

Daily The Spokesman



Dr. Ishrat calls for expediting and institutionalizing reforms

Noted economist and Ex-Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Dr Ishrat Hussain Tuesday called for expediting and institutionalizing reforms and advocated recalibrating the existing system, eliminating the bottlenecks through a well-laid out plan that is proactive and going on to restructure the state-centric edifice. (Report on Page 8)



General Asim Munir assumes charge as 17th COAS

General Asim Munir on Tuesday took over the command of the Pakistan Army from General Qamar Javed Bajwa in an eminent ceremony held at the General Headquarters (GHO), ARY News reported. Gen Bajwa is all set to retire today (November 29) after completing his six-year stint as the COAS. (Report on Page 8)

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No risk of default

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Jefferies called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar is also present in the meeting.



Photo: PID

Pakistan out of risks of default, economy on path of recovery: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that due to difficult decisions taken by the coalition government, Pakistan was out of the risks of default.

The prime minister said the government was taking all possible steps to further strengthen the national economy and was

striving with priority measures to reduce price hike and provide relief to the common people.

The prime minister expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Jefferies, a leading global investment banking and capital markets firm. Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar was also present during the meeting.

The prime minister regretted that unfounded rumours were being spread about the economy of Pakistan and reprehensible efforts were being made to create havoc.

He said the coalition government without caring for the political price, saved the country from the repercussions of the

previous four years' maladministration by the former government.

He also reiterated that the government was making efforts to reduce the foreign trade deficit and providing all possible facilities to the foreign investors.

Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister invited the

firm to open its office in Pakistan.

The delegation termed the economic recovery of Pakistan as a good sign under the leadership of prime minister that faced the economic challenges in an effective manner and put the country on the path of economic stability. APP

Dar seeks support from Bank of China to expand bilateral business ties

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar Tuesday sought the support of Bank of China and asked the Bank's President for expansion of business relations with Pakistan to deepen the economic and financial relations.

In a virtual meeting with President Bank of China Liu Jin, the minister shared that it has always been great pleasure to work with Bank of China and Pakistan has enjoyed sound financial dealings with the bank.

The Finance Minister also highlighted the recent visit of



Prime Minister of Pakistan to China and talked about reciprocation of warm sentiments from Chinese leadership.

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Special Secretary Finance and other senior officers from Finance Division attended the meeting.

The Finance Minister, while talking about the long standing and durable relationships between government of China and Government of Pakistan, shared gratitude to President Bank of China for continuous support to Pakistan in testing times.

It was shared that Bank of China has played a crucial role in extending budgetary support to Pakistan which has played a significant role in easing pressure on the external account and meeting budgetary needs.

The Finance Minister extend-

ed invitation to President Bank of China to visit Pakistan. He briefed the President Bank of China about the financial and fiscal conditions inherited by the present government and shared that present government has strong resolution to bring back the macroeconomic stability.

The President Bank of China also highlighted the historical and bilateral ties between both countries and appreciated the Government of Pakistan for taking the necessary measures for easing the lives of masses in the country. He also acknowl-

edged the contribution of Pakistan in supporting China during hard times.

He also commended the ongoing facilitation being provided by the government of Pakistan on various Chinese projects under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The Finance Minister thanked the President Bank of China for continuous support and assured him of same support by the present government in deepening the economic, trade and investment cooperation.

Five billion people to suffer from water scarcity worldwide by 2050: UN report

Spokesman Report

UNITED NATIONS: Most of the globe was drier than normal in 2021, with "cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and our daily lives", the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said Tuesday, pointing out that Pakistan was among the regions where terrestrial water shortage (TWS) was "much below and below level".

According to the Geneva-based agency's first report on global water resources, 3.6 billion people have inadequate access to water at least one month per year and that this is expected to increase to more than five billion by 2050.

"The impacts of climate change are often felt through water – more intense and frequent droughts, more extreme flooding, more erratic seasonal rainfall and accelerated melting of glaciers – with cascading effects on economies, ecosystems and all aspects of our daily lives," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas. "And yet, there is insufficient understanding of changes in the distribution, quantity, and quality of freshwater resources."

The State of Global Water Resources report

"aims to fill that knowledge gap and provide a concise overview of water availability in different parts of the world", WMO chief added.

"This will inform climate adaptation and mitigation investments as well as the United Nations campaign to provide universal access in the next five years to early warnings of hazards such as floods and droughts". The report said that areas that were unusually dry included South America's Rio de la Plata area, where a persistent drought has affected the region since 2019. In Africa, major rivers such as the Niger, Volta, Nile and Congo had below-average water flow in 2021. The same trend was observed in rivers in parts of Russia, West Siberia and in Central Asia.

On the other hand, there were above-normal river volumes in some North American basins, the North Amazon and South Africa, as well as in China's Amur river basin, and northern India.

In Africa, rivers such as the Niger, Volta, Nile and Congo had below-normal discharge in 2021, along with parts of Russia, West Siberia and in Central Asia.

Between 2001 and 2018, UN-Water reported that a staggering 74 per cent of all natural

disasters were water-related.

The recent UN climate change conference, COP27, in Egypt, urged governments to further integrate water into adaptation efforts, the first-time water has been referenced in a COP outcome document in recognition of its critical importance, noted WMO.

The first edition of the report looks at streamflow – the volume of water flowing through a river channel at any given time – and also assesses terrestrial water storage – in other words, all water on the land surface and sub-surface and the cryosphere (frozen water).

The report highlights a basic problem: a lack of accessible verified hydrological data.

WMO's Unified Data Policy seeks to accelerate the availability and sharing of hydrological data, including river discharge and trans-boundary river basins information.

Aside from river flow variations, overall terrestrial water storage was classified as below normal, besides Pakistan, on the west coast of the United States, in central South America and Patagonia, North Africa and Madagascar, Central Asia and the Middle East and North India.

Qatar agrees long-term gas supply deal with Germany: energy minister

DOHA: Qatar has agreed to send Germany two million tons of liquefied natural gas a year for at least 15 years, officials said Tuesday, as Europe's biggest economy scrambles for alternative supplies after Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

With the long-awaited deal, Qatar aims to "contribute to efforts to support energy security in Germany and Europe," said Saad Sherida al-Kaabi, Qatar's energy minister and CEO of QatarEnergy.

QatarEnergy's partner, US firm Conoco Phillips, will supply the gas from Qatar's North Field East and South projects from 2026 to the Brunsbuttel LNG terminal being developed in northern Germany, Kaabi said. QNA

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فرمان رسوی
میں کرم حصل اللہ علیہ وسلم سے ملے تھے
دن مبارکہ ہے کبھی خطرے پر بچتے تھے
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(گلستانِ صدیق، صفحہ ۸)
Barkat Rice Mills
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI

General Asim Munir assumes charge as 17th COAS

General Asim Munir on Tuesday took over the command of the Pakistan Army from General Qamar Javed Bajwa in an eminent ceremony held at the General Headquarters (GHO), ARY News reported. Gen Bajwa is all set to retire today (November 29) after completing his six-year stint as the COAS. (Report on Page 8)

PM, Asif Ali Zardari discuss overall political situation



ISLAMABAD: Former President Asif Ali Zardari met Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here at the PM House on Tuesday.

The two leaders exchanged views about the country's overall political situation.

During the meeting, rehabilitation of the flood affected people and the process

of aid in view of the advent of winter was also reviewed.

It was agreed to speed up the rehabilitation process of the flood affected people.

Both the leaders also discussed matters relating to economic improvement, relief for masses and the development process. APP

PM congratulates new COAS on assumption of office

News Desk



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday congratulated Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir and congratulated him on assumption of his responsibilities as the country's new army chief.

He assured the new army chief full cooperation of his government in areas relating to defence and security.

The prime minister said commanding the excellent force of Pakistan Army was a great honour and expressed confidence that General Asim Munir would further contribute towards strengthening the defence of the country.

He wished General Munir the success in effectively dealing with the challenges pertaining to security and counter-terrorism.

He assured the new army chief full cooperation of his government in areas relating to defence and security.

General Asim Munir, who was handed over the 'baton of command' by his predecessor General Qamar Javed Bajwa this morning, thanked PM Sharif for his wishes and the words of felicitations.

Imran Khan is a threat to national unity: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Tuesday said Imran Khan will not be allowed to succeed in his nefarious designs and termed him a threat to national unity.

Talking to a private news channel the minister said that coalition parties would use all the available options to stop dissolution of the Punjab and KP assemblies. The Minister added that Imran Khan had failed in all his moves so far and he would also fail to get the provincial assemblies dissolved.

Rana Sanaullah said that Chairman PTI was following the agenda of anti-state people, adding Imran Khan was trying



to sabotage the peaceful environment of the country for personal interest.

The minister said that people would decide about the future in next elections. He hoped that the masses would vote for his party to win the next polls with a thumping majority.

He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) previous regime had made serious damage to many sectors including the national economy. PID

Pakistan receives US\$ 500m from AIIB

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The government of Pakistan on Tuesday received US\$ 500 million from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), finance ministry tweeted here.

The funds are deposited with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) it said adding these would augment country's reserves.

Submarine cable fault partially impacted internet across Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Cable-cut in the International Submarine Cable AAE-1 in Egypt had partially impacted the internet services in Pakistan and due to this, some customers are facing minor service degradation.

The spokesperson of PTCL said that PTCL in conjunction with the International Submarine Consortium is working to fully restore internet services on priority.

Pakistan-Saudi Arabia ties

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki calls on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Snajrani at Parliament House on Tuesday.



Photo: Online

Pakistan stands by Palestine against Israeli oppression, says President

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday reiterated Pakistan's unflinching support to the cause of Palestine against the tyranny and illegal occupation of the Israeli forces.

"Pakistan has historically supported the legitimate struggle of Palestinians and shall continue to do so," the president said in his message on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

President Alvi said collective voice and action could bring peace and security to

the Palestinians and expressed hope that justice and fairness would prevail over tyranny and oppression.

He hoped that the conscience of the world would triumph over narrow self-interests.

He stressed that Pakistan fully supported the Palestinian position and their readiness to negotiate a peace accord based upon internationally recognized terms of reference and pre-1967 borders.

The accord, he said, needed to be under international monitoring, holding accountable the parties and within a



determined and binding time-frame, with East Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Palestine.

President Alvi pointed out that during the last seven and half decades, there was systematic and increasing abuse of the Palestinians at the hands of Israel.

