



Dar satisfied over sugar availability, production

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, here on Monday expressed satisfaction over the availability and production of sugar in the country. Chairing a meeting to review the demand and supply situation of sugar in the country, the minister stressed on maintaining the strategic reserves of the commodity and maintaining its price for providing maximum relief to masses.



Pakistan's 'default risk' reaches alarming levels, admits Miftah Ismail

Criticising his party-led federal government, Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former federal finance minister Miftah Ismail has claimed that Pakistan is on the verge of 'default' as risk has reached a dangerous level. Miftah Ismail in one of his articles rejected the claim of the incumbent Ishaq Dar regarding the economy and clearly said that the risk of bankruptcy has increased to a dangerous level. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Farewell meeting

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Army Staff, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, paid a farewell call on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Monday.



Photo: Online

PM lauds COAS Bajwa's services for defence, geo-economics

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday lauded the services of the Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa for the country, particularly in areas of defence, security and geo-economics. The prime minister expressed these views as the outgoing COAS, who is scheduled to retire on Tuesday, paid a farewell call on him here at the PM's House. Prime Minister Sharif acknowledged the role of army in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the soil of the country. "Under the leadership of General Qamar Javed Bajwa, the army demonstrated exemplary services in effectively dealing with various challenges including the country's exclusion from the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) Grey List, COVID-19 pandemic and the recent flash-floods," he said, according to the

PM's Office. Shehbaz Sharif said General Bajwa steered the country through difficult times pertaining to security situation. Appreciating the role of General Bajwa with regard to the country's geo-economics, the prime minister stressed that the political leadership needed to demonstrate collective wisdom and sign a charter of economy to ensure economic stability. "You have the honour of leading the best army of the world," the prime minister said in his conversation with the outgoing COAS, who will be handing over the baton of command to General Asim Munir tomorrow as the country's next army chief. General Qamar Javed Bajwa thanked PM Sharif on his government's cooperation in carrying out the national and official responsibilities.



PM Shehbaz Sharif hosted a luncheon in honour of General Qamar Javed Bajwa. APP

China, Pakistan welcome third party participation in CPEC construction: Zhao Lijian

BELJING: The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is an open and inclusive platform and both China and Pakistan would welcome all countries and international organizations to participate in construction of the flagship project of Belt and Road Initiative to achieve common development, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhao Lijian said on Monday. "The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is an open and inclusive platform. China and Pakistan welcome any efforts that support Belt and Road Initiative and the building of CPEC," he said during his regular briefing in response to a question asked by APP. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing



a joint press conference along with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul during his recent visit to Turkey invited Turkey to participate in the construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, and said he was willing to discuss the matter with Chinese

leadership if Turkey moved ahead with the idea of joining the flagship project. In his comments, Zhao Lijian termed the CPEC flagship project as an open and inclusive platform and a flagship project under the Belt and Road Initiative and both the Chinese and Pakistani sides would welcome countries and international organization which were ready to join it. "We hope countries and international organizations that are ready to conduct mutually beneficial cooperation and achieve common development," he added. He remarked that such countries and organizations could join CPEC in appropriate ways to share the dividends of Belt and Road cooperation. APP

MoS Hina Khar to lead delegation for political dialogue with Afghan interim govt

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will lead a delegation to Kabul for a one-day visit on November 29. In Kabul, the minister of state will hold political dialogue with the Afghan interim government. "Bilateral relations, including cooperation in the areas of education, trade and investment, regional connectivity, people-to-people contacts and matters related to regional security will be discussed," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a press release on Monday. Hina Rabbani Khar will also reaffirm Pakistan's continued commitment and support for all efforts aimed at strengthening peace and enhancing prosperity in Afghanistan.



Marking Int'l solidarity day with Palestinians, UN chief stresses 'occupation must end'

UNITED NATION: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has reaffirmed the world body's commitment to a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, noting that this year the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was being observed "at a time of diminished hope for peace" "I urge all parties to take immediate steps to reduce tensions and break this deadly cycle," the UN Chief said in a message for the day which will be observed on Tuesday. "The long-standing drivers of conflict — including the ongoing occupation, settlement

expansion, home demolitions and evictions — heighten anger, despair and hopelessness," Guterres said. Meanwhile, the secretary-general pointed out that Gaza continues to endure debilitating closures and humanitarian crises, reiterating his call on the parties to engage to end the closures of the Strip and improve the living conditions of all Palestinians. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), he said, remains a vital lifeline for Palestine refugees, and called for continued

funding for the agency, which cares for the Palestinian refugees. The secretary-general added, "The United Nations' position is clear: peace must advance — the occupation must end. We are steadfast in our commitment to realize the vision of two States — Israel and Palestine — living side by side in peace and security, with Jerusalem as the capital of both States. Together, let us reaffirm our support to the Palestinian people in their quest to achieve their inalienable rights and build a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for all." Agencies

Dealing with professional matters

Officers should think like economic managers: Ahsan Iqbal



ISLAMABAD: Addressing around 60 officers of 117th NMC who visited Ministry of Planning and Development on Monday, Minister of Planning and Development Professor Ahsan Iqbal noted that officers should think like economic managers while disposing of the official matters adding that tax collection, investment, promotion of exports and foreign remittances are remedies to our economic issues. He stated that officers in Pakistan civil servants were appointed through the most transparent and merit based process. Civil service of Pakistan is reckoned as the most professional and competent worldwide. However, the matter of concern is that why the individual merit of the officers could not bring any impact in the collective performance of the system, he added. The minister underscored that the world was going through a turmoil and uncertainty while technology, globalization, global conflicts, population and climate change were posing major challenges to the whole world.

PM chairs high-level meeting on law and order situation



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday presided over a high-level meeting regarding the law and order situation. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, Secretary Interior and heads of law enforcing institutions including the Islamabad Administration were in attendance. The Prime Minister thanked the law enforcing institutions for the best security arrangements during the long march. He was also appreciative of the traffic arrangements during the long march and the reduction of hardships for citizens due to these measures. The Prime Minister lauded the officers and sepoy of the law enforcing institutions for fulfilling their responsibilities amicably. APP

PTI leadership agrees upon dissolving KP, Punjab assemblies

LAHORE: Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry on Monday confirmed that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership has agreed upon dissolving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab assemblies, ARY News reported. Talking to journalists at Zaman Park in Lahore, Fawad Chaudhry noted that the PTI leadership held a party leaders' meeting to decide upon quitting all assemblies to push the incumbent government for fresh elections. He said, "The party leadership agreed upon dissolving Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab assemblies, while our members in Sindh and Balochistan assemblies will submit their resignations." "Later, National Assembly (NA) Speaker will be asked to accept the resignations of our members, after which 567 seats will become vacant across the country," he added. Fawad Chaudhry further said that the government would be forced to hold elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) within 90 days as per the Constitution. "The opposition, in the provinces, will also be invited to put forward their names for caretaker government," he added. However, the PTI leader, said his party would have no impact if the government delays election. "The country's economy was constantly deteriorating," he said, demanding immediate election for political and economic stability. He pointed out that party Chairman Imran Khan has summoned a meeting of parliamentary party on Friday. He once again called on the government to announce elections and dissolve National Assembly. In response to a question, the former federal minister asked Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to fulfill its constitutional responsibility and not become a 'spokesperson' of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N). A day earlier, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan announced that his party would quit all the assemblies. "We will not be part of this country's political system. We have decided to quit all assemblies," the former premier said while addressing the party workers and supporters at Rawalpindi Jalsa. Imran Khan said that his party had decided not to go to Islamabad to avert any destruction or chaos. "I would announce the date of resignations after consulting chief ministers and the parliamentary party," he announced.

Fight against polio

KARACHI: A health worker administers a polio vaccine to a child at a neighborhood in Provincial Capital. Authorities launched a new nationwide anti-polio drive on Monday amid a spike in new cases among children, health officials said.



Photo: Online

President underlines need for effective awareness campaign over PWDs' rights

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday stressed upon the need for a comprehensive and effective awareness campaign to highlight the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

He also emphasized upon the steps for bringing behavioural changes in society and removing of psychological and physical barriers in PWDs' mainstreaming, and their financial and economic empowerment as equal members of society.

The president expressed these views during a presentation on plans for an awareness campaign on Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) given by Press Secretary to President Qamar Bashir at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

First Lady, Begum Samina Arif Alvi and senior officials of



the President's Secretariat also attended the meeting, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Addressing the meeting, the president said that Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) or Differentlyabled Persons (DAPs) constituted an important segment of the population and it was the duty of the relevant stakeholders and the society in general to ensure their inclusiveness in all aspects of life, including political, economic, finance, business, trade and services.

He called for removing psychological and physical barriers to realize the full potential of PWDs and creating enabling conditions for PWDs to help them become productive members of society.

The president said that there was a need to relook at their attitudes towards DAPs and bring proactive reforms in the education system from the grassroots level to educate the students at all levels regarding the rights of DAPs and the obligations and responsibilities of society to stop stereotyping them, stop the name-calling, harassment or intimidation of

DAPs which were the biggest impediment towards the inclusiveness of the DAPs as fully empowered and productive member of the society.

During the meeting, the participants of the meeting were briefed about the overall situation of PWDs, societal perceptions towards PWDs, the role of media in creating awareness about the rights of PWDs, etiquettes and manners for interaction with PWDs, and using the right terminology to refer to PWDs or Differentlyabled People.

He said that the media, both conventional and social, had always been at the forefront to inform, educate and entertain the people and enjoyed vast reach to the urban, rural and unprivileged populations in underserved areas. Agencies

today there is a large and constant gap between the open market and interbank exchange rates.

The former finance minister has advised his government that now is the time to prioritize national interest over political interest.

If the current government is unable to do the right thing for the country, then it has no right to criticize PTI or anyone else, he maintained.

What did Ishaq Dar say?

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said that there is less than 10% probability of Pakistan's default as per Bloomberg's analysis.

Finance Minister Ishaq Dar ruled out the risks of Pakistan's default and said, "Bloomberg pitches Pakistan's one-year probability of default at a low of 10% as opposed to a highly dubious number of 93% circulated by an unscrupulous local political leader a few days ago."

"Pakistan will InshaAllah continue to honour its all financial commitments on time," he added. ARY

KARACHI: Criticising his party-led federal government, Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former federal finance minister Miftah Ismail has claimed that Pakistan is on the verge of 'default' as risk has reached a dangerous level.

Miftah Ismail in one of his articles claimed rejected the claim of the incumbent Finance Minister Ishaq Dar regarding the economy and clearly said that the risk of bankruptcy of Pakistan has increased to a dangerous level. "Now the government has no room for error."

Miftah Ismail further said that even after paying off the bonds in December, the risk of bankruptcy will not end. The PML-N stalwart went on to say that government has no right to criticize PTI or anyone else if it does not do the right thing.

The former minister in his article described the devaluation of the rupee as a major problem in the country's economy and wrote that

China-Pakistan S&T cooperation center inaugurated in Beijing

News Desk

BEIJING: China-Pakistan Science and Technology Cooperation Centre was inaugurated here on Monday to facilitate the Chinese technology companies to conduct businesses in special technology zones (STZs) in Pakistan; strengthening bilateral ties in cooperation in science and technology; assisting Chinese technology companies in terms of regulatory landscape of Pakistan; and acting as a bridge between the youth of the two countries.

Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque and President of Zhongguancun Belt and Road Industrial Promotion Association (ZBRA), Zhang Xiaodong inaugurated the center while Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) joined virtually from Pakistan.

