hospital parking lot in Cianjur was inundated with victims, some treated in makeshift tents, others hooked up to intravenous drips on the pavement, while medical workers stitched up patients under the light of torches.

"Everything collapsed beneath me and I was crushed beneath this child," Cucu, a 48-year-old resident, told Reuters, from the crowded hospital parking area.

"Two of my kids survived, I dug them up ... Two others I brought here, and one is still missing," she said through tears.

On Tuesday morning, hundreds of police officers had been deployed to assist in rescue efforts, Dewi Prasetyo, a national police spokesperson told the Antara state news agency.

"Today's main task order for personnel is to focus on evacuating victims," he said.

## Death toll from Indonesia's earthquake rises to 268

JAKARTA: The death toll from an earthquake that hit Indonesia's Cianjur town in western Java has risen to 268, the local government said in an Instagram post on Tuesday.

Disaster agency chief Suharyanto told reporters that more than 1,000 people had been injured, 58,000 displaced and 22,000 houses damaged.



Adviser to CM Balochistan for Home Mir Ziaullah Langu presenting shield to Ambassador of United Arab Emirates Hamad Obaid Al Zaabi. Photo: DGPR

## Urdu drama based on Manto's works staged at Tokyo university

TOKYO: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies staged an Urdu drama, titled "Ghari Aur Tash" here at the University campus.

The play, staged on Sunday, was based on different works of the renowned Pakistani writer Saadat Hassan Manto, a press release issued by Pakistani Embassy in Tokyo on Monday said.

Ambassador-designate of Pakistan Raza Bashir Tarar, who was the guest of honour, praised the hard work put in by the faculty and students.

He underscored that such cultural endeavours dovetailed with the excellent bilateral ties between Pakistan and Japan.



## Italy provides technical support to Pakistan in olive cultivation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Steering Committee on Olive Culture Holistic and Multi-Professional Mechanism for a Pakistani Olive Oil Value Chain project was held at the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Andreas Ferraresi and Secretary National Food Security and Research Zafar Hasan co-chaired the meeting. The project, funded by the Italian Government, started in March 2022 with an aim of building a multi-professional olive and olive oil value chain in Pakistan to enhance olive production and improve food security through technical assistance and training of the stakeholders. Government of Pakistan and Government of

Italy are jointly executing the project through the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM-Bari).

Italy, the Italian Agency for International Cooperation, Pakistan Oilseed Department and the Ministry of National Food Security & Research with the total cost of 12.5 million. Secretary National Food Security and Research Zafar Hasan remarked that every year we spend our precious foreign reserves on import of edible olive oil; this project will help to replace it with the domestic production. He hoped that the private sector will multiply the project and take it forward. Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan, Andreas Ferraresi said Pakistan has a huge potential for olives. Italy will continue to support Pakistan

in olive production, he added. While apprising the forum on the progress of the project, Marco Marchetti, Project Director said that preliminary assessments were complete and policy support in drafting of Olive Policy was provided to the Government of Pakistan. In the first olive harvesting season of the project (Sep 2022-Nov 2022), field trainings on good agronomics practices were provided, along with guidance on olive processing protocols and hygiene safety in Balochistan, Punjab and KPK, told Marco Marchetti. Marco Marchetti said the project is taking rural communities on-board in order to streamline the Pakistani olive oil value chain.

Activities to increase awareness of olive culture are also part of the project, he added. "International experts for training and technical assistance have been engaged as well; this will help in learning the techniques and technology to get the best outcomes," said Marco Marchetti. The project will also partner with the University of Agriculture, Peshawar, to categorize varieties of olives and create new ones. While presenting the next year's plan, Marco Marchetti said that the next phase will focus on the capacity building of the farmers and the provincial agriculture departments. Secretary National Food Security and Research Zafar Hasan, while thanking the Government of Italy for the support, said that the Pakistani side will make every effort to make it a success.



aligned with the PSDP Project "Promotion of Olive Cultivation on Commercial Scale in Pakistan

(Phase-II)", under which cultivable waste land in all provinces and autonomous regions of

AJK & Gilgit Baltistan will be brought under olive cultivation.

## President Barrister Sultan urges PM Shehbaz, interior minister to provide security for LG polls



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has asked the federal government to provide security to the AJK government so that municipal elections could be held in a peaceful manner addressed to Prime Minister of Pakistan Miran Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and Adviser to PM on Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira, the president sought deployment of security forces in Azad Kashmir to conduct the local government elections scheduled to be held after a gap of 31 years. The letter further said that if security forces were not provided and elections were postponed then it would have a negative impact on the Kashmir cause. The AJK President had also telephoned the interior minister and adviser Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Laura in this regard and asked them to play their role in this regard. Meanwhile, former Defence Secretary and Corps Commander Bahawalpur Lieutenant General (retired) Naeem Khalid Lodhi called on AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry. On this occasion, the duo discussed the issues of mutual interest, in particular the situation in the Indian occupied Kashmir.