"So much of the innocent blood has been shed and the bleeding of Palestinians has not stopped yet. The two undeniable realities of the conflict are unstoppable Israeli violence against Palestinians and the illegal occupation of Palestine by Israel," he said.

The president said the most recent episode of the incessant Israeli violence was seen in August this year when its bombing in Gaza resulted in the deaths of approximately 50 Palestinians including 17 children, and injuries to more than 300.

"Despite any action that

Israel takes to annex occupied Palestinian territories, the annexation and occupation will remain in contravention of the principles of international humanitarian law and international law," he said.

Dr Alvi said the occupying power could take control of the territory, but it could not take control of the minds and spirit of the occupied people.

"The struggle of the Palestinians for their freedom will continue until they are given the chance to exercise their right to self-determination and Pakistan will stand by them," he said.

General Asim Munir assumes charge as 17th COAS

RAWALPINDI: General Asim Munir on Tuesday took over the command of the Pakistan Army from General Qamar Javed Bajwa in an eminent ceremony held at the General Headquarters (GHQ), ARY News reported.

Gen Bajwa is all set to retire today (November 29) after completing his six-year stint as the COAS.

The outgoing Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa handed over the baton of command to the newly appointed 17th Army Chief General Asim Munir.

The ceremony was attended by the former military leadership, federal ministers, foreign dignitaries and others.

The chief guest General Bajwa was presented guard of honour for the last time as



the chief of army staff during the ceremony.

Before the ceremony, General Bajwa visited the Yadgar-e-Shuhda for the last time as chief of army staff. Gen Munir had accompanied him during the visit.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had named the

for being promoted as head of the army.

"I have full faith that under his leadership army will conquer new success and his appointment will prove to be positive for the country," said General Bajwa.

He added that he was happy to know that he was retiring by handing the army to an able officer like him.

He lauded the sacrifices rendered by the Pakistan Army for enduring peace and stability in the country. "Army is safeguarding country's territorial boundaries despite limited resources."

Profile
General Asim Munir who headed both the Military Intelligence (MI) and Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-joined Pakistan Army from the Mangala Officers

Training School programme and became a commissioned officer in the Frontier Force Regiment.

Asim Munir Shah commanded the Northern Areas Force as a brigadier and was appointed the director-general of Military Intelligence in the year 2017.

In the year 2018, he was appointed as Director-General (DG) of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). He was succeeded by Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed.

He was then posted as Corps Commander Gujranwala. When he was picked for, he is serving as the Quarter Master at the General Headquarters (GHQ).

The new COAS is a Hafiz-e-Quran and is the first army chief who has headed both the MI and ISI in the past.

Dr. Ishrat calls for expediting and institutionalizing reforms

ISLAMABAD: Noted economist and Ex-Governor State Bank of Pakistan, Dr Ishrat Hussain Tuesday called for expediting and institutionalizing reforms and advocated recalibrating the existing system, eliminating the bottlenecks through a well-laid out plan that is proactive and going on to restructure the state-centric edifice.

While delivering a keynote address at Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) as a part of the lecture series, Dr Ishrat Hussain advocated restructuring of state units and policy reforms so that it could lower transaction costs, minimize cronyism and improve the governance pattern.

While calling for digitizing the economy, he specified that it will lead to easing of the governmental role and buoy productivity and restore the confidence of the masses and businesses in the state.

He said that 44 percent of transactions are still in cash, which leads to the black



dynamic and elite capture to a broad-based system where educated middle-class individuals of caliber and competence can be attracted to take part in policies.

Intra-party elections from the grassroots level to the national level would open the doors, he observed.

Despite the pursuit of policies of liberalization, deregulation, de-licensing and disinvestment during the last 15 years, the overbearing burden of government interventions in the business life cycle looms large, he remarked.

Dr Hussain said recalibration of the governance structure should aim at delivering the core functions of the state, provision of basic services, education, health, water sanitation and security to common citizens in an effective and efficient manner and to promote inclusive markets through which all citizens have equal opportunities to participate in the economy. APP

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Steps afoot to fulfill fertilizer's requirement in country: SAPM



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Industries and Production (SAPM) Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi on Tuesday said the government was putting in place effective measures to maintain demand and supply of fertilizers in the country as fertilizer was a basic and an important agricultural input to enhance per acre yield.

He expressed these views after having a briefing on the working and performance of the

National Fertilizer Marketing Limited (NFML) by its Managing Director Khalid Saleem here at the NFML office. Senior Manager Farooq Jilal, Assistant Manager Mudasar Aslam and Farhan ullah and others also attended the meeting.

He said the NFML should evolve a mechanism under which farmers' interest could be safeguarded efficiently. In a way, credit goes to the NFML for making the Gawadar Port functional by wharfing 150 Urea vessels containing 3.5 million metric tons of imported urea.

During the briefing, he was told that around 300 employees were working in the corporation on contract basis since the last 10 year.

NFML Managing Director Khalid Saleem presented a detailed presentation on the formation and development model of the company and briefed him about departmental history, current achievements and future goals.

He added that the NFML was incorporated as public limited company (unlisted) in 1976 as a subsidiary of the NFC (National Fertilizer Corporation) under the administrative control of the

Ministry of Industries and Production. The NFML was responsible for marketing of entire production of fertilizer (approximately two million metric tons per annum) of six NFC plants till 2008.

After privatization of the NFC plants, it was undertaking the distribution and sales of imported urea across the country.

The meeting was briefed that the NFML was responsible for supply of imported urea in requisite areas at government's notified price, arrange efficient transport and storage, and dealers' network.

The company also ensures availability of urea at subsidized rate to maintain reserves of fertilizers for price stability and to pass the government subsidies on to farmers.

Islamabad LG candidates to be allotted election symbols on Dec 1

ISLAMABAD: The contestants of Local Government (LG) polls for Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) will be allotted election symbols on Thursday, December 1.

According to schedule issued by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Wednesday has been fixed as the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers by the candidates, who do not want to contest the elections.

Polling will be held on December 31. Canvassing will kick off after December 1.

Meanwhile, 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 ICT.

The ECP had appointed four additional sessions judges as appellate authorities for 101 UCs for impending Local Government (LG) elections in ICT.

In 2015, elections were held in 50 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 the PPP could not win a single seat. APP

E&P companies discover 16 hydrocarbon deposits in 2021-22

ISLAMABAD: Exploration and Production (E&P) companies, operating in different parts of the country, have collectively discovered 16 oil and gas reservoirs during the last fiscal year in pursuit of making the country self-reliant in the energy sector.

Out of these, ten discoveries were made in the oil and gas fields of Sindh, four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each in Balochistan and Punjab, according to an official document available with APP.

Initially, the companies started extracting oil and gas from seven newly discovered wells of Sindh province including Taj-1, located in Tando Allahyar district, Turk South-1 & Mulaki West-1 and Bhatti North-1 in Badin district, Fazil-1 in Ghotki district, Mohar in Khairpur district and Naimat West DT-1 in Sanghar district. Currently, their accumulative oil and gas production stood at 1258.98 barrels per day and 10.91 million cubic feet per day respectively.

During the last four months of the current financial year, meat and meat preparations exports from the country witnessed about 23.56 percent increase as compared to the exports of same period last year.

Meanwhile, 26,747 metric tons of meat and meat products worth \$129.197 million were also exported during the period under review as against the exports of 24,256 metric tons valuing \$104.558 million in the same period last year.

During the last four months of the current financial year, meat and meat preparations exports from the country witnessed about 23.56 percent increase as compared to the exports of same period last year.

Meanwhile, the country fetched \$45.708 million by exporting about 965,360 metric tons of rice as against the exports of \$594.600 million and of 1,091 million tons of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year.

Rice exports from the country during the period under review recorded negative growth of 8.22 percent as compared to the exports of the same period last year, where overall food group exports recorded about 4.27 percent increase and food commodities worth \$1,493 billion exported in four months of the current financial year. APP

Fish and fish preparations valuing \$134.596m exported in 04 months

ISLAMABAD: Fish and fish preparations exports from the country during the first four months of the current financial year grew by 39.65 percent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-October, 2022 about 50,885 metric tons of fish and fish products valuing \$134.596 million were exported as compared to the exports of 36,088 metric tons worth \$96.384 million in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, 26,747 metric tons of meat and meat products worth \$129.197 million were also exported during the period under review as against the exports of 24,256 metric tons valuing \$104.558 million in the same period last year.

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Ten anti-social elements arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Police on Tuesday managed to net 10 lawbreakers including drug peddlers, boot-leggers, and illegal weapon holders and recovered three kilograms of charras, five of liters liquor, four 30-bore pistols, ammunition and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, Pirwadhai police held Sher Ahmed and Hamad Ali for having 2320 grams of charras. Civil Lines police netted Faizan for possessing 340 grams of charras while Kahuta police arrested Zahid Usman with 300 grams of charras. INP

Reckitt Pakistan Pledges for Children's Day to Rebuild 15 flood affected TCF schools

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: This Children's Day, Reckitt announces under Hoga Saaf Pakistan, a flagship purpose program of Dettol, a donation of PKR 22.4 million to The Citizens Foundation (TCF) for the rehabilitation of 15 schools damaged by the recent floods. This news was announced at the official Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing held at Deena Minoo Mistri Campus Primary Morning School in Korangi, Karachi.

As Pakistan continues to experience an education crisis, Statistics indicate that about 44% (22.6 million) of children ages 5 to 16 are not in school. Recent flooding has only resulted in an increase in this number. Dettol through the Hoga Saaf Pakistan program aims to create a clean and healthy Pakistan, where children fall ill less often, and school absenteeism is not a threat. With this purpose, this contribution will ensure the continuous provision of education to children from vulnerable families. Numerous



schools were devastated by the recent floods and require reconstruction. With the supplied fund to TCF, Dettol intends to commence the reconstruction of 15 such schools so that children from flood-affected families can continue their education.

"Through our efforts in education, healthcare, community development, and disaster relief, Reckitt has been actively and generously promoting sustainable social and economic growth. Dettol is committed to rebuild the communities that have been affected by the floods. Through our partnership with TCF, we hope to enable thousands of students to get back to school," said Kashan Hasan,

CEO of Reckitt Pakistan.

In attendance from TCF were Mr. Ateed Riaz and Mr. Mushtaq Chhapra, Co-Founders and Directors along with their team. Mr Chhapra started with a few words, "We are incredibly thankful to Reckitt for this kind donation, which will assist many underprivileged children in the communities where these 15 schools are located. More than 3,500 children will be able to continue their education thanks to this donation of Rs. 22.4 million. This will also help, in the long run, in uplifting the livelihood of the communities and their future generations to come."