The center, a joint project by ZBRA and STZA, will act as a platform between China and Pakistan for facilitating the Chinese technology companies to conduct businesses in special technology zones (STZs) in Pakistan; strengthening bilateral ties in cooperation in science and technology; assisting Chinese technology companies in terms of regulatory landscape of Pakistan; and acting as a bridge between the youth of the two countries.

Addressing the audience, Ambassador Moin ul Haque spoke at length about the increased importance of science and technology cooperation in

the bilateral economic and development agenda, including under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

He briefed about the government's vision to create a digital ecosystem with infrastructure and institutional frameworks by ensuring the availability of accessible, affordable, reliable and high-quality ICT services.

The overarching objective remains improving citizen's quality of life and their economic well-being. In this regard, he highlighted that the Pakistani youth, forming 60% of the total population, who are skilled, computer-literate and tech-savvy would play an important role

in strengthening the bilateral science and technology cooperation.

Other speakers included Liu Jianxing, Director of International Cooperation, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC); Zhang Xiaodong, President ZBRA; Hamza Saeed, Director Strategic Planning, STZA; and Yang Dongri, Director of China Center for Information Industry Development Institute, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.

During their remarks, the speakers highlighted various aspects of high-quality development cooperation between

Pakistan and China and the role of IT, and science and technology in further strengthening this developmental agenda. They put forth their suggestions to further enhance the effective working of the newly-inaugurated Centre.

Among the attendees were representatives from NDRC, the Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission, the Beijing Investment Promotion Center, the Beijing Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, etc., as well as enterprises and development zones across different provinces of China and Pakistan. More than 3,600 people viewed the event through various live streaming platforms.

SC adjourns hearing of presidential reference related to Rekodiq accord

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of the presidential reference on the Rekodiq agreement till Tuesday.

A five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, and Justice Jamaal Khan Mandokhail heard the presidential reference filed in the case. The president on the advice of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had filed the reference to seek the top court's opinion on the Rekodiq settlement agreement.

During the course of proceedings, lawyer Makhdoom Ali Khan presented arguments on the court query about the environmental friendliness of Rekodiq project and said that all environmental considerations had been taken into account in the Rekodiq project.

On a court query about the usage of

water for the Rekodiq project, Makhdoom Ali Khan said that the water to be used by the company was not usable by living organisms. The water from the pipeline would go into the sea after being cleaned at Gwadar port, he added.

The Chief Justice asked whether the seawater could be brought to the Rekodiq project for use.

The counsel replied that Gwadar was 680 km far from Rekodiq and it was impossible to fetch water daily.

Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail said that continuous use of water in the project could lead to drought in Balochistan.

The counsel said that according to the research, the storage of water in Rekodiq was more than the total life of the project.

The Chief Justice asked whether it was not possible for a foreign company to set up a water recycling plant in Balochistan province. He asked what were the protections and privileges of

the laborers working in Rekodiq mine adding that the benefits for the local workers should be better.

The counsel replied that local labor laws would apply to the employees of Rekodiq mine. The values of the United Nations and the International Labor Organization would adhere, he added.

Justice Yahya Afridi asked to compare the salaries of workers in Barrick Gold's ongoing projects in Pakistan and other countries.

Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan said that the rights of mining workers were violated all over the world. He asked the counsel to explain the framework of labor protection.

Advocate Jahanzeb Awan, the lawyer of the government-owned institutions that invested in the Rekodiq project said that the government of Pakistan was investing 50 percent in the Rekodiq deal. Pakistan's investment was not direct, he added.

He said that Pakistan was investing in the Rekodiq project through three government-owned entities, OGDCL, Pakistan Petroleum Company Limited and Government Holding Private Company were among the investor government financial institutions, he added.

He said that the three government financial institutions would invest three billion dollars in the project. Pakistan had to pay a fine of 900 million dollars along with an investment of 4.5 billion dollars, he added.

Advocate Jahanzeb said that the three government financial institutions had paid Pakistan's 562 million dollars fine. 64 percent of the benefit from Rekodiq project would go to the public sector, he added. He said that audit of all transactions in Rekodiq project would be available to all stakeholders.

Subsequently, the hearing of the case was adjourned till November 29. APP

PM conveys condolences to President Widodo over loss of lives in earthquake

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday offered condolence to Indonesian President Joko Widodo on the loss of precious lives and assets due to an earthquake that hit West Java region, last week.

In a telephone conversation held with the Indonesian president, the prime minister observed that the people of Pakistan could feel the anguish of their Indonesian brothers and sister, having recently suffered



immensely due to natural calamities. Thanking the president for the assistance provided by the Government of Indonesia for the victims of floods in Pakistan, the prime minister offered to extend Pakistan's support for relief efforts underway in Indonesia.

Prominent industrialist SM Munir passed away

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's famous industrialist and Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Patron-in-Chief SM Muneer passed away due to cardiac arrest.

Danish Khan, the former president of the KATI, confirmed that the famous industrialist SM Muneer has passed away. Mian Zahid Hussain said that SM Muneer suffered a heart attack which proved fatal.

SM Muneer was associated with the leather industry and was also a board member of various companies and banks. S Muneer was also the chairman of Trade Development Authority.

President condoles demise of industrialist, philanthropist SM Muneer. President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday expressed grief over the death of renowned businessman, industrialist, and philanthropist SM Muneer.



"My very dear friend, like an elder brother Mr SM Muneer passed away. He was a great philanthropist. Our fathers were friends too, indulging in persistent charity," the president wrote on Twitter.

The president prayed to Allah Almighty for peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this loss.

Muneer had served as the board member of several banks and private firms besides being a consummate industrialist with experience in sectors ranging from tanneries, textiles and banking.

Pakistan's 'default risk' reaches alarming levels, admits Miftah Ismail

KARACHI: Criticising his party-led federal government, Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former federal finance minister Miftah Ismail has claimed that Pakistan is on the verge of 'default' as risk has reached a dangerous level.

Miftah Ismail in one of his articles claimed rejected the claim of the incumbent Finance Minister Ishaq Dar regarding the economy and clearly said that the risk of bankruptcy of Pakistan has increased to a dangerous level. "Now the government has no room for error."

Miftah Ismail further said that even after paying off the bonds in December, the risk of bankruptcy will not end. The PML-N stalwart went on to say that government has no right to criticize PTI or anyone else if it does not do the right thing.

The former minister in his article described the devaluation of the rupee as a major problem in the country's economy and wrote that

IHC has orders to quash 13 cases registered against Ali Amin Gandapur

ISLAMABAD: The high court on Monday heard a petition filed by Gandapur seeking cancellation of more than 15 cases pertaining to arson incidents during PTI's May 25 long march and holding of protests after the verdict of Election Commission of Pakistan. During today's hearing, the court ordered to cancel 13 cases against Gandapur. However, the petitioner withdrew his petitions in two other cases.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jehangiri heard Gandapur's petitions. The SHO's and investigation officers of as many as 15 police stations appeared before the court. The judge expressed his exasperation when the police failed to present any proof against Gandapur in support of their accusations. Earlier, at the outset of the hearing, Justice Jehangiri inquired about the cases and allegations against Gandapur. He ordered the state prosecutor to present proofs.

On this, the state prosecutor told the court that there were different cases against the accused including May 25 long march case. He said that a challan was submitted against Gandapur to the court. Justice Jehangiri told the lawyer to read out cases one by one. He asked him to read out



the FIR registered in the Bhara Kahu police station. The judge said that it was written in the FIR that incidents of arson were committed at the behest of Gandapur. He asked the prosecutor to present proofs in support of these allegations.

But the police failed to provide any proofs. An official of the Aabpara police told the court that they had got a USB as a proof. On which, the judge got infuriated and gave a dressing down to him saying that the USB could not be regarded as a proof, rather it's just a transcript. The police official requested the court to give them more time to bring proofs. But the irate judge refused to give police more time warning them that he would order an action against them, if they failed to provide proofs today. The judge remarked that he had no sympathy with the petitioner, but the police should not register a false case against any person. INP

Resolution of Radio pensioners' problems, improving quality of program top priority: spokesperson

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Pakistan) has been facing financial problems in recent years because of multiple reasons. Its snowball impact reached such extent in October 2022 that the organization found it impossible to make essential payments including salaries, pensions, hiring, and medical expense.

Though the incumbent management cannot be held responsible for the financial plight, it managed things

in accordance with the available financial resources. It stopped house-hiring of its employees and all other expenditures to manage payment of pension. When it found that amount available for pension is not sufficient, half pension for the month was paid with renewed efforts to make payment of remaining half a priority.

It has been a fact that Finance Division has always been releasing funds as grant-in-aid to run the affairs of Radio Pakistan including payment of pension. At present an amount of Rs.274 million is required for payment

of pension every month. However, an amount at the average of Rs. 144 million a month has so far been released under this head.

The management does realize that payment of half pension piqued the pensioner, yet creating media hype over the issue, ignoring ground realities, is troublesome.

It is striving hard to get required funds from the government and the Finance Division is being approached again for a bailout package to resolve the issue of pensioners.

Besides, several options are under

consideration to generate revenue from own resources to reduce dependence on grant-in-aid. One of the options being considered to overcome this financial challenge is public-private partnership initiatives as a priority.

The management is also considering revitalization of the organization as a solution to serve its audience and get more commercials.

On its part, Finance Division argues that Rs.3 Billion liability of 4041 pensioners has to be paid from Radio's own resources, as it is a Corporation.

Anti-polio drive

HYDERABAD: A lady health worker administering polio drops to students in a school during the first day of anti-polio drive.



Photo: Online

EC announced full results of first phase of local body elections

Spokesman Report

MUZAFFARABAD: Chief Election Commissioner Justice Rtd Abdul Rashid Salharia has announced the full results of first phase of local body elections in Muzaffarabad Division held yesterday.

According to details published on AJK Election Commission website, in the Muzaffarabad District Council 21 seats, independent candidate 4 elected while Muslim League-N 3, Tehreek-e-Insaf 9, People's Party 4, Muslim Conference 1 seat. Similarly Independent candidate 26, PML-N 36, PTI 36, PP 39, Muslim Conference 4 and Tehreek Labek also won one seat in 142 seats of member union council.

For 36 seats of municipal corporation, independent candidate 7, PML-N 12, PTI 8, PP 7, PTI and Muslim



Conference succeeded in taking 2 seats.

In Muzaffarabad city For 2 seats of Member Municipal Committee, PML-N and PTI won 1 seat each.

While in Muzaffarabad for the 4 seats of the Member Town Committee, PML-N got 3 while the ruling party PTI got only 1 seat.

Urdu debate competitions announced

Bureau Report

FAISALABAD: Under the arrangements of District Administration, the schedule of Urdu debate competitions for being Muqarrar/Muqarrara Faisalabad has been announced.

The Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh while giving details said that the last date for registration at tehsil and district level is 3rd December and on 6th December the tehsil level competitions among students of 9th & 10th class of govt schools are scheduled while on 7th December and the district level final competition will be held on 12th December.

He further informed that the cash prize will also be given to those teachers whose students would get first three positions in district level and such event would be held on 18 December.

FCCI delegation attend the Investment Conference in AJK

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: The delegation of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, under the leadership of President Dr. Khurram Tariq, participated in the first investment conference in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. He was invited for this visit by Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas.

Later, Azad Jammu and Kashmir President Barrister Sultan Mehmood hosted a luncheon in honor of the chamber's delegation. Speaking on the occasion, he said that there are vast investment opportunities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, while Kashmiris and Pakistanis have the first right to benefit from the resources of this region.