## 1500 youths trained in e-commerce under e-commerce program



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Director General China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) Asif Munir on Tuesday said that as many as 1500 youths have been trained in e-commerce under e-commerce program to provide skills to Pakistani youth is the sole solution to cope with ever increasing unemployment in the country.

He expressed these views at a ceremony of distribution of job offer letters for employment in an international organization based in China to 50 young people of Pakistan under "e-skillswise". The purpose of the company's project was to create skilled manpower in the field of e-commerce in Pakistan.

The DG said that together with China, they are creating job opportunities for the youth. "Thanks to it, 70 million people have been lifted out of poverty, e-commerce is the need of the hour, under the patronage of e-commerce training institutions in Pakistan, the youth will get better job opportunities," he highlighted.

Asif Munir congratulated the successful youth and said that the country has sufficient talented youth.

"It is a great success, we are ready to work more with China, and unemployment will be eliminated by providing skills to the youth. (Zhou) were also present," said Dr. Nauman Munir youth success rate in e-commerce was 68 percent.

The young people who have graduated from here are earning respectable jobs all over the world using their skills. The young people are selected for training after graduation, while they are also working on projects with other countries, especially China, so that the children from here complete the training. They can be immediately employed in the companies there. In this regard,



Bull & Bears

PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,928.62	42,761.19
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,076.45	42,761.19
Index Value	Change
5,212,948,207	+167.43
Percentage	Time
+0.39%	22 Nov, 2022 5: 00 pm
Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,452.84	+75.99
Percentage	Time
+1.03%	22 Nov, 4: 35 pm GMT
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,961.51	+261.23
Percentage	Time
+0.78%	22 Nov, 12: 26 pm GMT-5
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
28,115.74	+170.95
Percentage	Time
+0.61%	22 Nov, 3: 15 pm GMT+9
Open Market Forex Rates	

# CDA Officers Association to support in resolving issues of business community

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that ICCI is the premier representative body of the business community of Islamabad and urged that the government should give permanent representation to the sitting President ICCI in the CDA Board to represent the voice of business community in CDA affairs that would help resolve their issues and facilitate the growth of business activities. He said this while exchanging views with a delegation of CDA Officers Association during their visit to ICCI led by Ch. Amir Shehzad, President. Riaz Khan Chairman, Ch. Kamran Bakhat Senior Vice President, Syed Asghar Inam, Tariq Mehmood Chaudhry, Abdul Rohin, Ahad Hussain Khan and others were in the delegation.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that all the markets and industries of Islamabad are represented in ICCI, therefore, its permanent representation in the CDA Board will be very



helpful in resolving the issues of the business community. He said that a 50 percent quota in CDA jobs should be given to the residents of Islamabad that would help to address the issues of the city more effectively. He discussed many

other matters with the Association including better development of markets and industry, removal of encroachments from markets, improving sanitation, and beautification of Islamabad. He assured that ICCI will cooper-

ate with the Association in its efforts to protect the interests of CDA officers.

Speaking at the occasion, Ch. Amir Shehzad, President of CDA Officers Association fully supported the ICCI proposal for representation in CDA Board. He stressed that the government should review the constitution of CDA Board by including the representatives of ICCI and CDA Officers for the better development of the city. He said that a Committee comprising the representatives of ICCI and CDA Officers Association should be constituted to work jointly for the welfare of the business community and better development of the city. He assured that their Association will cooperate with ICCI in resolving issues of the business community.

Read Wahid Senior Vice President, Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President, ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leaders, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Maqsood Tabish, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Malik Mohsin Khalid and others also shared ideas on matters of mutual interest.

## Flags' preparation

KARACHI: Tailors are busy in stitching flags of different countries, manufacturing facility make flags of various countries for FIFA World Cup 2022, in Provincial Capital, to meet the demand for flags for the mega event.



Photo: Online

## Soneri Bank Employees participated in a tree plantation drive



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Marketing and Green Banking Departments organized a plantation drive for Soneri Bank employees in collaboration with WWF Pakistan. 130 employees participated in a Green Banking Workshop and a mangrove plantation drive at Turtle Beach Karachi followed by lunch and a group activity session.

The initiative brought together Soneri Bank employees from various units and engaged them in taking steps to improve the

environment through volunteer tree plantation. It also provided an educational experience along with the opportunity to do something positive for the local community in an open, friendly environment which has a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, as Shaimah Alam, Head of Operational Risk and Green Banking stated "We strive to mitigate the decreasing forest-cover, strengthen communities that are dependent on natural resources, and also brace Pakistan against environmental deterioration."

## OICCI, PBC and Unilever collaborate to highlight the significance of ESG

Commerce Reporter

KARACHI: The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce & Industry (OICCI) and the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) collaborated to host a design sprint on best practices needed to develop an effective Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) framework for Pakistan. The two-day workshop was facilitated by Unilever Pakistan Limited.

Participants of the session included leading local and multi-national organizations. The objective of the workshop was to help participants develop strategies and frameworks to make businesses resilient to environmental, social and governance issues in the post-pandemic world. The design sprint helped participants to explore risk mitigation and navigation approaches, draft a blueprint for organizational strategy, and establish an ESG internal governance framework.