Reckitt has worked with TCF on numerous occasions and recently on Global Handwashing Day in October visited one school in Mirpur Khas, where they conducted a handwashing activity to demonstrate to children the importance of maintaining good hand hygiene. Now with this signing, they not only provide a donation, but such events help bring notice to the need of the hour, the losses from the floods.

Awareness campaign

LAHORE: Chief Traffic Officer Dr Asad Ejaz kicking off helmet and traffic safety public awareness campaign on motorcycle at Liberty Chowk in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

AJK Govt all set to establish agricultural farms in Pakistan

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan, has taken a landmark decision to establish large agricultural farms in Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan in order to meet the food security and nutritional needs of Azad Kashmir. In this regard the AJK premier had sent a joint communique to provincial chief ministers asking them to allot land so that the AJK government could develop model agricultural farms in their respective provinces.

The Prime Minister has



sought allotment of 25 thousand acres of land from the government of Sindh, 30 thousand acres from

the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 01 lakh acres from the government of Balochistan, 50 thousand acres from the government of Punjab and 02 acres from the government of Gilgit-Baltistan.

The development and other expenses of these agricultural farms in all provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan will be borne by the Azad Kashmir government. Commenting on the development the Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the government of Azad Kashmir wants to develop agricultural farms in other provinces for the purpose of meeting the food security challenges in the

future.

The AJK government he said would develop the land on its own to establish model agricultural farms to fulfill the food requirements of the state. This process he said would not only strengthen the Pakistan's economy but also cement the links between the state and the provinces. Due to the lack of agricultural land in the liberated territory, the PM said, the government had decided to set up its own agricultural farms in Pakistan.

The PM further said that the initiative would go a long way to address the issue of food security in Azad Jammu and Kashmir

Non clearance of imported soybean seed from Karachi seaport has pushed the poultry industry

Mian Rashid Asghar.

FAISALABAD: Non clearance of imported soybean seed from Karachi seaport has pushed the poultry industry at the verge of collapse and if this issue was not resolved, it may open floodgates of unemployment in addition to fomenting worst ever food crisis in the country, said Dr. Khurram Tariq President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).

Talking to a delegation of poultry farmers, he said that he had already highlighted this issue at the federal level but still it is haunting the solvent and poultry industry. He urged the government to focus on this issue to save the billion-dollar industry from total collapse. Dr. Sajid Arshad Senior Vice President FCCI and former Chairman Pakistan Poultry Association (PPA) said that the share of soybean in poultry feed is around 25% without any alternatives. He said that the non-clearance of soybean consignment, the feed industry is heading toward closure and if the withheld consignments were not released, the eggs and chicken meat would become scarce and costlier. He said that these stuck-up consignments have already created a crisis-like situation and the price of soybean has jumped from Rs. 90 per kg to Rs.350 per kg. He further said that 1.5 million were directly linked with this sector and thus it was the source of livelihood for more than 7.5 million people in Pakistan. He said that 43% people are malnourished while 44% children have symptoms of stunted growth due to the imbalanced diet in Pakistan. He said that poultry was the only available source of cheap protein as the prices of meat and beef have already gone beyond the reach of common men. He said that if this situation continued, the people would be totally deprived of egg and chicken meat. "This situation may also have a trickle down effect on Breeders, GP, Appliance Manufacturing, Broiler and Layer industries", he warned and said that Pakistan would have to face irreparable economic loss if this situation continued to persist and imported consignments of soybean seed were not released immediately.

Delegates of FCCI participated in First AJK Investment Conference-2022

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Business community of Faisalabad will play its entrepreneurial role for the comprehensive and expeditious industrial and economic uplift of Kashmir, said Dr. Khurram Tariq, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI).



Addressing a group of businessmen on his return back from Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) where he participated in First AJK Investment Conference-2022 along with his executives, he said that Pakistan and Kashmir are interdependent on each other and he would feel himself proud of working as honorary ambassador of Kashmir in Pakistan. He said that he was already managing 32 schools in Kashmir in addition to launching the "One Goat-One Family" project for the financial sustenance of the women belonging to KPK. He mentioned the prompt and generous role of the business community of Faisalabad during national calamities and said that Faisalabad was the first city from where relief goods were dispatched to AJK during the earthquake of 2005. "Similarly, now we are working in close liaison with the Pakistan Navy to help out the flood hit families of the remotest and inaccessible areas of Balochistan and Sindh", he said and added that a proposal was also under consideration to build a new city for the rehabilitation of the displaced families. He said that under "Akhwaa" (Brotherhood) FCCI has been serving flood victims and on the same pattern we could launch a project to alleviate poverty from Kashmir. He floated a strategy of 3-Ts to exploit the untapped potential of tourism and IT for the economic progress of the AJK.

Rana Ahmed met to Malik Tahsin Awan

Mian Rashid Asghar

FAISALABAD: Central Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League (N) Youth Wing Rana Ahmed Shahryar Khan met Malik Tahsin Awan in his office and congratulated him on assuming the charge of Chairman FESCO Board of Directors. At this occasion, he presented a bouquet of flowers and expressed good wishes on behalf of Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan.



Mr. Ahmed Shahryar said that under the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, the present democratic government is striving hard for the development of the economy of the country, industry and agriculture sector and is making efforts to facilitate electricity consumers at their doorsteps.

He further said that the electricity has a pivotal role for driving the country's economy, which is being given full attention by the government through ensuring the uninterrupted power supply to the industrial sector. He hoped that Malik Tahseen Awan would utilize his best skills to lead FESCO towards more progress. He further said that he is a multi-faceted personality and assuming the charge will ensure improvement of FESCO distribution system, construction of new grid stations, acceleration of new connections as well as provision of quality services to consumers.

Later Chairman FESCO Board of Directors Malik Tahsin Awan welcomed Central Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League (N) Youth Wing Rana Ahmed Shahryar Khan. He said that immediate solution to the electricity related complaints of the consumers is being given the top priority and in this regard, any kind of negligence will not be tolerated.

Burning of crop residues is increasing environmental pollution, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Every year about 16 million tons of paddy straw is produced in Pakistan, of which about 60 percent is burnt. Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) organized a national awareness seminar in Gujranwala district to prevent the burning of paddy stubble and to educate and train farmers, in which officials of the Punjab Agriculture Department, agricultural machinery manufacturers, representatives of companies providing machinery designed by Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and other institutions in

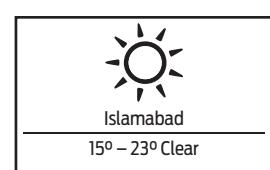
this regard. In the seminar, Director of Agriculture (Extension) Mr. Dr. Javed Iqbal, Director Agriculture (Adaptive Research) Dr. Muzamil Hussain Kahlu also highlighted the importance & measures of non-burning of crop residue and incentives and subsidies given to farmers. Apart from this, agricultural machinery manufacturers including agricultural service providers and farmers also expressed their views. All the paddy straw disposal machines were displayed in the hall about which the participants were given a practical briefing.

Chief Guest of the seminar, Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research

Council Mr. Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali gave a special address to the participants and emphasized that under no circumstances should the paddy stubble be set on fire, but instead should come to mechanical solution. Government of Pakistan has given subsidy on all the machines for growing paddy and all other crops from which the farmers should take full advantage. In this regard, chairman, PARC emphasized the farming community to contacts officials of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) and Punjab Agriculture Department who will guide them in time. He further said that burning



of crop residues in fields is destroying and damage living micro-organisms health of our agricultural lands. It burns organic matter, alter soil pH, nutrients which play an important role in increasing crop production.

**SERVICES****Namaz Timings**

Fajr	5:24 am
Zohr	11:56 am
Asr	3:22 pm
Magrib	5:00 pm
Isha	6:27 pm

EMERGENCY

Rescue (Police)	15
Bomb Disposal	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance	1122 &
& Rescue Services	445122
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	927097-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Policlinic	9218300-09
Shifa International	4603666

DEPARTMENTS

CDA	9212334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Board	9270151-3
Islamabad Metropolitan Corporation	9290224

AIOU to launch English Works program**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is launching English Works program in collaboration with the U.S. Department of State. English Works is an intensive 6-month English language proficiency and skill enhancement program for underprivileged talented students aged 17-25. The program will be offered at the Lahore Regional Campus of Allama Iqbal Open University. Classes will be held 5 days a week in the afternoon.

The English for Workforce Development in Pakistan program (English Works!), sponsored by the U.S. Embassy, Islamabad to improve the English language skills of unemployed or under-employed youth, it will also work to enhance entrepreneurial and technical skills to increase employability. Program activities foster cross-cultural dialogues and support the sharing of best practices in the field of English teaching and learning.

This six-month program will improve learners' English language skills through after-school English teaching and learning, enabling learners to build professional entrepreneurial skills that equip our youth to compete in the job market. The last date to apply for admission is December 5, 2022. Admission forms are available online at <https://forms.gle/c03p9SRTzRGGSLSA9>. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for a test and interview.

Treatment of women's cancers prioritized through Roche and Greenstar collaboration

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Breast Cancer, Cervical and Ovarian Cancers remain the leading cause of mortality among women in Pakistan. The increasing burden of Women's Cancers was discussed with Azra Pechuho, Sindh Health Minister during the launch of Roche and Greenstar pilot project that aims to design, develop and demonstrate scalable service delivery models that improve access to screening, early detection and treatment of Women's Cancers.

The project, which is starting from Karachi and Lahore, will target women of different age groups and stages of patient journey, by providing door-to-door awareness, free of cost screening and guidance for timely referral options by trained doctors at Greenstar clinics.

Azra Pechuho, Sindh Health Minister, while formally launching

the project said, "Providing standard of care treatment for Women's Cancers is a priority for the Sindh government. We are proud of the Roche and Greenstar collaboration for raising awareness, early detection facilities and timely treatment of Breast, Cervical and Ovarian Cancers for women from the underserved areas of Safoora Goth."

Speaking at the occasion, Hafsa Shamsie, the Managing Director of Roche Pharma said, "Women face barriers at every stage of their disease journey, and this initiative is part of Roche Pakistan's broad vision of prioritizing Women's Health by addressing the disparities that prohibit women from receiving appropriate care."

"We aspire to provide innovative healthcare and play a transformative role in all stages of female cancers, from initial screening through support during treatment that paves the



way for addressing the unmet needs of women cancer patients," said Hafsa Shamsie further.

