

# Daily The Spokesman

RAWALPINDI



## Collective wisdom vital to resolve crises, Kaira says

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Thursday urged upon the opposition to sit with the government to resolve all controversial issues and asked Imran Khan to adopt a 'collective wisdom' to control the economic meltdown and its consequences. (Report on Page 8)



## President urges politicians to reduce political polarization through democratic means

President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that the armed forces were committed to perform their mandated functions as per the Constitution, therefore, all the politicians should commit themselves to democratic means of negotiations, consultations and deliberations to achieve consensus on issues confronted to the nation and reduce political polarization to achieve financial and economic stability in the country. (Report on Page 8)

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## A lot of Watermelons

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributing keys of the newly built houses among the flood affectees of Tank at the inaugural ceremony of Insaf Shah Pre-Fabricated Housing project donated for the flood affectees of Tank by Menzies Aviation Group and SPARS Group on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## Foreign exchange reserves stand at \$12.58 billion

ISLAMABAD: The total liquid foreign reserves held by the country stood at US\$ 12,581.7 million as of December 2, 2022, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) reported Thursday.

According to breakup figures, the foreign reserves held by the State Bank of Pakistan stood at US\$ 6,714.9 million whereas the net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were recorded at US\$ 5,866.8 million.

According to SBP press statement, during the week

ended on December 2, 2022, SBP reserves decreased by US\$ 784 million to US\$ 6,714.9 million.

This decline was on account of the payment of US\$ 1,000 million against maturing Pakistan International Sukuk and some other external debt repayments.

Some of the debt repayments were offset by inflows, mainly US\$ 500 million received from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). APP

## FMs of Pakistan, Indonesia ink MoU on setting up JMC



### Spokesman Report

BALI: The foreign ministers of Pakistan and Indonesia on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the establishment of Joint Ministerial Commission aimed at driving bilateral engagement and cooperation.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and his Indonesian counterpart Retno Marsudi inked the document as they met in Bali. The two foreign ministers reviewed bilateral

relations, discussed regional and international situation and agreed to stay engaged.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also met Foreign Minister of Bosnia Herzegovina, Dr. Bisera Turkovic and discussed mutual collaboration through high-level exchanges, trade and mechanisms of bilateral cooperation.

They agreed on amplifying magnitude of bilateral cooperation in areas that will translate into tangible outcomes.

# PM appeals to philanthropists to 'adopt' flood victims by setting up 100-unit prefab villages

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday appealed to philanthropists including industrialists, and expatriates to support the government's flood rehabilitation efforts by replicating the model of building 100-unit prefabricated houses for flood victims.

Addressing here at the launch ceremony of prefabricated residential units in Tank and Dera Ismail Khan, the prime minister urged the affluent to 'adopt' the flood-hit people of Balochistan and Sindh by providing them the infrastructure equipped with necessary facilities.

The prime minister in September had announced to construct residential units for the people of Tank and Dera Ismail Khan, who were displaced by the massive flashfloods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The project worth Rs 140 million was carried out as a gesture of philanthropy by Menzies Aviation and former special assistant to prime minister on aviation Captain Shujaat Azeem.

Shehbaz Sharif, who handed over keys of the residential units to flood victims, expressed satisfaction that the accommodation comprising two rooms, a kitchenette and a toilet would provide relief to the displaced people.

He said the post-flood damages needed more people to come forward and contribute towards replicating the same model villages and assist the government in amplifying its rehabilitation efforts.

The prime minister mentioned that the recent floods inflicted huge damage to around two million houses, infrastructure

and roads, however, he expressed satisfaction that the federal and provincial governments along with private sector put their best efforts to provide relief to the affected people.

He lauded National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the provincial disaster management authorities for carrying out relief and rehabilitation activities in the flood-affected areas.

He said the federal government disbursed Rs 70 billion to the flood-struck people in the provinces through Benazir Income Support Programme.

Shehbaz Sharif said the armed forces played an important role in reaching out to the people stranded in floods.

He also mentioned the support of friendly countries in extending

assistance to Pakistan to help overcome the challenge of flood.

Federal Minister for Planning Dr Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan faced the huge catastrophe of floods, however mentioned that the government's federal and provincial departments, and civil and military personnel demonstrated collaborative effort to overcome the challenge.

Member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Mehmood Ahmed Khan Bhittai lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for early implementation of the residential accommodation for the flood-hit people.

Captain Shujaat Azeem said the initiative was significant to accommodate the people in distress affected by the worst impacts of climate change. On PM's desire, he said, the model village would

be replicated in other parts of the country.

CEO Menzies Aviation Moetsum Khurshid said the objective of the project was to hand-over the residential units to the flood victims before the advent of winters.

He said after NDMA allocated land on September 3, his company completed the project in one month as announced by PM Shehbaz Sharif.

He said the prefabricated houses can sustain harsh temperatures and are equipped with solar panels. A medical centre with available paramedic staff and a school have been set up in the premises.

The residential village has tubewells for clean water, where 9,000 indigenous trees have been planted.

## Draconian steps against Kashmiri media can't hide Indian real face in IIOJK: FO

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday said that the journalists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) were working under intense pressure, facing intimidation, assault and arrests which cannot hide the true face of the Indian Occupation from the rest of the world.

The Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in her weekly press briefing, told the media that the media policy enforced in IIOJK was aimed at curtailing free flow of information and making media a mere propagator of India's disinformation campaign.

She said the Kashmiri media was barred from covering the actual situation in the occupied territory and not printing statements of the APHC leaders.

"A few weeks ago, a Kashmiri photojournalist, Ms. Sanna Irshad Mattoo, was stopped from travelling to New York to receive the prestigious Pulitzer Prize. Prominent



journalists including Asif Sultan, Manan Gulzar Dar, Fahad Shah and Sajad Gul are in illegal detention in different jails. Many more have been summoned, harassed and threatened by the Indian authorities. These draconian measures cannot hide the true face of the Indian Occupation from the rest of the world," she remarked.

She said as the world was set to mark International Human Rights Day on December 10, we must keep in our thoughts the oppressed

people of IIOJK, as the human rights violations in IIOJK continue unabated and their inalienable right to self-determination continues to be denied.

Apprising the newsmen of the diplomatic engagements that took place during the last week, the spokesperson mentioned Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's ongoing visit to South East Asia. In Indonesia, he attended the 15th Bali Democracy Forum, held meeting with his counterpart and also signed

a landmark MoU on establishment of a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) at the Foreign Minister level. He is scheduled to fly to Singapore on Thursday night where he will meet Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and President Halimah Yacob.

Regarding the 30th anniversary of the demolition of the historic Babri Mosque in the Indian city of Ayodhya by Hindu zealots, she said it was a sad reminder of the growing religious intolerance in India, which should not be ignored by the international community.

The spokesperson also expressed deep regrets over the non-issuance of visas to its Blind Cricket Team by India for participation in the third T-20 World Cup Cricket Tournament for the Blind. "As a result of the Indian decision, Pakistani players could not attend an international sporting event of special significance. India's practice of politicizing sporting events must end. We have conveyed our deep disappointment and regrets over this incident."

## Ambassador Moin briefs bank representatives on outcome of PM visit to China

BEIJING: Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haq here on Thursday met with representatives of Pakistani banks in Beijing and briefed them on the outcome of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's last month visit to China.

During the meeting, he exchanged views and solicited their suggestions to deepen trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China and expand exports to China.

Chief Representative, NBP, Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Chief Representative, Bank Al-Habib, Danish Shueb, Chief Representative, Askari Bank, Hasib ur Rehman, Chief Representative, ABL, Rameez Feroz, and representatives of UBL and HBL were present on the occasion. APP

## PTI determined to dissolve assemblies in December, says Fawad

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry said on Thursday the party had agreed to dissolve assemblies in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in December at every cost.

Talking to media, he said that Punjab's provincial administration should dissolve assemblies on PTI chief Imran Khan's call if Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid (Pervaiz group) wanted to remain an ally of the PTI in future adding that the establishment was burdening itself with the political corpses of Nawaz Sharif, Molana Fazl-ur-Reh-

man, and Asif Ali Zardari.

It was yet to see how quickly it [establishment] gets rid of them [corpses], he further said. Shedding light on cases registered against the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), the former federal minister said that the party had filed petitions against the ECP adding that the courts must decide cases against Azam Swati, Arshad Sharif, and Dr Shahbaz Gill independently.

He also said that the PTI desired to make Pakistan a democratic state adding that all the powerful stakeholders must respect people's choice.

## Investiture ceremony

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi conferring the award of Nishan-e-Imtiaz (Military) upon the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir Ahmad Shah and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza at a special investiture ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## President urges politicians to reduce political polarization through democratic means

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that the armed forces were committed to perform their mandated functions as per the Constitution, therefore, all the politicians should commit themselves to democratic means of negotiations, consultations and deliberations to achieve consensus on issues confronted to the nation and reduce political polarization to achieve financial and economic stability in the country.