The two-day workshop concluded with a dialogue on ESG policy needed in Pakistan, with stakeholders including Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, Aamir Khan, Chairperson & Independent Director Pakistan Stock Exchange, Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, CEO General OICCI, M. Abdul Aleem, CEO Pakistan Business Council, Ehsan Malik and Chairman & CEO Unile-



Unilever Pakistan, Amir Paracha.

While speaking on the occasion, CEO/Secretary General OICCI, M. Abdul Aleem said, "OICCI members not only bring investment, breakthrough technologies, global business practices and knowhow to Pakistan, but are also leading the social and climate agenda through thought leadership. OICCI member companies, the largest network of MNCs operating in Pakistan, are also leading on other climate initiatives such as conversion to alternate energy sourcing, reducing waste, promoting circular economy, etc. through sustainable business practices."

Shedding light on the sprint session,

Ehsan Malik, CEO Pakistan Business Council said that "Leading businesses in the private sector can use this platform for advocacy and capacity building to enable the industry and the financial sector to take actionable steps and learn from each other."

"The 21st-century innovation and technological revolution has brought most critical challenges and changes in human behavior", highlighted CEO Unilever Pakistan, Amir Paracha in the opening remarks. "As we now concentrate on our relationship with the planet, our impact and demands on ESG become the most urgent and critical management approach to adopt as a sustainable solution" he added.

## Spotify Brings Pakistan's first master class for artists community



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Spotify hosted its first Masterclass in Pakistan, exclusive to artists and labels, with the aim to educate them on Spotify for Artists. The signature educational session shed light on avenues for artists to reach where musicians have access to the data, tools, and knowledge that they require to facilitate their journey of raising their profile and finding fans across borders.

Spotify for Artists is a platform that provides budding musicians with the insights they need to advance their careers by learning where

listeners of their music are found. It gives artists and their teams, the tools to build a following that can make anything possible, including top cities/countries listening to their music, and the names of your fans, which playlist you are added to, your top performing tracks, top playlists, your sources of streams, growth of followers, listeners and streams over time and access to new updates, features and information on the dashboard.

Some prominent names among the artists who attended the Masterclass were Bilal Maqsood, Ali Hamza, Shalim Xavier, Asad Ahmed and Zohaib Kazir.

## Federal Tax Ombudsman Asif Mahmood Jah visits MCCI

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Asif Mahmood Jah has said that complaints can be submitted to FTO online, WhatsApp and on plain paper. More than five thousand taxpayers' complaints have been resolved in ten months. He was addressing the cheques distribution ceremony of excess Sales Tax refund payment to the taxpayers in Suzuki Car show in light of FTO's decision by Hon'ble Federal Tax Ombudsman.

President Saqib Rafiq, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Muhammad Hanza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Small Chamber President Tariq Jadoon, President Women Chamber Riffat Shaheen, Former President Zahid Latif Khan, Executive Members, and Chamber Members were also present on the occasion.

Asif Mahmood Jah said that there was a 17% tax on the booking of Suzuki cars, which was later reduced to 12% by the government, the customers who paid more than 5% tax was a huge amount which has been refunded to them.

# MMBL partners with GSMA to expand Pakistan's Digital and Financial Solutions

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: To support the mission of promoting digital inclusion across the nation through innovative financial solutions, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), Pakistan's largest digital bank, is collaborating with GSMA, the global organisation representing mobile operators and the broader mobile ecosystem. Through this partnership, MMBL and GSMA aim to reduce the gender gap in digital financing through MMBL's flagship program, Women Inspirational Network (WIN), and other Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) initiatives. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will enable both partners to execute joint projects for



connectivity and other areas for Information & Communications Technology (ICT) development in Pakistan.

Mobilink Microfinance Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged

connectivity and online services across seven countries. As part of its digital operator strategy, VEON is transforming people's lives, creating opportunities for greater digital inclusion, and driving economic growth across countries

that are home to more than 8% of the world's population.

Sharing his thoughts at the signing ceremony, Ghaznifar Azzam, President & CEO MMBL, remarked, "The rapid growth in tele-density across Pakistan has opened great avenues for fostering financial inclusion through feature & smartphones. Through this partnership, we aim to leverage the technological expertise of GSMA for enabling digitally powered innovative solutions for our target segments, specifically women & persons with disabilities, increasing accessibility and affordability of mobile financial services on the way."

Also speaking at the occasion, Sardar Muhammad Abubakar, Chief Finance and Digital Officer MMBL, said, "Digital

and financial literacy are key drivers to promote financial inclusion for all. Underserved, yet integral segments, particularly women, agriculture and SMEs lack access to banking channels due to little awareness and limited resources. Through this initiative, MMBL and GSMA will work in close collaboration to increase digital, and financial literacy, while boosting agricultural services, through convenient and sustainable access to digital financial products and services."