Dr. Syed Azizur Rab, CEO Greenstar Social Marketing said at the occasion, "We are very proud to partner with Roche in implementing the first of its kind community outreach program where women in catchment areas will receive free screening services and referred for further assessment".

Breast, Cervical and Ovarian Cancers are the most common form of cancers among women in Pakistan, and early diagnosis makes these cancers treatable.

Pakistan has the highest incidence of Breast Cancer in Asia, with 25,000 cases in 2020 and a mortality rate of above 50%. Cervical Cancer is the second most common cancer in Pakistani women. Each year, around 5000 women are diagnosed with

cervical cancer, with 3197 reported deaths and a mortality rate of above 63%. Similarly, 4500 Pakistani women are diagnosed with Ovarian Cancer with a mortality rate of 70%. This high prevalence stems from a lack of awareness, stigma, unaffordability, inadequate infrastructure, and distance to screening sites.

Cancer puts a huge financial burden on the families while affecting them both emotionally and psychologically. The initiative aims to align the stakeholders to increase awareness about Women's Cancers, the importance of early detection and availability of affordable treatment.

The screening services will be provided at Greenstar's Safoora Goth Clinic in Karachi, which was formally inaugurated today by Dr. Talib Lashari Technical Advisor, Sindh Population Welfare Department.

For protection from cold

ISLAMABAD: A view of plants covered with dry grass on a green belt to protect from frost and cold weather in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Strict measures required safeguarding Pakistani children from harms of tobacco

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: A policy dialogue jointly organized by Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) and Vital Strategies held in Islamabad demanded that Strict Measures be required to safeguard Pakistani Children from the Harms of Tobacco Products including nicotine pouches.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Country Lead Tobacco Control, Vital Strategies, Former Technical Head of Tobacco Control Cell of Mo NHSRC, and Former Technical focal person of the Government of Pakistan for WHOs FCTC; citing a research report, said that Pakistan has become a marketing hotspot for tobacco and tobacco-related

products. The report identified Pakistan as a "key trial market" for nicotine-based products, calling it the "Tobacco Industry's" most exciting opportunity" for streamlining its business model.

He further stated that Tobacco Industry is promoting and marketing their products without restrictions, focusing on youth and kids to lure them into opting for this addiction. He further said that such products deliver varying amounts of the addictive chemical nicotine, which can negatively impact youth learning, attention span, and proneness to addiction. He demanded that there should be a complete ban on such nicotine pouches and the government should adopt necessary legislation at the earliest to save

Pakistan's youth.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), mentioned that tobacco industry is trying to conquer minds of children by manipulating them with different tactics of buying and using tobacco. Tobacco Industry needs children as replacement smokers to swap for the people who lose their lives due to tobacco consumption. In order to become popular in children and youth, tobacco industry has introduced novel products (nicotine pouches, e-cigarettes and heated products). Social Media, web advertisements are being used for sales and promotion. Tobacco industry is also engaging celebrities to promote these products.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC, mentioned under World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) Pakistan has committed to implement pro-child measures to safeguard children from harms of tobacco. However ground reality is different. Pakistan is still struggling to implement Tobacco Health Levy, Increase in Taxation and Graphical Health Warning, Ban on Novel Products, and Zero Sales of Tobacco Products near educational institutions. There's a dire need to implement these measures and adopt a sustainable National Tobacco Control Policy to safeguard our children and youth from harms of tobacco.

Naheed Manzoor visits Punjab pavilion at Lok Mela

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Under the guidance of Information and Culture Secretary Muhammad Asif Bilal Lodhi and the supervision of Director General Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Abrar Alam the constructed Punjab Pavilion is enthralling local and foreign tourists. On the fifth day of the fair, Naheed Manzoor and the Director of Arts Council visited the Punjab Pavilion.

On this occasion, Naheed Manzoor said that the purpose of the folk fair is to promote and preserve the arts, crafts, culture, folk music and storytelling skills of the province. Master craftsmen are the guardian of dying crafts, one of which is It is a pleasure



to come together at this place. In the

future, such fairs should be organized in other provinces of the country. She further said that handicrafts have the status of a regular industry in Punjab. Presenting artisans from across the province at the national level is undoubtedly an achievement of the Punjab Arts Council.

Artisans from every part of the province have been invited in the Punjab Pavilion, so that the entire province can be represented. Director of Arts Council Waqar Ahmad said that the tadka of folk music along with handicrafts is entertaining the fans from morning to night in the Punjab Pavilion.

The fans were swaying to the wonderful singing of Rizwana Khan. Foreign guests are entertained with Saag roti and lassi at the food stalls.

Inauguration Ceremony of Askari Digital Innovation Lab at NUST

**City Reporter**

ISLAMABAD: Askari Bank Limited (AKBL) in collaboration with National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) inaugurated a Digital Innovation Laboratory, a first of its kind in Pakistan. The Askari Digital Innovation Lab will comprise of a dedicated team of Data Scientists who will work on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence models to create new intellectual property (IP) for the bank. Housed within the space of National Science & Technology Park, this premises shall also serve as a base to attract and evaluate start-ups for potential investment by the Bank.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mr. Shehryar Ali Shah, Chief Digital Officer AKBL, and Dr. Rizwan Riaz, Pro-Rector Research, Innovation & Commercialization, NUST. Also present at the event were Mr. Rashid Zaman Khan, Chief Information Officer AKBL, Mr. Jawad Khalid Mirza, Chief Information Security Officer AKBL, Mr. Muhammad Anwar Fareed, Director Innovation and Commercialization, NUST and other senior officials from both organizations.

We strongly believe that this project will not only create IP for further customer acquisition, retention and value-added services, but also serve as a recruitment and training ground for the next generation of Data Scientists for the bank.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Rizwan Riaz stressed on the need for fostering partnerships between academia and industry which can grow to develop scalable digital products.

Islamabad Marriott Hotel hosts the Thai Food Festival

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Marriott Hotel, in collaboration with the Royal Thai Embassy, will host a one-day Thai Food Festival at the Crystal Ball Room on 3rd December 2022. The festival will offer an exciting menu prepared by Islamabad Marriott's Executive Thai Chef Thaewichai and will include live performances by a professional cultural troupe from Thailand.



Chef Thaewichai has a culinary experience of over 25 years and heads the kitchen of the authentic Thai restaurant at Marriott, The Royal Elephant, which is the only restaurant in Pakistan that has been awarded the Thai Select Premium Certificate by the Thai Ministry of Commerce.

"We feel privileged and excited to offer everyone an opportunity to explore the exquisite cuisine and warm hospitality from the Land of Smiles in Islamabad," said Mr. David Richard, General Manager of Islamabad Marriott Hotel. "Thanks to our partners' generous support, guests can enjoy the Thai Food Festival and take an authentic culinary journey around the flavors and culture of Thailand."

The Thai Ambassador, H.E. Chakkrid Krachaiwong, said: "The Royal Thai Embassy is very pleased to work with Islamabad Marriott Hotel to present authentic Thai cuisine to Pakistani guests. Thai food is a wonder in itself and will pleasantly surprise you on multiple fronts. Thailand is famous for its food excellence, wonderful cultural heritage, and amazing cultural performances. The Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad hopes that everyone will enjoy authentic Thai cuisine and the lively performances by our Thai Dance Troupe."



Aamir Sheikh Senior Vice President Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and his panel got PTI ticket for Local body election for UC 60 Islamabad.

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Hina Rabbani Khar one-day official visit to Afghanistan

Minister of States for Foreign Affairs, Hina Rabbani Khar undertook a one-day official visit to Afghanistan. In Kabul, the Minister of State held meetings with Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqqi, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi, Minister for Mines and Petroleum Shahabuddin Delawar, and Commerce Minister of Afghan Interim Government, Haji Nooruddin Azizi.

During these meetings, a range of bilateral issues of common interest including cooperation in education, health, agriculture, trade and investment, regional connectivity, people-to-people contacts and socioeconomic projects were discussed. In her engagements, the Minister of State reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to peaceful, stable, prosperous and connected Afghanistan. She reiterated Pakistan's resolve to further deepen and strengthen multifaceted ties between the two countries and build an enduring partnership for shared prosperity.

The Minister of State underscored the imperatives for the international community to practically engage with the Interim Afghan Government to help Afghanistan address the dire humanitarian situation and the challenges of reconstruction and socio-economic development. She also stressed that the unfreezing of Afghanistan's financial assets would contribute to this end.

Recalling the immutable bonds of geography, history, culture and language, the two sides agreed on the significance of sustained bilateral political dialogue and the vital role of institutional mechanisms to advance the myriad tracks of Pakistan-Afghanistan relations. The two sides also emphasized the importance of Afghanistan as a land bridge between Central Asia and South Asia and its pivotal role in promoting regional connectivity including through transportation links and mega energy projects such as TAPI and CASA-1000.

The two sides discussed matters related to enhanced regional security with mutual cooperation, including in countering terrorism, and issues and policies which would impact the interim Government's engagement with the international community.

The Minister of State held a luncheon meeting with representatives of the Women Chamber of Commerce. She emphasized the important role of women in Afghan society and expressed Pakistan's keen desire to strengthen linkages between women entrepreneurs of Pakistan and Afghanistan. She announced that Pakistan would give special preference to import of products produced by businesses run by Afghan women. Today's visit of the Minister of State was a manifestation of the high importance Pakistan attaches to its longstanding fraternal relationship with Afghanistan.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people

Spokesman Research

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/40 B of 2 December 1977, On 29 November 1947, the anniversary of the adoption of the General Assembly, is commemorated annually, of Resolution 181 (D-2) providing for the partition of Palestine into two States. The decision that was taken in 1947 based on a proposal submitted by the British occupation authority (the British Mandate) to the United Nations with the aim of giving international legitimacy of a legal character that would facilitate the implementation of the ominous promise announced by its Foreign Minister Balfour Declaration on 2nd of November 1917 to establish a Jewish entity in the land of historical Palestine where the people were born. The Palestinian has grown and developed, creating its human and national existence through an organic relationship that does not break or break between the people, the land and history for thousands of years.

Despite the historical injustice that befall the Palestinian people by displacing them and denying them the right to self-determination, following General Assembly Resolution No. 181 in 1947, which divided Palestine into two states Arab and Jewish, this resolution still provides conditions for international legitimacy that guarantee the right of the Palestinian people to sovereignty and national independence.