He said that in 1998, when he was the Prime Minister, the first hydro power project of Kashmir was started. While now, during his presidency,

the work on Neelum Jhelum project is going on. He said that even at this time 3500 MW surplus electricity is available and we are ready to give this electricity to Pakistan.

He said that the state ministers and secretaries must have informed you about the vast investment opportunities in the region, so they will not talk much about them, but joint projects in various sectors including minerals and tourism should be started.

He informed that the Rawalakot route is being improved to further improve the communication links with Pakistan. He said that investors from Sialkot are interested in starting joint ventures here, while industrialists from Faisalabad should also take advantage of these opportunities.

He said that industrial plots are also available in the industrial estate of Mirpur, while the government will also provide exemptions in sales tax to those who set up industries



here, apart from continuous supply of electricity. He also appreciated the efforts of organizing the first AJK Investment Conference 2022 for the economic development of Kashmir.

Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Dr. Khurram Tariq appreciated the efforts of Barrister Sultan Mehmood in highlighting the Kashmir issue at the global level and said that he has known him since the time he donated

millions for Kashmir in the United States and the United Kingdom. March was organized. He said that Kashmir and Barrister Sultan Mehmood are inseparable and the person who knows Kashmir is also well aware of Barrister Sultan Mehmood.

He said that various ministers and secretaries of Azad Jammu and Kashmir briefed his delegation in detail about their respective ministries, due to which their visit was successful beyond their expect-

tations. He said that Barrister Sultan Mehmood's tenure as Prime Minister was a golden era. Even now, the efforts they are making for the development of Kashmir will yield positive results very soon and it will also open the way for the economic development of Kashmir where investors will benefit.

He said that we should take such steps which will benefit both the countries. He thanked them for the traditional hospitality of Kashmiris and said that after this visit, love for Kashmiris has increased in their hearts and the members of Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry will definitely invest here.

He said that during this visit 14 MoUs were also signed under which three industries will be set up in Mirpur. An app named "Humanity" was also launched on this occasion, which will pave the way for the eradication of poverty in Kashmir.

White Ribbon Workplace Gender Inclusion Awards for corporate sector launched

Bureau Report

LAHORE: For the first time in Pakistan, White Ribbon, which is part of global men's movement present in over 50 countries for ending violence against women and girls, has announced the launch of White Ribbon Workplace Gender Inclusion Awards for corporate sector in Pakistan.

Talking to the media Founder and President of White Ribbon Mr. Omer Aftab said that these awards will be presented annually to companies which use their position to advocate for gender equality and take steps to advance women's empowerment. These awards are being launched on November 25, the White Ribbon Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women.

Mr. Aftab further added that White Ribbon Awards will be presented annually to the companies which advocate for gender equality and take steps to advance women's empowerment at workplace. The awards will celebrate and acknowledge the best practices and policies of corporates that take part and highlight gender justice and gender inclusion for their workforce, customers, community and through their CSR and brand communication and advertisements.

All organisations that work on gender equality and have shown a positive impact regarding women empowerment at workplace are eligible to apply for these awards. There are three categories of White Ribbon Awards: Gender Inclusive Workplace, Gender Responsive Marketplace and Community Engagement and Partnerships. For all categories, survey forms will have to be submitted online. Finalists will be selected based on independent ranking system.

Haji Amin Hussain Babarki's congratulations to General Asim & General Sahir



Syed Tahir Shah

PESHAWAR: General Asim Munir is congratulated by the Army Chief and General Sahir Shamsad on being elected as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Jewelers and Jewelers Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Amin Hussain Babar in his statement, he said that General Asim Munir is an experienced and senior general, he is fully capable of taking over the command of Pakistan Army, and his appointment is meritorious.

The speech has been raised, it is hoped that they will fully face the challenges facing the country. General Sahir Shamsad will also continue to benefit the Pakistan Army with their experiences, it is hoped that both the generals will overcome the challenges facing the country. were also by the side of the Pakistan Army and will continue to be so in the future.

He will pay his respects while congratulating the newly elected Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and said that Mr Wasuf is an experienced politician as well as the main leader of the Chamber of Commerce and a business person and he is aware of the problems and difficulties of the traders, he will remove the deprivations of the traders, he expressed the hope that the Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Province They will use their skills to promote the industry sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and solve the problems faced by the businessmen on priority basis and under their patronage the industry sector will develop significantly.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Mehran Students Association Siraj Ahmed, General Secretary Zeeshan Ahmed and Mohammad Amin are protesting for the restoration of the student union.

HIV prevention and treatment progress for children

NEW YORK: Around 110,000 children and adolescents (0-19 years) died from AIDS-related causes during 2021, according to the latest UNICEF global snapshot on children and HIV and AIDS. Meanwhile, another 310,000 were newly infected, bringing the total number of young people living with HIV to 2.7 million.

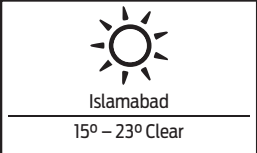
Ahead of World AIDS Day, UNICEF warns that progress in HIV prevention and treatment for children, adolescents, and pregnant women has nearly flatlined over the past three years, with many regions still not at pre-COVID-19 service coverage. This comes on top of an existing and growing gap in treatment between children and adults.

"Though children have long lagged behind adults in the AIDS response, the stagnation seen in the last three years is unprecedented, putting too many young lives at risk of sickness and death," said UNICEF Associate Chief of HIV/AIDS Anurita Bains. "Children are falling through the cracks because we are collectively failing to find and test them and get them on life-saving treatment. Every day that goes by without progress, over 300 children and adolescents lose their fight against AIDS."

Despite accounting for only 7 per cent of overall people living with HIV, children and adolescents comprised 17 per cent of all AIDS-related deaths, and 21 per cent of new HIV infections in 2021. Unless the drivers of inequities are addressed, UNICEF warns, ending AIDS in children and adolescents will continue to be a distant dream.

However, the snapshot points out that longer-term trends remain positive. New HIV infections among younger children (0-14 years) dropped by 52 per cent from 2010 to 2021, and new infections among adolescents (15-19 years) also dropped by 40 per cent. Similarly, coverage of lifelong antiretroviral treatment (ART) among pregnant women living with HIV increased from 46 per cent to 81 per cent in a single decade.

While the total number of children living with HIV is on the decline, the treatment gap between children and adults continues to grow. In UNICEF HIV-priority countries, ART coverage for children stood at 56 per cent in 2020 but fell to 54 per cent in 2021. This decline is due to several factors including the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises, which have increased marginalisation and poverty, but is also a reflection of waning political will and a flagging AIDS response in children. Globally, an even lower percentage of children living with HIV had access to treatment (52%), which has only marginally increased over the past few years.



SERVICES

Namaz Timings

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Fajr | 5:24 am |
| Zohr | 11:55 am |
| Asr | 3:22 pm |
| Maghrib | 5:00 pm |
| Isha | 6:28 pm |

EMERGENCY

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

Women Police Stations

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Islamabad | 9222596 |
| Rawalpindi | 9270601-20 |

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| CMH | 561111 |
| MH | 561116 |
| MH | 561116 |
| Cantt Hospital | 9270907-11 |
| DHQ | 5556311-4 |
| RGH | 9290301-7 |
| Holy Family | 9290322-7 |
| PIMS | 9261170-79 |

KS-Relief Center starts distribution of winter relief project in Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) has started a project to distribute 25,000 winter kits among recent flood-affected and deserving people living in Pakistan in collaboration with NDMA.

This year, life-threatening floods caused by unusual heavy monsoon rains have affected 33 million people. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center is engaged in providing emergency aid to the flood-affected areas of Pakistan to help people to cope with the disaster, said a press release issued by the Embassy of the Saudi Arabia.

KS-Relief Center starts distribution of winter relief project in Pakistan

The winter relief package will be distributed in 14 districts of Pakistan (Ganache, Skardu, Nagar, Astor, Ghazar, Chitral, Swat, Upper Dir, Mansehra, Dera Ismail Khan, Dadu, Jamshoro & Qamber Shahdakt).

The package includes 50,000 Polyester



Quilts and 25,000 winter kits, including warm shawls for men and women and warm clothes for children and adults. King Salman's relief package will be distributed transparently with the help of NDMA and provincial government, which will benefit more than 175,000 people in these districts.

PM appreciates England skipper Ben Stokes for donating match fees for flood victims



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday appreciated England Test Captain Ben Stokes for donating his fees of entire Test series for the flood victims of Pakistan.

"We appreciate the kind gesture of England Captain Ben Stokes donating his fees of entire Test series for flood victims of Pakistan," the prime minister wrote on Twitter.

The English team is currently in Pakistan to play a three-match Test series against the Green Shirts, which is scheduled to take place on December 1.

The first Test match will be played at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The second Test will be hosted in Multan and the last Test in Karachi.

"Empathy for suffering humanity is the greatest of all virtues. His gesture epitomises the great British tradition of philanthropy," the prime minister remarked. APP

PSAI-IAA hold workshop on learning from mountain sports

Quratul Ain

ISLAMABAD : Private School Association Islamabad (PSAI) and Islamabad Alpine Association (IAA) jointly organized online workshop on Learning from mountain sports in connection with the International Mountain Day. The sports teachers, academicians, students, athletes and other stakeholders at Islamabad. The purpose is to create awareness among the key stakeholders about mountains.

Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq, President, Alpine Club of Pakistan highlighted the importance of mountains in our life. He explained about mountain ranges, peaks, glaciers, passes and other sports tourism potential of the country.

Learning life skills and leadership skills are some of the outcomes which are usually ignored in out society, he explained. While highlighting a variety of activities undertaken by Alpine Club of Pakistan he drew an interface with a number of outcomes which are generally not perceived by the society. He stressed the need to engage youth in healthy mountain sports activities so that they could be kept away from gadgets, drugs, intolerance, extremism, and other negative elements adversely affecting fiber of our society. The challenges and opportunities for mountain sports were also taken into account.

Dr. Prof. Waheed Mughal, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Sarhad University stressed

the need to expand the vision and scope of activities for masses. He guided that recreational sporting activities and mountain adventure provide plenty of opportunities for our youth to explore beauty of Pakistan. He assured that Sarhad University would love to join hands with Alpine Club of Pakistan to support such initiatives.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sallahuddin, head of Sports Department of MY University also shared his views. He held that mountain sports and recreational activities can have an everlasting impact on youth, if they are engaged in such activities regularly. He offered his services and support from his University to promote outdoor pursuits in

mountain regions of Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Noor Muhammad Marwat, Department of Sports Sciences and Physical Education, Gomal University, D.I.Khan while stressing the importance of mountain sports tourism for the students of Sports Sciences and Physical Education appreciated the activities undertaken by Alpine Club of Pakistan and emphasized to organize it at larger scale. The participants raised many questions which were answered by the panelists.

The participants thanks the PSAI Chairman Mr. Almass Ayub Sabir, for holding this Workshop. Mr. Nauman introduced functions of Sports Wing of PSAI and appreciated active participation.

SEZs could lead international investment in Pakistan: S.M Naveed

Bureau Report

LAHORE: With the acceleration of the construction of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), there is a strong wave of international investment led by Chinese enterprises in Pakistan because our textile, leather, pharmaceutical, and surgical instrument industries are among the best globally, and the products are exported all over the globe, stated by Mr. S.M Naveed, Chairman Special Economic Zones (SEZs) today during executive body meeting at Pakistan China Joint Chamber (PCJCCI) Secretariat. The meeting was attended by Moazzam Ghurki, President PCJCCI, Fang Yulong, Senior Vice

President PCJCCI, Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI, Salahuddin Hanif, Secretary General PCJCCI and other executive members.