"We are pleased to support MMBL's efforts to close usage and gender gaps and address the barriers to inclusion that affect so many," said Julian Gormican, Head of APAC, GSMA. "We believe connectivity is a human right

and giving it to those that are excluded empowers business, society, and local communities - helping them to thrive. We're looking forward to working together to advance the Digital Pakistan agenda in support of inclusion."

Through this partnership, MMBL and GSMA will undertake various digital and technological initiatives to empower the masses in various domains, including agri-tech, Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Women Financial Services, enhancing connectivity on the way. With the help of its strategic partners, MMBL is taking concrete steps to close the digital and financial gap by uplifting the unbanked and underbanked segments across the nation.



# Pakistan to announce squad for Blind T20 World Cup on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will announce a strong squad for the upcoming Blind T20 World Cup on Wednesday, Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) said on Tuesday. The third edition of the event will be staged in India from December 6 to 17. "Our training camp for preparation for the T20 World Cup is underway at Quaid-i-Azam Cricket Stadium, Mirpur

and will continue till the 30th of this month. The team will depart for India on December 4," Chairman PBCC Syed Sultan Shah told APP. "Our players are in good shape and we are optimistic that they will put up a good show in the event," he added. Teams from hosts India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia, South

Africa and Sri Lanka will participate in the World Cup. In their opening match, Pakistan will take on South Africa on December 6 in Delhi. In their second fixture they will meet arch-rivals India on December 7 in Faridabad. On December 9, Pakistan will face Bangladesh in their third match in Delhi,

while in the fourth they will clash against Sri Lanka on December 11 in Bangalore. They will play their fifth and sixth match in Bangalore on December 13 and 14 against Australia and Nepal, respectively. The semifinals will be played on December 15, while the final will take place on December 17.

## CA Championship

# Sindh and Central Punjab dominate day-two of tenth round matches

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Day-two of the tenth and final round of the Cricket Associations Championship 2022-23 was played at three Karachi venues today (Monday). Sindh resumed their first innings at 296 for three against Balochistan at the NBP Sports Complex. Following centuries by Danish Aziz and Hasan Mohsin, captain Saifullah Bangash also crossed the three-figure mark. The wicketkeeper-batter scored 125 not out of 163 balls (17 fives) as Sindh declared their first innings at a massive 566 for eight total. Jalat Khan took three wickets for Balochistan.

Balochistan in reply got off to a poor start and were reduced to 43 for three at stumps on day-two. Hasan had a great start with the ball a day after scoring a century. The right-arm took all

three wickets to fall in the final session of play. Central Punjab who have already bagged the championship took their overnight 359 for four total to 475 all out against Southern Punjab at the UBL Sports Complex. Ali Zaryab added five runs to his score.

Ali was dismissed for 156 off 246 balls (18 fours, one six), Mohammad Hamza Akhtar hit an unbeaten 53 to ensure his side reach an imposing first innings score. Left-arm-wrist spinner Faisal Akram took five wickets for 142.

Southern Punjab had a tough outing with the bat all day, were wobbling at 143 for five (59 overs) when stumps were drawn for the day. Opener Mohammad Basit top-scored with 50. Mohammad Naveed took two wickets for 21.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa resumed their first innings at 21 for no loss against Northern at the KCCA

Stadium. Half-centuries by Aamer Azmat (65 off 67 balls, three fours, four sixes) and Afaq Ahmed (65 off 127 balls, seven fours) took them to a first innings score of 274 all out in 76.4 overs - a 34-run first innings lead. Aaqib Liaquat took four and Mohammad Hamid took three wickets.

Northern had reached 101 for two in their second innings when stumps were drawn for the day. Ali Inuran was unbeaten on 59 while Aaqib Shah was batting on 36. Atizaz Habib Khan took both wickets to fall.

Scores in brief: Balochistan vs Sindh - NBP Sports Complex, Karachi

Sindh 566 for 8 (declared), 154 overs (Saifullah Bangash 125 not out; Danish Aziz 119, Hasan Mohsin 100; Gohar Baid 9-85, Jalat Khan 3-119, Faisal Akram 2-139). Balochistan 43 for 3, 16 overs (Hazarat Wali 26 not

out; Hasan Mohsin 3-17). Central Punjab vs Southern Punjab - UBL Sports Complex, Karachi

Central Punjab 475 all out, 19.5 overs (Ali Zaryab 156, Fahad Munir 65, Mohammad Waleed 54, Mohammad Hamza Akhtar 53 not out; Faisal Akram 5-142).

Southern Punjab 143 for 5, 59 overs (Mohammad Basit 50, Rameez Alam 33; Mohammad Naveed 2-21). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vs Northern - KCCA Stadium, Karachi

Northern 240 all out, 77.3 overs (Saad Nasim 65, Tahir Khan 65; Mohammad Amir Khan 4-21, Zeeshan Ahmad 3-44) and 101 for 2, 27 overs (Ali Inuran 59 not out, Aaqib Shah 36 not out; Atizaz Habib Khan 2-28).