The president expressed these views while addressing the concluding session of Islamabad Conclave-2022, titled "75 Years of Independence: Achieving Comprehensive National Security", here.



He said that in the past the superpowers adopted the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction, which diverted resources of the world towards

meeting and developing more lethal weapon systems.

He said that even if a fraction of these resources were diverted, the poverty and hunger in the world could have

been eliminated as well as the effects of climate change could have been mitigated.

He added that democracy, military defence, information and communication security, and economic independence were essential elements for a comprehensive defence of the country.

The president said that the Constitution of Pakistan safeguarded the rights of all the citizens equally irrespective of their social status, wealth or influence.

He said that justice should be served promptly and cheaply without any discrimination which would help the country to move forward on a fast-

track basis.

President Alvi said that information was another vital element of national security as disinformation could be used to destroy the country and mislead innocent populations.

He said that disinformation regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction led to a major conflict in the Middle East, which resulted in the loss of many precious lives and the destruction of property and assets.

He stated that Pakistan acquired nuclear deterrence, which provided the country relief and a credible defence system for 20 to 30 years but with the advent of cyber secu-

## 22 cement distributors receive annual FCCL performance awards

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Fauji Cement Company Limited (FCCL) here on Wednesday distributed awards among 22 distributors dealing in cement sales, exports and logistic support for their best annual performance during the fiscal year 2021-22.

During an annual ceremony, which was inaugurated by Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, of Fauji Cement Company Limited (FCCL), Qamar Haris Manzoor, the first prize was given to Goraya Cement Dealers Gujranwala for its top performance.

In addition, in the sales category, three prizes each were distributed for best performance among dealers of three zones including Rawalpindi, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Hazara, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Central Punjab.



Under the export category, 1st prize was given to Sahil Zaryab limited, 2nd to Brotherly Ittefaq limited and 3rd to Ghulam Farooq.

Under logistic and transport category, first prize was received by Ittihad Group, 2nd by Yousaf Sanwari Logistic cell, and 3rd by Al-Husnain construc-

tion company.

Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, Qamar Manzoor attributed the success of FCCL to all stakeholders who have been equally contributing in taking the company ahead. He said, the profit by the FCCL was being distributed among its stakeholders including Fauji foundation, which was a big shareholder.

He said, the Fauji Foundation was a leading institution which had taken responsibility for taking care of martyrs' families by providing them health and education facilities.

General Manager, Marketing and Sale, FCCL, Brig Aziz ul Hassan Usmani said the sales of FCCL have reached around 6 million tons during fiscal year 2021-22.

He said, the cement was being utilized for domestic construction and was also being exported to Afghanistan.

## Chairman NDMA represented Pakistan in 17th Regional Consultative Committee Meeting

ISLAMABAD: A three-day Regional Consultative Committee (RCC) meeting hosted in collaboration with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of National Defense, Philippines and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) with an overarching theme of 'Sustainable Resilience through Inclusive Governance, Finance, and Local Action' was held from 5-7 December in the Manila, Philippines.

Representatives from 18 countries and over 20 organizations participated in the meeting. Lt Gen Inam Haider Malik, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority represented Pakistan in the 17th session of RCC meeting on the invite of ADPC & Government of Philippines. Chairman NDMA apprised the forum about the catastrophic state of Floods 2022 experienced by the people of Pakistan. He emphasized that unless 'Global Climate



Goals' are benchmarked like SDGs, climate erratic recurring events will impact all across the regions.

"Handling more than one climate induced emergencies for country like Pakistan (who would still be in rehabilitation stage of current crisis) will be devastating, hence immediate measures are required by the global community", the Chairman added. He also underscored the need for sharing of latest technology from developed countries to help build a scenario based early warning system in countries like Pakistan being severely affected by the

climatic changes.

Chairman NDMA invoked the idea of intellectual exchanges amongst global and regional institutions working on disaster preparedness and management. He suggested global academia connectivity through institutions like National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) Pakistan, to enable research exchange on disaster management and climate change for collective benefit of all regions beside sustained engagement of experts to make collage of researches and archiving of experiences. The idea to create an Action Planner Organization of all the regional NDMA and equivalents was also stressed upon by the Pakistan side. During the session, the Chairman has stressed upon enabling of forecast based financing by global collaborative frameworks to address hybrid poverty-disaster needs. He also suggested ADPC to develop more action orient-

ed strategies to attract and retain support for highly vulnerable countries like Pakistan. The Chairman also highlighted crucial role of mass media that could help in creating awareness about changing climate and disseminate/propagate disaster mitigation/management messages to communities for surviving against natural calamities.

Chairman NDMA appreciated the hosts for providing a platform to the member countries for, highlighting the importance of promoting risk management in Asia and the Pacific region. The meeting aimed to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR), the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through inclusive governance, finance, regional cooperation, and local action, concluded with closing remarks from member countries and issuance of Manila statement.

## President confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military upon CJCS, COAS

ISLAMABAD: President Arif Alvi has conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz Military (NIM) upon Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir at a ceremony held at Aiwan-e-Sadr in Islamabad in recognition of their valuable services.

The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, Speaker National Assembly Raja

Pervaiz Ashraf and the cabinet members.

General Asim Munir assumed command as the new army chief (COAS) on November 29 after the retirement of Qamar Javed Bajwa, while General Sahir Shamshad Mirza replaced General Nadeem Raza as new chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee (CJCS) on November 27.

The federal government chose two senior-most generals for the top slots.

## Collective wisdom vital to resolve crises, Kaira says

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Thursday urged upon the opposition to sit with the government to resolve all controversial issues and asked Imran Khan to adopt a 'collective wisdom' to control the economic meltdown and its consequences.

The coalition government did not close its doors for holding dialogue with the opposition to resolve all current issues, he said while speaking to PTV news channel adding that Imran Khan will have to play a responsible role in the national interest.

He said the opposition could not deceive people with their lies-based statements.

He said the government has categorically expressed willingness to

hold unconditional and serious talks with PTI for the sake of political stability in the country.

He also advised that the PTI Chairman should show flexibility in his attitude as the government is ready to make electoral reforms through mutual consensus adding that all the political problems will only be resolved through dialogue rather than holding protests in the streets to pressurize the government, he added.

"The government and the opposition should jointly make efforts for the progress and development of the country, he assured.

"Imran Khan must shun his arrogance, take the government onboard on critical issues being faced by the country instead of paying attention to his personal interests", he added. APP

## MOL Pakistan promotes local talent through Annual Trainee Program

Spokesman Report

HANGU: Since 2020, MOL Pakistan Oil and Gas Company B.V. has promoted local talent through an Annual Trainee Program implemented in its areas of operation.

Through this annual program, 20 fresh graduates, with minimum experience, holding degrees and diplomas in a range of disciplines including Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Management, and Social Sciences are encouraged to apply. While program aims to promote local talent in the company's areas of operation, the 2023 program specifically focuses on talent from District Hangu.

With total of 1,600 applications, the selection process is currently under way. For most applicants, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that offers practical hands-on skill application and development through valuable training and field experience. Indeed, this type of experience and exposure with a multinational corporation (MNC) of this magnitude is something that most burgeoning professionals from District Hangu can only hope and dream of, especially when living in some of the most rural and remote parts of the country.

MOL Pakistan developed and implemented this on-the-job-train-



ing program to help build the skills of qualifying local residents, enabling them to become more employable when entering the job-market. Such initiatives are part and parcel of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) of the company that seeks to improve the social welfare and wellbeing of communities located in MOL Pakistan's areas of operation.

MOL Pakistan, a fully owned subsidiary of MOL Group, has been operating in the country since 1999. The exploration and production company has a long history of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Tal Block. Mr. Ali Murtaza Abbas, MOL Group Regional Vice President for Middle East, Africa, and Pakistan, stated that, "MOL Group is a responsible corporate citizen that prioritizes the social welfare of local communities wherever we operate globally. We are proud of our efforts to help develop local Pakistani talent and look forward to seeing these young adults grow and develop into capable professionals."

## Khawaja Saad Rafique chairs a high-level meeting



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Aviation, Director General Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority and Chief Executive Officer PIA were present in the meeting.

PIA should set a new fare formula based on revenue, market competition passengers' convenience. Efforts should be accelerated to acquire medium range jets with fewer seats and better and bigger aircrafts for long distances on dry lease.

The long-grounded two Boeing

777s will be part of the fleet again in the next 45 days. Meeting reviewed the installation of new comfortable seats in A320 aircrafts.

The outline of the National Aviation Policy was finalized. Meeting decided to extend more facilities to operators of small commercial aircrafts.

Issues related to pilots and flight engineers were discussed in the meeting too. Minister directed to expedite installation of in-flight entertainment systems. PID

# Japan provides US\$ 3.87 million new grants for polio eradication efforts in Pakistan

Amjad Mehmood

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan extended its support to the Pakistan Polio Eradication Programme by providing more than US\$ 3.87 million as a grant. The grant will be used for the procurement of essential oral polio vaccine, which will reach more than 18.61 million under five years old children in Pakistan living in endemic and outbreak districts.