S.M Naveed, Chairman Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) Govt. of Punjab said that the large-scale transfer of China's modern industries to Pakistan will drive the development of Pakistan's industrial modernization and help boost Pakistan's export of advanced industrial products, bringing a large amount of foreign exchange income to Pakistan and enhancing the country's financial strength. According to CPEC Authority of the Pakistani government, the main sectors in which Chinese companies can establish their industries in Pakistani

SEZs include textile, footwear, pharmaceutical and information technology (IT) sectors.

He added that millions of jobs could be created for the locals through Chinese textile industry because it employs as many as 2,000 local Pakistanis in one shift. From here we see that once a large number of Chinese enterprises are landed in Pakistan's SEZs, millions of jobs will be created for the locals. He also said that at the same time, local workers working in Chinese enterprises will receive extensive technical training, upgrading human resources development in Pakistan.

Moazzam Ghurki, President PCJCCI added that the best part is that the Chinese side will continue to provide intellectual

and technical support to accelerate Pakistan's priority sectors especially through the 9 SEZs of Pakistan under CPEC wherein 03 SEZs have been prioritized and are now at an advanced stage of development.

Hamza Khalid, Vice President PCJCCI said that I am confident that through this cooperation, many Chinese companies will reap benefits of Pakistan's competitive advantages. It will definitely help in transforming trade potential into investment potential. Mr. Salahuddin Hanif, secretary General PCJCCI added that the young entrepreneurs of Pakistan should unite to boost the economy of Pakistan through learning contemporary techniques from Chinese enterprises.

Media's role vital for empowering women, promote gender equality: Neil Hawkins

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Neil Hawkins, on Monday, said that Australia was committed to being at forefront of efforts to empower women and promote gender equality around the world, including in Pakistan.

Speaking to the participants of the media training workshop jointly organized by the Australian High Commission and the Centre for Excellence in Journalism, Neil Hawkins highlighted the importance of gender equality and how societies that value women and men as equal were safer and healthier.

"The role of media is critical



in making this happen. Hawkins said that the media has the power to create awareness on the rights, needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls, as well as challenge traditional social and cultural norms and attitudes that condone violence against women," Hawkins added.

"Gender-based violence is a shared challenge and remains

the most pervasive human rights violation worldwide. Unfortunately, prevalence is increasing due to intersecting climate change crises, global conflict, and economic instability. Crises like the floods that inundated much of the country in August increase the vulnerability of women and girls to many forms of violence," the High Commissioner said.

Moreover, High Commissioner Hawkins reflected on his visit to Quetta last week, where he met with a number of gender-based violence survivors receiving assistance through the support of Australia. He added, "We must shift social norms that accept violence and tackle gender stereotypes head-on.

Prevention is the only way to stop violence before it even occurs. This requires greater investment in women's organizations and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination women face daily."

Renowned Australian journalist and advocate for gender equity, Virginia Haussegger, said, "As a journalist, it is our job to shine a light on systemic failures to keep women safe. It is also critical that we deepen our understanding of the role of perpetrators and support women victim-survivors to raise their voice in the media."

Journalists reporting on women's rights, including news editors from Pakistan's mainstream media, attended the workshop.



People visited in a stall at Lok Virsa

Diverse handicrafts of Punjab attracts foreigners

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI : President Pakistan Green Task Force Dr. Jamal Nasir along with Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed visited the Punjab Pavilion at the Lok Mela. On the occasion of the visit, Assistant Director Muhammad Suleman briefed the Chief Guest about the artisans from across Punjab. Each country has its own handicrafts, which include carvings, embroidery, clothing and jewelry. He added that each color, style and design, with a unique symbol, represents the culture of a particular region based on the local skills of the people. By providing artisans with modern technology and training, Pakistan can earn valuable foreign exchange from handicrafts exports. Pakistani handicrafts are famous all over the world, recently at the International Dubai Expo, Pakistani artisans surprised the world with their art, he added. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said that Pakistani history and culture are excellent handicrafts. However, we are unable to access most of the international craft markets. We need to adopt our strategies to promote our handicrafts worldwide by creating awareness, such as organizing handicraft exhibitions, using e-marketing channels and organizing fairs at the international level. At the end of the visit, Dr. Jamal Nasir also appreciated Shaukat Dhohi, Aslam Lohar, Sain Riaz performance. Sammi Lok dance of Punjab also entertaining fans as well.

Nov-30 last date for LG nomination papers' withdrawal

ISLAMABAD: The candidates, who filed their nomination papers to contest the Local Government (LG) polls scheduled to be held in the Federal Capital on December 31 and changed their mind, could withdraw their candidatures by November 30.

Over 984,000 voters, including 518,193 male and 466,284 female voters would cast their votes in the upcoming elections, to elect their local representatives for the next five years.

According to the schedule, the electoral watchdog will allot symbols to the contestants on December 1. The final list of candidates will be displayed on the same date. Canvassing will be kick off after Dec 1. Polling will be held on December 31.

The nomination papers of a total of 1,773 nomination papers from out of some 4,403 aspirants were accepted by the relevant Returning Officers (ROs) for local government elections on 101 union councils (UCs) of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had appointed four additional sessions judges, Islamabad as appellate authorities for 101 union councils for impending Local Government (LG) elections in Islamabad capital territory (ICT).

In 2015, elections were held in 50 union councils (UCs). Now, the government increased the number of UCs from 50 to 101.

In the last elections, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates gave a tough time to each other while PPP could not win a single seat.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-N (PMLN), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), and Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) have started respective poll campaigns across the federal capital. APP



ISLAMABAD: President Green Task Force Dr. Jamal Nasir, Director Arts Council Waqar Hamd and Muhammad Sulaiman visiting craft stalls at Punjab Pavilion.

FGEHA planning to launch eight new housing projects

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) is planning to launch new residential projects in eight major cities of the country, including the twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

"The new housing projects will be started for federal government employees and the general public on the basis of the joint venture," sources in the Ministry of Housing and Works told APP.

They said the new residential projects would be launched in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Multan, Faisalabad and Karachi which would be included plots, houses and apartments.

"The Expressions of Interest (EoI) have been sought from land owners, companies, and firms in this regard," the sources added.

They said the applications were invited from land owners/developers/ firms and eligible individuals for the supply of land for housing schemes (plots, houses and apartments) projects in major cities of the country.

Digital marketing training program for SMEs to be held

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Small and medium enterprise development authority (SMEDA), an attached department of ministry of Industries and Production, has offered one day training programme on digital marketing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

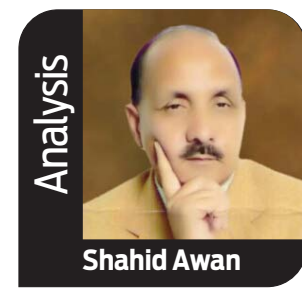
The SMEDA is conducting this one-day programme on Monday in Karachi under its project "national business development Programme".

The training programme aims to equip participants with emerging concepts, proven skills, business enhancement and digital marketing to establish and strengthen the organisation system of SMEs for future profitable growth.

This sector is considered as the backbone of any economy. As per estimates of SMEDA, there are more than 5 million SMEs in Pakistan, which contribute 40% in GDP and 25% in overall exports.

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New Army Chief General Asim Munir



Analysis

Shahid Awan

Corps and its commander has been General Asim Munir. He is a sophisticated man and a brave commander; he will prove to be an excellent chief for Pakistan. Many retired officers from Pakistan Army have also expressed similar opinion.

In fact, in the present era, the intervention of military strategy has a great meaning. The Russian saying is "High defense has 100 hands". In the new era, war technology has advanced so much that now weapons have replaced human beings, now the numerical superiority of the army is no longer an advantage. China has reduced the army by less than 50%, instead of 2.5 million soldiers now there are only one million soldier. Instead China has decided to develop its air force and navy. Until a few decades ago, China's military numbered around 10 million, but as it advanced in weapons and advanced technology it has reduced its strength. Israel is far ahead in this field from the beginning, its air force is only 176,000, but it is heavy on many Arab countries with many armies. The new technology is so amazing that it was unimaginable until recently. New missiles are being developed every day, planes that fly so high that they are not visible in the air and carry out carpet bombing, then rockets that automatically find the target and fall on it, now even more drones have changed the battlefield today.

The era of "star war" has begun in space, the countries have superior technology and aerial weapons, they are the great power. For example, the United States is the largest power in the world with 2.3 million troops, and Russia is at the second position with 1 million more troops, i.e. 3.3 million, China is at the third position and India is at the fourth position. France is the fifth worst military power in the world with 375,000 troops and Britain is the sixth worst military power in the world with 225,000 troops. Japan is ranked seventh and Turkey is ninth, Turkish army is 750,000, while Japan is only 300,000. Among the Muslim countries, if Turkey is the first power, then Egypt is the second power with 1.35 million army, followed by Pakistan whose army number is more than 900,000, then there is Indonesia. At the global level, the ranking of Egypt, Pakistan and Indonesia is 9, 13 and 14 respectively, Iran is 21st, Saudi Arabia is 24th. Among the 25 major powers, the army of North Korea and South Korea is more than 5.8 million. Such a large army of a country with a population of only 50 million is surprising, its number is twelfth. While its opponent North Korea's army is more than that, i.e. 5.5 million, but it ranks 23rd in ranking, while the population is only 24.4 million. Among the world's five most powerful special air services, the US Navy

SEAL, Pakistan's Special Services Group, has been ranked fourth, based on the model of the British SAS and the US Navy's SEAL, which were established in 1956. It is a fact that Japan and Germany emerged from the ashes of the Second World War II and the atomic bomb as the world's great economies because the victorious Allies prohibited these countries from having armies under treaties, but the defense budget of a country is directly related to its economy, the nature of relations with neighboring countries, its geographical location, its role in the context of regional and global conditions. It cannot be seen in isolation. The defense budget is a broad canvas covering military and civilian personnel salaries, operations, maintenance, procurement, military research and development, and military aid. Among the countries of the world that spend the most on its defense, the United States spends 34% of GDP, China 1.9%, India 2.4%, Russia 3.9%, Saudi Arabia 8%, Israel 5.3%.

The purpose of presenting the aforementioned above statistics was a comparative review of the world and Pakistan in such a situation when Pakistan is facing the worst economic crisis due to the Corona epidemic and the worst economic problems due to the experiences of the previous government, where a storm of inflation has come in the country. The impact was not only on the common people, it also had

an impact on the performance of the army. The new appointed Army Chief General Asim Munir is a highly capable general who has served as an excellent administrator in every department of the Pakistan Army and also has the experience of leading the world. The nation has huge expectations from him, we hope that he will not only play his role in strengthening the army based on his superior abilities but also help the people to get rid of inflation and unemployment. His predecessor Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa in his last speech has expressed the views about the political role of the army in the past, it is hoped that the new army chief will also use his professional skills while keeping the army away from politics which will help restore trust between the army and the nation and the country will be on the path of development.

It has happened for the first time in the military history of the country that the generals elected to three important positions belong to the Potohar region i.e. Rawalpindi Division. Army Chief General Asim Munir belongs to Rawalpindi, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamsad Mirza belongs to Malhal Mughlan (Chakwal) while DG ISI belongs to Gujarkhan, while the father of two generals has been associated with the education department.

Pak-Africa Trade Development Conference

The third Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference and Single Country Exhibition, organized by Ministry of Commerce, will begin in Johannesburg, South Africa on November 29 today.

