



# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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ہم سے بھیجیں سید قطان نے بیان کیا  
انہوں نے کہا کہ ہم سے ان جرنیلوں نے  
بیان کیا ان سے عطا نے بیان کیا ان سے  
عمیر بن عمر نے ان سے عائشہ رضی اللہ  
عنها نے بیان کیا کہ نبی کریم ﷺ کسی  
فصل نمازی کی فجر کی دو رکعتوں سے زیادہ  
پابندی نہیں کرتے تھے۔  
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## CM Elahi vows to grant ownership rights for slum dwellers

Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Friday decided to provide property rights to the slum dwellers. The decision to grant ownership rights to the slum dwellers was authorised by the Punjab CM while making a significant statement. On this occasion, he sought final advice from the Board of Revenue regarding the granting of ownership rights.



## State-of-art teacher training institute to be established in Capital: Ahsan Iqbal

Minister Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday announced the establishment of a state-of-art Teacher Training Institute, in the capital for the training of the teachers. "Teacher training is the most important element after the curriculum but unfortunately, it remains missing," said the Minister, who sought opinion from the education experts for the establishment of the institute in ICT. (Report on Page 8)

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## Pak Qatar Relations

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presenting souvenir to H.E. Sheikh Falah bin Jassim, member of the Qatar's Royal family on Friday.



## Shehbaz Sharif strongly condemns murder attempt on Pak envoy in Kabul

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the assassination attempt on Pakistan's Head of Mission in the Afghan capital Kabul, calling for an immediate inquiry into the incident.

"I strongly condemn dastardly assassination attempt on Head of Mission, Kabul," he said in a tweet. "I demand immediate investigation and action against perpetrators of this heinous act."

The prime minister lauded the bravery of the security guard, who received bullet wounds while saving the life of the envoy.

"Salute to brave security guard, who took bullet to save his [Head of Mission] life," he said and prayed for his swift recovery.

The prime minister also spoke to Pakistan's Head of Mission Ubaid Nizamani and felt relieved coming to know that he was safe.

"I expressed the solidarity of government and people with him, while assuring full support and assistance to him and Mission on all counts. I also conveyed prayers for swift recovery of brave security guard," the prime minister wrote in another tweet.

Meanwhile, the Foreign Office spokesperson, said that Pakistan strongly condemned the assassination attempt against its Head of Mission in which he remained safe. However, a Pakistani security guard Sepoy Israr Mohammad has been critically injured in the attack while protecting the envoy.

"The Interim Government of Afghanistan must immediately hold thorough investigations in this attack, apprehend the culprits, hold them to account, and take urgent measures to ensure the safety and security of Pakistani diplomatic personnel and citizens in Afghanistan," the spokesperson added.

## Afghan govt condemns attack on Pakistan envoy

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The interim Afghan government on Friday strongly condemned the attack on Pakistan's Head of Mission in Kabul Ubaid Nizamani, assuring that a "serious investigation" would be conducted to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"The IEA (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) strongly condemns failed firing attack towards Pakistan Embassy in Kabul," the spokesperson of the Afghan foreign ministry Abdul Qahar Balkhi wrote on Twitter.

Praying for a speedy recovery of a security guard injured in the attack, he said that their government would not allow any "malicious actors" to pose a threat to the security of diplomatic missions in Kabul.

"Our security will conduct a serious investigation, identify perpetrators & bring them to justice," the spokesperson assured.

While in Islamabad, Pakistan summoned the Afghan Charge d'affaires to convey its "deep concern and anguish" over the attack in Kabul on Pakistan's Head of Mission.

Responding to Pakistan's call for apprehending the perpetrators and launching an investigation, the Afghan diplomat said that the security of the Pakistani diplomatic missions had already been beefed up and assured that the Afghan authorities would leave no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators of this dastardly act to justice.

## PM invites Chinese companies to invest in renewable energy

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited Chinese companies to invest heavily in renewable energy projects in Pakistan, particularly solar energy.

He was talking to a delegation of China Construction; Third Engineering Bureau headed by Tan Guofu, Vice Chairman of the company.

The Prime Minister appreciated the company's Vice Chairman Tan Guofu's commitment to invest more in infrastructure



and energy projects in Pakistan.

Prime Minister Sharif said the relations between Pakistan and China have been very exemplary in all areas and mentioned his recent meeting with the company's president during his visit to China.

He also appreciated the company for its donations to the flood-affected people of Pakistan. Special Assistant Tariq Fatemi, Zafaruddin Mehmood and other senior government officials also attended the meeting. APP

## October 2023 is election month: Marriyum



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday advised Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to wait for next general election till October 2023.

"October 2023" was the ultimate election month, the minister said in a tweet in reference to a news channel's report carrying Imran Khan's demand for talks for the snap polls' date in a threatening tone. APP

## Saudi Arab extends \$3 bln deposit's term: SBP

KARACHI: The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) on the directives of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, has extended the term of \$3 billion deposit with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

"The extension of the term of the deposit is a continuation of the support provided by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi

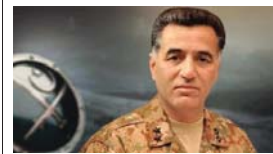
Arabia (KSA) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the deposit aimed to shore up the foreign currency reserves in the Bank and help Pakistan in facing the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic," an SBP statement said on Friday.

"It, furthermore, contributed to meet external sector challenges

and achieve sustainable economic growth for the country."

The \$3 billion-deposit agreement was signed by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) with the State Bank of Pakistan in November 2021, after the issuance of the royal directives that reflect the continuation of the close relationship between the two countries. APP

## PM accepts Faiz Hameed's request for early retirement



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has accepted an application of Lt Gen Faiz Hameed for an early retirement.

Sources said Lt Gen Faiz, who is currently serving as Corps Commander Bahawalpur, sent his application to the General Headquarters (GHQ) a few days ago. The Ministry of Defence forwarded the application to the prime minister for approval after receiving it from the military headquarters.

The former spymaster was among the contenders for the top position in the Pakistan Army. He decided to take early retirement after the federal government appointed Gen Asim Munir as Chief of Army Staff (COAS) and Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza as Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (JCSC).

## 'General (R) Qamar Javed Bajwa frequently helped us'

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry on Friday said that the previous Army Chief General (Rtd) Qamar Javed Bajwa frequently helped the PTI-led government.

In an interview with "Dunya Kamran Khan Kay Sath" on Dunya News, Fawad Chaudhry said that the PDM was not prepared to hold elections - given the results of the by-elections. "We would have had more seats if the establishment had

not stepped in," he added. The PTI leader continued, "A video was not created in our regime by disrobing a journalist. Journalists have not faced threats or terrorism incidents like during the previous administration."

"It is up to PM Shehbaz to call for election"

Earlier, Fawad Chaudhry said that it is up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Elahi, to call for elections since his party also has the option of dissolving the assemblies of Punjab and KP. Speaking to the media in the

provincial capital of Punjab while being flanked by PTI leader Farrukh Habib, Fawad said that all of the lawmakers, who were present at parliamentary party meeting - led by PTI chairman Imran Khan - decided to dissolve the assemblies. In this regard, Imran will speak with the KP parliamentary party tomorrow, he added.

Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi, was mentioned by Fawad as having agreed to give the PTI chairman the authority to dissolve the Punjab Assembly.

## Govt should consider circumstances for criminal action against Imran: SC

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court of Pakistan (SC) remarked on Friday that if the government wanted a criminal action in the contempt of court case against Imran Khan, it should take into account the circumstances.

Taking up the contempt case during the hearing, the five-member larger bench headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial questioned how the government could be the affected party.

At the outset, the lawyer representing the Interior Ministry pleaded that Imran Khan was giving a call to his [supporters] for moving towards D-Chowk from May 24 and that he was aware of court's orders. He said everything was on the record, but he [Imran] misled about the jamming devices of his own and the chief minister.

Justice Muzahir Naqvi remarked that the SC wasn't a

trial court to record evidences as the government's plea was already ineffective. "The issue of contempt is always between court and the violator. The SC already stated for action subject to its will. Show us any such decision in which the court had taken action in an effective case."

Justice Naqvi further said the long march was a protest against the government and not a disciplined parade. Upon this, the CJ said the top court received information it demanded. Justice Yaha Afridi also raised objection to hearing of the plea.

Justice Ejaz opined that the May 25 case was disposed of by the SC, so how could the present petition be the continuity of that order?

"The SC disposed of the case for being ineffective so how the government could be affected for letting the court begin the contempt proceedings?

## Mainstream PWDs

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on the mobility and accessibility issues of Person With Disabilities (PWDs) at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Friday.



Photo: Online

# President for comprehensive approach to mainstream persons with disabilities

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday underlined the need to adopt a well-thought-out, data-driven and time-bound comprehensive approach for the complete integration and mainstreaming of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The step, he said, would ensure the empowerment of persons with disabilities enabling them to contribute to the progress and development of the country.

He said that PWDs should be proactively integrated into society as equal members by improving their mobility and accessibility to public facilities and providing them with

education, skills, and jobs. The president expressed these views during a briefing on the mobility and accessibility issues of Persons with Disabilities in Islamabad, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Chief Commissioner Islamabad, representatives of Capital Development Authority (CDA), Federal Directorate of Education, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, WHO, Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, National Information Technology Board, Ministry of Housing and Works, Secretary Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Authority ICT (PEIRA), and senior officials of the government attended

the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the president called for providing PWDs with Assistive Technologies (ATs) and creating jobs which correspond to and were suitable for persons with specific disabilities such as hearing, visual, physical or cognitive for their financial and economic empowerment.

The president highlighted that as per varying estimates, 10 to 15 percent of Pakistan's population or almost 22 million people comprised of PWDs, and said that such a huge population could be transformed into a valuable asset, provided they were integrated and assimilated into the

society.

He emphasized ensuring the proper upbringing of persons with disabilities from birth, meeting their specific needs of food, education, sports and learning, providing them with assistive technology, and assimilating them as equal members in daily tasks.

The president also called upon the relevant institutions in the public and private sectors as well as international organizations to join hands to review the existing laws while keeping in view the special needs of PWDs, and benchmark international best practices to propose amendments to the existing legal framework,

besides proposing the enactment of new laws to establish a comprehensive PWD-friendly legal framework for ensuring their inclusion and integration in society as equal and capable members.

During the meeting, the President also stressed the importance of developing close linkages with institutes of higher learning, Capital Development Authority and Municipal Corporations of other cities, Chambers of Commerce and Industries across the country, and architecture firms to evolve a mutually agreed upon mechanism to transform public spaces into PWD friendly spaces. PID

## Acting Afghan FM phones Bilawal

ISLAMABAD: Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi on Friday called Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to condemn the terrorist attack on Pakistan's Mission in Kabul and assured that the Afghan government would bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly.