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 274 all out, 76.4 overs (Aamer Azmat 65, Afaq Ahmed 65; Aaqib Liaquat 4-86, Mohammad Hamid 3-40).

# Pakistan's Cricket Superstars debut as Action Heroes with Free Fire

News Desk

LAHORE: Free Fire Pakistan has released a live action music video featuring cricket superstars Babar Azam, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Afridi and Shoaib Malik as superheroes. The veteran and the Runner ups for the T20 World Cup have been in the limelight for their heroics on and off the field and befittingly feature as Superheroes in this action packed film.



cricketing heroes as super-heroes and use their in-game bundles.

Babar Azam commented on the collaboration, saying, "It brings me enormous joy to represent Free Fire, the brand that has been driving the Sports revolution in Pakistan. Through this effective collaboration we are bringing something unique for our fans

and I really hope they love it."

"It's an honour to join the renowned group of Free Fire Ambassadors, Sports has a lot of potential in Pakistan. Excited to see myself as a superhero in their video", Shadab Khan commented. Shaheen Afridi commented on the collaboration: "This brings me immense pleasure to collaborate with Free

Fire as it is bringing esports in Pakistan. I would like to wish Team Hostshot the best of luck representing Pakistan in the World Series, bring it home boys!"

Shoaib Malik added that "I am truly honored to work with Free Fire and look forward to play my role in helping the brand in making esports the most popular thing in Pakistan through this exciting collaboration of ours. Best of luck to team Hostshot for the play-offs!"

FFFL IV winners' Team Hostshots will represent Pakistan in the FFWS 2022 Bangkok on 24th November. North America tunes in to the Willow TV and ESPN takes charge for the Caribbean Islands.

# 4 new national records set in Palmolive Sindh Women Swimming Championship



KARACHI: A two-day 28th Palmolive Sindh Women Swimming Championship organized by Karachi Women's Swimming Association in collaboration with Palmolive was organized at Karachi Gymkhana.

An overwhelming number of 261 swimmers from fifteen Karachi schools and local clubs, which were divided into six groups, participated in the event.

Felix Sanchez's Qatar will likely need a positive result in their second Group A match against Senegal on Friday just to avoid the ignominy of becoming only the second hosts, after South Africa in 2010, to be dumped

out in the first round.

Hopes were high among the crowd that Qatar could make a winning start, but the deficiencies of the World Cup debutants were ruthlessly exposed by an impressive Ecuador.

Qatar failed to even muster a shot on target in the game, with spectators filling out of the stands long before the final whistle.

In the 92-year history of the tournament, host countries had previously won 16 and drawn six of their opening matches.

The South Americans had the ball in the net inside three minutes when captain Valencia nodded home from Felix Torres' misdirected overhead kick.

institutions were Karachi American Schools, Karachi Grammar Schools, Beacon house Grammar Schools, Karachi Gymkhana, Karachi United, Mana Parsi Girls High School, Nixor College, CAS School, and The City School PAF Chapter.

Karachi Grammar School was on top with 305 points while Bay View Academy got the second position with 168 points. The CAS Schools got the third position with 106 points.

Four new national records were set during the two-day event. Of the total four new records, three were set by the CAS School's Harveen Malik, who took part in the 13- and 14-year age group competitions including 100-metre Breast Stroke, 50-metre Breast Stroke and 200-metre Individual Medley in which she got the first position. Harveen also declared the best swimmer of the event.

VAR officials spotted an offside against Michael Estrada in the build-up after Torres cleared for the ball with Qatar goalkeeper Saad Al Sheeb.

Ecuador were completely dominant in the early exchange, though, and were awarded a penalty after Valencia was tripped by Al Sheeb when through on goal.

The former West Ham striker scored his 38th international goal.

Ecuador did not have to wait long to double their advantage as, after a surgical run from Moises Caicedo, right-back Angelo Preciado swung in a cross which Valencia met with a thumping header.



Even the small section of noticeably enthusiastic Qatari fans situated behind the goal, who arrived together after the majority of the crowd and were matching t-shirts, briefly fell silent.

Almoez Ali, the hero of Qatar's

## TCL organized the Biggest Esports Football Gaming Tournament by offering a prize pool of 1.5 Million



LAHORE: To promote the spirit of eSports, Pakistan's No.1 LED TV brand, TCL Electronics, brought the biggest Football E-Gaming Event, "TCL Gamers League", to Karachi and Lahore, with a massive prize pool of PKR 1.5 million. The Grand Finale was organized at Packages Mall, Lahore, on November 20, where 24 finalists competed to win fantastic prizes, which included cash prizes and TCL LED TVs.

TCL Gamers League recorded a massive footfall of more than 10,000 people who attended the thrilling event full of exciting games and many prizes for participants. Regarding the TCL marketing head Mr. Majid Khan Niazi commented, "TCL is delighted to promote esports culture in Pakistan. We look forward to strategically facilitating such initiatives and promoting young talent from all over Pakistan. We aim to carry this trend and make this a yearly affair where young individuals and families can participate and have a great experience."