The conference, scheduled to on November 29 would be followed by Single Country Exhibition from November 30 to December 1st, said a press statement issued by the commerce ministry.

Officials and business persons from sixteen (16) member states of South African Development Community (SADC) well as representatives of The Southern African Customs Union (SACU) SACU and SADC secretariat have been invited to attend the conference & Exhibition.

Around 130 Pakistani companies will be exhibiting their products from different sectors, the statement added.

The objectives of organizing the event include showcasing Pakistan's export sectors to SADC member states, to provide opportunity for business to business (B2B), government to government (G2G) and government to business (G2B) meetings.

It would help start meaningful engagement with South Africa, SACU and SADC, to create awareness among Pakistan Businessmen about opportunities available in SADC member states.

The initiative would help developing linkages with regulatory authorities besides establishing banking channels and find out opportunities of Joint Ventures and to enhance trade in goods and services.

A delegation comprising of around 225 exhibitors and business persons from Pakistan representing twenty major sectors are visiting Johannesburg to participate in the moot. The delegations represent different sectors including rice, textile & apparel, seafood & meat, fruits & vegetables, spices, processed food, salt, cement, pharmaceuticals, surgical instruments, sports goods, paints & chemicals, articles of plastic, articles of leather, footwear, articles of iron & steel and cables, cutlery & kitchenware, home appliances, electro-mechanical machineries (pumps, generators, transformers, motors etc.), tractors, two & three wheelers and auto parts.

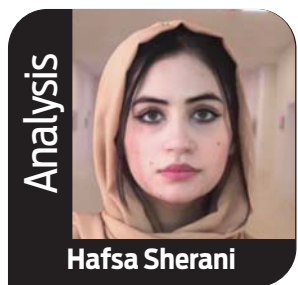
It is pertinent to mention here that the Commerce Ministry had launched Look Africa Policy in 2017-18 to enhance economic focus on African countries and strengthen trade ties.

Under the policy, first Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya on January 30th-31st 2020. The event was inaugurated by the President of Kenya and it was attended by Trade Minister of Kenya, other Kenyan and East African Community officials and delegates from 26 African countries, including South Africa.

Second Pakistan Africa Trade Development Conference was held in Lagos, Nigeria on 23rd Nov, 2021. On the 24th -25th November, Single Country Exhibition was organized which was widely attended by Nigerian and ECOWAS Businessmen. 101 companies from Pakistan exhibited their products. The event was inaugurated by the Governor of Lagos State and the Trade Minister of Nigeria.



Blue Economy: A Potential for Socio-Economic Development



Analysis

Hafsa Sherani

The term blue economy refers to the economics of using, protecting, and redeveloping the marine environment. The phrase sustainable development strategy for coastal resources is frequently used in relation to international development. This may cover a variety of economic fields, from more traditional ones like fisheries, aquaculture, coastal, marine, maritime transportation, and maritime tourism or other traditional uses to more contemporary ones like bioprospecting, coastal renewable energy, seabed mining, and ecosystem services offered by the ocean. The main aim of this article is to analyze the potential of blue economy for the socio-economic development in the country.

Aquaculture and fisheries contributed 17% of all animal-source protein for human

consumption, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2020. However, a large portion of it continues to be unsustainable in terms of pollution and effects on species variety, making this a vital Blue Economy opportunity to implement more sustainable techniques, including integrated multi-trophic aquaculture. On the flip side of the blue economy, there may be potential for improved or brand-new sustainable economic activity drawn from the water. Blue economy includes tidal and offshore wind energy development, as well as future prospects for ocean-related energy, additionally, there are opportunities to monetize the value of extremely efficient coastal carbon sources like mangroves and seagrasses into carbon financing markets, or blue carbon.

The major part of Pakistan's current blue economy is marine transport. The Port Qasim Authority and the Karachi Port Trust, both run by the government, currently bring in more than Rupees 20 billion per year for Pakistan. This can be substantially increased if we can link our ports with the landlocked Central Asian States. Gwadar also has the potential to function as a hub for transship-

ment, ship maintenance, and ship building due to its proximity to the Straits of Malacca and the Suez Canal, two very busy marine channels. In addition, it is located right next to one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The construction of a breakwater is also necessary for the development of the eastern berths of the Gwadar Port in order to ensure calm berthing conditions.

Balochistan is blessed with a deep-pocketed coastline. Despite this, Pakistan has a 240,000 square kilometer Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which was increased by UNCLOS by a further 50,000 square kilometers in 2015. This area offers enormous potential for fishing and aquaculture. Despite this, blue carbon has the potential to help Pakistan adapt to climate change and global warming. Due to its significant strategic importance, Balochistan can serve as a gateway for marine cargo. The foundation of the blue economy is fisheries and aquaculture, which not only sustain the lives of those who live along the shore, but also foster economic growth. Pakistan is home to a large number of fish species; 529 species have been identified, of which 230 are freshwater fish and the remaining 296 are marine fish.

Unfortunately, no government that has held office has made any serious efforts, depriving this nation of the enormous potential that the blue economy provides. It is now up to the current administration to ensure optimal use of this project and the growth of our blue economy, under the CPEC, expansion of the Gwadar port would assure strengthening of the maritime industry.

Eliminating poverty and providing for a person's fundamental needs are strongly tied to energy use, which is now quite low worldwide and much lower in developing nations due to higher pricing and low availability conditional with price of Dollar and geopolitical issues globally. Pakistan has enormous marine potential that has not yet been fully realized. The country should transition from a traditional old economy to a new blue economy in order to accommodate both our population expansion and global trends. The CPEC offers a fantastic chance to develop our maritime industry and fully utilize the blue economy.

Writer is working as an Assistant Research fellow at Balochistan Think Tank Network Quetta.

Modern approach in design and in responsibility!

Maryam Nawaz Kayani

Constructing buildings with a responsibly futuristic approach is the need of the time; it is to develop trendy and edgy designs with solid foundations for the future to be solid and productive, not for just a few but for all. The need is to become socially and environmentally responsible organizations, contributing to the growth of the economy and sustainability of the earth we all call home.

Construction for the contemporary world involves not just the basics of shelter and safety but many modern facets with design, quality assurance, comfort and luxury. Lifestyle is ingrained in building construction projects. Construction can achieve marvels in the evolution of infrastructure

and homes creating a lifestyle for everyone where they become a part of a world with solid foundations and majestic zenith. AAA Associates with its supreme component AAA Builders delivers a myriad of chic, stylish, luxurious and extravagant projects with futuristic design, functionality and comfort. Great planning, amazing strategies, guidelines, roadmaps and on-point directions lead the builders to produce amazing results and yield greater returns.

The efficiency with a pragmatic and proficient team and quality assurance with effective measurement approaches to understanding the needs of consumers and society are at the core of modern building pursuits.

In our building endeavours, we need to be mindful of our practices ensuring environmentally friendly methods, imaginative and inventive ways to be socially responsible and rise on the ladder of success by taking others along with us. AAA Associates is a socially conscious, environmentally responsible organization heading on the pathway to success with responsible approaches toward all segments of society.

Individual progress must involve contribution to a productive workforce, a progressive society, a thriving economy and our country on a course of development and advancement.

Islamabad.



Indonesian envoy urges enhanced OIC cooperation for developing Traditional Herbal Medicines

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador of Indonesia Mr. Adam M. Tugio emphasized the need to accelerate collaborative efforts among the OIC countries for the development of Traditional Herbal Medicine (THM) in the wake of growing popularity of natural remedy methods and global awareness to protect environment for ensuring 'Greener Future'.

Addressing an "International Seminar on Herbal and Traditional Medicine: A Sustainable Alternate for the Greener Future" organized by the Embassy of Indonesia Islamabad and COMSTECH Islamabad, the Ambassador said that THM offer tremendous economic opportunities and innovation for the OIC countries since more than 80% people in developing countries and around 10 to 50% people living in the developed countries have trust in the effectiveness of traditional herbal medicines.

Highlighting the economic prospects of trending global THM market, the Indonesian envoy apprised the audience that the herbal medicinal products market revenue reached US\$ 171.62 bn in



2021 and estimated to be worth \$190.4 Billion by 2027 while the East Asia market alone is set to grow at 9.5% owing to high herbal yield. He said that in OIC geography, the rising popularity of THM is in tandem with growth of Halal products market and its estimated market size was measured at USD 3.7 trillion in 2020 and projected to reach USD 4.7 trillion in 2024. In view of the high herbal products demand, the leading pharmaceutical companies are also investing in this sector as one out of four prescriptions in the US contained at least one active ingredient derived from plants,

the envoy said.

Referring to the old Islamic history, Ambassador Adam said the practice of using traditional Greco-Arab and Islamic medicine was quiet common among the Muslim countries during the Golden Age of Arab-Islamic civilization from the seventh to fifteenth century. He said that Indonesian traditional herbal medicine known as Jamu and Pakistani Unani traditional medicines are considered reliable source of healing on both sides. "Presently, we all are witnessing changing lifestyle patterns globally and a significant shift among

the consumer behaviors of millennials with the trending popular concepts of 'Back to Nature', 'Go Organic', and 'Go Green', Grow your own", he remarked.

Pointing out the challenges for the protection of herbal medicines in the context of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), Ambassador Adam urged to adopt a forward-looking approach by the OIC countries for the protection of this ancient knowledge with improved quality standards. He also proposed to establish national database of traditional knowledge and folklore and to include the living tradition of THM into school curriculum in the wake of prevailing challenges.

Earlier, the Coordinator General COMSTECH Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Chaudhry in his welcoming remarks said that Pakistan and Indonesia are rich sources of herbal medicines and has potential to meet the global demand. Considering the increasing Interest in Herbal medicine and traditional knowledge, he said that there is urgent need for research based scientific development, and standards based quality control of herbal drugs as well as relevant regulatory enforcement. He also



appreciated and welcomed the participation of 12-member delegation from University of Sumatera (USU) Indonesia. In the Conference and hoped that such bilateral activities would continue to flourish further.

The Technical Session of the Conference was joined online by eight speakers from differ-

ent countries including Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhry Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. Miranda Risang Ayu Palar, Prof. Dr. Nurul Bariza, Prof. Dr. Apt Elfahmi from Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Farzad Kobarfard Shahid from Iran, Prof. Dr. May Azzawi from Manchester Metropolitan University and Prof. Dr.

Atia-tul-Wahab and Prof. Dr. Yan Wang from Pakistan.

The seminar was attended by students, researchers, and experts from the pharmaceutical industry from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Egypt, Azerbaijan, Gabon, Sudan, Nigeria, Morocco, Iran, Uganda, Pakistan, and Malaysia who joined online.

Peaceful conduct of LG polls in Muzaffarabad division as victory of democracy. PM

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, while appreciating the peaceful conduct of LG polls in Muzaffarabad Division has termed it as the victory of democracy. Talking to media here on Monday the PM said, "I appreciate office bearers and workers of all the political parties who have played an important role in advancing politics and democracy in the state".

Lauding political leadership for demonstrating maturity, the PM said that despite less security the poll process remained peaceful. "On the one hand it shows the high level of political consciousness amongst the people and political leadership while on the other it highlights the quality administration, capacity and capability of the security apparatus of the state of Azad Kashmir", he said.

While congratulating the PTI candidates who won the elections, the PM said, "I congratulate the lion-hearted workers of Tehreek-e-Insaaf ran a successful campaign during the local



body elections and raised the awareness of the party". Referring to the PTI's victory in the polls, he said, "It has been proved now that the PTI has become stronger due to its performance in Muzaffarabad". He expressed the hope that the PTI would also show its performance in the second and third phase of elections being held in Poonch and Mirpur divisions as well.