The Afghan acting foreign minister strongly condemned the terrorist attack targeting Pakistan's Head of Mission in Kabul, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani, and conveyed his good wishes and prayers for the early recovery of the security guard, Sepoy Israr Mohammad who was critically injured in the attack.

The foreign minister thanked the interim Afghan government for its strong expression of solidarity and



underscored that safety and security of Pakistan's diplomatic personnel in Afghanistan was of utmost importance. "The Afghan government must prevent the terrorists from undermining relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan," he remarked.

Foreign Minister Bilawal also reiterated Pakistan's

unwavering commitment to fight terrorism and said that Pakistan will be undeterred by such cowardly attacks.

Earlier, Pakistan also summoned the Afghan Charge d'affaires to convey its "deep concern and anguish" over the attack in Kabul on Pakistan's Head of Mission.

It was underscored that

perpetrators of this attack must be apprehended and brought to justice urgently, an investigation be launched into the serious breach of security of the embassy premises, and that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the security of the diplomatic premises, officers and staff working in Pakistan's Mission in Kabul and consulates in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Responding to Pakistan's call for apprehending the perpetrators and launching an investigation, the Afghan diplomat said that the security of the Pakistani diplomatic missions had already been beefed up and assured that the Afghan authorities would leave no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators of this dastardly act to justice.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani security guard Israr Mohammad was flown back to Peshawar after he was critically injured in the said attack.

"The helicopter carrying the injured security guard Israr Mohammad in today's attack on our mission in Kabul, has landed in Peshawar," the Foreign Office spokesperson said in a statement.

The spokesperson, responding to a media query, said that there were no plans to close the embassy or withdraw diplomats from Kabul.

"Pakistan is in contact with the Interim Government in Afghanistan and enhanced security measures are being taken to protect Pakistani diplomatic personnel and Missions in Afghanistan," the spokesperson added. MOFA

## Anti-narcotics officials suspended after viral bribe-taking video

ISLAMABAD: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has suspended officials who were caught on camera taking bribes at the Islamabad International Airport.

The ANF has also formed a high-level investigation committee to establish facts about the viral video. The alleged officials will remain suspended until the investigation into the incident is completed, it said in a statement on Twitter.

A day earlier, a video of ANF officials allegedly taking bribes from a passenger at the airport went viral on social media.

In the video, two officers can be seen checking luggage of a passenger. One of them can be heard telling the passenger that his bag is overweight. (Dunya News)

## Inter-ministerial meeting reviews performance of SMEs Bank



ISLAMABAD: The inter-ministerial meeting on Friday reviewed the performance of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Finance Bank.

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the inter-ministerial meeting

which reviewed the performance of SME Bank, said a press release issued here.

SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Governor State Bank Jameel Ahmed, President SME Bank Dilshad Ali Ahmed, Chairman SECP,

Secretary Privatization, Special Secretary Finance and senior officers from Finance and SME Bank attended the meeting.

The meeting after reviewing the financial health of SME Bank and its status for privatization opined that a concrete course of action and way

forward will be decided next week regarding future of SME Bank considering the inputs from all the stakeholders.

The President SME Bank gave a detailed presentation on the profile and performance of SME Bank and its equity position. APP

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## State-of-art teacher training institute to be established in Capital: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD: Minister Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday announced the establishment of a state-of-art Teacher Training Institute, in the capital for the training of the teachers.

"Teacher training is the most important element after the curriculum but unfortunately, it remains missing," said the Minister, who sought opinion from the education experts for the establishment of the Teacher Training Institute in ICT, which will be a model for the provinces.

The Minister has sought the opinion from the experts while chairing a roundtable, organized by the Ministry of Planning commission. The roundtable was attended by the several experts in the field of education who shared the ideas with the Minister.

Educational techniques and style of teaching has not changed in the past 50 years. Besides transforming the curriculum, and teaching techniques, efforts should be made to revolutionize the madrasah and system of evaluation, remarked the Minister, while addressing at the roundtable.

The curriculum reforms are much

needed because growth and innovation in education lead to progress, said the Minister, adding that teachers have to act as learning managers and groom students socially so that they become responsible citizens.

The previous government had launched a Single National Curriculum (SNC) for primary level. However, the Minister said that our national heroes were portrayed negatively in the curriculum.

"Instead of highlighting their glories in the sub-content they were portrayed sick in the curriculum," remarked the Minister.

Prof Ahsan Iqbal further added that four important things need to be addressed immediately which includes Curriculum Reforms, Teacher Trainings, Examination and Madrasa reforms.

The Minister said that four projects were given to the Ministry of Education in 2013 when PML-N came into power but unfortunately, there is no progress.

"Unfortunately, there is no change in our education system and old traditional means of education is still being exercised," said the Minister, while urging the stakeholder to come up with clear defined goals for the teacher training. APP

## PPP throws ball in MQM-P's court over delimitation issue

KARACHI: The ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has thrown the ball in Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan's (MQM-P) court over delimitation issue, citing sources, ARY News reported on Friday.

The Sindh government and MQM delegation held talks at the Chief Minister's (CM) House for 1.5 hours. The ruling PPP and MQM-P leaders held discussions over the implementation of the political agreement between both parties, delimitation and other issues.

The MQM-P delegation was represented by Waseem Akhtar, Khawaja Izzatullah Hassan, Aminul Haque and Muhammad Hussain Khan. Administrator Karachi Muratza Wahab was also among the PPP leaders who held talks with the MQM-P delegation.

Sources told ARY News that MQM-P reiterated its previous demands, whereas, the Sindh government apprised them regarding the progress on the implementation.

Read: Karachi LG polls: MQM-P expresses reservations over ECP's verdict

The Sindh government asked the MQM-P leaders that the delimitation issue was linked with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), whereas, the provincial authorities were fully ready to make new delimitation.

The PPP leaders asked the MQM-P delegation to convince the ECP for new delimitation through its lawyers. The Sindh government said that it will not raise any objection over the demand for new delimitation, sources added.

With political temperatures rising in the country in the wake of the PTI's plan to dissolve the Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, former president Asif Ali Zardari directed Sindh CM Murad Ali Shah earlier in the day to address reservations of MQM-Pakistan – a key ally of the coalition government in the Centre.

The meeting comes after Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan had made it clear that it wants local government (LG) elections with the correct constituencies. ARY

## UN slams attack on Pakistani embassy in Kabul targeting head of mission

News Desk

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations firmly condemned the attack on the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul on Friday that targeted the Head of Mission, Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani, with the hope that the security situation in Afghanistan will improve.

"We're, first of all, thankful that the charge d'affaires (Nizamani) of the embassy of Pakistan was unharmed," the UN Secretary-General's Spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said in reply to a question at the regular noon briefing in New York. "We very

much hope the security guard (who was critically injured) recovers."

"But", the spokesman added, "more importantly, we condemn, firmly these types of attacks."

Asked whether the security situation in Afghanistan was deteriorating, Dujarric said, "We have seen in Afghanistan a number of attacks of security challenges. We want the situation to get better and to improve, and we will continue to do what we can in that regard."

In Islamabad, the Foreign Office has asked the Afghan authorities to investigate the attack and hold the culprits to account.

## AJK PM to attend 5th annual human rights conference at UN HQs, New York

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has been invited as a keynote speaker to the fifth annual Human Rights Conference being held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York this month.

The conference, to be organized by the International Human Rights Commission, a subsidiary of the United Nations, is scheduled to be held at the UN headquarters in New York in the third week of December 2022, in

which human rights activists from all over the world will participate.

Sardar Tanveer will be the first Prime Minister of AJK to represent the people of Kashmir at the International Human Rights Conference.

It is worth mentioning here that the International Human Rights Commission has been raising its voice at the United Nations and other international forums against the human rights violations committed by the Indian troops in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

# Shazia Marri meets Tanzanian delegation of social action fund

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The delegation of Tanzania Social Action Fund is on a five-day visit to Pakistan. The visiting delegation met Ms Shazia Marri, Federal Minister/Chairperson BISP in Islamabad today to wrap up their visit. The delegation is visiting Pakistan with the aim to learn from the experiences and best practices of social safety programs in Pakistan, particularly those of the BISP. Secretary BISP and other senior officials were also present on this occasion.

During the meeting Ms. Shazia Marri informed the delegates about the various social protection initiatives of Pakistan. The members of the delegation appreciated the excellent data collection, bio-metric verification system and efficient payment mechanism of BISP. The delegations specifically lauded Nashonuma and Kafaalat programs of BISP which provide vital support to the poorest of the poor.



The delegations specifically lauded Nashonuma and Kafaalat programs of BISP which provide vital support to the poorest of the poor.

Talking to the delegation, the Federal Minister said that Pakistan wants to provide all possible support to Tanzania in the field of social safety. She said that bilateral visits between the two countries will prove helpful in making the social safety sector more effective.

Ms. Shazia Marri told the delegates that the Benazir Income Support Program is currently providing assistance to 8.5 million people in Pakistan. She further said that the scope of the program is being expanded up to 10 million people. The poverty rate in Pakistan has increased due to recent rains and flooding, she added.

Ms. Shazia Marri expressed her gratitude to the representative of the World Bank for organizing this visit.

She also presented 'Ajraaks' and souvenirs to the visiting guests.

## Imran Sheikh chairs District Polio Eradication Committee meeting



**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: As many as 5,78,723 children have been administered with polio drops during last four days of ongoing special anti polio campaign while the targets of these days was 5,55,421. This was informed during the meeting of District Polio Eradication Committee which was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Imran Hamid Sheikh.

CEO, District Health Authority Dr. Kashif Mehmood Kambooh gave briefing and said that on the forth day 134,315 children were administered and 104.4% target was achieved.

The Deputy Commissioner said that on catch up days of campaign polio teams should go door to door and have counter checking of the children upto five years and ensure the get administered the left over children. He further said that presence of fixed teams should be checked regularly till the completion of this campaign. He asked the CEO, DHA to achieve 100% target of special anti polio campaign which is under going in 130 Union Councils of three tehsil City, Sadar and Jaranwala of this district.

## Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana station started test transmission



**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: According to the details, five radio stations were established by the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to inform the people of the tribal areas about the activities of the provincial government and to highlight regional issues.

In this, Pakhtunkhwa Radio has started the test transmission broadcast, has been successfully in Wana, the Headquarter of Lower South Waziristan. And the test transmission was formally started.

Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana has initially started test broadcast from 30th November and regular broadcast will start from here soon.

The people of Waziristan have thanked the provincial government and especially the Information and Broadcasting Department for the activity of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana.

That this initiative will help in bringing the problems of South Waziristan to the notice of the higher authorities and the people here will be aware of the positive activities of the government.

The tribal elders of Waziristan and the common people have expressed the hope that the activity of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana will prove to be a good omen for the people of the region and that it will help in solving the problems here.