TCL has remained the leading player in the Global Consumer Electronics industry. With a global presence in over 150 countries, the brand is working towards building a prominent place in the Pakistani electronics market by offering high-end technology at affordable prices

## Messi seeks history with Argentina



DOHA, QATAR: Lionel Messi returns to the World Cup for a fifth attempt at finally winning soccer's biggest prize. He'll also be hoping to make history with Argentina.

The Argentines are among the favorites to win in Qatar and victory would fill the one gaping hole in his resume. But Messi's dream has been a long one. He was born in 1987, and then again in 1986 - one year before Messi was born. The team reached the final in 2014 and lost to Germany, and in a bitter follow-up four years later was eliminated in the round of 16 in Russia.

Messi, meanwhile, is one of four players making their fifth World Cup appearance. He joins Portugal forward Cristiano Ronaldo, and Mexico teammates Guillermo Ochoa and Andres Guardado.

Saudi Arabia was eliminated in the first round in 2018, opening with a 5-0 loss to host Russia. In a tough Group C that includes Mexico and Poland, the Saudis will be trying to advance out of the group stage for only the second time, after 1994. The team has won two of its last 10 matches.

Defending champion France opens play Tuesday against Australia in a rematch of their 2018 quarterfinal. France won 2-1 in Russia when Paul Pogba's shot in the first minute deflected in off a defender for an own-goal. Pogba is not in the squad following knee surgery, and France is also down another two stars with N'Golo Kante and Karim Benzema sidelined.

Kylian Mbappe is ready to lead France to back-to-back titles. He was only 10 when he scored in the final and helped France win the World Cup four years ago. With 28 international goals, Mbappe wants to add to his count in the World Cup opener.

However, France arrived in Qatar with only one win in its last six games.

Australia barely made the World Cup field and needed a dramatic penalty shootout win over Peru in the playoffs. The Socceroos have been eliminated from the group stage in four of five previous appearances.

# Qatar first World Cup hosts to lose opener with Ecuador defeat

DOHA: Qatar became the first home team to lose their opening World Cup match as Ecuador cruised to a 2-0 victory over the hosts, with Eimer Valencia scoring twice in the tournament curtain-raiser on Sunday.

Asian champions Qatar enjoyed the backing of the majority of the crowd at the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium, but could not follow a glitzy opening ceremony with a state-of-the-art performance.

Ecuador thought they had made a dream start when they silenced the home fans as Valencia headed in, only for the goal to be ruled out by VAR for an offside in the build-up.

Valencia did break the deadlock with a penalty in the 16th minute and doubled his tally just after the half-hour mark.

Qatar improved slightly in the second period, but by the end of the 90 minutes, the excitement which greeted the build-up - featuring Morgan Freeman and BTS star Jung Kook - was a distant memory as thousands of fans left early amid a deflated atmosphere.

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out in the first round. Hopes were high among the crowd that Qatar could make a winning start, but the deficiencies of the World Cup debutants were ruthlessly exposed by an impressive Ecuador.

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Even the small section of noticeably enthusiastic Qatari fans situated behind the goal, who arrived together after the majority of the crowd and were matching t-shirts, briefly fell silent.

Almoez Ali, the hero of Qatar's

Asian Cup success, should have pulled one back on the stroke of half-time but could only steer a free header wide from eight yards out.

Ending off of a series of heavy challenges, although that would only have taken some of the shine off a famous night for Ecuador.

By the time an official attendance of 67,372 was read out over the tannoy, the stadium was barely half full.



## PTI to hold massive protest in Rawalpindi on Nov 26

ISLAMABAD: PTI Senator Faisal Javed has said his party will hold a 'massive protest' in Rawalpindi on November 26, adding that the party supporters were reaching the garrison city from all over the country. Speaking to reporters in Islamabad, Javed said PTI wanted immediate elections in the country as well as the dissolution of "imported assemblies" to steer the country out of the current crisis. (Spokesman Report)



## Community-based health education need of time, Samina Arif

ISLAMABAD: Breast cancer is not an incurable disease, and it can be defeated with timely diagnosis, treatment and attention, said the First Lady, Begum Samina Arif Ali while addressing a Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar held here the other day at Allama Iqbal Open University.

She said that the rate of breast cancer was increasing every year to an alarming extent and the main reason was that there is no awareness among people about this disease.

Community-based health education need of time, Samina Arif

She further said in our daily routine, we ignore healthcare along with work which must be avoided. My message for all is to visit gynecologist once a month for a check-up, said the First Lady.

Begum Samina Arif Ali said that there was a need to



organize community-based health education, seminars and conferences at the national level, especially in remote areas for awareness and prevention of diseases.

The seminar was jointly organized by the Department of Environmental Design, Health and Nutrition Sciences

and the Department of Gender and Women Studies of AIOU. Dean Faculty of Science, Professor Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad presided over the seminar while Head, Department of Radiology, Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) Dr. Ayesha Asani was the guest speaker.