Since its establishment, Israel committed "brutal crimes against our people when it destroyed 529 Palestinian villages and expelled their residents from them during and after the 1948 war, and displaced half of the Palestinian people at that time, turning about 950,000 Palestinians into refugees. It also carried out more than 50 massacres that claimed the lives of elderly people, men,

women and children.

74 Years and the Palestinians are still living the effects of the Nakba, and here is another year that passes and more than five million Palestinians are still languishing under the Israeli military occupation for 54 years, another year of killing, siege, arrest, forced displacement and home demolitions, another year of settlements and dismemberment of the homeland through the annexation wall and confiscation land and military checkpoints. Another year witnessed more violence and incitement against our Palestinian people and their Christian and Islamic sanctities. And here we are receiving another year that coincides with the formation of an Israeli government of extremist settlers and Zionist terrorist movements, a government that is the most extreme and right-wing and that warns of more racism, persecution, killing and detention of our steadfast Palestinian people, and warns of more settlements, the destruction of homes and the displacement of citizens, an Israeli government that warns of a bloodier future and distance. Greater opportunities for peace and stability in Palestine, which was and still is the key to peace and stability in the Middle East and the world at large. Will the international community remain silent?

Another year comes at a time when confidence in achieving peace based on justice and international law is declining due to the policies of the Israeli occupation government that has not implemented any of the international resolutions issued by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, while on the other hand the hand of the army and terrorist settlers who are killing our people is unleashed. Palestinians in broad daylight, stealing their lands and water, burning and demolishing their homes, forcing them to pay the financial cost of demolition, or forcing them to demolish with their own hands. All this with official Israeli protection that left nothing of the land

for the Palestinians to establish their state on, which proves with conclusive evidence that it does not believe in peace and the two-state solution, but rather Sovereignly imposing a fait accompli with brute force and aggression, which denies the existence of an Israeli partner for peace.

The international community is required to stand up to its responsibilities to develop an international plan to end the occupation of the land of the State of Palestine, in order to achieve peace, security and stability in the region based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Last but not least, the Palestinian people did not stop from generation to generation in valiant defense of their homeland, and our people's successive revolutions were a heroic embodiment of the will for national independence, and our people were and still will continue to reject oppression and injustice, and will continue their legitimate struggle against the Israeli colonial occupation, and we will not give up. On the culture of peace entrenched in us, we will continue our approach to peaceful popular resistance, and we will not accept a future of walls, siege, racial discrimination, oppression, hatred and colonialism. The issue of Palestine will remain a witness to the extent of the credibility of the international community and the effectiveness of its system, which it established to respect international law, to maintain international peace and security, to prevent the seizure of the land of others by force and to support the right of peoples to self-determination, in accordance with the promises and covenants it made in its international resolutions and treaties. Our people do not demand more than what is guaranteed by international legitimacy to the rest of the peoples of the earth, but they also will not accept less.

This Statement issued by the Embassy of the State of Palestine in Pakistan.

How Gwadar and Blue Economy can Advance Pakistan's Economy

Dr. Hasan Yaser Malik

Eighty per cent of global trade by volume and 70 per cent by value are being carried out through sea and is increasing significantly; out of which Asian ports loaded and unloaded 41 per cent and 62 per cent respectively in 2020. Sea trade is not only preferred due to its flexibility but also being the cheapest mode of transportation. Transportation through sea is 10, 45 and 163 times cheaper than rail, road and air respectively. In case of Pakistan 95 per cent of its trade is carried out through sea.

However despite its huge dependence on sea trade, possession of 1050 km long coast and 29, 0058 sq. km of Exclusive Economic Zone in Indian Ocean through which 70 per cent of global oil is traded, Pakistan has not been able to pragmatically make use of these potentials to an advantageous and sustainable socio-economic scenario. Unfortunately it is significant to note that since 1971 Pakistan shipping fleet has reduced sharply from 71 to 11; ships out of which six are oil and five are bulk carriers; which transport only 5 percent of Pakistan's trade worth 0.25 billion USD thus compelling Pakistan to spend 5 to 6 billion USD of its valued foreign exchange as freight charges annually to foreign ships; who may increase the freight cost or may not be available during war or other crisis.

Hence it is imperative for Pakistan to not only to reduce this independence

but also to enhance in Blue Economy for diplomatic sustainability and strength in an emerging era of global interdependence. As Pakistan has been blessed with a long coast, five major rivers and the world's largest canal network hence all should also be integrated in Blue Economic Policy for atleast fishing, transportation and hydro power generation. Danube, Mekong, Morava, Maghna and Padma rivers are points in case. Like Bangladesh who transported 27.80 lac tons of cargo through inland waterways in financial year 2019 to 2020, Pakistan can also make use of its 10,370 km long inland waterways for transportation. As far as sea trade is concerned apart from increasing the ships there is a need to enhance port handling capacity from 37 to 217 million tons per annum within five years by transforming Gwadar into a SMART Automated port.

It is estimated that by 2050, 50 per cent of global oil and gas needs will be met through off shore resources, for which Pakistan needs to continuously enhance its offshore exploration and drilling by partnering with countries like China, Germany, Iran, Russia and Turkey. Along with oil and gas other seabed resources like copper, zinc, nickel, gold, silver and phosphorus should also be explored. Despite having five large rivers, world's largest canal network and Exclusive Economic Zone Pakistan's fishing export is only worth 451 million USD out of 270 billion USD of global fishing trade. Regrettably despite being blessed with 1050 km long coast with divers-

ity of flora and fauna, share of Pakistan in coastal tourism was only worth 50, 000 USD as compared to global share of 2.9 trillion USD in year 2020. Although the capacity of Pakistani shipbuilding industry is improving with the help of Pakistan Navy however on the contrary ship breaking industry is diminishing; in 1980 Gadani Ship Breaking Yard was the largest facility in the world with 30,000 employees however since 2020 it has come down to third place with 6,000 employees after Indian Alang and Bangladeshi Chittagong ship breaking yards.

Apart from improving the above mentioned facets, now that once Pakistan is part Belt Road Initiative it should also concentrate for earliest development of Gwadar Shipyard which is located at mouth of hydrocarbon rich Persian gulf through which Ultra Large Crude Carriers and Large Container Carries pass hence provision of an advance and a contemporary repair facility at Gwadar Shipyard will not only be economically beneficial for Pakistan but will also add stake of global shipping companies in Gwadar. In order to make the Blue Economy more pragmatic and to complete the trade cycle it will be vital to prioritise the development of Special Economic Zones closer to ports and to establish Gomthal Midway Transit Transshipment Hub 20 km north of Gilgit from where containers and other load brought from south



will be shifted to transport from other countries. Moreover there is also a need to evolve an integrated policy for sustainable Blue Economy by strengthening the concept of public private partnership.

(Astola Island)

Astola Island which is a small uninhabited 6.7 km long Pakistani island in the Arabian Sea approximately 39 km southeast of the fishing port of Pasni should also be developed as a logistic base for Navy and Merchant ships including foreign vessels and should also serve as a naval intelligence and defence out post. This will also secure the most critical sea line of communication emerging out of hydrocarbon rich Strait of Hormuz leading to Pacific Ocean through Strait of Malacca and Atlantic Ocean through Suez Canal.

Writer is Ph.D; International Relations and Fellow Research Member with Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transportation (UK) & Pakistan Navy War College



Voice to the Downtrodden Victims of East Pakistan

Anees Ali Shah

War has remained the biggest cause to any humanitarian crisis, winners celebrate their victory and victims are forgotten. People who suffer more in war are always women and children as they are soft targets. War may end in few days but it has long lasting horrific effects on civil society. Victor remains busy in writing its own version of history, however civil population face starvation, poverty, unemployment and go through psychological traumas.

Same is the suffering of stranded Pakistanis in Dhaka Bangladesh. Society is not familiar with the word "stranded Pakistanis" as they are the forgotten past, they are the most hapless people on the planet earth. Neither owned by native homeland East while East Pakistan nor by the Pakistan for whom they declined the offer of Bengali nationalist and supported the idea of a united Pakistan and reluctantly sacrificed their lives, property and honor.

Common man in Eastern or western wing of Pakistan was not responsible for fall of Dhaka. Dhaka fall is the saddest chapter in the history of Pakistan. It's an ongoing and never ending debate who was responsible for fall of Dhaka, main actors are no more in this world.

Bangladesh has its own perspective on fall of Dhaka and on every 16th of December, there are celebrations in Bangladesh, as independence day and victory day in India while commemorated in Pakistan and only few actors get the attention like Sheikh Mujib, Z.A. Bhutto, Yahya Khan, India, Pakistan, USSR, USA, Mukhti Bahini etc. But no one talks about why three hundred thousand stranded Pakistanis still live in slums of Dhaka, why they are called stranded Pakistanis, why Urdu speaking civilians were repatriated in 1974 apart from thirty four thousand Army personnel. Though

in the farewell speech by chief of army staff some hidden facts of fall of Dhaka were mentioned but actual frontline soldiers of East Pakistan Civil Armed forces and Bihari community who were massacred brutally in Sathar, Kanchan Nadi and Dhaka Racecourse ground after fall were not voiced.

Above all those Biharis who were repatriated to Pakistan were not warmly welcomed as due to media



blackout during 1971 War people of West Pakistan did not know about them and they were neither given identity nor honorable living. Organi town Karachi is their main hub of this unfortunate community and it's the biggest slum of Pakistan, people are living in poor socio economic conditions. The community who's forefathers were university graduates are now compelled to do odd jobs to earn their living. They are denied of their basic constitutional right of citizenship, just because the state authorities ask them to give proof of being Pakistani, East while East Pakistan was a province of Pakistan, Biharis were repatriated to Pakistan in the state having single suit wearing how they can provide documents of citizenship.

Today's Bangladesh was former East Pakistan which the state authorities must keep in mind while declining their right of citizenship. There must be proper legislation to ensure their right of citizenship.

Recently a resolution was tabled in the House of Representatives USA by Congressmen Rohit Khanna and Steve Chabot Recognizing the Bangladesh Genocide 1971 which mentions killings of three million Bengali Hindus, while according to US state department two hundred thousand people were killed in the conflict, what a contrast and joke in the US Congress. Every country has its own version of history but no one voiced

The writer is a graduate from National Defence University Islamabad.

The article highlights the story of downtrodden civil War victims of Fall of Dhaka and contrast of viewpoint by different countries of fall of Dhaka. Article is worth read for Students/Faculty of History, International Relations and Current Affairs.