The staff of Pakhtunkhwa Radio Wana told the media that the problems of the people will be highlighted through this platform so that their solutions can be found.

They further said that in the coming days, beautiful programs will be regularly presented on the topics of health, education, development and prosperity.

## Zong 4G builds a Digital Lab in Hands School, Karachi, for a more inclusive Pakistan



**Staff Reporter**

KARACHI: In line with the brand motto, Let's Get Digital, Pakistan's leading telecommunication and digital partner, ZONG 4G has partnered with HANDS, one of Pakistan's top non-profit organizations to establish a computer lab for an underprivileged school in Karachi.

With the aim to bridge the digital divide in society and to offer high-quality education to the marginalized strata of society in Karachi, the partnership will empower thousands of children with digital education.

The school lacked the technical infrastructure to let students learn and apply practical computer knowledge. The digital lab set up by Zong will allow young students and their teachers to access digital education and match their pace with the world in terms of modern education.

"We have a responsibility to prepare younger generations—the future leaders of Digital Pakistan, therefore, we are leveraging our connectivity to create opportunities for all. Our collaboration with HANDS is a testament towards our aim of creating an inclusive Digital Pakistan," said the spokesperson of Zong 4G.

HANDS works to advance education, reduce poverty, improve health, build infrastructure, and create social institutions for community empowerment. The organization has 13 volunteer board members, 11,230 workforce, and thousands of community-based volunteers from over 6,300 partner organizations.

Commenting on the partnership, Arsalan Ashraf from HANDS shared, "We express our gratitude to the Zong team for their support to these future changemakers of the country. This digital lab will help these children to learn the required skills and gain confidence to thrive in a digital society."

Building a successful and inclusive digital education ecosystem, Zong 4G's social responsibility endeavours are creating opportunities and helping to address social needs, empowering marginalised groups and creating a more equal society.

## Urdu Conference

KARACHI: Visitors busy in buying books on a stall during 15th World Urdu Conference at Arts Council in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Climate-driven flood victims in Pakistan helped each other

**News Desk**

KARACHI: "Climate-driven flood victims in Pakistan helped each other. Civil society and NGOs also played a very important role by providing food and shelter." Dr. Quratulain Bakhtari, Nobel Peace Prize nominee in 2006 and founding Director of the IDSP, said while addressing the audience of the three days International hybrid conference on Climate Crisis organized by IMAGINE-Institute of Futures Studies at Iqra University. She also said that helping humanity is imperative to deal with the climate crisis. Therefore, the world should help Pakistanis facing climate-driven floods because climate justice is the only way to overcome climate crises.

In her keynote speech, Dr. Christian Pfeiffer, Programme Specialist Futures Literacy UNESCO, shared some insights about her current work within the Foresight Network. She also shared UNESCO's plan to contribute to the up skilling of Futures within the UN ecosystem, which



includes a project with the UN Global pulse on futures consciousness to benefit intergenerational equity.

Professor Dr. Shams Hamid, Dean of Social Sciences and Founding Director of IMAGINE-Institute of Futures Studies at Iqra University, also gave his opening remarks. Dr. Shams said that UNESCO's representative, leading international think tanks, scientists, intellectuals, educationists, futurists, social activists, and community workers. He said that experts from Pakistan, China, the USA, the UK, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands,

Norway, Switzerland, Montenegro, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Morocco, and South Africa are participating in this conference to deal with the climate crisis.

Prof. Dr. Imtiaz Arif, Associate Dean of Business Management, paid tribute to the Founding Chancellor of Iqra University and eminent philanthropist.

He pointed out that his dream to provide affordable education has come true, and Iqra University has many campuses in Karachi and Islamabad, providing quality education to Pakistani youth.

## Jazz Business showcases Garaj, AdTech at Connect 2022



ISLAMABAD: Jazz Business showcased its state-of-the-art onshore cloud platform Garaj and AdTech portfolio, Data Analytics as a Service (DAaaS), at an interactive event with IT industry stakeholders and corporate representatives at Connect 2022 held in Karachi.

During the event Ali Naseer, Chief Business Officer, Jazz signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Saqib Saleem, CEO & Director, MCB Arif Habib Savings & Investment Limited to provide seamless cloud services for its operations through Jazz-powered Garaj.

Asif Ikram, Secretary, Information, Science and Technology Department, Government of Sindh and Junaid Imam, Member (IT), Federal Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication also attended the event and briefed the industry stakeholders about the policies being formulated to accelerate the digital ecosystem. In addition to the cloud platform, Jazz Business also showcased its AdTech and Data Analytics as a Service (DAaaS) portfolio.

Ali Naseer, Jazz's Chief Business Officer, also interacted with stakeholders at the meet-and-greet and said, "Business innovation, today, requires powerful technology solutions. Globally the adoption of digital technology is taking place at such a rapid pace and scale that we simply cannot compete without the right public-private partnerships that implement a holistic digital ecosystem at the grass root level. At Jazz Business, our core philosophy is to offer solutions that help businesses adopt digitalization faster.

## Government must intervene to safe children from deadly products of tobacco industry

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) raised alarms on the reports of Tobacco Industry moving to regularize Heated Tobacco Devices, a move which health activists believe will put health of Pakistani children in grave danger.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), stated that since Pakistan's independence 75 years ago, there hasn't been a single day where tobacco industry hasn't directly hurt our children. Tobacco Industry needs children as replacement smokers to swap for the people who

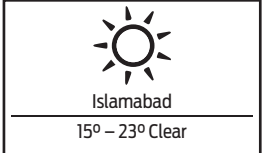
lose their lives due to tobacco consumption. This industry believes that life of Pakistani children is cheap and meaningless therefore they try all possible means to earn money at the expense of children's health. Whether it is deceptive and misleading campaigns to gain more costumers or direct interfering in public policy, the industry tries to throw dirt in our eyes. An industry whose products are responsible for loss of 170,000 lives every year, is trying to launch more deadly products only because it believes it can get away with this by paying a negligible tax – which is no way the damage it causes.

Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Coun-

try Lead Tobacco Control, Vital Strategies, Former Technical Head of Tobacco Control Cell of Mo NHRSC, and Former Technical focal person of the Government of Pakistan for WHO's FCTC; said tobacco industry sees Pakistan as a "key trial market" for nicotine-based products and children are its test subjects. Tobacco Industry is promoting and marketing novel products without restrictions. He mentioned that claims of these products being cessation items is one of the biggest fallacies going around. These products are nothing but a new gimmick to early more money. He demanded that there should

be a complete ban on nicotine products and the government should adopt necessary legislation at the earliest to save Pakistan's youth.

Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC, said that tobacco industry has repeatedly proven by its actions that it doesn't care for the health and lives of Pakistani children. It is up to the government, civil society, academia and media to unite and put a barrier against this industry which is trying to derail our future by putting our children at risk. There's a dire need to adopt a sustainable National Tobacco Control Policy which ensures that anti-child move is made now or in future.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:27 am  
Zohr ..... 11:57 am  
Asr ..... 3:21 pm  
Maghrib ..... 4:59 pm  
Isha ..... 6:27 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

Islamabad ..... 9222596  
Rawalpindi ..... 9270601-20

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04

**YouTube announces top trending videos**

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD : YouTube has released the lists of the top trending videos, top music videos, top creators, breakout creators, and top shorts for Pakistan for the Year 2022. It is safe to say that Pakistani audiences enjoyed a wide range of content that kept them entertained throughout the year.

Farhan S. Qureshi, Country Director at Google, said: "YouTube has helped create an ecosystem in Pakistan that allows people to pursue their passions as full-time jobs while also enabling them to support their households financially. Pakistan has over 5,400 YouTube channels with over 100,000 subscribers, and over 350 of them have more than a million subscribers. It is also thrilling to see that the number of Pakistani YouTube channels making 1 million or more in revenue (PKR) has increased by more than 110 percent in a year. This year, we've had some amazing content creators who topped our lists in different categories and won over the hearts of average YouTube users with a wide range of content and creativity."

# Global delegation appreciates Pakistan's efforts to eradicate polio

ISLAMABAD: A high-level global delegation on Polio has appreciated the efforts of Pakistan for the elimination of poliovirus, reiterating support to help end poliovirus transmission by 2023.

"There is unprecedented support and commitment to ending polio in Pakistan by 2023, and with the current momentum maintained, the country will be able to interrupt transmission in the coming year," said the head of the delegation and Chair of the Polio Oversight Board (POB) Dr Chris Elias, WHO Regional Director Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari and UNICEF Regional Director George Laryea-Adjei.

"The last steps to ending polio are the toughest but eradication is within reach. Thanks to the hard work happening in Pakistan," Dr Elias said.

"During my three-day visit, I was again impressed by the resolve of the government and community, especially frontline workers, to ensure polio is gone forever," he added. "Reaching every child during the upcoming polio campaigns and strengthening the routine immunization system



are now critical to success."

The Polio Oversight Board is the highest decision-making body of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. This is the delegation's second visit together to Pakistan this year.

The earlier visit was in May following the detection of a polio case in Pakistan after nearly 15 months. The recent visit comes following the destruction of several health facilities and mass displacement due to catastrophic floods, which increased the risk of polio transmission.

WHO Regional Director Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari reaffirmed that Pakistan is in the "final stretch" of the road to eradication.

"The progress this year has well-positioned the country to end all poliovirus transmission in 2023. However, ensuring that we reach our goal will require political and administrative commitment during 2023," he said. "Under our regional vision of health for all by all, we all have a role to play in ending polio through our collective solidarity and action."

UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia George Laryea-Adjei said that Pakistan's success in containing the spread of polio through joint efforts by the government, donors, frontline health workers and partners is truly commendable.

"The recent flooding has exacerbated health risks for millions of children, especially those living in districts historically at the highest risk for polio, so we must redouble efforts to engage parents and caregivers to protect these children," he said.

"The end of polio is near, and we must now go the last mile to ensure every child is protected against this debilitating disease." APP

## National Day of Thailand

ISLAMABAD: Thai women posing for a group photograph during National Day of Thailand at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Google suspends carrier-paid apps in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Despite repeated assurance from Federal Minister for IT & Telecom Syed Aminul Haque, Google temporarily suspended the purchase of carrier-paid apps for Pakistani users.

Google has temporarily suspended the purchase of carrier-paid apps in Pakistan owing to non-payment of outstanding dues follow-

ing the shutdown of the direct payment mechanism by the State Bank of Pakistan.

The development was confirmed by the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecom (MoITT).

State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) suspended the Direct Carrier Billing (DCB), however, it is worth mentioning here that the suspension only implies local

transit. Meanwhile, Google is still accepting payments for paid apps through the credit card option.