He said that PML-N President Shah Ghulam Qadir, former Prime Minister Raja Mohammad Farooq Haider, Opposition Leader Chaudhry Latif Akbar, People's Party Member Legislative Assembly Mian Abdul Waheed,

Syed Bazal Ali Naqvi and Sardar Javed Ayub faced defeat in their respective constituencies. Key opposition leader's defeat in the elections, he said, was a sign of the PTI's growing popularity and people's trust in the party's leadership. The PM said that he would live up to the expectations of the people of Azad Kashmir. He said that for 31 years, the people of Azad Kashmir were deprived of their basic rights by previous rulers.

They also tried to blackmail me on the municipal elections, but I did not compromise on the rights of the people", he said. The PM said that he was proud that Azad Kashmir's civil administration and police have performed well, came up to our expectations and proved that they were second to none. "I am proud of my police and other institutions that played key role in conducting peaceful, transparent and impartial elections", he said.

"Tehreek-e-Insaaf has won a clear victory in the first phase of local elections", he said adding that in Muzaffarabad division, PML-N and PPP had won more than six seats in the assembly, but

Tehreek-e-Insaaf was still victorious. He said that victory and defeat in local body elections have no meaning. "The PTI's biggest victory is that despite facing many challenges it fulfilled the promise it had made to the people during the pre-election campaign", the PM said adding that this promise now stands fulfilled according to the vision of Imran Khan.

"PTI has ended political monopolies by empowering youth and bringing them to mainstream", the PM said adding youth were the biggest asset of the nation. He also appreciated the efforts of the Information Department for making people aware of the importance of voting and exercising their right to vote peacefully through a wonderful campaign. Congratulating winning candidates the PM expressed the hope that they will support the government in solving the problems of their region. The Prime Minister also appreciated the efforts of the Election Commission and praised their efforts. The Prime Minister also appreciated the role of the Pakistan Army in the local elections.

Chairman JKSM denounced Indian govt act of Sealing Jamaat e Islami properties

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Salvation Movement (JKSM) Altaf Ahmed Bhat in a statement today has denounced the Indian government's nefarious activities of sealing and banning Jamaat e Islami-run welfare trusts and properties in IIOJ&K.

"Jamaat e Islami IIOJK is a well-known religious political party providing quality education and relief to helpless people, uplifting masses with an ethical environment and awareness, and putting positive efforts to empower the community. The banning of such Educational and welfare institution show the frustration of the Modi-led Govt of India as they failed to suppress the brave Kashmiris despite their punitive measure". Chairman Bhat added.

While we are receiving reports that New Delhi is planning to seal around 100 more educational institutions and properties belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami and other welfare organizations in IIOJ&K.

Indian Home Ministry and its State Investigation Agency (SIA) headed by RSS-BJP stalwart RR Swain continued raids on pro-freedom parties including Jamaat-e-Islami, Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairman JKSM Altaf Ahmed Bhat further added that, While the Indian Govt has already sealed JI bank accounts, JI assets worth over a hundred crore in Islamabad, Shopian, Pulwama and several other South Kashmir districts. Now the SIA has started the seizure of its properties including lands, schools, houses and offices. While as per reports 100 more properties belonging to the Jamaat e Islami across J&K have been included in the list of the Indian Home Ministry for seizure.



Javed Akhtar: a prominent social community figure of Rochdale, UK

Aarif Chaudhary

ROCHDALE, UK: On receiving the FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH, Javed Akhtar spoke exclusively to Senior Journalist Arif Chaudhury and said that first of all I would like to thank Rochdale Borough Council for bestowing me with this special award.

He said, "I am truly happy, proud, and grateful, I also want to thank my local community for the love and respect they have given me over the years. I am truly proud of you all."

Javed said I would like to "dedicate" this award to my beloved parents who were my true "role models", it is because of their love and nurturing that I am today!

He said I was 15 when I came to

the UK, and have lived in Rochdale ever since and am a very proud Rochdalean.

He said I have always been passionate about helping people in the community and this is something I have always enjoyed.

Javed said In the beginning I used to "interpret" for people who couldn't speak English. I often helped them communicate with social security, doctors, lawyers, etc., he added

He said I am a founding member of Jamia Bilal Masjid in Rochdale and I am active in charities like British Heart Foundation, PETERS, and Kashmir Orphan Trust.

He said I am also involved in many other charity programs, social works and volunteer projects. The ones I'm

most proud of were in 2001.

He said I organized "Changpur Water Supply Management Committee". This included the construction of a water supply line to supply clean water to more than 400 homes in a village in Kashmir. Where earlier women had to travel miles to get clean water.

He said It was a very successful project from which people are still benefiting.

He said In 2008 I organized the Changpur Welfare Association to organize an ambulance for the village as there was no transport facility to take patients to the hospital 25 km away in the city, these ambulances are still running successfully.

He said I have also chaired for over 8 years and am still a key member of

the Kashmir Development Foundation (KDF), a civil society organization working for community development and "empowering" the voice of the "unrepresented". There is an organization. Assistance and "rehabilitation" of those who are "deserving" or victims of cross-border firing on both sides of Kashmir and those who have lost their homes or victims of floods or other calamities.

He said I am grateful to my wife, children and all my family friends for their love and support.

He said I have always believed that the greatest sacrifice is when you sacrifice your happiness and time for the sake of others—my purpose in life is to serve the deserving people which I will continue till my last breath inshallah.



Turkiye wants to increase its trade relation with Pakistan: Dr. Mehmet Pacaci

Tariq Khattaq

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye wants to increase its trade relation with Pakistan as both nations have significant potential to expand trade in many areas; Turk Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci stated it during his visit to FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of FPCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo Former Presidents, Muhammad Suleman Chawla Senior Vice President Khawaja Shahzeb Akram Former SVP, Amin Ullah Baig, Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Vice Presidents, Sheikh Mohammad Aslam, Sheikh Mohammad Ali and Mirza Abdul Rehman, Chairman Coordination, and other were also present on the occasion.

During the Discussions to further, improve bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Turkiye, Dr. Mehmet Pacaci said that the volume of trade between Pakistan and Turkiye was over 8 million



dollars and there is much potential to improve it further. He said that both the brotherly countries should take advantage of each other's experience to boost the trade ties and commercial activities to improve life styles of their citizens. He advised that a trade delegation from Pakistan and Turkiye should visit and share their trade experience providing a chance for further polishing their trade skills and scope. Talking about trade through roads and

railways, he said Pakistan should upgrade its railway system to make it compatible with the Turkish rail network to promote trade through railways.

Speaking on the occasion, President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh stressed to further strengthening of bilateral trade and relations between Pakistan and Turkiye and said that it is time to increase the volume of bilateral trade between the two countries. He highlighted various invest-

ment opportunities in Pakistan in different sectors including oil and gas, mines and minerals, gemstones, tourism, information technology, food processing, agriculture, dairy products, furniture, hotel, and resorts. He further said that the experience of the Turkish tourism sector can be utilized for the development of the tourism sector in Pakistan. The Turkish advanced technology in various fields may lead Pakistan's various sectors to develop and be beneficial, he added.

Mian Anjum Nisar Former President of FPCCI & Chairman of BMP said that despite enjoying exemplary and brotherly relations, trade between Pakistan and Turkey stood at just US \$1.08 billion. He stressed to promote strong linkages between private sectors of both countries. He expressed his believe that a well thought out and well-negotiated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Turkey can potentially increase bilateral trade to US \$ 5 billion. He said

that Istanbul can provide Pakistan easy access to European and Eastern European market for exports.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Magoo, Former President of FPCCI on the occasion, highlighted that the land route services would be beneficial for expansion Pak Turkey bilateral trade as our shipments can reach from Islamabad to Istanbul in 10 days via Taftan, Zahidan and Tehran. He said that shipping time from Pakistan to turkey is about 40 days which not only expensive in terms of freight but also in shipment time. He stressed on resolving the issues of transit trade and said expressed his believe that once the land route become smooth the bilateral trade between both the countries will be more than doubled in volume.

Muhammad Suleman Chawla Senior Vice President of FPCCI said that Pakistan & Turkey enjoy heart-to-heart relations and it but not reflected in trade according to the actual potential. The Turkiye has vast experience in development of border station; he urged

that Turkey should invest in modernizing the border stations of Pakistan with Central Asian Countries for development and investment in trade and economic sectors.

Amin Ullah Baig, Vice President FPCCI said there are vast opportunities for investment in minerals, tourism, hydel and cross-border trade sectors in Pakistan adding Turkiye by keeping in view the potential should invest in these sectors. The local business community has a great interest in investing with its Turkish counterparts.

Addressing to the Ambassador Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Vice President FPCCI said "We need to make more efforts to diversify the present trend of bilateral trade," Turkiye is in well positioned to take advantage of Pakistan's economic potential and its geostrategic location. He emphasized that some kind of understanding between the private-sector representatives of both countries, which would lead

to lucrative business deals for the benefit of both nations.

Mirza Abdul Rehman Chairman, Coordination FPCCI Capital Office thanked the Ambassador for his visit to Capital Office and shared his views, suggestions for enhancement of bilateral economic relations. He also appreciated the encouraging efforts of Turkish Embassy in the regard. He expressed his hope that through joint efforts we will soon achieve the potential bilateral trade target of US \$ 5 billion. Both countries should facilitate their private sectors to further improve the trade, he added.

Mr. Qurban Ali, Haji Fazal Elahi Khan, Muhammad Aslam Sheikh, Muhammad Ali Sheikh, Sajjad Sarwar, Karim Aziz Malik, Sohail Altaf Former Vice Presidents FPCCI, Parvez Khataq, Saqib Taj Abbasi, Malik Arif, Ghulam Hussain Judge, Firdousia Fazal, Sima Iqbal, Syeda Wajida Saleem, Khush Noor Didar and others members of FPCCI also take part in the deliberation.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share
Index Fluctuation

| Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Current | Prev. Close | |
| 42,071.34 | 42,936.73 | |
| Day's High | Day's Low: | |
| 42,936.73 | 41,963.94 | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 5,354,136,287 | - 865.39 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| - 2.02% | 28 Nov, 2022 5:00 pm | |
| Europe: FTSE 100 Index | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 7,474.02 | - 12.65 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.17% | 28 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT | |
| USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 34,086.43 | - 260.60 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.76% | 28 Nov, 12:18 pm GMT-5 | |
| Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average | | |
| Index Value | Change | |
| 28,162.83 | - 120.20 | |
| Percentage | Time | |
| -0.42% | 28 Nov, 3:15 pm GMT+9 | |
| Open Market Forex Rates | | |
| Currency | Buying | Selling |
| Australian Dollar | 151.12 | 152.37 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 595.38 | 599.88 |
| Canadian Dollar | 167.38 | 168.73 |
| China Yuan | 31.27 | 31.52 |
| Danish Krone | 31.3 | 31.65 |
| Euro | 245 | 247.5 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 28.65 | 29 |
| Indian Rupee | 2.74 | 2.82 |
| Japanese Yen | 1.83 | 1.88 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 725.43 | 730.43 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 49.99 | 50.44 |
| New Zealand \$ | 139.86 | 141.06 |
| Norwegians Krone | 22.65 | 22.95 |
| Omani Riyal | 581.31 | 585.81 |
| Qatari Riyal | 61.5 | 62 |
| Saudi Riyal | 63.5 | 64.1 |
| Singapore Dollar | 162.73 | 164.03 |
| Swedish Korona | 21.46 | 21.76 |
| Swiss Franc | 236.79 | 238.54 |
| Thai Bhat | 6.26 | 6.36 |
| U.A.E Dirham | 65.5 | 66.1 |
| UK Pound Sterling | 286.15 | 289 |
| US Dollar | 228.7 | 230.95 |

ICCI Delegation visits Italy to explore business collaborations

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD : A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President visited Italy and held meetings with Milan Chamber of Commerce, Promos Italia and Assolombarda to explore avenues of business collaboration between the entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Italy. Promos Italia is a National Agency of the Chamber of Commerce network of Italy and Assolombarda is the association of companies operating in the Metropolitan City of Milan and in the provinces of Lodi, Monza and Brianza, Pavia. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Humayun Kabir, Shahbaz Majeed Sheikh, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz and Akhtar Hussain were in the delegation. Ms. Aqsa Nawaz, Pakistan Consul General in Milan, Italy arranged the meetings of ICCI delegations with Italian trade bodies.