The notes of the grant were signed and exchanged between the Government of Japan and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNICEF. Minister Abdul Qadir Patel, the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination and other dignitaries were present during the signing event.

"Pakistan has come a long way in the last 30 years. From thousands of children paralyzed by poliovirus in the 1980s and 1990s, we have managed to reduce the number of cases

and affected communities drastically," said Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel. Referring to the commitment of the government to polio eradication, the Minister said, "The Programme has successfully restricted virus circulation to endemic districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; we are committed and optimistic about eradicating polio by 2023." The Minister extended his sincere appreciation for the support of the Government of Japan and partners for their unwavering commitment to Polio eradication.

H. E. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan commended the Government of Pakistan and UNICEF for their tireless efforts in emergency vaccination campaigns in southern KP and establishing transit points in North Waziristan to limit the spread of Wild Polio Virus. He also reiterated his continuous support for eradicating polio-virus, by saying that "I would like to renew my commitment to achieve the polio-free world. Japan will continuously support the Government of Pakistan

and UNICEF in this regard. I sincerely hope that the national and sub-national campaigns of the next year will be safe and successful."

"It is very appreciative that polio program has supported the flood relief efforts in the flood affected districts. Health camps have been opened to provide basic clinical services, treatment of water-borne, vector-borne diseases and immunization for children and women of reproductive age. The Government of Pakistan, UNICEF and Japan has a strong target to achieve polio-free in Pakistan by the end of 2023. I would appreciate the continuous and unwavering leadership and commitment of the Government of Pakistan and UNICEF, with the highest respect to the frontline workers," said KINOSHITA Yasumitsu, Chief Representative, JICA Pakistan Office.

While polio remains a challenge for Pakistan, the country is facing extraordinary challenges due to recent floods.

"Already these children and

families have lost so much, it is imperative that we safeguard them from this deadly disease," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, highlighting the situation of children and families living in endemic and outbreak districts following the devastating recent floods. "Through the unwavering support and generosity of the people and Government of Japan, more children can now be immunized to prevent the devastation of paralysis and even death. We are now closer to securing a polio-free future for all."

The programme has made concerted efforts, including working with families at the household level by engaging parents and caregivers and consistently focusing on persistently missed and refusal families. Over 339,521 trained and dedicated polio front-line workers go door-to-door during every national campaign and inoculate vaccines to eligible children. Despite challenges, the Polio Programme has successfully limited the transmission of poliovirus to the endem-



ic region of southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), which is a substantial gain. Following the new risk categorisation, the next 13 months are critical for the Programme to sustain the gain and eradicate polio from Paki-

stan. The timeline for stopping all poliovirus transmission in the current global polio eradication strategic plan is the end 2023.

As a partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, UNICEF has been working with

the Government of Pakistan, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, WHO and other partners to make sure the national polio eradication and vaccination programmes reach every child in Pakistan.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar in Finance Division on Thursday.



Photo: PID

## PRCS distributes more relief packages to flood-affected families in Jacobabad

KARACHI: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) provided relief items to 500 flood-affected households in Jacobabad. PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari and the IFRC Head of Delegation (HoD) in Pakistan, Peter Ophoff, distributed the relief items among affected families, which included a tarpaulin sheets, jerry cans, a kitchen set, a shelter toolkit, blankets, mosquito nets, and a family-sized tent.

Speaking on occasion, Chairman Sardar Shahid Laghari said that the Pakistan Red Crescent has helped thousands of flood-affected families, especially in areas where no other organisation has reached due to lack of access, and this would continue until the last victim is helped. He further said that PRCS has already distributed relief items in Jacobabad and will continue. "Tomorrow, we are



Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, Chairman of the Pakistan Red Crescent and IFRC Head of Delegation (HoD) in Pakistan, Peter Ophoff, distribute relief items to flood victims in Jacobabad.

going to distribute relief items to the flood-affected people in Kashmir and then Dadu," said the PRCS chairman.

IFRC HoD in Pakistan Peter appreciated the PRCS efforts and said that PRCS and the IFRC would continue relief operations to help those who need it most.

PRCS Secretary General Ubaid-ullah Khan said that PRCS is also providing more than 15000 gallons of safe drinking water daily to more than 2000 flood-affected people in the Jacobabad district.

While taking on the occasion, Provincial Secretary of PRCS-Sindh Kanwar Waseem said that we are facing the biggest catastrophe in our history, and everyone in the Red Crescent is working around the clock to provide relief supplies to those in need in the 12 most vulnerable districts. He added that PRCS mobile health units consisting of male and female doctors are treating and providing free medicines in flood-affected districts.

## FAO Marks Emergency Response Plan Completion

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Under the Project 'Livelihood and Food Security Improvement Fund for the Flood Affected Areas of Pakistan' funded by USAID, Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), provided Rabi assistance packages to the most vulnerable farmers. These packages included certified wheat seed bags and fertilizers (UREA and DAP). A total of 65,115 households, including women headed households, were provided assistance in all four provinces of Pakistan.

An event was held at National Agriculture Research Council (NARC) on Thursday to mark the completion of the Flood Emergency Response Plan. Ambassador Donald Blome, Embassy of United States of America, Pakistan was the chief guest while Mr. Zafar Hassan, Federal Secretary for Ministry of Food Security and Research spoke on behalf of the Ministry.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Florence Rolle, FAO Representative in Pakistan said that Flood Emergency Response Plan; including selection of beneficiaries, procurement and distribution was completed in a record time of two months that is a huge achievement for FAO. Ms. Florence said that we faced many challenges, but with strong collaboration with all stakeholders including government agriculture departments, smallholder farms, USAID, all suppliers and vendors, the emergency response plan was completed in time. This is an example of how stronger collaborations can help in the development of the agriculture sector in Pakistan.

H. E. Ambassador Donald Blome expressed concern on the immense loss of life, livestock and infrastructure and said that this has been an extraordinarily difficult year for Pakistan. He further added that USA is very proud to be a part of the rehabilitation process of flood affectees. Apart from that, USA has a long history of helping Pakistan in agriculture development in the form of green revolution, improving agricultural lands, water management, and upgradation of agricultural universities, irrigation systems restoration, and water storage platforms. USA has also played a major role in the electrification of Pakistan.

Mr. Zafar Hassan, Secretary National Food Security and Research, said that Pakistan has experienced the worst floods in its history. The country has faced economic loss of around USD 30 billion. The year has not been good for the agriculture sector. He said that the government is grateful to FAO and USAID for their support and assistance but added that we cannot always look up to donor agencies for help.

In the end a field demonstration was arranged to show the American Ambassador the traditional methods of sowing practiced by majority of the farmers in Pakistan, while climate smart agriculture technologies developed at NARC were also shown to motivate the farmers to adopt latest techniques and technologies.

Dr. Ghulam Mohammad Ali, Chairman Pakistan Agriculture Research Council, Dr. Shahzad Asad, Director General NARC, senior government officials, donors and media representatives also participated in the event.

## KiK Pushes for Stronger Safety Programs in Pakistan

News Desk

BOENEN: During inspections in Pakistan this week, the CEO of textile company KiK, Patrick Zahn, announced a stronger engagement of his company towards more safety for workers and buildings. In this context Zahn emphasized that it remains his goal to bring the successful initiative Accord to Pakistan. The Accord is an independent, legally binding agreement between companies from the textile industry and trade unions in Pakistan and aims to create a safer, more socially responsible, and healthier garment and textile industry. KiK's engagement in Pakistan Thanks to the Building Safety Initiative that KiK launched in 2017, the company already has significant experience in Pakistan. For the CEO of KiK, Patrick Zahn, it is also personally important to initiate a strong agreement for Pakistan with the Accord to be able to achieve further improvements.

"In the last five years, we have already achieved a lot in the areas of fire protection and electrical safety with our 'Pakistan Building Safety Initiative'. With Accord Pakistan, we can work with many other stakeholders to ensure better standards for textile production." The South Asian country is one of the most important exporters of textiles after Bangladesh. He therefore called on the factory owners, trade unions and retailers involved in the agreement "to put aside their own interests shortly before the goal is reached and to bring about a swift and comprehensive solution for the sake of the thousands of employees".



COMSTech Organizes Foundation Meeting of the Alliance of Islamic Universities of Africa

## Awareness Session 'Facilitation of Women Entrepreneurs for availing financing'

Mian Abdul Rashid

FAISALABAD: Government Programs and Finance Schemes by State Bank of Pakistan to promote women entrepreneurship are quite productive, documentation for banks loans is made quicker, simple and easier, said Mrs. Rubina Amjad, President Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FWCCI). She was addressing to the participants of Awareness Session 'Facilitation of Women Entrepreneurs for availing financing' organized by FWCCI in collaboration with SBP Faisalabad, Bank Al-Habib and Bank of Punjab at Board Room of FCCI.