Meanwhile, Amin-ul-Haque said that the telecom operators had been given a one-month time to implement payment procedures and within a month, the Ministry of IT, Finance, and State Bank would formulate a plan of action in

mutual consultation in that regard.

Syed Aminul Haque proposed a plan for paying for Google App services which was accepted by the Ministry of Finance. The minister at the time stated that SBP had been instructed to postpone the DCB mechanism policy's implementation for one month.

**What's On**

### UNHCR and Inspire Pakistan hold End of Year bazaar

UNHCR in collaboration with Inspire Pakistan will hold an End of Year Bazaar showcasing refugee-made products and Pakistani businesses supporting refugees on Sunday, 4 December 2022 at the Marriott Hotel, Islamabad at 10:00 a.m.

Diplomats from various Embassies, Heads of UN Agencies, and Government Officials will visit the Bazaar.

### Ph.D. Scholar to Defend her Dissertation on Dec 09, 2022

Ph.D. Scholar, Department of Business Administration Iqra University, Islamabad Campus H-9, Ms. Zara Sabeen Registration No. 27853 will defend her Ph.D. dissertation titled "Emergence of Techno-Entrepreneurial Ecosystem of Pakistan: A Multilevel Dynamic Approach on Friday December 09, 2022 at 2:30pm. Ms. Zara Sabeen has completed her Ph.D. dissertation under supervision of Dr. Bilal Mirza.

### Pakistan to extend every possible support to Afghanistan in medical field: Patel

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel on Friday said that the government of Pakistan would extend every possible support to Afghanistan in the medical field.



Addressing the handing over ceremony of donation of five trucks carrying medicines for Afghanistan, the minister said that 30 more trucks would be dispatched to Afghanistan with sufficient quantity of medicines for Afghan brothers and sisters.

He said, "Afghanistan is our neighboring country and both countries are enjoying good cordial relations. It is our moral responsibility to support the people of Afghanistan in a difficult time."

He said that Pakistan always supported Afghanistan in various fields and assured full support to the Ministry of Health Afghanistan. He said that Pakistan had constructed three hospitals in Afghanistan at a cost of 2.3 billion rupees besides donating medical equipment.

The minister said that 24 Afghan doctors and nurses had been trained at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) while an amount of Rs one billion was being provided to the Afghan government to run the hospitals and for the salaries of hospital staff.

On this occasion, Afghan Health Minister, Dr. Qalander Ebad thanked the government of Pakistan for supporting the Afghan government in the health sector. He added that Pakistan always supported Afghanistan to address its problems and support its people.

### Country Director, Int'l Rescue Committee calls on Chairman NDMA



**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Shabnam Baloch, Country Director Pakistan of International Rescue Committee (IRC) called on Chairman NDMA, Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik in his office today. Ms. Shabnam apprised the Chairman of progress on recovery plan being executed by IRC in flood-ravaged areas. She commended the role of NDMA and related Government departments for coordination and facilitation in relief operations during emergency situation.

Chairman NDMA acknowledged the rescue and relief efforts by IRC in flood hit areas. He emphasized on laying out a comprehensive response model for donors and international as well as local NGOs for well-coordinated and tangible outcomes of relief and rehabilitation process. He highlighted the upcoming NDMA's public declaration to indicate contours of future Disasters' Management Plan in Pakistan after consultation with all key stakeholders.

# TMU Celebrates Global Entrepreneurship Week

ISLAMABAD: Global Entrepreneurship Week is a massive campaign to celebrate and empower entrepreneurs in every country and community around the world - especially those individuals who face structural barriers or may have never considered the idea of launching their own startup. Each November 10 million people take part in tens of thousands of activities, competitions and events that inspire them to act and provide them with the knowledge, experience and connections they need to succeed. Global Entrepreneurship Week is powered by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, a diverse collection of national host organizations in 180+ countries and 25,000 local partner organizations. The Global Entrepreneurship Network operates programs, like Global Entrepreneurship Week, that make it easier for anyone, anywhere to start and scale a company.

The Millennium Universal Colleges TMUC, Pakistan's top International University in Pakistan specifically an institution of higher learning dedicated to providing innovative undergraduate, postgraduate, and professional education and pioneers of Transnational Education Provider celebrated Global Entrepreneur-

ship Week across all its campuses in Pakistan. Through GEW, TMUC provides its students an opportunity to collaborate and engage with organizations and individuals to celebrate and spotlight entrepreneurs, expose students to the path of entrepreneurship, help them get started and facilitate access to capital and the resources they need to succeed.

The Millennium Universal College TMUC, Pakistan celebrated GEW2022, as part of their annual campaign to celebrate and empower entrepreneurial spirit in every community through distinctive themes of Education-Ecosystems-Inclusion to spotlight impactful voices. TMUC Islamabad, as part of Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) official activities, organized GEW with the aim of engaging and inspiring youth to think and act out of the box while taking full command and expertise of the available market opportunities.

This year, as part of GEW campaign, TMUC launched its first ever Millennium GREENOVATION Challenge, aimed at providing the aspiring youth with the platform to brainstorm and present sustainable business solutions to everyday essentials that minimizes the impact on the environment. The chal-

lenge welcomed business idea pitches fostering green innovation, promoting circular economy initiatives, and providing realistic market opportunities at national level. A total of twelve teams, representing different educational institutions in the twin cities, participated in the two rounds of the challenge. Teams presented their business ideas, drawn onto their knowledge about market conditions, UNDP sustainable development goals, circular economy frameworks, and proposed policies pertaining to restricting climate change impacts. With focus on providing a revolutionizing view of entrepreneurship, leadership, innovation, and technology, the ideas were judged based on key criterion of vision, visibility, viability and vigilance to shortlist ideas that could eventually be translated into scalable innovation, providing sustainable national development.

The challenge was graced by the presence of esteemed judges, including Mr. Kashif Mehmood Khan, Managing Director Global Entrepreneurship Network, Pakistan; Ms. Naima Ansari, CEO Innovations and President Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Adeel Aijaz Shaikh, General Manager Corporate Affairs Ignite, Mr. Raja



Omer Iqbal, CEO i2d Technologies and Chairman Committee - Research & development at Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ms. Sadaf Asim, CEO Food Hall by Eateria & Senior Vice President Islamabad Women chamber of commerce and industries; Mr. Asad Malik, Head of Business Development, North, ACCA, and Mr. Ali Qasim Khan, Manager Incubation Center, Foundation University.

The esteemed judges appreciated the ideas fostering green innovation create positive impact on the environment, while creatively capitalizing on available market opportunities. The feedback helped the teams improve and refine their ideas, and the mentorship offered during the challenge will help them convert their ideas into successful ecological and social enterprises.

At the end of the challenge, a

cash award of PKR 50,000, from Floret Commodities, along with service agreement from TheWing encompassing premium co-working space was handed over to the winning team, including Muhammad Uzair Khan, and Aashir Anwar. Runner up teams were also awarded cash prizes of PKR 25,000 and PKR 15,000 respectively, along with service agreement for co-working space.

Similarly, another key highlight

of GEW was the cultural mela, organized to promote foodpreneurship amongst their students while reflecting on the themes of culture, inclusion, and diversity. Students indulged into multiple cultural festivities reflecting on social solidarity and inclusion, while promoting unity and tolerance. Foodpreneurs from different departments put together a scrumptious display of their industrious cuisine, using their culinary knowledge to create business opportunities. Another key highlight was the Fashion Show 'Blanc Noir' organised by students of TMUC-Art and Fashion Department (University for the Creative Art). Young fashionpreneurs and TMUC Graduates presented a variety of collections which they had worked hard on it including black and white collection and street style.

Sharing his thoughts on the occasion, Kashif Mehmood Khan, Managing Director Global Entrepreneurship Network, Pakistan congratulated TMUC for successfully organizing more than seventy activities across different campuses nationwide and added that this year's Millennium Greenovation Challenge was one of its kind initiatives by TMUC and wished every success for their next year GEW activities.

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# The Pakki Naukri Syndrome

**Fida Muhammad Khan**

**W**hy don't our youth dream of big things? Why don't we have an Elon Musk or a Steve Jobs? Why don't we think of winning the Oscars? Why are we afraid of competition? The 36th AGM and conference of the Pakistan Society of Development Economists, organized by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Islamabad, held at Quetta started with these questions, asked by the President of the PSDE and Vice Chancellor PIDE in the opening address, the answers to these questions are painful. Some of the answers were revealed as the 36th AGM progressed and there were sessions by Nobel laureates, eminent scholars, and professors, industry specialists. Discussions and debates. The questions posed in the beginning became more and easier to answer yet difficult to understand. However, at least it wasn't a conference without results. Here one of the "take-away" is discussed. Why don't we have an investment in Pakistan?

Investment is loosely defined as the savings injected back into the economy to create more wealth but I believe it's about time we depart from the bookish definition. Investment is a culture, a mindset, and a way of doing things. It has one aim and that is growth and progress. It has one effect and that is prosperity and it has one result and that is "more investment" so how to have an investment in Pakistan? We need a culture of investment. A culture

where risk-taking is not only encouraged but taught. A culture where universities produce people who think rather than just comply. A culture where the student in our undergrad program thinks beyond pakki naukri, CSS, and Grade 17. Sadly, we don't have that culture. And that is the simple reason that we don't have Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, and Bill gates.

What happens at our university? A student comes in and joins engineer-

postcolonial mindset push our children and students in this direction, the convoy of ASP and AC, who are mere Bps 17 officers do the rest of the trick and in the end, we have a youth who wakes up with the pakki naukri dream and sleeps with it. He or she can't think of anything else. This is the pakki naukri syndrome.

The boasting of the FPSC on the number of applicants for its rotten Colonial Civil Service, the Facebook campaigns, and the shallow speeches of retired bureaucrats of DMG and PSP groups coupled with the vacuum created by university and university teachers like me, where we have failed to teach our youth that the world is a huge place with endless possibilities and millions of opportunities, makes our student, our youth get hypnotized by the glamor of pakki naukri.

For each youth that we lose to the CSS dream, we lose one Elon Musk, one Steve jobs, one Bill gates, and a thousand opportunities for employment, innovation, inventions, and discovery.

The basic premise of the concept of investment is that one sets aside resources today, and puts them to better use for a future return, what will you put aside when your youth spend six years assuming that from age 24 to 30 is the age where one tries each attempt after a two year Gap. After being unsuccessful for six years, the FPSC, the government of Pakistan still doesn't lose hope and keeps on advertising consolation posts in Civil Intelligence services and other "gazette" positions. Then comes the overage situation. The teaching industry is there to absorb the "over-age" A lot of students go into research

degree programs for two reasons. To have a backup plan in case plan A doesn't work. Or to be able to have an edge in a pakki naukri. This washes away whatever skills the professional or research degree imparts to them.