Speaking on the occasion, Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan considers Italy an important country of European Union for trade and exports and ICCI delegation has come to Italy to explore new areas of business collaboration between the two countries. He said that close cooperation between the SMEs of Pakistan and Italy would

be helpful in sharing experiences and promoting bilateral business relations. He said that Pakistan possesses great reserves of marble & granite and import of latest marble machinery from Italy can help produce value-added marble products and increase their exports. He said that Pakistan can import industrial & agricultural machinery from Italy while Italy can import many products from Pakistan including raw materials, textiles, surgical instruments, marble products, pharmaceuticals, leather products,

sports goods and others. He invited Italian entrepreneurs to visit Pakistan to explore JVs and investment in areas of interest.

Welcoming the ICCI delegation, Federico Maria Bega, Chief Strategy Officer of Promos Italia said that their organization is working to support SMEs internationalisation, preparing them to export and helping them consolidate their positioning in international markets. He said that Promos Italia is active in more than 110 countries, due to its wide international network

of relationships and partnerships with public and private sectors. He said that close cooperation between Promos Italia and ICCI would create beneficial outcomes for the SMEs of both countries.

Muhammad Shakeel Munir former President, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, former Senior Vice President ICCI and other members of ICCI delegation also shared useful proposals to improve bilateral trade and economic ties between Pakistan and Italy.

Promoting green productivity and sustainable economic growth in leather sector of Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A 11 member's delegation headed by Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Productivity organization (NPO) Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry is leaving for Indonesia here on 27th for the Promotion of Green Productivity and Sustainable Economic Growth of Pakistani Leather Sector.

The delegation is comprising of leather manufacturers (tanners), representative of leather garments and footwear, industrial trade bodies.

The delegation is arranged by NPO Pakistan the attached department of Ministry of Industries and Production, in collaboration with WWF Pakistan through APO Japan assistance.

The visit is sponsored by APO Japan along with partial funding from WWF Pakistan.

The representatives of trade Associations, Sialkot Tannery Association (Guar-

antee) Limited (STGAL), Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PLGMEA) and Pakistan Gloves Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PGMEA) comprising the delegation will be able to develop better linkage and communication in Indonesia and exchange information on new techniques and technologies in leather tanning.

Leather sector is one the most important export sectors of Pakistan. The overall Pakistan leather sector's exports are stagnant as the leather tanneries mostly rely on conventional processes and technologies leading to lower productivity, mediocre product quality and significant impact on ecosystem.

After a comprehensive need analysis, the revival of this sector was targeted through implementation of best practices learned from the leaders in the leather sector.

Leather industry in Indonesia is one of the biggest sectors which support Indonesian economy. Currently, Indonesia is in the

sixth position in the world as an exporter of leather products, footwear and leather goods.

In Indonesia leather tanning is carried out on European standards and eco-friendly advanced methods are adopted.

Pakistan needs to learn from Indonesian leather model and benchmarks these aspects in order to promote our Leather and leather product exports of Pakistan, on modern lines.

The knowledge and information gained from Indonesia will help our leather sector (tanners) benchmark models of productivity and resource management in the domain of input raw material, energy, water, waste and transforming layouts of local tanneries to international standards.

The National Productivity Organization (NPO) working under the umbrella of Ministry of Industries and Production, Government of Pakistan and Liaison Office of Asian Productivity Organization (APO), Japan has arranged a visit of the delegation.

TECNO Unveils Industry's First Eagle Eye Lens for Smart phones

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: TECNO, a global innovative technology brand with operations in over 70 markets, recently unveiled the industry first Eagle Eye Lens technology. The innovation was exhibited at a webinar centered on the evolution of premium technological advances that are inundating the global smart phone domain at present. Anticipated to be deployed in tandem with premium smart phone models debuting in 2023, TECNO's Eagle Eye Lens, is set to be the first dual-prism, periscope camera, equipped with the largest tilt capability introduced till date.

The lens's internal rotational dual prisms, which provide true AI tracking and shooting, allow for an ultra-stabilization angle that can be as wide as 6 degrees



on both the positive and negative axis. The two prisms can tilt uniaxially by +/- 8° or +/- 10° resulting a combined uniaxial tilt range of +/- 16° in the short side direction and +/- 20° at the long side direction for the image, which allows them to intelligently track moving objects in the image. Consequentially, the center of the telephoto lens' view area will constantly be occupied by the moving objects.

Zindigi Partners With Careem to Provide Seamless Digital Payment Solutions



News Desk

KARACHI: Zindigi, powered by JS Bank has joined hands with Careem, the ride-hailing pioneer in Pakistan, to provide digital payment solutions to Captains in Pakistan. Through this partnership, Zindigi and Careem will issue co-branded debit cards to Careem Captains, which will be used for faster daily payouts and fund withdrawals via ATMs and POS terminals across the country.

This partnership is aimed at providing Careem Captains with the financial freedom to access their Careem earnings instantly using the Zindigi App. Captains will also be able to utilize the complete product suite of the Zindigi App and access a plethora of features, including mobile top-up and utility bill payments. Additionally, Careem Captains will also be introduced to wealth management through mutual funds, stock trading, and financing avenues.

The agreement was signed between the senior leadership of the two parties at Careem headquarters in Karachi, including Noman Azhar, Chief Officer-Zindigi, Meena Munawar Khan, Head of Products-Zindigi, Feroz Jaleel, Country General Manager, Careem Pakistan and Noman Khurshid, General Manager, Careem Pay.

Noman Azhar said, "Zindigi is all about listening to customers and providing them with experiences that makes their lives easier. This partnership will solve cash flow constraints and provide multiple opportunities to improve the everyday lives of Careem Captains. A better digital experience for Careem captains will ensure higher level of acceptability of Digital payments, which will eventually help the entire ecosystem and that is the ultimate goal."

Not preferring national interests over political interests dangerous: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Monday said the current account deficit is one of the major problems of Pakistan.

Our economy has suffered current account deficits for 72 years to indiscriminate consumption of foreign goods, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that we sell less of our goods to the outside world but buy more from foreign countries which have led the country to bankruptcy dozens of times.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the only



way to avoid bankruptcy in Pakistan is to borrow to repay loans which is unsustainable.

Now the debts are becoming unpayable but the policymakers never bothered to learn any lesson, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that our exports, remittances, grants, etc. are not equal to our imports but no serious effort was ever made to increase productivity and no specific steps were taken to reduce

consumption of foreign goods. In the past, Pakistan's exports have been more than Bangladesh, South Korea, Vietnam, and many other countries, but now Pakistan cannot even think of equaling them.

South Korea's exports are eighteen times more than Pakistan's. Last year, Pakistan's exports were 31 billion dollars while its imports were 80 billion dollars, which is equal to playing with the future of this country.

Pakistan's tax system is also a major obstacle in the way of development which punishes taxpayers and does nothing to defaulters.

Currently, government agencies have the data of 22 lakh shops, out of which only 30 thousand are paying tax, while the rest are not paying a single rupee as tax, which is surprising.

According to former finance minister Miftah Ismail, the risk of Pakistan's default is increasing, while current finance minister Ishaq Dar denies it. In order to improve the economic situation, government institutions that lose three billion dollars annually must be privatized. There is an annual loss of four billion dollars in the electricity and gas sectors, which must be eliminated.

He said that such reforms must be made that may reduce the political popularity of the government, but will improve Pakistan's reputation in the international community and restore the trust of international institutions.

For this, national interest will have to be prioritized over political interest, in which delay may prove very dangerous for the future of Pakistan, he said.

Banking sector showed robust performance, steady resilience during H1CY22, SBP's Review

KARACHI: State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Monday issued the Mid-Year Performance Review (MYPR) of the Banking Sector for the year 2022.

The review covers the performance and soundness of the banking sector for the period January to June 2022 (H1CY22).

It also covers the performance of financial markets and Microfinance banks (MFBs) as well as the results of the Systemic Risk Survey (SRS), which represents independent respondents' views about key risks to financial stability, an SBP statement said here.

The review reveals that sustained

economic activity during H1CY22 supported the expansion of the banking sector balance sheet by 16 percent during H1CY22. Robust increase in the asset base was mainly driven by flow of private sector advances and increase in investments particularly the government securities. Besides the sizable mobilization of deposits, banks' reliance on borrowings increased significantly to finance the expanded balance sheet.

The pace of private sector advances growth during H1CY22 was the highest in comparable periods of previous three years. Improved manufacturing activity, as reflected in double digit

growth in Large Scale Manufacturing (LSM) index during H1CY22, higher input prices and SBP's refinance schemes augmented the overall flow of advances.

Individuals and sugar sector availed major chunk of financing followed by textile sector. Besides noteworthy growth performance, banks' asset quality indicators further improved. Gross Non-Performing Loans (NPLs) ratio moved down to 7.5 percent by end June-2022 from 7.9 percent at end December-2021. However, recent catastrophic flooding in many parts of the country may impact the repayment capacity of agri-borrowers of

banks' and Microfinance borrowers. The Review highlights that baseline profitability indicators moderated — despite strong growth in incomes — mainly due to the impact of sharp increase in tax charges. Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the banking sector slightly edged down to 16.1 percent due to faster growth in asset base and advances.

Nonetheless, the ratio remains well above the minimum regulatory requirement (i.e. 11.5 percent) and the banking sector in general has adequate capital buffers and resilience to withstand the impact of severe stress of macroeconomic conditions

and shocks to key risk factors.

The Review also covered the results of 10th wave of SRS (July-2022) based on perceptions of independent market participants. The respondents perceive that the key risks for the financial system are mostly exogenous in nature i.e. global and macroeconomic risks. Majority of the respondents, however, expressed confidence in the stability of the financial system.

Recent catastrophic flooding in many parts of the country may impact the repayment capacity of agri-borrowers of banks and microfinance borrowers, and that of other borrowers as a second-round effect. APP

OGDCL conducts 221 Line-km 2D seismic surveys in 1st quarter of FY 2022-23

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), during the first quarter of the current fiscal year, carried out 221 Line-km 2D and 21 Square-KM 3D seismic surveys in its various operational areas to discover hydrocarbon reserves.

"The acquired 221 Line km of 2D seismic data and 21 Sq. km of 3D seismic data represents 49% of total 2D and 17% of total 3D seismic data acquisition in the country respectively," the company said in its first quarterly financial report for 2022-23.

Moreover, the OGDCL using in-house resources processed/reprocessed 1,065 Line km of 2D seismic data, besides carrying out an addi-

tional 135 Line km of geological fieldwork in Nowshera.