She appreciated that State Bank of Pakistan has already launched a



comprehensive policy on "Banking on Equity" to reduce the gender gap in financial inclusion by bringing a shift towards women friendly business practices in the financial sector. It is very productive turn that for implementation and dissemination of this policy

across Faisalabad region, SBP Faisalabad is working for promotion of financing in women entrepreneurs through such awareness sessions as of today, she added.

She said that huge untapped potential exists among women doing busi-

ness both in-formal as well as formal sectors that they need to be helped to grow. She said that women are already prey to cultural, social and male dominated environments. They need finances and apply but not properly entertained by the commercial banks. She said that experience and examples show that recovery rate of women is absolutely far above than that of male entrepreneurs.

Addressing the meeting participants, Mr. Waqas Kashif Bajwa, Chief Manager SBP Faisalabad said SBP has taken a lot of initiatives and introduced various finance schemes. He said that females staff is being appointed in the banks to facilitate for financial services and also create women friendly environments.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 5:31 am  
Zohr ..... 11:59 am  
Asr ..... 3:21 pm  
Maghrib ..... 4:59 pm  
Isha ..... 6:28 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**ENQUIRY**

Edhi Ambulance ..... 115  
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# TDC & NNP announce jointly launch of Blue Lilies

**Amjad Mehmood**

ISLAMABAD: The Diabetes Centre and Novo Nordisk Pakistan under its Memorandum of Understanding announced the launch of TDC Blue Lilies Clinic for children living with Type-1 Diabetes. The ceremony was attended by H. E. Jakob Linulf Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan, Dr Asjad Hameed Chairman Board of Directors, TDC, Tahir M. Abbasi, CEO TDC, Dr Nuzhat Hameed, Board Member of TDC and Rashed Rafique Butt, VP & GM Novo Nordisk.

Tahir M. Abbasi in his opening address briefed the audience about the goal of the project which was to increase awareness and educate the children living

with type 1 diabetes along with their families, capacity building of HCPs on type 1 diabetes management, and lastly improve access to better diabetes care. He further highlighted that the clinic will be setup within their facility.

Dr Asjad Hameed in his speech stressed upon the fact that diabetes is a situation that needs to be addressed urgently as it poses a great burden on the economy of Pakistan. He was proud to have his idea of Blue Lilies come to fruition where children living with Type-1 Diabetes will be provided affordable care.

He also thanked Rashed Rafique Butt and Novo Nordisk Pakistan as through their concerted efforts this was possible.

His Excellency Jakob Linulf Danish Ambassador to Pakistan shared his thoughts on Blue Lilies and appreciated the multidisciplinary characteristic such as the support and education to the parents and children. He was touched by the idea and appreciated that an initiative like this is certainly a step in the right direction.

Rashid Rafique Butt, Vice President and General Manager Novo Nordisk Pakistan also talked about the diabetes burden in Pakistan, in addition to the general perception of a parent is towards the child's health and how they are often misguided.

The TDC Blue Lilies Clinic will operate under supervision of the staff at TDC.



## Folk Musical Night held at PAC

**News Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Punjab Arts Council organized a Sufi musical night in which traditional songs of Punjab were presented. Director General Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Abrar Alam participated in the folk musical night as Chief Guest. Speaking at the event, Director General Punjab Arts Council Muhammad Abrar Alam said that the folk songs of Punjab have their unique place in the culture of the entire country, in which the traditions, simplicity and sincere love of the people of Punjab are hidden. The artists of Punjab have preserved their folk songs, their tunes and unique accents in a rich manner. Punjab Arts Council is also playing a significant role in promoting the culture of other provinces and federal units, he added. Director Waqar Ahmed said that Pakistan's culture is its example in the world. The sum of the culture of its provinces and federating units is the culture of Pakistan. The culture of Punjab province in its units is recognized all over the world for its uniqueness. People here express their happiness in their own way. Fairs are an important part of the culture here. Our culture is our identity. Those nations who have no identity are forgotten by history. We are fortunate that our culture has you as its example, which is admired all over the world, he added. Sain Zahoor, Aslam Lohar, Sain Riaz, Ruby Reshman, Afshan Zebi, Alisha Shehzad, Muhammad Hamza, Iram Abbasi and Sami folk dance group performed in the folk musical night. Shagufta Khan performed the duties of host in the folk musical night. A large number of people participated in the Punjab Folk Musical Night.

## Burnt to ashes

ISLAMABAD: Rescue workers stands in front of burned stalls at Sunday Weekly Bazaar after the last night fire erupts at Sunday Bazaar at Peshawar Mor, in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Leaving homes for women in IIOJK become a nightmare: Mushaal

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Mullick said that leaving homes for women has become a nightmare due to the rampant state-sponsored incidents of sexual violence in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), as the brutal forces have been using rape and molestation of Kashmiri women as a weapon of war to suppress the seven decade-long Kashmiri struggle for securing their inalienable right of self-determination.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Empathy or Sympathy: Elimination of Violence Against Women At Academic Institution" as a chief guest at Seminar Hall NIHR, Quaid-e-Azam, University here on Thursday, she said that the womenfolk in Kashmir were combating around one million armies of India and they were facing all kinds of oppression, harassment and molestations.

Mushaal, wife of senior detained Hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, said that rape was being used as a weapon of war against the women folk in the occupied valley since long to punish the entire Kashmiris.



However, she said that Kashmiri women were bravest in the world who have been facing the all sort of state terrorism and brutalities for the last over seven-decades but nothing could dampen their courage.

The Chairperson stated that the situation in the heaven-like valley turned from bad to worse in the aftermath of the Indian fascist government's unconstitutional, illegal and unilateral move of revoking articles 370 and 35A, stripping IIOJK of its special status. She said that the incidents of rape and sexual abuse witnessed an alarming

upsurge soon after the notorious move. Mushaal went on to say that the Modi regime had imposed countless sanctions and restrictions in the valley under the draconian Public Safety Act, forcing the people to live in a situation where they even could not breathe freely.

The hurriyat said that India had been violating the clauses regulating sexual violence under international humanitarian law and international human rights law but the world community and human rights organizations observed criminal silence in this regard.

## Int'l Conference on Emerging Trends in Economics Held at NUML



**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: One-Day International Conference on "Emerging Trends in Economics" was held on Thursday at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML), Islamabad and it was organized by the Department of Economics NUML. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session was Prof. Dr. Eatzaz Ahmad, Professor on SBP Memorial Chair & Former VC Quaid-i-Azam University and Prof. Dr. Jochen Hippler, Political Scientist and Senior Researcher Former Country Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Germany in Pakistan was the key note speaker. While Pro Rectors, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, faculty members and large number of students also attended the conference.

Speaking on the occasion the Chief Guest Prof. Dr. Eatzaz expressed his views on the importance of national dialogue to crafting economic policy. He said that all the stake holders must sit together to devise a unanimous economic strategy to bring the country out of current economic crisis.

Prof. Dr. Jochen Hippler, Political Scientist and Senior Researcher while talking about the macroeconomic policies in emerging global and domestic dynamics highlighted that USA & China are two major economic players of the world, alongwith them there are regional players that have affect on economic policies of the world. He stressed the need for Pakistan, to take serious steps towards boosting economic activities and reducing the dependence on external sources.

Earlier, Director General NUML Brig Syed Nadir Ali in his welcome address thanked the honourable guests and said that this conference will provide a platform for scholars, researchers and academicians to think new avenues to resolve the prevailing economic issues. He hoped that three consecutive sessions of the conference would bring meaningful suggestions for the economy of Pakistan.

## Annual food festival of PC Rawalpindi, happening from 16th - 18th December 2022

**Spokesman Report**

RAWALPINDI: In celebration of the vibrant Pearl-Continental culture, Pearl-Continental Hotel Rawalpindi is going to host a three-day event called PINDI EATS from the 16th- 18th of December 2022 from 03:00 PM-11:00 PM.

After the great success of the Bukhara Grand Food Festival held in 2021, this year, we will be offering the best variety of delicious cuisines and appetizing dishes to our diners from the specialties of Pearl-Continental Hotels.

The beautiful outdoor setting, coupled with delicious food offerings from our acclaimed restaurants includes Dumpukht, Kashmiri Cuisine, Khyber Hujra, Tai-Pan, Jason's Steakhouse and Bukhara.

# '40 years of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Korea: trade, investment, and human resources'

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Pakistan, organized a seminar on the theme "40 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Pakistan and Korea: Trade, Investment and human resources" at PIDE, Islamabad.

Speaking on occasion, H. E. Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Mr. Suh Sanggyo, said bilateral relations between Korea and Pakistan are at a turning point as the two countries will celebrate the 40th anniversary of relations next year.

His Excellency said that regarding regulations and ease of doing business, Pakistan is moving in the right direction. Small Korean companies face contract issues, but large companies have different experiences. "Korean companies are helping Pakistani companies to improve their quality

and capacity," he added.