So what is the solution? Should we discourage students from joining secure jobs? No not at all but we should help them realize their potential, make them dare to dream big, and let them believe in themselves. In which part of history do we see civil servants making any contribution to the world? We need to make our students realize this before we lose another Elon Musk, Gates, and Jobs per every application. The system of recruitment of the civil service needs to change. We have to part ways with this rotten colonial system and have a technocratic system where the government is free to hire professionals at competitive salaries.

The youth are the most important asset, we need to cure the pakki naukri disease. We at universities should guide the youth in the proper direction. The FPSC on the other hand should stop selling dreams and make a radical change in hiring professionals in their ranks through an innovative process. If we want Steve Jobs, and Elon Musk we need to make professional appointments easy people will go for professional expertise once they know it pays and pays well. It is about time we get rid of the cancer of the Pakki naukri.

*The author is a Lecturer at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), Islamabad, and can be reached via Twitter: @defenseecon*

## President Message on Int'l Day for Persons with Disabilities

Pakistan and the entire world are commemorating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) under the theme "Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fuelling an accessible and equitable world" with a motive to promote the rights and well-being of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of society.

The inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) or Differently-abled People (DAPs) in all aspects of life as equal and fully capable persons is paramount as over one billion people or almost 15% of the world's population suffer from some form of disability.

Unfortunately, out of this 15%, 80 per cent live in developing countries which includes Pakistan where the population of PWD is estimated to be more than 10%, which is indeed an alarming figure.

On this day, we pledge ourselves to remove stereotypes attached to this huge population, take proactive steps to give them equal opportunities in all aspects of life, provide them with quality and customized education and skills which maximize their abilities, make them economically and financially empowered, besides creating enabling conditions for their participation as equals in political, social, economic and cultural mainstreams.

On this day, we also pledge to take on board everyone, including persons with disabilities, to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 10, which strives to reduce inequality within and among countries by empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including persons with disabilities.

I have full faith in our leadership, relevant institutions, and the society that they will rise to the occasion and will take all necessary steps to promote an understanding of disability issues, mobilize support for their dignity, rights and well-being, increase their access to technology, enhance their accessibility to public places, create legal, social and economic conditions to ensure their full participation in all sectors, including employment, sports, education and other social activities.

I would urge members of the public and private sectors to undertake special efforts for the inclusion of PWDs into the mainstream of all sectors of life, particularly providing them education in mainstream institutions, ensuring the provision of quality and relevant healthcare facilities and treatment, providing employment to PWDs as per their skills and abilities, implementing the job quotas for PWDs, and creating an enabling and friendly environment for differently-abled people.

I also urge the media as an important stakeholder to play its role in dispelling and discouraging negative attitudes and stereotypes attached to PWDs through their media products. I also call upon the media to create awareness about the rights of PWDs and our obligations towards them.

I believe that if we join hands and direct our energies and efforts with commitment and determination, and take all stakeholders on board, we can succeed in integrating PWDs as equal and normal members of our society who are fully capable of contributing their due share to the progress and prosperity of our country.

The system of recruitment of the civil service needs to change. We have to part ways with this rotten colonial system and have a technocratic system where the government is free to hire professionals at competitive salaries.

ing, IR, Political science, economics, management, social sciences, or arts. The first choice for many isn't engineering but medicine the rest of the order remains the same, the goal is the same getting a degree and the objective of life is getting a permanent Job in Bps 17 if the CSS or PMS gamble doesn't work out.

But the student is not to blame entirely, we as parents, teachers, and universities due to our criminal negligence and



## Unchecked residue burning, smoke emission engulfing Punjab

**Saeed Ahmad & Aftab Zahoor**

**U**nchecked crop residue burning, smoke emitted from vehicles and mills, and improper management by the provincial government, land millions of Punjab residents in real trouble when smog engulfs vast tracts of the province.

Known as a mixture of air pollutants – smog covers Lahore and other cities every year from November to March exposing people to serious environmental degradation and health hazards, complaining of fever, cough, headache, and body pain.

Although the provincial authorities claim to be on their toes during this season for taking corrective measures yet in many areas open burning of residue can be seen thus mocking these authorities without fear of any action.

"It seems like that there is no proper law enforcement mechanism in the province. Even when you enter Lahore or leave the city through M-2 and M-3, you can see farmers burning residue without any fear," stated Rashid Mahmood who visited the city last week.

"Exposure to pollutants like PM, NO2, SO2, CO2, and O3 is injurious to human health. But, exposure to smog aggravates risk level much more than ordinary pollution," stated an environmentalist Dr. Mehmood Khalid Qamar. "On November 8, Lahore touched a hazardous record level of smog with the Air Quality Index (AQI) touching 400 points."

He also mentioned poor law enforce-

ment as one of the reasons behind this nuisance and said, burning crop residue, dirty fuel sources in traditional brick kilns and factories, and old-existing urban transport systems are the typical causes of smog.

Dr. Kashif Saleem, a senior dermatologist at Mayo Hospital said the polluted environment and especially thick smog contribute to increasing morbidity – especially at cardiovascular and respiratory levels – premature mortality, and sometimes cancer.

"This phenomenon results in diseases like coughing, asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis, allergies, lung infections, irritation in eyes, nose, throat, and chest infections," he stated.

The burning of crop residue in open fields has also become a grave concern for climate change mitigation efforts. It is quite unfortunate that when the provincial government is busy in power mongering, people in the very outskirts of Lahore metropolitan continue burning their crops residue heinously adding to the already polluted atmosphere.

A spokesperson for Punjab Government Musarrat Jamshed Cheema also acknowledged that the burning of rice crop residue and solid waste in open, dirty fuel used brick kilns, industrial emissions, and aging urban transport systems are the main causes of smog.

She, however, claimed to introduce much-needed modern Rice Straw Shredder and Happy Seeder technology in Sheikhupura and some other districts. "This is a multi-billion rupees initiative being jointly executed by Punjab and the Federal Governments."

She hoped that this process would help avoid burning the paddy crop residue and convert it into organic fertilizer for boosting land fertility. "Hundreds of such shredd-

der pairs and happy seeder technology have been provided to farmers."

Commenting on this situation, Secretary Environment Protection Department (EPD) Punjab, Usman Ali Khan has informed that the government departments were working in close coordination to implement a joint action plan to tackle this issue.

"Four special squads of EPD in Lahore and four in other cities are operational, including the field teams," he said. "From Aug 27 till Nov 08, strict action against 69 illegal operators has been taken across the province."

Usman Khan said action against 1252 polluting industries including steel furnaces, steel mills, and resource recovery units, working without emission control systems, sealing 931 units, and imposing 47.312 million fines across the province.

"Similar action was also taken against 314 old technology brick kilns, sealing 192 and imposing Rs 11 million fines. No brick kiln is allowed to operate without Zig-Zag stacking of bricks and blower," he said.

Meanwhile, EPD Director Assessment Nasim ur Rehman Shah also mentioned to a system of 'Mechanized Management' wherein Rs 300 million is being spent on the disbursement of 50,000 rice straw shredders and happy seeder technology. "Through these initiatives, we hope for positive results in days ahead."

Although, the government is taking certain measures yet what is missing on the ground is the implementation of environmental laws. Therefore, the government should expand its area of action to rural areas where the actual problem exists and push forward district-level bureaucracy for implementation of its decisions to generate desired results.

## Turkey-UAE rapprochement grows under security umbrella

**Sinem Cengiz**

**T**he Arab Gulf states have historically sought to build partnerships with regional countries through defense and security agreements. In terms of defense cooperation, Turkey has been getting back into the picture in the Gulf region since last year. Turkish-Gulf defense, security and military cooperation comes after years of rivalry between Ankara and some of the Gulf leaderships. The normalization era between Turkey and the Gulf countries has not only led to deals of investment and currency swaps, but it has also paved the way for closer security and defense collaboration.

Turkish Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu, along with his entourage, this week paid an official visit to Abu Dhabi, where he came together with his Emirati counterpart, Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, and UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan. A discussion on enhancing cooperation in the police and security fields between the two countries was on the agenda. In this regard, the two interior ministers announced they had decided to establish a "Joint Strategic Policing Dialogue."

Soylu described the mechanism as exemplary, adding that it set an example for other countries in the region. "With this agreement, an understanding that ensures the security of both our citizens and tries to follow up the crime and criminal elements will be evaluated jointly. At the same time, our competencies will be shared with each other... We already have an ongoing security cooperation agreement process. I hope we will have completed it on one occasion in the near future," he added.

In February, Turkey and the UAE inked 13 agreements, one of which was to start holding bilateral defense industry cooperation meetings. Ankara and Abu Dhabi had already signed a memorandum of understanding on defense industry cooperation in 2011 and this was ratified in 2017. However, tensions between the two countries in the years after the ratification of the memorandum of understanding interrupted the cooperation process.

The talks continued as Emiratis showed their intention to spend \$2 billion on the I20 TB2 drones, along with ammunition, command and control units, and training. The timing of the shipment also came amid the allegations of Sedat Peker, an exiled Turkish mafia leader based in the UAE, against figures close to the Ankara leadership. Within this context, Soylu's recent visit increased speculation that the agreement signed with the UAE might pave the way for the extradition of Peker, who had previously attacked the Turkish interior minister, back to Turkey.

The UAE is not the only country in the region that has fixed its eyes on acquiring Baykar's drones. After their impact on the conflicts in Syria, Ukraine and Libya, international demand for Turkish drones has rocketed. Libya was one of the regional theaters in which Turkish and Emirati interests collided. However, the reconciliation with Ankara has led the Gulf countries to once again turn their focus toward their long-standing enemy: Iran.

The primary reason for the UAE and the other Gulf countries to acquire the Turkish drones is reportedly to counter the growing security challenges from Iran and its proxy groups in the region. They consider the Turkish drones as a significant force that could outperform Iranian drones. The expansion of the Iran-backed Shiite militias in the region's theaters is not only posing a threat to the Gulf countries, but also to Turkey, particularly in Syria and Iraq. The counterbalancing of Iran's growing influence in the region and a common agenda for the creation of a Middle East nuclear weapons-free zone drive the Turkish-Gulf collaboration to a certain degree.

For many decades, the security of the Gulf countries had been sustained by Western deals. Although they continue to stay largely dependent on US weaponry, the Gulf countries have also recently sought to benefit from Turkey's military expertise and power. With instability growing in this volatile region, the shifts in threat perception and the security orientation have pushed the Gulf countries and Turkey to consolidate their political and economic relations through security and defense collaboration.

*Sinem Cengiz is a Turkish political analyst who specializes in Turkey's relations with the Middle East. Twitter: @SinemCngz*

## Japan provides USD 4.196 million to Pakistan

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has provided USD 4.196 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for its humanitarian services in the flood affected areas and to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in refugee settlements and host communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces.