On the drilling front, the company spud one exploratory well namely Shahpurabad-1 (1Q 2021-22: 3 wells). It also completed the drilling and testing of two wells pertaining to the previous fiscal year. "Total drilling recorded during the three months stood at 11,392 meters."

The company mentioned in the report that its exploration activities had been severely affected by the torrential rains and flood and security concerns, adding "the planned 3D seismic survey of 210 Sq. km was affected by torrential rains, whereas 2D seismic survey of 84 Line km had to be deferred due to security concerns in Zin and Lillah blocks.

England to play aggressive cricket against Pakistan in Test series, Brendon McCullum

RAWALPINDI: England head coach Brendon McCullum said on Monday that England would be trying to play an aggressive brand of cricket against Pakistan in the three-match Test series to entertain people.

The England team arrived in Pakistan on Saturday after their Test camp at the Abu Dhabi Cricket and Sports Hub. This is England's first visit to Pakistan in 17 years to play a Test series. The first Test starts in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

"One of the things we try and do is to respect the conditions but at the same time if we are given the opportunity to try and play aggressive and attacking cricket then we'll try and take that option," he told media here at a news conference.

"It's authentic to the line-up that we've. That's how the guys who are in our squad play and that is what gives them the most freedom and best opportunity to perform at the highest level. We know it might not be as prominent aggressive cricket as we've seen in the past but there will be opportunities to try and play positively. I expect our guys to take on those opportunities.

He noted that Test cricket was not as

popular as it used to be in the past hence it was necessary to make red-ball cricket entertaining and exciting. "We see an obligation that if people turn on the TV anywhere around the world or they pay their money to come and watch you play that they head away somewhat entertained. For us it's about trying to play that style. We know it is not always going to be successful. What we have seen over a short period of time is it can unlock your skill.

"If we're trying to put a positive slant on the style of play then it allows the talent to come out. That is what we believe. We have had some success in the recent history with it. I expect us to still play positively given the opportunities."

According to McCullum, winning away from home was the biggest accomplishment one could achieve as a Test player and as a Test team. "We understand the size of the challenge in front of us. But that's great. That's why you want to play the game. You don't want easy challenges, you want to take on the best in their own conditions and you want to try and test where you're at as a side. I'm really excited.

"The boys [too] have already said



they're pretty excited about playing in front of a full house here. That's what we want from red-ball cricket all around the world, stadiums packed out and fans getting behind their local team."

To a question about Pakistan pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi, he said his absence was a big loss for Pakistan.

"I know him pretty well. I played many years in the PSL [Pakistan Super League] with Shaheen as well. He's a wonderful bowler and he's turned into a fine leader as well. He's a big loss, no doubt.

"But one thing when you play against Pakistan, you look at their team and you see talent. And you see some that might not be developed talent but it's talent.

You need to respect that and you need to find a way to be able to be well-researched and well-planned about what's going to come at you, but also try and find out a way to put that talent under pressure and see how it responds."

He said Pakistan was a very good squad it would be tough challenge to face it. "It's well-rounded.

It's got some experience and some youth, in both batting and bowling... We know we'll have to play well if we are going to be successful."

He said Pakistan was a great country to visit and its people were really hospitable. "This is obviously a great place to tour. It's been starved of international cricket for a long period of time.

We understand how passionate people are here in Pakistan about this form of cricket and we understand the obligation that we have as an England side and we are looking forward to coming over here and playing an entertaining style of cricket which hopefully ends up in results, whether that's in our favour or in Pakistan's favour.

Meanwhile, both teams took part in batting, bowling and fielding sessions at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. APP

Price distributing ceremony

LAHORE: President Pakistan Cycling Federation (PCF) posing for a group photograph along with women winners of cycle race competition after the price distributing ceremony during 67th National Games at Punjab Stadium in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Cycling championship concluded

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Pakistan Wapda won the Men's and Women's title of 67 track cycling championship which concluded in sports complex velodrum, Lahore. In three days championship there were nine teams took part. In Men's Elite category Pakistan Wapda got 90 points and secured first position KPK was 2nd whole Punjab got 3rd position in the Championship. Balochistan 4th POF account Wah 5th and Sindh got 6th position. Aqib Shah of Pakistan Wapda achieved 4 gold medals and he was declared best cyclist of the Championship. In Women's Elite Pakistan Wapda got first Punjab 2nd and KPK secured 3rd position and Gilgit Baltistan got 4th position in the Championship. From Wapda Rajya Shabbir declared best Cyclist. In junior category Adnan Aziz Bilkistan and women's junior Fatima declared the Champion. Pakistan Cycling Federation President Syed Azhar Ali Shah, General Secretary Moazzam Khan Klair, Colonel Retd Asif Dar, and Special Olympic Syed Anees Shah distributed the prizes among the Cyclists

Zalmi Foundation, US Consulate General and PCB organized Young Girls Cricket Camp in Lahore



Sports Reporter

LAHORE : 40 girls from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Lahore participated in the camp, getting coaching tips from Pakistan test cricketer Abid Ali & PCB official coaches.

Continuing the series of Young Girls Coaching Camp, a camp was organized in Lahore in collaboration with Zalmi Foundation, American Consulate General Lahore and PCB.

Carl Rogers, Spokesperson of US Consulate General Lahore, Muhammad Akram, Director Cricket Peshawar Zalmi and Yahya Ghaznavi, GM Archives, PCB National High Performance Center participated in the closing ceremony of the girls camp and presented prizes and souvenirs on this occasion.

The participants said that organizing such girls cricket camp will promote women's cricket in Pakistan and especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Earlier, girls cricket camp has been organized in 2017 and 2019 also.

PCB unveils star-studded commentary panel for Pakistan v England Test series

RAWALPINDI: Former England captains and leading broadcasters David Gower, Michael Atherton and Nasser Hussain will call action in the historic three-match Test series between Pakistan and England in December.

While Gower has commented in Pakistan during the HBL Pakistan Super League and the recent seven-match T20I series between Pakistan and England, this will be the first instance of Atherton and Hussain touring Pakistan as broadcasters through PCB's official partnership with Sky Sports UK, a PCB statement said.

The Pakistani voices in the star-studded commentary panel are former Test cricketers Bazid Khan, Waqar Younis and Urooj Mumtaz.

The three Tests will be beamed all around the globe through 27 full High-Definition cameras, including the buggy cam and complete hawk-eye review system.

The series also sees PCB's PitchSide Studio make a return, which will be hosted by famed presenter Zainab Abbas, providing viewers an access to insights during pre- and post-match shows; as well as during the Lunch and Tea intervals.

When the series kicks off in Rawalpindi on 1 December, it will see the two teams play each other for the first time on Pakistani soil in a Test match in 17 years and the broadcast of this much-anticipated series will be available through PTV Sports on Linear TV and ARY Zap on live-streaming within Pakistan; Etisalat (Middle-East and North Africa), Flow Sports (Caribbean), Sky NZ (New Zealand), Fox Sports (Australia), Sky Sports (United Kingdom), Sony (South Asia outside Pakistan), Super Sports (Sub-Saharan Africa) and Willow TV (North America).

BBC Sport (United Kingdom) and FM 106.2 (Pakistan) will be radio partners for the series. APP

Kudus' double powers Ghana to edge South Korea in FIFA WC

A-SPORTS

AR-RAYYAN: Mohammed Kudus netted twice in Ghana's thrilling 3-2 victory over South Korea in the Group H encounter of the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2022 at Education City Stadium here on Monday.

In a clash between two Group H bottom-ranked sides, Ghana recovered from a close 3-2 defeat against Portugal and kept their knockout qualification expedition intact as they produced a similar scoreline but in their favour against South Korea.

Otto Addo's side had a flying start to their must-win group match as Mohammed Salisu opened the scoring in just the 24th minute when Jordan Ayew sent a dangerous cross into the South Korean box, who failed to clear the lines, allowing Salisu to fire the ball home with his left foot.

Kudus then doubled Ghana's lead just 10 minutes later with a stunning header off Ayew's assist, who sent a cross to the far post and the latter powered the ball sneak past Kim Seung-gyu. Paulo Bento's side, who appeared defenceless in the first half, bounced back after the break and pulled level 16 minutes into the second half, courtesy of a quickfire double from forward Cho Gue-sung, who produced back-to-back sensational headers.

Gue-sung's double stunned Ghana but they held their composure to retain the lead in the 68th minute when Kudus fired the ball comprehensively into the nets after Inaki Williams failed to connect with a cross from the left.

Morocco stun Belgium for first World Cup win in 24 years

DOHA: Morocco pulled off another World Cup upset on Sunday as the African side snatched their first victory in 24 years at the tournament with a 2-0 win over Belgium.

Morocco's last World Cup triumph came in 1998 by routing Scotland 3-0, which capped the Scots' last appearance in the tournament.

This is only Morocco's third win in World Cup history with the first came in 1986 by beating Portugal 3-1.

Morocco broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute, as Serie A outfit Sampdoria's midfielder Abdelhamid Sabiri curled a wide free-kick just minutes after he was pitched on, and Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois was put off by Moroccan defender

Romain Saiss and could only palm the ball into the net. The FIFA later listed Saiss as the scorer.

It seemed much like a mistake from Courtois, whose positioning was questioned.

Zakaria Aboukhlal, also a substitute in the game, sealed the glorious victory for Morocco in the 92nd minute. Munir El Kadjoui's long goal kick was headed back towards his own goal by Belgian defender. Chelsea winger Hakim Ziyech seized upon the loose ball, swerved away from Timothy Castagne and cut the ball towards Aboukhlal at the near post as Ligue 1 club Toulouse forward clipped the ball into the roof of the net.

Morocco are top of Group F with four points ahead of



Belgium prior to the late group fixture between Canada and Croatia. Xinhua

Spain and Germany draw tense match in World Cup

DOHA: Goals from substitutes Alvaro Morata and Nicolas Fullkrug saw Spain and Germany draw 1-1 in a tense Group E match at the 2022 FIFA World Cup on Sunday.

Morata prodded home Jordi Alba's low cross in the 62nd minute to put Spain ahead, but the powerful Fullkrug drilled home a vital equalizer in the 83rd minute, just minutes after coming into the game.

The first clash of heavyweights in this World Cup failed to see either land a knockout blow, although after Morata's goal, the Germans were looking groggy on the ropes.

Spain coach Luis Enrique



made just one change to the side that won 7-0 against Costa Rica, with Dani Carvajal in for Cesar Azpilicueta. Leroy Sane was on the subs' bench for Germany,

with coach Hansi Flick not risking him after injury.

The Spain boss promised before the game not to change Spain's attacking football and

was true to his word, as Spain kicked off looking to press high up the pitch.

That pressing forced an error in the sixth minute and Dani Olmo launched a thundering shot towards the top corner, only for goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to tip it onto the woodwork.

Germany responded and Spain's goalie Unai Simon reacted to deny Serge Gnabry from a narrow angle, although the offside flag was raised afterwards.

Things slowed down after that as both sides began pressing and probing for a way through. Gnabry fired wide

after a poor clearance from Simon, while Ferran Torres had an effort well blocked by Antonio Rudiger.

The big defender thought he had put Germany ahead in the 40th minute, planting a free header past Simon from a free-kick, only for VAR to rule his effort out for a narrow offside.

Enrique didn't waste long in the second half before Morata was benched on for Torres, and after Simon atoned for a poor clearance with a great save from Joshua Kimmich, Morata showed his worth, prodding home a typical poacher's goal after Olmo and Alba combined for the latter to cross. Xinhua