Earlier, in his welcoming address, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of PIDE, said that the economic ties between Pakistan and Korea remain strong despite these difficult economic times. In this global village, both countries must work together. There are lessons to be learned from Korea's economic strength, and PIDE is an excellent platform to strengthen ties between the two.

During his presentation, Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan, Research Fellow, PIDE, said that Korean economy has an excellent balance between import and export, even though export volume is much larger than imports.

He added that Korea's GDP is five times that of Pakistan. Pakistan needs to focus on maximising the volume of exports and reducing imports. Currently, Pakistan only export clothes, fish, and cotton to Korea and import automobiles from Korea. There is a dire need



to increase our exports. Turning a trade deficit into a trade surplus is only possible by correcting our shortcomings.

"Our trade deficit is increasing because of our destructive policies and practices. Pakistan cannot achieve a trade surplus with this performance; we can overcome the trade deficit through an enabling environment for local and

foreign investors," he added.

Mr. Asif Khan of the Board of Investment (BOI) has said that they are working on regulatory modernisation to remove regulatory bodies that are a trade barrier to direct or indirect investment. He added that the investment council had reformed 115 departments and 31 different sectors under PRMI

(Pakistan Regulatory Modernization Initiative) to bring FDI into Pakistan and help local investors.

Mr. Nasir Kashani from the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC) said that Korea had increased the work permit quota from 1100 to 2400 for Pakistan. Pakistanis are allowed to work in Korea through this system.

Mr. Moon Young Kim, Managing Director of Korea Trade Investment Promotion Company (KOTRA), said that many Korean manufacturing companies are working in Pakistan. He suggested establishing an ombudsman office in Pakistan to easily access the Prime Minister's office. He also added that it was necessary to improve the accessibility of markets with other countries in Central Asia and Africa. According to Mr Kim, the laws in Pakistan are good, but implementation is an issue.

The Board of Investment (BOI), the Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), and the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Company (KOTRA) expressed interest in joining the joint collaborative initiative between PIDE and the Korean Embassy in Pakistan.

A huge number of representatives from different Korean companies working in Pakistan have also participated in the event.

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# Independent Arabic bookshops deserve to be treasured

**Sara Al-Mulla**

Situated in a striking former theater in London, Al Saqi Books has been hailed as Europe's largest Middle Eastern specialist bookseller and is renowned for being a favorite among the intellectual hipster and literary lover sets. Founded in 1978 by a trio of Lebanese expatriates — Andre and Salwa Gaspard, along with the late Mai Ghousoub — the bookshop has become something of a cultural hotspot over the years, featuring an exquisite and finely curated collection of high-quality literature that celebrates the best in Arabic publishing and heritage, as well as a bustling forum for hosting author talks, discussions and literary events. Sadly, this hallmark destination is set to shut down after 44 years of operation due to the current economic challenges. This news caused a tornado of torment among bibliophiles, who are devastated by the tragic loss of this iconic bookshop.

Never one to miss out on the boundless allure of books, literary aficionados find a special charm in perusing collections within independent bookshops. Whether it is the elegantly designed

Carturesti Carusel in Bucharest, the landmark Hatchards in London, the magnificent theater-turned-bookshop El Ateneo Grand Splendid in Buenos Aires or Paris' Librairie Galignani, the oldest English-language bookshop in continental Europe, each venue has played an invaluable role in shaping literary and cultural experiences over the years.

There are thoughtful extra touches to be found in bookshops. Each venue offers a unique and fascinating collection of books, inspired by founders and curators, which are then promoted to eager and creative readers. With reams of books offering an opportunity to ponder, explore and be inspired, customers have an abundance of choice to support their personal interests and intellectual journeys. When it comes to events, visitors are always in for a treat as they meet with adored authors and discuss transcendent themes.

Considering their historical, cultural and intellectual roles, it is vital to discuss how the Arab world can retain its iconic independent bookshops during this age of volatility. Disruptions in supply chains, surging energy prices, costly operations,

increased digital competition and declining readership have made the past few years precarious for bookshops. Amid this web of uncertainty, there is a great need for bookshops to be sufficiently supported in order to navigate the many fault lines and fractures affecting the publishing industry.

These challenges require policymakers to roll up their sleeves and formulate practical, responsive and effective solutions that ensure the sustainability of independent bookshops. The first place to start is to support bookshops in achieving a solid ground on which to operate, via offering special grants, business relief packages, zero-interest loans and subsidies. Governments should also sign purchasing contracts with bookshops to source high-quality books to stock up the collections within public libraries, school libraries and cultural centers.

Booksellers also face some confounding challenges in today's market, which is why investing in professional training and upskilling programs is a great way to equip them with useful knowledge and practical skills, such as curating attractive book collections, designing attractive window displays, fashioning exciting literary events, recom-

mending books according to genre and age group, delivering enthusiastic customer service, promoting the bookshop on digital platforms, and managing finances.

A newly evident theme in grant-making is the importance of investing in digital transformation and e-commerce for bookshops to access a wider global market. Last month, the Canadian government announced an \$8.8 million funding package to support the country's independent bookshops in scaling their digital presence in an effort to boost sales of Canadian-authored books.

Another great case study can be gleaned from France, home to some 3,300 independent bookshops. French law obliges publishers to set a fixed price for new books, whether readers choose to buy them online or from independent bookshops, with a maximum discount of 5 percent. Currently, lawmakers are aiming to pass another bill to set a €3 (\$3.15) minimum delivery charge for all online book orders of less than €35 in an effort to support independent bookshops against the fierce competition of global book platforms.

A trip to any city often includes browsing bookshops in order to

find local literary gems. That is why governmental tourism agencies should promote bookshops as popular cultural destinations and as bedrocks of Arab culture. At the same time, marketers should highlight bookshops as vibrant venues that bring together a constellation of thought leaders, intellectuals, trailblazers and imaginative creators. They can create literary experiences that are authentic yet whimsical but always thought-provoking and transformative.

Over the years, many people have delighted in attending events that shed light on central themes in the form of author talks and book signings, themed reading groups, book clubs, art exhibitions and cultural lectures. Thus, government sponsorship of events that focus on Arab writers and the region's culture is key to enriching the cultural calendar of any city.

It is vital that we support the vast networks of independent Arabic bookshops across the world in order to propel and preserve the richness of our heritage on the global literary stage.

*\* Sara Al-Mulla is an Emirati civil servant with an interest in human development policy and children's literature.*

## US determined to work with Pakistan to combat terror threat in region

Amid increasing cross-border attacks against Pakistan, the United States plans to work with Islamabad to deal with the threat of terrorism in the region, especially from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a State Department spokesperson said Wednesday.

"It is, of course, our broader goal to see to it that terrorists and others aren't able to use Afghanistan as a launch pad for attacks on Pakistan," the department's Spokesperson Ned Price said in response to a question about the rise of violence and the regrouping of terrorists in Afghanistan.

The Taliban, he said, was either unable or unwilling to live up to the commitments that they've made in a number of areas, especially on counterterrorism.

However, the US have capabilities when it comes to counterterrorism in the region that does not leave them entirely beholden to the Taliban, Price added.

"We demonstrated those capabilities in recent months with the killing of the now-deceased al-Qaeda emir, Ayman al-Zawahiri, making good on the pledge that you have consistently heard from President (Joe) Biden since the withdrawal of military forces from Afghanistan last year, that we will take action if we see international terrorists regrouping in Afghanistan," the spokesperson said, adding, "We will take action in a way that protects our interests."