An event was held here today to acknowledge and thank the Government and people of Japan for their usual and generous support for the children in Pakistan.

The Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Mr. Abdullah Fadil, and senior officials of the Government of Pakistan were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik said, "Government of Pakistan stands committed in maximizing support to its flood affected people with continued involvement of international community."

"Japan has always been a lead in such assistance role for Pakistan and it is gratefully acknowledged at people-to-people tiers. UNICEF Pakistan is also at the forefront of such initiatives and has enabled swift delivery of key relief aid articles to people in distress."

"National Disaster Management



Authority, the national Coordinating authority for all emergencies mitigation and Control, engages all stakeholders and donor agencies, to help investment in capacity building and developing sound robust national preparedness regime. We endorse the high value of UNICEF donations and Thank Government of Japan for helping minimize the impact of the damage in flood affected areas of Pakistan," he added.

Using Japanese funds and working in coordination with the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities and other relevant

departments, UNICEF is working to ensure that host and refugee communities in the two provinces have access to improved WASH services.

These services include provision of improved water quality and supply, regular cleaning of drains, improved solid waste management and emergency WASH services in health centres and schools. This has contributed to significant reduction in the incidence of diseases caused by unsafe water and poor hygiene.

At the ceremony, H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the

Islamic Republic of Pakistan said, "Japan in partnership with UNICEF, has successfully supported Afghan refugees and their host communities in KP and Balochistan provinces in WASH and nutrition, ensuring the most vulnerable have access to safe water, hygiene facilities, and nutrition supplements. Now as an immediate response to the widespread flooding, Japan stands ready to provide emergency support to the affected by providing clean water and hygiene items."

Funds provided by Japan to UNICEF for its humanitarian services in the flood-affected areas are being used to provide safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, raising awareness about personal and communal hygiene, provision of hygiene kits, and scanning nutritional status of children and women in camps and communities.

"We are extremely grateful for the generous funding from the Government of Japan to children and families at this critical juncture," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan.

"It is the most vulnerable children and families who are bearing the brunt of the devastating floods and they need support to survive. Without action, more children will lose their lives in the weeks to come. Ensuring the availability of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and medical and nutrition services is critical to avert further deaths."



Dr Asad Majeed Khan has been appointed Secretary Foreign affairs Pakistan.



## Acknowledgement and thanks

ISLAMABAD: Japan Ambassador to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro addressing during a ceremony of "to Acknowledge and thank the government and people of Japan for their generous supports to UNICEF for assisting the children in Pakistan" at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Foreign ministry condemns killing of Palestinian youth in Nablus

RAMALLAH: The ministry of foreign affairs and expatriates condemned the killing of a Palestinian youth at the hands of an Israeli soldier earlier this evening in the town of Huwwara to the south of Nablus.

The ministry in a statement condemned this heinous crime committed by an Israeli racist soldier against 22-year-old Palestinian youth Ammar Mefleh.

It held the Israeli government directly responsible for this heinous crime which proves once again its predetermined plans to explode the situation and expand the scope of killing and targeting of Palestinians.

The ministry maintained that the fascism practiced by Israeli lawmakers generates a feeling among soldiers that they are protected by the political and judicial levels in the occupation state. Wafa

## DEA delegation calls on DG Customs Intelligence

ISLAMABAD: A high-powered delegation of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Department of Justice, USA, led by the Country Attaché for Pakistan Jaffrey A Konvalinka called on the Director General Customs Intelligence Faiz Ahmad, here, on Friday.

The DG explained to the delegation the core functions of customs intelligence and highlighted that the organization did not operate randomly but carried out its operations on the basis of credible information. The DG further said the customs intelligence had fairly a good expertise in gathering information and the success rate of it hits was more than 90%.

However, he added, that with the support of the DEA of the US government, it would certainly improve Pakistan's capacity further.

Jaffrey, the Country Attaché, said the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), of the US government, was established in 1973 and it has more than 4,000 employees located in hundreds of offices across the country and around the world to fulfil its mission.

The primary function of the DEA was the interdiction of controlled substances worldwide by collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on their movement. He assured assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, USA in capacity building of the Directorate General of Customs Intelligence on speedy information gathering and quality post-seizure investigations.

Meanwhile, the opening of a dedicated communication channel for improved coordination between the two agencies was also agreed during the meeting.

The Country Attaché Jaffrey also assured support for improved liaison and coordination between the Directorate General of Customs Intelligence and the Foreign Law Enforcement Community (FLEC) to meet new and emerging challenges with respect to narcotics interdiction in Pakistan and in the region. Agencies

## China-Gulf State summit to bring new regional development opportunities

BELJING :The first China-Arab Summit and China-Gulf States Summit scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia this month will bring new opportunities for the regional development particularly to the Arab countries.

This series of Summits at the end of 2022 are set to catch the eyes of the whole world, Li Chen, Centre for China Studies and Co-Director of the Greater Bay Area Research Project said in an article issued here.

He said, above all, Arab countries and China are fully capable of synergizing their development strategies.

The "Belt and Road" Initiative and the development proposals of Arab countries are strongly associated with each other to a great extent, and concept by President Xi "Jointly Share the Benefits of the Development" is

remarkably recognized and welcomed by Arab countries and its people.

Therefore, the synergistic cooperation combined with "Belt and Road" construction and development planning of all Arab countries will effectively highlight the advantages of the Arab countries as the intersection of land and maritime Silk Roads.

Secondly, he said, the resources markets of Arab countries and China can be fully integrated.

The two sides have deepened practical cooperation in crude oil and petrochemicals.

At the same time, China's development in new energy and renewable resources can offer more necessary solutions to Arab countries to explore new development paths and provide strong support and assistance for Arab

countries to gradually realize economic structural transformation.

China and Arab countries will further develop contracting cooperation in major infrastructure projects to enhance trade facilitation while improving people's overall wellbeing.

Third, in terms of epidemic prevention and control, the output of COVID-19 vaccines cooperated with China in several Arab countries have not only fully met the vaccination needs of their own people, but also being exported to African countries as well, which opens up a new landscape for global epidemic control and medical industry.

He said, as the first summit being held between China and Arab states, it is also the first face-to-face communication between Chinese and Arab leaders since the outbreak of COVID-19 and it

is particularly the first major multilateral diplomatic event with China as one of the co-hosts after the successful hosting of the 20th CPC National Congress.

China and Arab countries have always enjoyed long standing close relations, in addition to frequent high-level visits, there have been strong partnership in strengthening regional security, stability, economic prosperity and development.

The consensus reached by the heads of states during their meetings has also been enhanced and implemented in the previous successful China-Arab cooperation forums.

In 2020 alone, trade between China and Arab countries reached US \$240 billion, making China the largest trading partner of Arab countries.

This summit is about to unveil a



magnificent prospect for the development of China and the Arab countries and bright future of China-Arab states relations, he concluded.

## The disability must now be ingrained across all programmatic areas

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Today, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan (COPAK), Goodwill Kanzi Foundation, and the National University of Sciences and Technology jointly commemorated the International Day of Persons with disabilities. The event was held at the School of Manufacturing and Material Engineering, NUST, Islamabad. The event was delivered both verbally and using sign language to facilitate Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNODC Country Office Pakistan, in his welcome remarks stated that UNODC among all the other UN agencies has the mandate to bring disability

inclusion to the forefront of all of the UN's work around the world, both inside and outside the organization. The disability must now be ingrained across all programmatic areas of work and core functions of the UN. He elaborated that only by working together – across governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector – we can effectively implement the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities. He ended with the remarks "I am happy to have an event inclusive of academia, civil society organizations, national partners, and Persons with disabilities to break barriers, shift mindsets, and open doors".

Delivering the United Nations

Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) and UNODC Pakistan achievements, Mr. Umair Nazar (Disability Focal Point, UNODC Pakistan) expressed a strong commitment towards disability inclusion at all levels of UNODC Pakistan's future planning and implementation. The participants were also presented with a video message from Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations on disability inclusion.

The children with disabilities from the Sedum School presented the welcome song and honored the event. The said children also displayed fine motor skills performance to the audience and acknowledged the contributions of the Goodwill Kinz Foundation on developing the skills and empowering children with disabilities.



Dr. Nabeel Anwar from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences-NUST presented how technological innovation and the nexus of technology, research development, and teaching practices can bring improvements to the quality of life of PWDs. However, one of the biggest challenges the research community at large faces is a lack of resources and disability-

representative data, especially in access to Justice for PD, he highlighted. He stressed that PD face both direct and indirect barriers and use of technology, staff training & information accessibility can improve this situation. In this context, the mutual role of influential organizations and institutes, like UNODC, NUST, working for the capacity building of people becomes vital.

Dr Sana Saleem, Vice-chairperson of Goodwill Kaniz Foundation discussed the reality of difficulties and challenges faced by PWDs on the field which included perception of society, academic progress, lack of employment and inadequate accessibility which include poor vehicle design lack of accessible curbs, crosswalks, and sidewalks the absence of elevators and non-existent or inaccessible signage and wayfinding. She mentioned some of the achievements and initiatives for PWDs by the goodwill kaniz foundation along with that she gives some recommendations for the future. In the end, she thanked Dr Jeremy Milsom for their collaboration and for taking PWDs on board

Dr Komal Nisa (country manager GWKF) shared her inspiring life story on how an

accident that happened 7 years ago changed her life. As a PWD herself, she shared problems faced by her at the Institutional and societal levels. She also shared her achievements on how despite all hurdles she a successful and independent individual is. She shared her journey and how she became a part of GWKF-an NGO that is doing immense work on making the life of PWDs easier. She launched the GWKF project-"Glowing the oppressed" in which she mentioned all practical approaches to improve the life of PWDs as they are oppressed part of the community. She requested UNODC and NUST to come on board and help PWDs by solving policy-level issues and academia-level issues. She highly emphasized sensitizing the people regarding issues faced by PWDs.

## Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
42,150.10	42,393.52
Day's High	Day's Low:
42,471.19	41,946.49
Index Value	Change
4,021,611,167	-243.42
Percentage	Time
-0.57%	2 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,556.23	-2.26
Percentage	Time
-0.030%	2 Dec, 4:35 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,290.50	-104.51
Percentage	Time
-0.30%	2 Dec, 12:54 pm GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,777.90	-448.18
Percentage	Time
-1.59%	2 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9

## Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.29	151.54
Bahrain Dinar	597.33	601.83
Canadian Dollar	164.72	166.07
China Yuan	31.38	31.63
Danish Krone	31.27	31.62
Euro	247.5	250
Hong Kong Dollar	28.76	29.11
Indian Rupee	2.74	2.82
Japanese Yen	1.85	1.89
Kuwaiti Dinar	730.16	735.16
Malaysian Ringgit	49.99	50.44
New Zealand \$	139.22	140.42
Norwegians Krone	22.65	22.95
Omani Riyal	584.13	588.63
Qatari Riyal	61.5	62
Saudi Riyal	63.3	63.9
Singapore Dollar	163.43	164.73
Swedish Korona	21.46	21.76
Swiss Franc	236.22	237.97
Thai Bhat	6.26	6.36
U.A.E Dirham	65.4	65.9
UK Pound Sterling	287.1	290
US Dollar	229.25	231.25

# ICCI calls for boosting exports to revive the economy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan is facing an economic meltdown as exports and foreign reserves of the country are on the decline and stressed that the government should provide maximum support to the private sector in order to boost the exports for reviving the economy. He said that during the first five months (July to November) of the ongoing fiscal year, exports have reduced to US\$11.93 billion as compared to US\$12.36 billion in the corresponding period of last year, which is not a good omen for the country. He said that if this trend of falling exports continues, the government would find it difficult to achieve the export target this fiscal year. He stressed that the government should look into the reasons that have caused decline in exports and take urgent measures to address them to improve exports. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Ali, Chairman, Pak-China Business Forum in



collaboration with Traders Welfare Association, I-8 Markaz Islamabad in honor of ICCI Office Bearers.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that China's annual imports are over US\$ 2 trillion, but Pakistan's exports to China are less than US\$ 3 billion, which are negligible as compared to the actual potential of the Chinese market. He said that the government should fully cooperate with the exporters in enhancing exports to China that would help in improving the

health of the economy. He assured that ICCI would like to work with PCBF to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and China that would be beneficial for both countries.

Speaking at the occasion, Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Ali, Chairman, Pakistan China Business Forum (PCBF) said that their Forum is working to promote business linkages between Chinese and Pakistani companies to enhance trade, joint ventures and investment between the two countries. He said that

PCBF would bring more Chinese companies to Pakistan for JVs and investment in special economic zones of Pakistan being set up in CPEC.

Ex-Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum Khan said that the government should make business and economic policies in consultation with chambers of commerce and business community that would produce fruitful results for the economy. He said that the sitting President ICCI should be made a member of CDA Board to represent the voice of the business community in CDA affairs.

Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Sheikh Ejaz Co-Chairman Pak-China Business Forum, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Ajmal Baloch, Fayyaz Gul President, Zahid Qureshi Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association I-8 Markaz, Asad Aziz President, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui Secretary General of Traders Welfare Association Jinnah Super Market, ICCI Executive Members and a large number of business community attended the dinner reception.

## National Day of UAE

ISLAMABAD: President and Group CEO, PTCL & Ufone, Hatem Bamatraf celebrating UAE's 51st National Day, along with top management over a cake-cutting ceremony.



## SM Muneer top industrialists participate in FPCCI's condolence reference

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has expressed his satisfaction at the display of unprecedented unity on the somber occasion of a high-profile and very well-attended condolence reference to remember one of the most revered business leaders of Pakistani history, i.e. Late SM Muneer.

While presiding over the condolence reference organized for the Late SM Muneer at the FPCCI Head Office, Mr. Suleman Chawla, Acting President FPCCI, has paid glowing tributes to the legendary business leader to commemorate FPCCI's former President and patron-in-chief of UBG.

Mian Anjum Nisar, Chairman BMP & former President FPCCI, said on the occasion that the late trade & industry leader never took any political competition personally and always negotiated with the government for the collective good of the entire business, industry and trade community of Pakistan.

Mian Nasser Hyatt Maggo, immediate past President FPCCI, highlighted the fact that Late SM Muneer was one of the most persistent voices in policy advocacy circles in Pakistan and successive governments gave due weightage to his inputs on the back of his popular appeal and practical suggestions.

Engr. M. A. Jabbar, VP FPCCI, apprised that he always led from the front and never shied away from confrontational course with the government on policy matters; and, yet he was loved & admired in policy circles as they knew that he is fighting for the economy of the country - and, not for any personal gains.

Mr. Shabbir Mansha, VP FPCCI, remembered that the



Late SM Muneer launched many young, energetic and vibrant faces in the trade politics - and, never left the children of his deceased associates & staff alone in the times of crisis.

Mr. Shaukat Omerson, VP FPCCI, expressed his deep sorrow over the loss of a father figure for the entire business community and how he trained the younger generations for future leadership roles. He also expressed his admiration for the late leader that how he cared for his staff and their kids.

Mr. Iftikhar Malik, a former President of FPCCI, said that Late SM Muneer was one of the most knowledgeable trade leaders he ever come across in his 40 years of trade politics as he was always well-prepared with data and recommendations for the meetings pertaining to policy advocacy.

Mr. Hanif Gohar, a prominent business personality & a long-time associate of Late SM Muneer, expressed his deep gratitude that every single government official, politician, social figure or business personality has showered their love & prayers on the late leader.

Mr. SM Tanveer, son of the late SM Muneer, said that his colleagues & friends were like his family; and, the last three days have pleasantly & overwhelmingly surprised him & Late SM Muneer's entire family on the amount of love, respect, admiration and attachment his father enjoyed across all sectors of the economy & across all segments of the society.

## Investments of friendly countries should be protected, says Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said terrorism is resurfacing in the country, which has posed threat to local and foreign investment.

The terrorism has restarted soon after China's plan to heavily invest in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's decision to set up a multi-billion dollar refinery which is pointing towards a neighboring country, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government and the new army chief should make the elimination of terrorism their first priority so as to reduce the threats to the people and the country's economy.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all the peace agreements made with terrorists have failed. Now instead of talking, strict action should be taken and the country should be freed from this problem forever so that the people and the business community can



breathe a sigh of relief.

This time, a new strategy should be adopted to defeat the terrorists because in the past despite the heavy loss of lives and money this disease has not been cured and terrorism resurfaces after some time.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that currently, the country's economy is facing serious challenges while international organizations are not providing the necessary and

legitimate support.

Pakistan has so far received 738 million dollars for flood assistance despite the promise of 3.4 billion dollars while the overall losses are more than 32 billion dollars.

The negative attitude of the international community is creating a human tragedy while the country does not have the resources to deal with it, he observed.

He noted that the global recession and gas shortage in Pakistan is hitting exports and foreign remittances due to which our foreign exchange reserves have come to the lowest level.

In these circumstances, the emergence of terrorism is a serious threat to the country, which requires a strong response. He said that the crisis caused by the war between Russia and Ukraine has less influence on the economic conditions of the country and the role of wrong economic policies of the past is more.

Due to these reasons, the IMF is not providing loans despite repeated requests and the trust gap between this important international organization and Pakistan is widening which is very worrying.

## CCP penalises paint firm for marketing Covid-related deceptive claims

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has passed an order and keeping in view the commitment and cooperative behaviour, penalised M/s. Nelson Paint Pakistan (Private) Limited with a token penalty in the sum of PKR one (1) million for violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010.

M/s. Nelson Paint was using deceptive claims in their marketing material that their product provided protection against COVID-19.

A two-member comprising the CCP Chairperson, Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, and Member Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, passed the order. However, keeping in view the commitments made by M/s. Nelson Paint that it has discontinued deceptive marketing practices and shall not repeat any such activity in the

future, the Bench took a lenient view and imposed only a fixed token penalty of PKR one (01) million, to deter companies from engaging in deceptive marketing practices, importantly, where it relates to health or safety claims.

The Bench also directed M/s. Nelson Paint to withdraw any or all batches of the products that may have been sold or are still available in stock with their distributors and to inform its distributors or buyers regarding the inefficacy of the subject claims. M/s. Nelson Paint was strongly reprimanded to avoid deceptive marketing practices in the future.

M/s Nippon Paints Pakistan (Private) Limited sent a formal complaint that Nelson Paint was distributing false and misleading information to consumers through social media about their products. The complainant cited two major

claims that were allegedly violative of Section 10, i.e. "Nelson Extra Stainless (COVID-19 Protection)" and "Nelson Extra Klick Special Matt Enamel (COVID-19 Protec-

tion)." M/s. Nelson Paint was alleged to have taken undue advantage of the prevalent health concerns at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and attempted to increase its sales through false slogans.

The alleged deceptive marketing practice by M/s. Nelson Paint attracted invocation of Section 10 (2) (a) & (b) of the Competition

Act, 2010 which protects the business interests of other undertakings, as well as, consumers from misleading information. CCP initiated an enquiry to investigate the complaint.

During the enquiry, M/s. Nelson Paint contended that it manufactured the impugned anti-bacterial paint, which contains a substance called Benzalkonium Chloride (BKC) that provides protection against microbes and bacteria and the Products are duly checked by the Pakistan Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Laboratories Complex (PCSIIR). It further claimed that the anti-bacterial efficiency of its product was 99.9% and it has performed all necessary tests after the development of the products.

After analysing the findings of the enquiry and hearing the arguments of parties involved, the Bench held

in its order that BKC substance is only against bacteria and microbes, but not against viruses, in particular COVID-19. Furthermore, the documents relied upon do not adequately mention the effective role of BKC in paint products, hence, it does not substantiate the alleged claim, i.e., protection from COVID-19.

The Bench observed that health and safety claims are always looked at heedfully by the Commission. There is a higher bar on the undertakings making such claims and they must substantiate their claims using competent and reliable scientific evidence.

The Bench held that the marketing practices of M/s. Nelson Paint, when taken holistically, are to the prejudice and injury, not only of the consumers but, also to other businesses, hence, in violation of Section 10(2) (b) along with Section 10(2) (a) of the Act.

## Alibaba to discuss potential e-commerce opportunities



Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) trade announced that it will hold an export seller summit in Lahore on 8 December 2022 at Nishat Hotel. The event will emphasize on the opportunities for exporters, manufacturers, wholesalers, traders and retailers in Lahore to reach the global online B2B buyer base.

The hybrid event, which will be live streamed concurrently online will gather existing and aspiring exporters and provide tips and advice on practical ways to start an online export business using the Alibaba.com platform. Additionally, it will answer frequently asked questions by small and medium-sized enterprises about how to overcome obstacles and expand their businesses in the global B2B e-commerce industry.

The Alibaba.com seller is being organized to highlight the emerging e-commerce narrative "Bharo Digital Export ki Nayi Udaan Lahore se". It will shed light on diverse topics including the potential of B2B e-commerce, how to start exporting using Alibaba.com, trends in selected categories such as apparel, leather and textiles and the Alibaba.com ecosystem. Real-Life Alibaba.com seller success stories will also be shared.

The event will feature a line-up of experts in the export and e-commerce fields, including Mr. Song Song, Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan; Mr. Maaz Mehmood, Executive member of Sundar Trade and Industry Association; Mr. Ahmed Jahangir, Executive Director of Home Textile Business at Nishat Mills; Ms. Amy Li, Marketing Head at Alibaba.com Pakistan; and Mr. Aziz Ur Rehman, Founder of Adan Enterprises.