One-year reflection of IPYF

 Spokesman Report

KARACHI: In commemoration of the 1st anniversary of the formation of the Indonesia-Pakistan Youth Forum (IPYF) in 2021 which was initiated by the Indonesian Consul General in Karachi, the Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi has held a hybrid sharing session: Collaboration of Indonesia-Pakistan Young Scientist and a Way Forward of IPYF at Wisma Indonesia, Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi on November 23rd, 2022.

This activity also coincided with the reception of 12 research delegates from the University of North Sumatra (USU) who joined a joint research program with the International Center for Chemical and Biological Science (ICCBS). This is a follow-up to the Cooperation MoU between USU and ICCBS which was signed at the end of 2021.

Present virtually, more than 180 participants consisted of student representatives from various universities in Karachi, namely the University of Karachi, Iqra University, Bahria University, NED University, and Indus University as well as several students in Indonesia, namely from the University of



Sumatera Utara (USU), State University Jakarta (UNJ), UIN Syarif Hidayatullah, Al Azhar Indonesia University (UAI), Indonesian Education University (UPI), Telkom University, Udayana University, and Hang Tuah University Surabaya. In addition, Pakistani students studying in Indonesia (Indonesian KNB Scholarship Recipients) at Gajah Mada University (UGM), the University of Indonesia (UI), and Diponegoro University (Undip).

In his remarks, the Indonesian Consul General in Karachi, Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat said that IPYF

was formed to become a platform that accommodates initiatives to improve Indonesia and Pakistan youth relations in all fields. This is because the interaction between Indonesia and Pakistan is still more limited to the economic field. In particular, the Indonesian Consul General in Karachi emphasized that the arrival of the research team from USU could be an example for other universities in Indonesia and Pakistan in building and increasing cooperation between the two countries. The Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi has succeeded in increasing coopera-

tion between universities in Pakistan and Indonesia. The Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi emphasized the design of the collaboration program regarding the involvement of youth students, such as student exchanges, workshops, joint research, seminars and others.

Meanwhile, the Director of ICCBS, Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Choudary, in his online remarks from Jeddah, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Indonesian Consul General in Karachi who had succeeded in realizing the MoU on Cooperation between

ICCBS and USU. It is hoped that this joint research collaboration will further strengthen the relationship between Indonesia and Pakistan in the field of science through the support of the Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), under the umbrella of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

As resource persons, 2 (two) female PhD level researchers from ICCBS, namely Ms Anila Fayaz and Ms Faryal Ashraf; and 2 (two) USU female students, Ms Alfi Dwi Hadiani and Ms Artha Risma Uli Napitupulu. Apart

from that, 2 (two) Pakistani students who received the Indonesia Partnership for Developing Countries (KNB) scholarships, namely Mr Taimoor Ahmed (Alumni of the Master of Management at Atma Jaya University and Mr Zeeshan Hamid Malik, Gadjah Mada University (UGM) student). In the discussion, it was agreed that it was necessary to intensify cooperation in the field of research between the younger generations of Indonesia and Pakistan, but also to expand cooperation in other fields including the field of social sciences.

World must fully support Kashmiris' right to self determination: AJK President



 Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that it was high time that the world community particularly the OIC member countries should fully support the Kashmiris' right to self-determination guaranteed to them by the United Nations.

The president said that the solution to the Cyprus problem lies in the establishment of two separate states. He said that Pakistan has always supported Turkey's principled stance on the Cyprus issue.

He expressed these views in a detailed meeting with

the Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Mehmet Pkachi, who called on him here today. Speaking on the occasion, the president thanked the Turkish people and the government for their consistent support to Kashmir cause.

The president said that the solution to the Cyprus problem lies in the establishment of two separate states. He said that Pakistan has always supported Turkey's principled stance on the Cyprus issue.

Following an assessment of

EU Ambassador handed over mobile food-testing laboratory to the Sindh Food Authority

 Bureau Report

KARACHI: The European Union Ambassador to Pakistan Her Excellency Dr Riina Kionka handed over keys to a mobile food-testing laboratory to the Sindh Food Authority at a ceremony held in Karachi, Sindh. This was done as part of the Growth for Rural Advancement and Sustainable Progress (GRASP) project, funded by the European Union, and implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC). Attended by Minister Food Sindh, Mr Mukesh Kumar Chawla, and Secretary Food Mr Raja Khurram Shehzad Umer, as well as officials from the Sindh Food Authority.

As part of its duties, the van will also be used to check for food contamination to ensure, in particular processed foods, are free from undeclared ingredients, are accurately labeled and are compliant with relevant food safety standards and rules. Equipped with a suite

of testing technology, along with its crew of technicians, the van will provide expert on the spot scientific expertise to help support both consumer confidence, but also public health.

Through GRASP, officials of the Sindh Food Authority have also been trained on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) compliance issues in relation to requirement for wider market access, including towards potential international exports, in addition to supporting and reviewing regulatory and operational frameworks of the authority, towards its overall strengthening and operational capacity.

Speaking at the ceremony, her Excellency Dr Riina Kionkasaid, "The EU is glad

to be one of the main donors working to improve the food quality in Sindh. We see food safety not only as important for public health perspective, but also economically: Safe quality products open up access to new and premium markets for the agriculture sector."

Provincial Minister Food Mr Mukesh Kumar Chawla thanked the European Union's support in the province, and recognized the investment made through GRASP, "I commend the support provided through GRASP, it is an important step to ensure food safety of people in Sindh, and with the mobile van, we can reach SMEs who do not have access to quality testing otherwise"

Raza Bashir Tarar received Shun Imaizumi



TOKYO: Ambassador-designate, Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar received Mr. Shun Imaizumi, President Japan-Pakistan Association at the Embassy of Pakistan, Tokyo today.

The Ambassador-designate thanked Mr. Imaizumi and highlighted close friendly relations between Pakistan and Japan. Moreover, bilateral ties, cooperation in the fields of business and industry and the situation arising out of recent floods in Pakistan were discussed.

While commanding the good work of the Association, the Ambassador-designate underlined the need for adding more substance and breadth to the very important relationship between Pakistan and Japan. He assured the Association of full cooperation in this regard.

China's initiative for global peace & prosperity

 Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

The President of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), Ambassador Lin Songtian recently on his first Foreign visit, which was started from Pakistan, said that promotion of people-to-people exchanges, media cooperation and youth exchange programs are on top his agenda and he would love to work with Pakistani counterparts and officials to make this plan a success being an integral part of China's initiatives for global peace and prosperity. Recently held successful 20th National People's Congress (NPC) of Communist Party of China's (CPC) indicated new goals to enable China to stay at the forefront of the world. CPAFFC President was heading 6-members high level delegation which included Mr. Ji Yongjun, Deputy Director-General Asian & African Affairs, Mr. Xu Yan Deputy Director-General Asian & African Affairs, Ms. Huang Xiaowei, Director Asian & African Affairs, Mr. Liu Chang, Deputy Director and Ms. Pei Xingchen, Section Officer.

CPAFFC President Ambassador Lin Songtian visit is very important which bring a message of encouragement for people to people interaction, strengthening sister cities relations at a high level to achieve the desired goal for peace enabling all to achieve prosperity in the world. During the visit the delegation called on Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Federal Government officials apart from very important interactions with their counterparts. All Pakistan China Friendship Association (APCFA), Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan which was initially established in 1971 as Pak-China Student Friendship Association, Think Tanks, Art & Cultural reputed organization Hunerkanda, interact with National Mass Media. CPAFFC will going to



Islamabad: Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary General Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan presenting a Souvenir to visiting Ambassador Lin Songtian President Chines People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) during latter's visit to Pakistan.

complete its 7 decades of establishment as it was established on 3rd May 1954, by the then Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai by putting together 10 leading non organization as Chinese People's Association for cultural relations with Foreign Countries (CPACRFC), that were Chinese People's Committee for Protection of World Peace, China Federation of Literary & Art Circles, All China Federation of Trade Unions, All China Democratic Women's Federation, All China Democratic Youth Federation, All China Student Federation, China-India Friendship Association, China-Burma Friendship Association and Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs, all these Association were later on combined together with leading Chinese People's Committee for World Peace and Chinese Committee for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity merged in to CPAFFC. Since its first President Mr. Chu Tunan (1954-1969) who was also Vice Chairman of 6th National People's Congress Standing Committee headed more than a decade CPAFFC. At present, Ambassador Lin Songtian who is China's top diplomat for African countries has contributed his visionary

thoughts for the improvement of social-economic development activities and had earn great respect for China, Chinese people and himself.

PCFA Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pakistan has the honor for having more than 3 decades friendly interaction and exchanges of delegation to further strengthening the common cause of CPAFFC & PCFA. PCFA has also having the honor to host CPAFFC President His Excellency Mr. Han Xu, H. E. Madam Li Xiaolin and now interact with H.E. Mr. Lin Songtian.

The President CPAFFC while meeting with Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan, it was

desired to have joint efforts for progress. During an hour plus cordial meeting, Ambassador Lin Songtian stated that China and Pakistan should work together to explore more opportunities in the social, cultural, and economic spheres for mutual benefit. Chinese Charge d'Affairs, Madam Pang Chunxue, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, and Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani, the Secretary-General of the Pakistan China Friendship Association (PCFA), were also present during the meeting. The visiting CPAFFC President Lin Songtian praised PCFA

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's efforts during the last three decades. In this vein, he suggested to explore new possibilities and learning from one another's experiences to advance social prosperity & economic development. He also discussed his experiences while serving as China's Ambassador to the African continent. He said that sincere efforts combined with a clear vision can overcome the hurdles and bring positive social change. He also expressed gratitude for China's assistance during the floods. Along these lines, Senator Mirza Muhammad Afridi enunciated that the two partner countries ought to take advantage of historical and exemplary relationships to further solidify ties for future generations. Likewise, he mentioned that both China and Pakistan should further strengthen people-to-people as well as sister-city relationships to get benefit from each other experiences.

During two days stay of the CPAFFC delegation in Federal Capital in Islamabad, an important interaction was at China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) of ISSI where roundtable discussion was organized with the 6-member delegation which was moderated by Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director China CPSC at ISSI while the Keynote speeches were delivered by Amb. Lin Songtian, and Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed. In his remarks Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director, CPSC said that the modernization of China is being termed as 'China's rise' in international politics.