Dr. Hajra Ahmed, chairperson of the Department of Environmental Design, Health and Nutrition Sciences, explained the aims and objectives of the seminar.

Dr. Ayesha Asani said that breast cancer was the main cause of death among women in the world and one out of

every ninth women in Pakistan was suffering from this disease. Emergency measures are indispensable for the prevention of breast cancer, she added.

Dr. Ayesha said that everyone should check themselves every month, if any kind of lump, gland or difference was felt in the breast, then immediately visit a doctor.

Community-based health education need of time, Samina Arif

Dr. Irshad Ahmad Arshad said that as a national university will play an exemplary role in this national breast cancer awareness campaign.

He said that under the leadership of Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, the University was regularly organizing seminars and conferences to identify social problems and solve them. APP

## ECP to observe 'National Voters' Day' on Dec 7

Staff Reporter

PESHAWAR: Joint Provincial Election Commissioner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Javed Rehmat has said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is going to observe 'National Voters' Day' on December 7, 2022.

In this connection, he said the biggest ceremony of the provincial level would be organized in Peshawar while seminars and awareness campaigns would also be organized in all districts of the province.

He made this announcement while presiding over a meeting of KP Gender & Disability Electoral Working Group here in a local hotel on Tuesday.

The campaign has been launched in collaboration with IFES and NADU.

Besides, Director (Elections) Zulfiqar Ahmad, Deputy Director (Media Coordination) Sohail Ahmad and Assistant Director, Gender & Social Inclusion, Syed Aqon Ahmad, the representatives of civil society also attended the meet at large.

He said that a special campaign for issuance of National Identify Cards (NICs) and enrollment of women

and deprived segments of society is in progress in 10 newly merged districts.

Javed Rehmat said that the role of civil society in the issuance of NICs and registration of the votes of women and other deprived segments of society is of higher importance. He said that besides, the registration of women voters, there is also a need for efforts to increase voter-turn-out, which could not be achieved without the cooperation of political parties, civil society and media.

He said that the Election Commission of Pakistan is making efforts for the participation of all segments of society in the election. He said that all offices have been made accessible for disabled persons and efforts are continue to make all polling stations accessible for them in the next elections.

Javed Rehmat said that final electoral lists have been published and new voters could be added to the role. He said that they are busy in the preparations for general elections.

He said that polling agents also play important role in elections and they also required formal training and urged the civil society to play its due role in this regard.

## PNS TABUK visits Qatar for maritime security during FIFA World Cup 2022



ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) TABUK on Tuesday visited Doha, Qatar for maritime security during FIFA World Cup 2022 where upon arrival, it was warmly received by officials from Qatar Emiri Navy and Pakistan Embassy at Qatar.

During the port visit, Commander Qatari Navy Major General Abdullah Hassan Ali Sulaiti visited aboard PNS TABUK, said a Pakistan Navy news release received here.

During the meeting with Commanding officer PNS TABUK, matters of mutual interest and cooperation in maritime domain

were discussed.

Commander Qatari Emiri Navy appreciated the efforts of Pakistan Navy in promoting peace and security in the region. On the occasion Commanding Officer of Pakistan Navy Ship PNS TABUK, Vice Admiral Muhammad Ahmad Khan Niazi for the people of Qatar in general and Qatar Emiri Navy in particular for safe and successful conduct of FIFA World Cup 22.

The visit of PNS TABUK provided an opportunity to further enhance the existing close diplomatic ties and cordial relations with Qatar. APP/PID

## Pakistan High Commissioner hosts dinner for Pakistani delegates

News Desk

DHAKA: High Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui hosted a dinner in honour of Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Former Foreign Secretary of Pakistan and Ambassador Asif Durani, Former Ambassador of Pakistan to the Islamic Republic of Iran and the U.A.E., says a press release received here today from Dhaka.

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry and Ambassador Durani are currently visiting Dhaka in connection with the Bay of Bengal Conversation

2022, being organized by the Center for Governance Studies on 21-23 Nov. The dinner was attended, among others, by former government officials, ambassadors, journalists, members of academia and representatives of think tanks based in Dhaka. Muhammad Abdul Mannan, Minister for Planning was also present as special guest.

In their remarks, the visiting delegates outlined key global trends and developments as well as the challenges and opportunities for developing countries. Speaking on Pakistan-Bangladesh relations in the changing world order,

ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry said that people of the two countries share common bonds of history and culture and mutual feelings of goodwill among the people.

He urged for capitalising on these bonds of affinity for the benefit of two countries and said that more exchange of scholars and thought leaders would help improve bilateral relations.

On regional connectivity, he emphasised the need for greater collaboration among developing states to effectively address challenges such as climate change impact, environmental degradation and

endemic poverty. The South Asian region will collectively develop if collaborative efforts are undertaken by the countries of the region, Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry emphasised.

Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry further said that while South Asian countries have not been successful in utilising the SAARC platform, there is a need for them to rewrite the agenda of regional collaboration whereas in Climate Change should be given top priority as it has real and serious implications for all the countries of the region. Ambassador Asif Durani

in his remarks touched upon regional approaches and reactivation of regional forums like SAARC and NAM and said that SAARC is the least integrated region in the world whereas regional blocks in other parts of the world are flourishing.

He urged that enhanced collaboration among developing countries would contribute towards the efforts to achieve lasting prosperity and regional peace. The delegates appreciated the progress and development of Bangladesh and expressed good wishes for the prosperity of the people of Bangladesh.

## Soldier embraces martyrdom in South Waziristan's ambush

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of the Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom during an intense exchange of fire between troops and terrorists in Saranogha area of South Waziristan Tribal District.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), fire exchange took place between the troops and terrorists, resulting in martyrdom of Hawaldar Umar Hayat, who was a resident of the Lachi area of Kohat.

It said that the sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists in the area.

The ISPR said that the Pakistan Army is committed to eliminating the menace of terrorism, adding that such sacrifices of brave soldiers would further strengthen resolve of the force.

## Fawad claims Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari agree to impose martial law

News Desk

LAHORE: Former federal minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry on Tuesday claimed that Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and Nawaz Sharif had former President Asif Ali Zardari agreed to impose martial law in the country.

Speaking to journalists at Lahore, Fawad said that the preparations for the long march are underway, adding that 43 to 40 thousand people will reach Rawalpindi on Friday night. Imran Khan will announce the future course of action in Rawalpindi, he said.

The PTI leader went on to say that Nawaz Sharif, Asif Zardari agreed that martial law should be imposed in the country.

"If there is any obstacle in the way of martial law, it is PTI. Martial law will not be imposed in the country. There will be no delay, it will be imposed immediately," Fawad said.

Fawad said that the defence minister and the interior minister have different statements on the appointment of the army chief. He added that "We want



the matter to be resolved without controversy, and we have no favorites, they have made the matter very controversial because all the thieves have come together and consulted."

"Transparent elections only solution to country's issues. Earlier, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan has said that the only solution to the issues facing the country is free and transparent election and the government that comes with the majority should establish the rule of law."

Addressing a seminar in Karachi through video link on Tuesday, he said that the country's situation was not good when his party came into power

and the biggest his government faced was current account deficit.

He said no government in the past has focused on increasing exports and the situation would have worsened had the Saudi Arabia, China and United Arab Emirates did not help.

"Coronavirus was the biggest crisis during PTI government's tenure and I was facing a lot of pressure to impose lockdown," Imran Khan said adding that he was criticized for not imposing lockdown but the people would have died of hunger, if his government had imposed a lockdown.

He went on to say that no one knows where we would be standing in a month but

according to the Gallup survey, 88 percent of Pakistan's direction is not correct, adding that the country will not be stable unless elections are held.

On Monday, in an interview with a British newspaper The Telegraph, he said that PTI chairman Imran Khan said that he would try to establish strong ties with neighbouring India, Afghanistan, Iran, China and the US if he is again elected as the prime minister.

He said that good relations are impossible in India as long as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) remains in power, but I want better relations with News Delhi.

Khan said that the potential economic benefits that establishing trade between the two arch rivals would bring but said these would never be realised until Delhi changes its stance on the disputed region of Indian-administered Kashmir.

"The benefits would be enormous, but, we are stuck on this issue and we need a strong roadmap to resolve it. I think it's possible but the BJP government is so hardline, they have a nationalistic stance on issues," he said.

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Awami Muslim League President Sheikh Rashid has said there will be no stability in politics until the issue of the new army chief's appointment is resolved. On Twitter, the former interior minister said his successor Rana Sanaullah's statement that an army chief would be appointed even if a summary for it was not moved had rung "alarm bells".

"It is clear from the interior minister's statement that everything is not well," said Rashid while making an apparent reference to the leaked tax records of incumbent army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and his family into which Finance Minister Ishaq Dar as ordered an inquiry. "They themselves get the records of the assets leaked and that order an inquiry into it," Rashid said.

## Overseas Pakistanis are country's backbone: Turi

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi said that overseas Pakistanis are the backbone of Pakistan because they always played a great role in boosting Pakistan's economy. The Minister assured that welfare and empowerment of Pakistani diaspora working in various countries across the globe will be taken care of.

Addressing the Pakistanis living in Greece, Sajid Turi said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have always desired that the problems of Overseas Pakistanis should be solved on a priority basis with a standard education to their children. He said that in his

meeting with the Chairman Higher Education Commission, it was decided to sign an MoU soon under which talented children of overseas Pakistanis will be awarded scholarships in national and international universities.

Sajid Hussain Turi further said that he is well aware of the problems of overseas Pakistanis and is working day and night to sort out these issues.

Federal Minister for OP&HRD addressed a prestigious ceremony in Greece organized by Pakistan People's Party President Chaudhry Shahbaz Khan which was attended by representatives of political and social organizations, Pakistani community, organizers of welfare societies and a large number of Pakistanis living in Greece. APP