# England totals 657 runs in first innings

ISLAMABAD: England piled up a total of 657 runs for all in 101 overs in the first innings against Pakistan at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Friday.

England were 506 for 4 at the end of first day. Harry Brook (101 off 81 balls) and Ben Stokes (34 off 15 balls) were unbeaten at day end.

However English batters were able to score 151 runs on day two.

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Pacer Naseem Shah was the first to pick the wicket on day two as he downed Stokes on 41 runs in the 76th over.

Shah struck again and picked up a second wicket in the 82th over when the ball whipped off Liam Livingstone's pads and straight to deep square leg.

Livingstone's went just for 9 runs.

In the 84th over, Brook was picked out deep square leg and the third wicket came for Shah. Brook was the pick of the batters as he went on to score 153 runs off 116 balls including 19 4s and 5 6s.

Mohammad Ali also came to help and took his second wicket in by taking Will Jacks on 30 runs.

He was followed by Zahid Mahmood who bagged Ollie Robinson (37) and James Anderson (6) wickets in the 99th and 101th overs, respectively.

Pakistani bowlers Zahid Mahmood grabbed 4 wickets for 235 runs while Naseem Shah (3 for 140), Mohammad Ali (2 for 124) and Haris Rauf (1 for 78) at the end of first innings.

Meanwhile, Pakistani openers Abdullah Shafique (6) and Imam-ul-haq (11) were 17 for none in 6 overs at lunch.



# Abdullah, Imam provide solid opening stand as Pakistan score 181 without loss

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan openers Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-haq gave a befitting reply to England as they put up a solid batting show on day two of the first Test at Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi on Friday.

At stumps Pakistan were at 181 without any loss. Abdullah and Imam were 11 and 10 runs respectively away from their centuries. Shafique's 89 included 10 4s and 2 6s while Imam's 90 had 13 4s and a 6.

Pakistan reached to 100 in the 29th over while 150 came in the 44th over.

Earlier, England scored a mammoth 657 runs total for all in 101 overs in the first innings.

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However, English batters managed to add only 151 runs on day two.

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Zahid took 4 wickets for 235 runs while Naseem Shah (3 for 140), Mohammad Ali (2 for 124) and Haris Rauf (1 for 78) were other wicket takers for Pakistan.

## Tennis Championship

LAHORE: Tennis player Amna Qiyum returns a shot during 7th Hassan Tariq Rahim (HTR) Tennis Championship at Gymkhana in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## PFF strives for revival of departmental football

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: National Challenge Cup to kick off in January 2023. In this respect, departmental teams expressed tremendous excitement during the inaugural meeting organized by Pakistan Football Federation in a local hotel in Lahore.

Delivering the chairman address to the participants, representing their respective departments, Haroon Ahmed Malik chairman of the Pakistan Football Federation (PFF) Normalization Committee acknowledged the commendable contribution of departments for keeping the sports alive, "The departments not only provided living to thousands of young athletes but also kept pumping fresh blood into the national teams of Pakistan for so many decades."

Welcoming the participants, Shahid Niaz Khokhar, member NC said that after exploring the international avenues PFF has taken the task to bring the local football activities back on track.

National Challenge Cup will be the first major national event which will be held by PFF in January after an undesired stoppage of the game in March 2021.

# Emotions run high as Korea stun Portugal

AL RAYYAN :South Korea advanced to the round of 16 at the World Cup on the tiebreaker of goals scored after beating Portugal 2-1 Friday following a stoppage-time strike from Hwang Hee-chan.

South Korea was heading out of the tournament until Son Heung-min led a length-of-the-field breakaway in the first minute of added time and slipped a pass through to Hwang, who converted a low finish.

Son and his teammates then formed a huddle in the middle of the field after the final whistle and watched coverage of the end of the other Group H match between Uruguay and Ghana on a cell phone. South Korea's team's fans were in tears, and some were praying.

When that game finished 2-0 to Uruguay and South Korea was

sure of its second-place finish, the players erupted in joy.

South Korea finished even with Uruguay with four points and both had a goal difference of zero, but the Asian team scored four goals compared to Uruguay's two. Portugal had already advanced after two games and won the group.

"We never gave up," Son said through tears. "Our players were trying to run an extra step more, sacrificing themselves, and that allowed us to achieve a good result." When the Uruguay-Ghana game finished 2-0 and South Korea was sure of its second-place finish, the players on the field erupted in joy and squirted water in the air.

Then they got in a line and sprinted toward their fans behind one of the goals at Education City Stadium before performing a dive

in front of them.

South Korea was tied at 1-1 and heading out of the tournament when a Portugal corner got cleared and Son led a length-of-the-field breakaway in the first minute of added time. He got crowded out by Portugal's retreating defenders but had the presence of mind to slip a pass through an opponent's legs and into the path of Hwang Hee-chan, who converted a low finish past goalkeeper Diogo Costa.

Hwang, who came on as a substitute for his first goal at the World Cup, removed his jersey and flexed his muscles. Some of his teammates fell to the ground. But there were still five minutes more of stoppage time to play.

When the final whistle blew, Son — who was sobbing with joy — and other teammates fell dramatically to the turf, banging

their fists. South Korea coach Paulo Bento, who is Portuguese, waited patiently in the tunnel while the Uruguay-Ghana match played to a finish. He couldn't be with his players because he was serving a suspension for a red card in South Korea's last game.

Hwang didn't play in South Korea's first two games because of injury but entered as a 66th-minute substitute against Portugal. He said the coaching staff told him: "You're going to create something."

Portugal had already advanced after two games and won the group, assuring Cristiano Ronaldo of at least one more match in Qatar as he seeks his first World Cup title in likely his final attempt.

Ricardo Horta had given Portugal the lead in the fifth minute off a cross from Diogo Dalot.



South Korea equalized with a helping hand from Ronaldo after an outswinging corner struck his back as he turned away from the ball. Kim Young-

## Garrison Golf Club ahead in All Pakistan Inter Club Golf at Rumanza Golf Course

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The ten member Golf Teams of eight distinguished and notable golf clubs of the country are up against each other in an intense and spirited contest for illustriousness, prestige, elevation and cash rewards and the playing arena is the august 7089 yards long, par 72 Rumanza Golf and Country Club Golf Course. These clubs are Karachi Golf Club, Airmen Golf Club, Defence Housing Authority Golf Club, Garrison Golf Club, Lahore Gymkhana, Rawalpindi Golf Club, Garden City, Islamabad and the Rumanza Golf Club who host this All Pakistan Golf Clubs Championship. In accordance with the laid down format of this Inter Club Championship 2022, the teams of each club comprise of four national level amateurs, three senior amateurs and three golf playing professionals with three best scores of amateurs to count for consideration, two best scores of senior amateurs to be considered and similarly two best scores for professionals.

In the first round contested and played at the Rumanza Golf Course the Lahore Garrison Golf Team accumulated a gross team score of 529, while the Karachi Golf Club is placed second at a gross team score of 532, followed by Lahore Gymkhana Golf Club at 535, Rumanza Golf Club and Rawalpindi Golf Club bunched together at 539. Other clubs lag behind with DHA Karachi at 544, Airmen at 550 and Garden City at 567.

Regarding the individual performances on the first day, the professional golf players of Lahore Garrison proved to be most useful for their team with steady individual scores that helped to elevate their teams position to an elevated level. Matloob Ahmed had a round of gross 72 as did M. Alam who was equally steady with a similar score of gross 72. Amateur category player Damil Ataulah produced an under par score of gross 70, and his team mates Ahmed Sultan Kayani and Usman Akram Sahi had rounds of gross 78 each. And their senior amateur team mates contributed a gross 78 by Tariq Mehmood and gross 80 by M. Shafi. In the fight for success the Lahore Garrison Team is in the forefront.

For Karachi Golf Club the principal performers were Mudassar Iqbal 73, Waheed Baloch 74 in the professionals section and amateurs Saim Shazli an 18 years old A Level student came up with gross 76, along with Yashal Shah, gross 76 and Samir Feroze, gross 79. Out of the senior amateurs Asad I.A. Khan was impressive and contributed a rational score of gross 77. The second senior also played 77. They certainly helped Karachi Golf Club to be well placed at the conclusion of the first round.

The Gymkhana Team is placed third and their team members, Shahid Javed, Aadil Jehangir, Salman, Qasim Ali Khan, Hussain Hamid and seniors Omer Javed Zia and Asim Tiwana have combined well to keep their team in contention. Fourth placed teams Rumanza Golf Club and Rawalpindi Golf Club seek to improve on their performance during the second round.

Remarkable golf is expected over the remaining two rounds.

## Deputy Commissioner Lahore School Games 2022

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Deputy Commissioner Lahore School Games 2022 got underway at a grand colorful opening ceremony at National Hockey Stadium.

Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal, who was the chief guest on this occasion, inaugurated the Deputy Commissioner Lahore School Games 2022 being organized with the collaboration of Sports Board Punjab.

Commissioner Lahore Amir Jan, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta, Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, CEO Lahore Qalandars Atif Rana, Deputy Commissioner Lahore Muhammad Ali, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, Olympian Javelin Thrower Arshad Nadeem, young world record holder mountaineer Shehroz Kashif and other notables were also present on this occasion.

The colourful opening ceremony was also witnessed by a large number of male and female players, sports officials. Eye-catching fireworks also lit the National Hockey Stadium to capture the attention of the large crowd.

All the participants stood in respect of the National Anthem in the inaugural ceremony. Young male and female artists and performers also presented attractive aerobics, gymnastics, sufi and cultural performances and melodious songs and won huge appreciation from a large number of sports enthusiasts present at the grand venue. Addressing the inaugural ceremony Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal said that Deputy Commissioner Lahore School Games is a wonderful healthy activity and our talented youth should take part in such events with full passion. He lauded the enthusiasm of participating athletes.

Senior Provincial Minister Mian Aslam Iqbal and Commissioner Lahore Amir Jan lauded Sports Board Punjab and Sports Department for their impressive role for the promotion of passion for sports among the young generation.

In his address at the opening ceremony, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said definitely, Deputy Commissioner Lahore School Games is a suitable platform for a large number of male & female students from prominent educational institutions to demonstrate their sports talent. "Talented boys and girls of the province must avail this golden opportunity. Punjab govt is utilizing all of its resources for the establishment of top level sports infrastructure in the province. We are striving hard for the promotion of sports among all segments of the society."

Commissioner Lahore Amir Jan on this occasion said it is true that sports activities do bring discipline in life and play a key role in establishing a healthy society. "I'm quite hopeful that hundreds of male & female students from Lahore's leading schools will impress with their performances in these games. It is for sure that sports passion will grow among the young students through this grand event."