In his keynote address, Mr. Lin Songtian, President CPAFFC said that despite all the changes in global landscape, Pakistan has always stood by China and the same has been reciprocated by China as well. China has always stressed on shared prosperity and win-win cooperation and for that it encourages fast development of its neighbors particularly its iron-brother Pakistan. The purpose of this visit is to see what Pakistan has, where it stands, what it needs and how can China help and facilitate it. He stated that this



Islamabad: The visiting Ambassador Lin Songtian President Chines People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) called on Mirza Mohammad Afridi Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan at latter's residence photo taken on the occasion shows (L-R) Syed Mohammad Qasim Sudais, Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Mirza Mohammad Afridi, Ambassador Lin Songtian, Madam Pang Chunxue Actina Ambassador in Pakistan, Mr. Xu Yan.

visit also aims to carry forward the joint consensus of President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Speaking on the occasion, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed said that despite having different cultures, systems and beliefs Pakistan-China relations are quite unique, remarkable and unprecedented in the chronicles of modern history. No matter how things change in the region or the world, China firmly support Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity and Pakistan will do the same. It would not be wrong to say that China is the 'sheet anchor' of Pakistan's defense, territorial and economic interests. He noted that China is the 'sheet anchor' of Pakistan's defense, territorial and economic interests. He noted that China is the 'sheet anchor' of Pakistan's defense, territorial and economic interests. He noted that China is the 'sheet anchor' of Pakistan's defense, territorial and economic interests.

He said that keeping in view the iron-bond of friendship between China and Pakistan, he chose Pakistan as the first country for his overseas visit. He said that the CPAFFC had collected supplies worth 126 million RMB for flood hit people of Pakistan and these supplies would soon be shipped to Pakistan. "Pakistan is my second home. We always remember that Pakistan always stood for China and also helped Chinese people in natural calamities and fighting COVID-19. I also came to help implement the consensus reached between President Xi and Premier Shehbaz Sharif on promoting people to people exchanges to shape a community with a shared future for mankind," Amb. Lin Songtian said. He said under the CPEC, China plans to connect China's Xinjiang with Gwadar through high speed railway as infrastructure building is key to development. "We are moving to the second phase of the CPEC. I would urge investors from China and other countries to come and invest in Pakistan. I also plan to promote people to people exchanges. We shall contribute to foster a new type of international relations and the building of a community with a shared future for mankind by playing our part in people-to-people diplomacy. To achieve these goals regular exchange of delegations from all walks of life to further understand China and to cultivate these friendly relations for the benefits of both nation and region, we always support and appreciate CPAFFC initiatives.

(The writer is Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province Pakistan email syeed.gilani@gmail.com)

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
42,373.59	42,071.34
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,438.08	42,042.48
Index Value	Change
4,236,407,854	+302.25
Percentage	Time
+0.72%	29 Nov, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,512.00	+37.98
Percentage	Time
+0.51%	29 Nov, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
33,752.76	-96.70
Percentage	Time
-0.29%	29 Nov, 11:56 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
28,027.84	-134.99
Percentage	Time
-0.48%	29 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

Syngenta's Cropwise Grower App now allows farmers to diagnose crop pests & diseases

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Syngenta Pakistan Limited, a leading agriculture innovation and technology company—providing crop protection, biologicals, seeds, crop-enhancement products and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers, has successfully launched the updated version of its "Cropwise Grower" app which will now allow the farmers to conveniently detect and diagnose crop pests & diseases by simply taking a picture of a crop while also guiding farmers about the recommended products and application technology – all in 5 seconds time with over 93% accuracy versus the usual human accuracy of 72%. This 'Snap, Diagnosis and Solution' feature, powered by an artificial intelligence technology company called Plantix, gives a competitive edge to the Cropwise Grower app among all the other locally-available apps – this is a first-of-its-kind offering in the crop protection industry.

The Cropwise Grower app also provides growers with access to agronomic advice, weather forecasts, recommendations on choosing the right time for spraying during the day, historic weather trends for the past 6 months and insights into the respective region's crop disease problems for more tailored solutions.

Through this app, farmers will be facilitated in increasing their yields through timely advice and access to remedies by employing a preventative approach versus the treatment approach for farmers in the region – if a disease is detected on a particular crop in one location, all farmers in that area are alerted to keep a watchful eye for the disease.

Zeehan Hasib Baig—General Manager of Syngenta Pakistan—shared that "Syngenta Pakistan's core strength lies in its relationship with the growers."

FAISALABAD: A worker busy in cutting iron garter with the help of cutter outside his workplace in the city.

Hard work

ISLAMABAD: A worker busy in cutting iron garter with the help of cutter outside his workplace in the city.



Photo: Online

Careem celebrates 1 billion rides

Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Careem, the region's leading multi-service platform, celebrates 1 billion rides hailing trips across the Middle East, North Africa and Pakistan. Careem Captains have driven over 9 billion kilometres across more than 80 cities over ten years. The countries with the highest number of rides recorded are Pakistan (299 million), Saudi Arabia (242 million), and Egypt (230 million).

The longest single ride covered 1,113 kilometres, from Riyadh to Jazan in Saudi Arabia in 2020. The shortest single ride was a 200 metre trip in Lahore. Careem has more than 50 million registered customers, and 2.5 million registered Captains who have collectively earned over \$4

billion in earnings to date. The highest number of trips recorded by a Careem Captain is 35,139 trips by a Captain in Jordan. The highest number of rides booked by a Careem customer is over 9,500 rides by a customer in Saudi Arabia.

The 1 billionth trip was completed in Qatar by Captain Captain Razak Uppattil from Kerala, India, who has been driving with Careem for four years and has completed over 10,500 trips on the platform. To celebrate this milestone, Careem gifted Captain Razak a trip to his home town in Kerala.

The 1 billionth passenger was Genera Tesoro, a Careem customer from the Philippines who works as a receptionist at Padel In Aspire Zone in Doha. Genera completes

more than 50 trips per month and says she chooses Careem because it is a more affordable option. Careem gifted Genera rides-hailing trips for one year" as a token of appreciation.

Mudassir Sheikha, CEO & Co-founder of Careem, said: "Reaching the incredible milestone of 1 billion rides is thanks to the hard work of our Captains and colleagues as well as the trust that our customers have placed in us. We feel blessed to have made it easier for people to move around and to have created earning opportunities for more than 2.5 million people. The opportunity ahead is large and humbling—our region is full of untapped potential and there's so much more we must do to simplify and improve life for people in the region."



Captain Razak Uppattil, the Captain who completed the 1 billionth ride, commented: "I thank God to have completed the 1 billion trip. I have been at Careem for about four years and have so many favourite moments. It's the people that I get

to meet from all over the world that I really enjoy. I have three children back home in Kerala, India, and I am so excited to see them soon."

Careem's first ride took place in the UAE in September 2012 and was booked manually before the first line of code was written from Pakistan a few months later. Careem expanded in popularity across the region as the first ride-hailing platform to offer cash payments. The percentage of Careem rides paid for digitally has grown from 31% in 2016 to 44% in 2022.

Today Careem offers over a dozen services including ride-hailing, food and grocery delivery, micro-mobility, payments, and partner services including home cleaning, car rental, event bookings, and on-demand laundry services.

Govt approves reduction of base tariff for tubewells to Rs 13/kwh



ECC approved Technical Supplementary Grant of Rs. 93.438 billion in three tranches of Rs. 31.146 billion each.

Ministry of Commerce submitted a summary on Individual Tariff Rationalization proposal from different sectors for review of Regulatory Duties (RDs). The ECC after discussion approved the proposal to reduce RD on Disodium Carbonate (PCT - 2836.2000) from current rate of 20% to 10% and imposed RD at rate of 5% on filament Yarns (PCT 5402.3300, 5402.4600, 5402.4700, 5402.5200 and 5402.6200).

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting submitted a summary for allocation of budget to launch comprehensive media awareness campaign on government initiatives, programmes and projects. The ECC after detailed discussion approved Supplementary Grant of Rs. 2 billion for flood related media campaigns.

ECC approved Rs. 15 billion in favour of Election Commission of Pakistan for Current Financial Year 2022-23. Out of Rs. 15 billion, Rs. 5 billion will be released immediately while the balance will be released in tranches on utilization of the first tranche.

The ECC also approved Technical Supplementary Grant amounting to Rs. 162.521 million in favour of Ministry of Housing and Works in addition to approving Rs. 250 million for execution of development scheme titled "Construction of Railway underpass, Gorja, District Toba Tek Singh" and Rs. 144.210 million for execution of development schemes in District D.I. Khan. APP

ICCI expresses condolences over the sad demise of S.M. Munir

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the said demise of renowned business leader S.M. Munir who passed away in Karachi, terming it a great loss to the business community of the country.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari President, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) expressed their heartfelt condolences with the bereaved family and prayed that may Allah the Almighty keep the departed soul in eternal peace and grant the bereaved family the courage to bear this loss with patience. They said that S.M. Munir was a great business leader who rendered valuable services for the business community as Chairman TDAP, President FPCCI and Patron-in-Chief, United Business Group.

Delegation from Malaysian Communications & Multimedia Commission visits PTA



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Chairman PTA, Maj. Gen. Amir AzeemBajwa (R) held a meeting with the Interim Chairman of Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Tan Sri Mohamad Salim bin Fateh Din at PTA Headquarters, Islamabad.

Member (Finance) PTA, Mr. Muhammad Naveed; Commission Member MCMC, Datuk Lim Thean-

Shiang and former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia, Lt. Gen. (R) Tahir MahmoodQazi and other MCMC and PTA officers were also present at the meeting.

The two sides discussed the digital landscape of Pakistan and Malaysia including major initiatives and future projects.

The phenomenal growth of ICT sector in Pakistan was appreciated by the Chairman MCMC.

British High Commission hosts reception to 'Welcome the Return of England Test Cricket to Pakistan'

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The British High Commission hosted a reception to welcome the return of the England Test cricket to Pakistan. In attendance were notable sports and media personalities, political figures, representatives from the ECB and PCB as well as cricket players who are set to play Test cricket in Pakistan for the first time in 17 years.

The return of the England Test team comes amid a standout year for UK-Pakistan sporting and cultural ties, coinciding with the 75-year anniversary of UK-Pakistan relations, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the England T20 Pakistan cricket tour and the World Cup T20 England-Pakistan final. The Tests mark a highpoint, as 2022 draws to a close.

The return of England cricket has coincided with a strong focus on the power of sports diplomacy - with both tours taking place



following devastation caused by floods. Both the ECB and cricketers contributed to the UK's DEC Pakistan flood appeal during the T20s which raised over £30m to provide lifesaving aid to those affected. England Test Captain, Ben Stokes, has also generously announced that he will be

curriculums and help children return to a sense of normality.