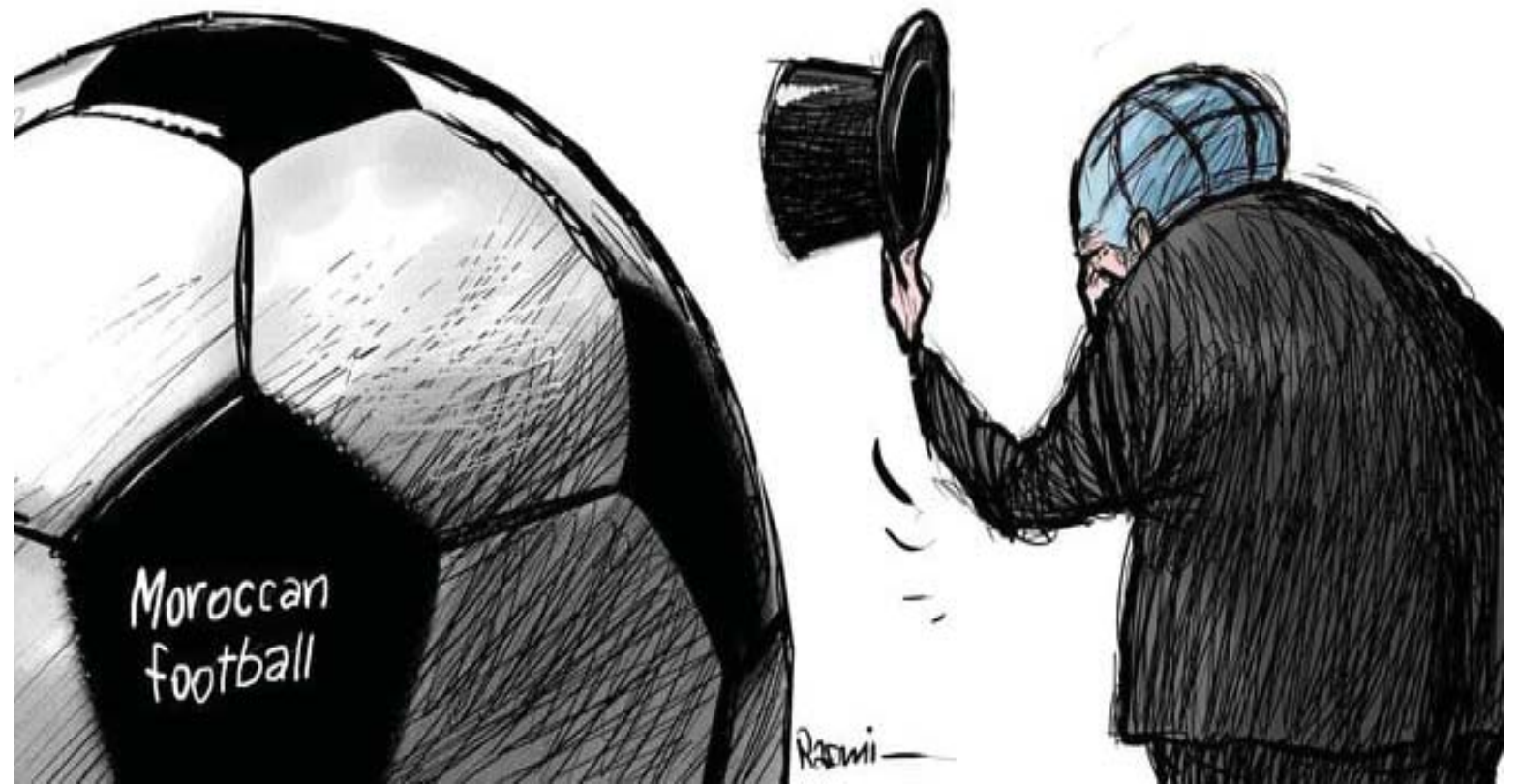
"We are determined to work with our partners in the region, including Pakistan, to do what we can to take on the threat of terrorism in the region, and certainly the threat of terrorism that extends well beyond the region," Price added.

Pakistan, the spokesperson emphasized, is an important partner in a number of respects.

"We value that bilateral relationship. We welcome opportunities to expand cooperation in areas that are of mutual interest to us and to Pakistan. That, of course, does include when it comes to counterterrorism."

He pointed out that Pakistan receives grant assistance from the International Military Education and Training programme that provides professional military education, and operational and technical courses, thus strengthening the country's own abilities to take on the threats — whether it's counterinsurgency, counterterrorism — as well as skills courses that improve institutional capacity and resource management.

"The programme continues to enhance the bilateral relationship. It continues to strengthen military cooperation between our two countries," Price added.



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

## Europe's inflation problem will linger for years to come

Reuters feature

Euro zone inflation may have peaked but will subside so slowly that it could be years before it gets back to the European Central Bank's 2% target, keeping pressure on the ECB to tighten policy well into 2023.

Having raised interest rates by a record 200 basis points since July, the ECB has already taken a giant step towards taming inflation which hit 10.6% in October before easing last month to 10.0% — still five times the target level.

Pipeline pressures remain abundant, however, with energy prices still sky-high, unemployment at record lows, and wage growth accelerating. Government stimulus measures are working against the ECB's policy tightening, and too much of the energy price rise has seeped into the broader economy through second-round effects, fuelling underlying price growth.

Meanwhile, a recession that was expected to ease inflationary pressures is now seen milder than feared.

All of this suggests inflation will ease back from record highs only slowly in the early months of 2023, with underlying inflation, more closely watched by some ECB policymakers than the headline figure, remaining stubbornly high.

"The core inflation rate is unlikely to peak until mid-2023 and will only fall slowly thereafter," Commerzbank economist Christoph Weil said. "Against this backdrop, the ECB's goal of pushing the inflation rate back to just under 2% on a

sustainable basis seems a long way off." Euro zone inflation will stay above the ECB's target for years to come

If disinflation proves too slow, firms and consumers may lose confidence in the ECB's commitment and adjust their wage- and price-setting behaviour to reflect higher inflation, perpetuating rapid price growth.

While that has not yet happened, longer term inflation expectations are uncomfortably high and continue to trend up. A key market-based indicator, often cited by the ECB, now stands at 2.4%, well above the 2% target, and has moved up even as policy is tightened.

The ECB's new projections, due out next week, are set to show inflation above target through 2024 and only falling to 2% in 2025.

"The second-round effects will drive inflation next year and in 2024," ECB Chief Economist Philip Lane said.

RECESSION TOO MILD? A recession was set to do some of the heavy lifting in easing price pressures but the downturn may be more benign than feared, a raft of recent indicators — from confidence data to output figures — suggest.

Gas storage facilities are full, meaning energy rationing is unlikely, and governments are helping households and businesses via subsidies. Supply bottlenecks, which drove inflation as economies emerged from the pandemic, are easing.

"The current situation remains dire, but firms and households are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, becoming more optimistic for the future," Katharina Koehn at Oxford Economics said. "A robust

labour market should support households through the continuing squeeze from energy prices."

The buoyant labour market may be a problem.

At 6.5%, unemployment is at a record low as firms, keenly aware of how tough it was to get workers back after COVID-19, avoid letting people go.

"We think companies will be reluctant to lay off workers as they struggled to hire people in recent quarters," J. P. Morgan's Raphael Brun-Aguerre said.

Wage growth, a precondition of durable inflation, is accelerating meanwhile, leaving policymakers with a dilemma.

Some catching-up is necessary after this year's rapid rise in consumer prices reduced real incomes. But it is not evident that after a few years of above-trend growth, wage-setting will fall back in line with the ECB's target.

"Wage growth is likely to reach around 4% at the end of this year and stay there next," Bank of America Merrill Lynch said. "Hawks will try to label that as evidence of second-round effects from inflation. We are not convinced."

Added up, the pipeline pressures suggest the ECB is far from done with rate hikes and its 1.5% deposit rate could still double before its job is done.

"I think starting to talk about where we're going to end up is probably premature and I can see scenarios where we go beyond 3%," ECB policymaker and Irish central bank chief Gabriel Makhlouf told Reuters in an interview, referring to market pricing that point to a peak rate just below 3%. 06. (Courtesy with Reuters)

## The Protracted Ukraine War: A risk for potential arms race

Mujeeb-ur-Rehman

The term "arms race" refers to a competitive, reciprocal improvement or increase in armaments between two states that perceive themselves to be at odds. Early proponents of the arms race theory hypothesized that a state's pursuit of security reduces the real or perceived security of its adversary, resulting in one state responding to the other's current or projected military and political conduct. Without provocation, justification, or necessity, the Russian military has started a violent assault on the people of Ukraine. The purpose of this article is to examine the fear of an increase in military spending and an arms race in the context of the Ukraine war.

Since 2010 and onwards the arms manufacturing companies increased manufacturing of both outdated and contemporary weaponry as those inventories were depleted to maintain a steady supply. The constant flow of weapons has assisted the Ukraine in repelling the Russian soldiers and reclaiming large areas of land recently. However, the Ukraine might get that technology, which is far more advanced than Russia's war technology, with the help of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Furthermore, NATO expansion and the Ukraine war are triggering a new global arms race, exacerbating existing regional tensions among neighboring countries. The concept of "mutual assured destruction" (MAD) has long been relied upon by the world to avert nuclear conflict. Even if MAD is successful in preventing nations from starting deliberate wars, it cannot protect against human unintentional mistakes on either side of the conflict or miscalculation of adversary potential for war accidents.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), after 1972, Japan increased its military spending for the first time by 7.3% annually after 2021, China increased its military spending by 4.7%, Australia increased its defense spending by 4%, after 2021, Nigeria increased its

military spending by 56% to \$4.5 billion in 2021. Germany, spent \$56.0 billion on military spending in 2021. Qatar spent \$11.6 billion on its military in 2021, ranking fifth in the Middle East in terms of military spending. Qatar's military expenditures in 2021 were 434% greater than they were in 2010. India ranks third in the world for military spending at \$76.6 billion, this is up 0.9% from 2020 and 33% from 2012. Iran increased its military spending for the first time in four years, to \$24.6 billion. In 2000, only Moscow spent \$9.23 billion on military requirements, by 2021, that amount had increased to \$65.9 billion. This represents a rise of more than 700%, exceeding that of any of the Group of Seven (G7) states. As an illustration, over the same time span, military spending rose by 250% in the United States (US), 319% in Canada, and 211% in Germany. In absolute terms, Russia continues to lag well behind the United States, whose defense spending topped \$800 billion in 2017. Russia had a military budget in 2021 that was ten times larger than Ukraine's.