This sports diplomacy drive complements a wider UK Government focus in supporting Pakistan's resilience in the aftermath of the floods via education development. Through its programmes, the UK is currently supporting 40,000 marginalised children with back to school kits including essential textbooks, providing 8,000 dignity kits for adolescent girls, and delivering an accelerated learning programme to 30,000 children to help them catch up on lost learning due to flood disruption. These efforts will safeguard girls in particular, and in the coming months the UK is set to expand its educational drive even further with a 'Girls and Out of school children: Action for Learning (GOAL)' programme which will support 20,000 flood-affected students (at least 60% female) to return to education in 235 schools.

The British High Commission-



er, Dr Christian Turner said the following:

'Cricket teaches us to play hard, accept defeat and respect our opponents. The players, PCB and ECB are great ambassadors for their sport and it is a pleasure to welcome them to the High Commission. The generous donations to flood victims is

a sign of the deep ties and affection between our two countries.'

England Batter, Ollie Pope, said 'We're delighted to return to Pakistan for this historic Test tour after such an exciting T20 series earlier this year. We're grateful for the warm welcome we have received but also know that many communities have been impacted severely by the floods. It's great to see so many different organisations coming together to arrange this donation of cricket equipment and hopefully it will go a small way to ensuring that children in some of the affected areas can still benefit from all the good that cricket can do as they try to recover.'

2nd Online International Conference for Physical Education and Sports Sciences

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: 2nd Online International Conference for Physical Education and Sports Sciences is being organized on Saturday, 3rd December 2022 under the auspices of Superior university, sports Promotion Society International, united countries school sports council, Pakistan sports promoters, international association of physical education & sports.

Preparations are in full swing and the conference will be held on December 3. Sports Promotion Society



International President Faisal Fayaz informed that the preparations for the conference have already been started and this conference is under the UNSDG #3, 4, 9, 16, 15, 17, welfare of humanity. International Association of Physical Education and Sports and Superior University are organizing the event for the welfare of humanity and sports. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Naveed Babar, Dean of Health Sciences, Superior University will be the chief guest on this occasion.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Tahir Nazir, President Paki-

stan IPCS. Assistant Professor Punjab University Prof. Dr. Sajjad Ali Gul, Assistant Professor Punjab University Hara Atta, Lecturer Punjab University Prof. Dr. Gurdeep Singh Indian Hockey Olympian Director World University Games, Prof. Dr. Kishore Mukhpande Head of Department Indian Physical Education Department, Arooj Saqib Sr. VP, Irum Fawad, Safoora Saleem Shahzadi, Batool Athar, Imran Sarvar Khan, Mubashar Abbass, Syed Muhammad Murtaza and World Sports Experts will participate in the second Physical Education and Sports Science 2022.

Sports people from all over the world will participate in this conference which aims to highlight the importance of sports and physical education.

FFC's Green Team Bags Winning Trophy of Sona Golf Tournament 2022



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The 22nd Annual Invitational Golf Tournament of Faaji Fertilizer Company Gothnachi has concluded.

FFC Green Team was declared winner of the trophy and prizes were distributed amongst the winning players.

Resident Manager FFC, Brigadier Talat Mehmood Janjua (Retd) distributed prizes to the players and thanked the participants for their zealous participation and excellent game played by the players.

On this occasion, Commander Cholistan Rangers, Brig Rizwanullah Nazir, SSP Motorway Police Rana Sarfaraz Ahmed, DSP Motorway Police Hasnain Abbas, Senior Vice President Sona Golf Club Mr. Tariq Sajjad, Vice President Sona Golf Club Mr. Mahmood Iqbal Waraich, General Secretary Sona Golf Club Mr. Mohammad Abbas Shakir, Deputy Manager Admin Lt. Col. Ehtesham Gul (Retd) and Senior Executive Admin Major Ejaz Sarwar Shamsheri (Retd) were also present at the award distribution ceremony.

A great game was played in the beautiful green ground consisting of 36 holes by over hundred golfers from all over the country. Participation by women and children added a colorful mix to the event which is also a major step forward in shaping and ensuring a healthy society.

"They've (a long) batting line-up from one to eight. So, we've got to make sure we've got plans for all of them."

"We know how important Babar Azam is for Pakistan being the captain as well as their best player. So, we will give him attention, but also we'll need to focus on the other players well," the 40-year-old

Anderson added. APP



England ready to embrace challenge against Pakistan, James Anderson

RAWALPINDI: England fast bowler James Anderson on Tuesday insisted that his side was ready to embrace the challenge of playing against Pakistan in the three-match Test series.

"Different conditions. Different to what we will have experienced before as a group. It's a really exciting challenge and I think all of us are just chomping at the bit. We are really excited," Anderson told media after attending a training session at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi.

He said England bowlers would be trying to make sure that they had all bases covered for every eventualty.



"We will make sure we know what fields we might set, talking specifics about their batters as well and trying to work out plans for them," he added.

The iconic bowler, who has taken 667 Test match wickets for England will be looking to

get his first in Pakistan when the series gets underway in Rawalpindi on Thursday.

"I have not played a 'Test match' in Pakistan before so I'm delighted to have the chance to be able to play here.

"I don't care who it is as long as I get a wicket and try

to help the team towards a win. That's what we've come here for. We want to win the series," he said.

To a question, he said Pakistan were a strong batting line-up and hence England bowlers would not just focus on one or two batters.

"They've (a long) batting line-up from one to eight. So, we've got to make sure we've got plans for all of them."

"We know how important Babar Azam is for Pakistan being the captain as well as their best player. So, we will give him attention, but also we'll need to focus on the other players well," the 40-year-old

Anderson added. APP

West Indies all set to face Australia in 1st Test

ISLAMABAD: West Indies is all set to face mighty Australia today Wednesday November 30 in the first cricket test.

West Indies has arrived in Perth ahead of their first Test in the western city in over a decade. Kraigg Brathwaite and his team touched down to the welcome sight on bright afternoon sunshine and temperatures in the high 20s. Following two weeks of intense preparations in Canberra as they prepare for the two-match Test Series against Australia. While in the nation's capitol city, West Indies had two warm-up matches against the ACT/NSW XI and the Australia Prime Minister's XI.

On Monday afternoon skipper Brathwaite joined Aussie skipper Pat Cummins for the official unveiling of the Frank Worrell trophy-named in honour of the legendary West Indies captain. Speaking ahead of arrival in Perth, Simmons said: "the two weeks in Canberra was great. It was exactly what we were looking for. We got what we needed from the matches there. In the

first match at Phillip Oval, the bowlers all had a decent work out, and in the first-class match with the pink ball, the match went down to the last over and the batsman all had a good time in the middle."

"Now in Perth we have to put the final elements to our preparations. The weather is a bit different, we're happy to see the sunshine and it's a bit warmer, so we will have a look at the conditions and plan accordingly."

West Indies last played a Test in Perth in December, 2009. On that occasion the visitors came within 35 runs of victory on the last day. This was in a large part due to a blistering century off 72 balls by skipper Chris Gayle who won the Man of the Match and Player of the Series awards. Kemar

Roach is the only member of the current touring party top have played back then.

During that match he bowled with tremendous pace and forced Aussie legend Ricky Ponting to retire hurt with a blow to Greg Blewett from one of the infamous cracks. West Indies

overall good record in Perth. The seven previous matches in the city were all played at the WACA Ground-West Indies won five and Australia won two.

The first, back in 1975 Roy Fredericks made 169 off 145 balls while skipper Clive Lloyd added 186 balls.

This was followed by a seven-wicket haul from Andy Roberts. The most famous West Indies moment came in 1993 when Curtly Ambrose produced the famous spell of seven wickets for one run on his way to 33 wickets in the five-match series.

For the first time in nearly seven years, two sides with a great history meet in Test cricket. That history has been sadly one-sided for a long time, but this is an overdue meeting for Australia and West Indies.

The last time West Indies won a Test on these shores was back in 1997 in Perth-the WACA version - when Brian Lara scored a century, and Curtly Ambrose got one to roll along the deck to Greg Blewett from one of the infamous cracks. West Indies

last Test victory against Australia was in 2003, when they chased a world record 418 in Antigua.

West Indies could field four players in their XI who were part of the side that played a damp affair from the two teams' last meeting, which was in Sydney in early 2016: Kraigg Brathwaite, now the captain; his predecessor Jason Holder; Jermaine Blackwood, and Kemar Roach. But for most, this will be a new experience. And that may not be a bad thing. Few give them a chance in this series-and it would be a surprise if it was anything other than 2-0 to Australia-but West Indies' Test cricket has shown improvement, albeit mostly at home.

However, revivals have to start somewhere. It may sound defeatist, but if they can compete in these two matches, it could provide more building blocks for the future. Their pace attack has the potential to cause problems; it will likely come down to whether they can put enough runs on the board to apply some pressure. Even though Australia

lost their most recent Test-against Sri Lanka in Galle-they are in good shape in the format, as witnessed by the XI being entirely predictable. They are in a very strong position to reach the World Test Championship final-but be careful of those over rates-and a summer of victories will further strengthen their cause.

This will be Perth's first Test since the 2019-20 season when they hosted New Zealand in a day-night game, and it is just the second match at the venue with India having played the year before in an absorbing contest on

a spicy pitch. It would be nice to think both those things can be repeated this time.

Steven Smith has found his hands, feet, stance, grip, everything sounds as though it is working perfectly for him, as good as it has been since around 2016. It is a scary prospect for opposition bowlers because Smith has still averaged 61 in Tests since then, albeit the last couple of years have been more of a struggle. The signs were promising in the ODIs against England but he may have to be on his guard on a lively Perth pitch. Still, it feels like it could

be a summer of runs for Smith. The surname will be familiar. The stance may bring back memories. A few of the shots, too. And he marks his guard with the ball. But Tagenarine Chanderpaul wants to be his own man. At 26, he has had to bide his time for a Test debut, but this year his weight of runs have made an unquestionable case.

Chanderpaul backed that up with a terrific double of 119 and 56 against Prime Minister's XI in the practice match. Australia's bowling attack will be another level of the challenge, but he looks to have the game. INP



Roach is the only member of the current touring party top have played back then.

During that match he bowled with tremendous pace and forced Aussie legend Ricky Ponting to retire hurt with a blow to Greg Blewett from one of the infamous cracks. West Indies