Recently, after Russia's attack continued, it may create miscalculation, and the moment Ukraine finds itself in a difficult position on the ground, the US and NATO will exaggerate the war by supporting military weapons used for aerial attacks and directly targeting the Russian air defense and cyber systems. Putin's conflict in Ukraine might eliminate what little strategic stability there is around the globe. This not only poses an existential threat to major powers, but it would also deal yet another blow to the global non-proliferation regime, making it even more difficult to stop the spread of such lethal weapons in other regions. The ongoing Ukraine war is a direct violation of articles 42 and 51 of UN Chapter 7 and in this crucial time the Permanent Five members (P5) of the United Nation Security Council (UNSC) has the responsibility to take necessary measures to ensure peace and take essential measures to tackle further arms race in the globe.

Writer is working as a research fellow at Balochistan Think Tank Network.

## IS Qatar's National Day

# Qatar shows its character, unity & strength to the World

By Naveed Ahmad Khan  
Photos by Ghulam Farid

Qatar's embassies and diplomatic missions marked the National Day, which is usually celebrated on December 18, every year in the commemoration of the state's founder Sheikh Jassim bin Mohamed bin Thani. The Qatari diplomatic celebrations in world capitals always attract high-level officials with a huge attendance that reflects Qatar's excellent relationship with other countries across the globe. This year Qatar is hosting FIFA World Cup 2022 and the final would be on 18 December, which is an equally great day of celebrations for the state of Qatar.

At the eve of National Day, the Ambassador of Qatar to Pakistan hosted a graceful National Day event which has been attended by distinguish guests, media persons and embassy staff.

H. E. Ambassador Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani in his message said that Qatar National Day is a great occasion where the people of Qatar show cohesion, solidarity, and unity in meanings of love for their homeland, loyalty to ancestors and fathers, and their unforgettable sacrifices. It is a day of pride for the wise leadership of His Highness (HH), the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, may God protect him, the leader of the process of achievement, development, and promising future. He said the slogan of Qatar National Day 2022 'Our Unity Source of Our Strength', quoted from a speech of HH which is affirming the approach of cohesion, solidarity, and unity of the people of Qatar to face challenges and achieve objectives. Counting the major achievements, he said that the State of Qatar advanced in the political, diplomatic, economic, sports, health, and education fields which has reflected unity and solidarity between the wise leadership and the loyal people. This also draws a bright picture of the future of the State of Qatar.

About the FIFA World Cup, he said the celebration of Qatar National Day is particularly important this year, as it coincides with Qatar hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Both events are an opportunity for the people of Qatar to show their unity and distinguish culture from the world. During this period, visitors to Qatar will learn about the bright aspects of our history and culture. They would also experience our belief in civilized interaction with other cultures in a respectful manner and our expression of pride for Arab and Islamic values.

"Visitors would get the opportunity to learn about bright aspects of Qatar's history & culture"

He further added that the tournament of the 2022 FIFA World Cup showed the world, Qatar's cultural identity, economic, security, and administrative abilities, and its tangible achievements in all fields. He said we are grateful for the support and praise for our success in organizing this mega-global event. He said we affirm that this unique and inspiring experience is for all humanity without any discrimination. He said the tournament of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar brought the people together and unified the feeling and affirmed that the world can be united to face the major challenges that threaten humankind.

His Excellency informed about Qatar's contributions to regional and international issues. He said as a trusted international partner, the State of Qatar believes in supporting collective initiatives and multilateral action. Qatar is always proactive in responding to global crises such as food security, energy security, the COVID-19 pandemic, and others. He said the State of Qatar is eager to support all efforts aimed at promoting cultural and civilized openness in the world. The State of Qatar pays great attention to developing its relations with countries, regional and international organizations, and actively contribute to promoting international peace and security through mediation to settle disputes by peaceful means. He said Qatar would continue its support-



ive role for development and stability projects in different countries.

"Qatar always plays its positive role for international peace & security through mediation"

He said The meditations of the State of Qatar in Sudan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Chad, and others, have not just paved the way for building peace, stability, and development in these countries, but also at the regional and international levels. The State of Qatar strongly believes that peaceful means are the best way to resolve conflicts and end wars. About Qatar - Pakistan relationships, His Excellency Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said that the State of Qatar and Pakistan share unique historical ties, and enjoy strong cooperative relations based on solid foundations. Our relationship has seen remarkable development in recent years, in all fields.

He said during the recent visit of Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif to Doha, Qatar announced to make an



investment in Pakistan worth US\$3 billion. His Highness, the Amir of the State of Qatar has stressed the importance of the brotherly and strategic relationship between the two brother countries and their aspiration to enhance economic partnership by raising trade exchange and promoting investments through the Qatar Investment Authority. He said we have doubled the number of Pakistanis working in the State of Qatar as Qatar is now home to about 210 thousand Pakistanis. They are participating in the development of Qatar, and we appreciate their role in this regard. The Government of the State of Qatar has decided to enhance the number of Pakistanis working in Qatar.

Moreover, Qatar's global education foundation, Education Above All (EAA) has partnered with the Asia Development Bank to enroll 960,000 of some of Pakistan's poorest 'Out of School Children' into primary education over the next four years. The new partnership is part of a concerted effort to bring the country's most marginalized children into primary-level education and comes off the back of EAA's

already remarkable track record of enrolling over 10.7 million children into education across the world. It is worth mentioning that Education Above All (EAA) has already contributed to the education of about 1.3 million out-of-school children in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan through various projects implemented since 2012 in cooperation with different partners and the total amount of support to education through "Educate a Child" program was \$ 124 million. Qatar is also supporting Pakistan's national program to eradicate polio.

"Qatar is keen to support Pakistan in education & health projects"

The Embassy of the State of Qatar in Islamabad has played its part and provided medical and preventive aid from Qatar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in order to support Pakistan's efforts in facing the outbreak of the COVID-19. Qatar was among the countries which immediately responded to Pakistan's call for help two months ago when floods hit the country and sent medical and humanitarian assistance through C-17 aircraft. Qatar's teams of medics and rescuers also remained busy in the flood-hit areas.

In February 2021 Qatar Petroleum entered into a new long-term Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Pakistan State Oil Company Limited (PSO) for the supply of up to 3 million tons per annum (MTPA) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. This agreement further extends Qatar's long-standing LNG supply relationship with Pakistan and highlights Qatar's commitment to meeting Pakistan's LNG requirements. The Qatar Fund for Development is about to complete the financing procedures for the Disaster Risk Financing Platform Project in Pakistan in cooperation with the START network. The project aims to build Pakistan's capacity to prepare for natural and predictable disasters in a better way before the occurrence of the crisis based on scientific evidence and historical data about natural disasters. The project aims to reduce and mitigate the humanitarian impacts in terms of loss of life in the most vulnerable communities. He added that the State of Qatar gives great importance to its brotherly relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and is very keen to further strengthen the existing ties between the two brotherly countries.

In his message, the Excellency wished that the bilateral relations will see further development and progress in the future Insha Allah.



**Bull & Bears**  
PSX 100-Share  
Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index		
Current	Prev. Close	
41,651.61	41,819.29	
Day's High	Day's Low:	
41,927.38	41,598.94	
Index Value	Change	
2,575,694,711	-167.68	
Percentage	Time	
-0.4%	8 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm	
Europe: FTSE 100 Index		
Index Value	Change	
7,488.08	-1.11	
Percentage	Time	
-0.016%	8 Dec, 2:30 pm GMT	
USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average		
Index Value	Change	
33,740.97	+40.69	
Percentage	Time	
+0.12%	8 Dec, 9:31 am GMT-5	
Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average		
Index Value	Change	
27,574.43	-143.05	
Percentage	Time	
-0.43%	8 Dec, 3:15 pm GMT+9	
Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	150.95	152.2
Bahrain Dinar	597.33	601.83
Canadian Dollar	164.69	166.04
China Yuan	32.11	32.36
Danish Krone	31.71	32.06
Euro	250	252.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.89	29.24
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	1.96	2
Kuwaiti Dinar	731.8	736.8
Malaysian Ringgit	51.11	51.56
New Zealand \$	142.15	143.35
Norwegians Krone	22.46	22.76
Omani Riyal	583.37	587.87
Qatari Riyal	61.71	62.21
Saudi Riyal	63.25	64
Singapore Dollar	165.7	167
Swedish Korona	21.61	21.91

# Sherry Rehman urges for conducive policies to promote flood and climate resilient houses in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change urged that for the need of making conducive policies to promote flood and climate resilient houses in Pakistan. She said that the recent floods have brought huge devastation in Pakistan destroying millions of houses and causing loss of over PKR 1.2 trillion, therefore, it is very important that the government should focus on making new policies to promote environmental friendly and green houses in the country that should reduce floods and climate induced risks. She said that Pakistan was witnessing growing urbanization as in the future 60 percent of the population will be living in urban areas and it is very important that sustainable urbanization with better municipal services in cities should be promoted to reduce pressure on urban communities. She said this while addressing as Chief Guest at the inaugural session of the 1st International Housing EXPO 22 organized by the Ministry of Housing and Works by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad, which will continue up to Dec: 11, 2022.

Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Deputy Chairman Senate speaking at the occasion as Guest of Honor said that construction industry stimulates the economy and emphasized that the State Bank of Pakistan and the government should make policies in consultation with the private sector to facilitate the better growth of this important industry.

Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary,



Ministry of Housing and Works said that it is the responsibility of the government to provide affordable housing to people, but it needs the help of the private sector to achieve this goal. He said that organizing the 1st International Housing EXPO 22 in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry on a public-private partnership model is a right step in that direction. He said that the government intends to promote planned cities with focus on vertical housing and hoped that the

various sessions being organized on the sidelines of the EXPO would come up with good proposals to help the government in materializing its plans of green and resilient housing. He hoped that the EXPO would be a key milestone achievement of the Ministry of Housing & Works and ICCI.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that CDA should allocate land to ICCI to build housing units,

university and hospital for traders. He said that ICCI should be given permanent representation in the CDA Board to resolve the issues of the business community more effectively. He stressed that the government should fully cooperate with ICCI in establishing a new industrial zone in the region. He said that the Islamabad Citizen Club should be revived urgently and ICCI be given representation in its administration. He said that ICCI should also be given representation in the Islamabad Club to serve the cause of the business community. He further emphasized that a state-of-the-art Expo Centre should be constructed in Islamabad to promote business activities by organizing Expos of various sectors. He said that the EXPO has provided a good platform to the local and international investors to display their housing products/projects and provide options of their choice to the visitors.

Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader ICCI, Shahzad Nawaz Cheema Joint Secretary and Team Leader Ministry of Housing & Works, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President and Engr. Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI also spoke at the occasion and highlighted the importance of promoting housing sector to revitalize the economy.

H. E. Khazir Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan, H. E. Jemal Bekker Abdula, Ambassador of Ethiopia, representative of Spain Embassy, former Presidents ICCI, Executive Members, Exhibitor and members of business community were present at the occasion.

## PVC market growing with wide array of downstream applications

KARACHI: With growing consumer awareness about new construction materials and sustainability, the PVC downstream market in Pakistan is expected to witness an upward trend in the coming years.

A recent report by PACRA expects the local construction industry to record growth of 6 percent this year. Over the next seven years, the sector is expected to grow by a whopping 92 percent as Pakistan enters the rehabilitation phase in the aftermath of catastrophic floods and CPEC-related activities revive as well. As a result, the demand for PVC applications and other construction materials is also likely to gain traction.

According to Muhammad Idrees, Chief Commercial Officer of Engro Polymer & Chemicals Limited (EPCL), "The PVC market in Pakistan has undergone a phase of growth and diversification in the last few years. To meet the market requirements,



we have continued to scale our operations and completed Plant expansion to 295,000 tons annually. Last year, we contributed USD 165 million in import substitution through local PVC & VCM production and generated USD 28 million in foreign exchange through exports." He further mentioned that due to Pakistan's inherent advantages and close proximity to growing regional markets, there is huge export potential for PVC downstream products,

which should be capitalized by local manufacturers.

He added that, "To promote the use of high-quality PVC downstream products, especially in the construction sector of Pakistan, EPCL is undertaking various market development initiatives and has made significant investment with its partners to launch a branded outlet called thinkPVC."

Elaborating on the concept of thinkPVC outlet, he said that EPCL wants to engage the construction industry and other associated stakeholders to highlight innovative construction materials, with a focus on sustainable materials such as PVC. Currently, around 55 percent market share of PVC application in Pakistan is held by pipes and fittings. The goal is to create wider awareness that PVC resin applications include the manufacturing of doors, windows, flooring, roofing, outdoor furniture, vanities, and other products."

## BankIslami receives Inclusion Award on International Day for PWDs

KARACHI: December 08, 2022: BankIslami, Pakistan's leading Islamic bank, has received an Inclusion Award for its significant contribution towards Financial Inclusion in the BINAIE Inclusion Awards 2022 held on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The ceremony was organized by the BINAIE Education Foundation as part of a full-day event for the Sindh Culture Family Festival held at Maritime Museum in Karachi. The award was presented to BankIslami as an acknowledgement and appreciation of its significant

contribution for the cause of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) with the aim to empower and assimilate them in the mainstream social and economic activities.

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Kashif Nisar, Head of Products & Shariah Structuring, BankIslami said "BankIslami is proud to be at the forefront when it comes to creating an inclusive society for people with disabilities through several unique endeavors under its 'Sarbuland' initiative – a reflection of the bank's goal to uplift this often-neglected segment of the society.

## TECNO makes its mark on the high-end smartphone market with the launch of its Flagship PHANTOM X2 Series



ISLAMABAD: TECNO's premium sub-brand, PHANTOM, today launched its new flagship PHANTOM X2 Series, including the world's first smartphone to feature a retractable portrait lens comparable to a professional camera. Unveiled at the TECNO Flagship Product Launch 2022 event in Dubai, the PHANTOM X2 Series, which comprises PHANTOM X2 Pro 5G and PHANTOM X2 5G, marks the brand's bold entrance into the high-end global smartphone market with a host of groundbreaking features and outstanding performance.

With a 65mm focal length, 2.5x optical zoom retractable portrait lens, the PHANTOM X2 Pro 5G revolutionizes image-making in the smartphone industry. The innovative lens empowers users to capture portraits comparable to professional camera shots with just a pocket-sized device. Available in an Eco-Friendly Edition featuring a pioneering microfiber back cover made from recycled plastics, the X2 Pro 5G also raises the bar for sustainable design in the industry.

A milestone in the brand's premium product offering, both the PHANTOM X2 Pro 5G and the PHANTOM X2 5G are powered by MediaTek's Dimensity 9000 4nm 5G chip. The series also features a unique unibody double-curved build and a 3.5D lunar crater design in three mysterious, space-inspired colors, resulting in an eye-catching look and a comfortable feel.

The PHANTOM X2 Series revolutionizes the premium smartphone experience

Speaking at the official global launch of the PHANTOM X2 Series in Dubai, Jack Guo, General Manager of TECNO said: "TECNO has always been pushing to uncover the latest and best premium technologies. As PHANTOM's new flagship smartphone, the PHANTOM X2 Series brings the PHANTOM brand to the high-end market with a pioneering spirit of innovation, inside and out.

## Winter relief

PESHAWAR: People are busy in buying dry fruit in a shop at Faqeerabad area in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

## Syngenta Pakistan launches Aaghaz centers for facilitation of small farmers

*These centers will provide Syngenta products and agronomic advisory services at the doorstep of small farmers thus increasing their productivity and food security in Pakistan*

ISLAMABAD: Syngenta Pakistan Limited, a leading agriculture innovation and technology company providing crop protection, biologicals, seeds, crop-enhancement products and digital services to millions of Pakistani farmers, has stepped up once again for the facilitation of smallholders by successfully introducing "Aaghaz" centers in rural communities. These centers, based on a franchise model in far-flung rural neighborhoods, will now allow the farmers to conveniently get Syngenta's best-in-class products and technical advisory services without the need to travel long distances.

Estimates suggest that farmers often have to travel as many as 23 KMs to purchase agricultural inputs and to seek agricultural services. This puts farmers, especially small growers, at a disadvantage as travelling long distances comes with additional time and monetary costs. Syngenta's "Aaghaz" centers address this key challenge faced by the small farmers and will not only help in increasing the competitiveness of smallholders while promoting food security in the country through better farm productivity but will also create micro-entrepreneurial opportunities for the rural population.

The launching ceremony of Syngenta's first "Aaghaz" center at Bhowana tehsil in Punjab was attended by the regional and country leadership teams of Syngenta, local farmers and other community members. Speaking on the occasion, Pamela Gonzalez (Head of Asia Group, Syngenta) said: Syngenta is here to serve our farmers in Pakistan and help them to increase the yield of their production and the profitability of their business. It is great to see that with this new Aaghaz model we can be closer to many farmers and their communities and serve them better. This is a moment of pride for Syngenta.



These views were further resonated by Zeeshan Hasib Baig – General Manager Syngenta Pakistan – who stated:

At Syngenta, we believe that we are here to serve our growers, with

the launch of Aaghaz Franchise the idea is to not only make our products more accessible to growers but also create rural entrepreneurs in villages who can establish and run their own Aaghaz Franchise.

# England to continue aggressive strategy, Ben Stokes

MULTAN: England Cricket Team's Captain Ben Stokes said that the team would continue the same aggressive strategy in the second test match against Pakistan as it remained successful in the previous game.

Holding a press conference here at Multan Cricket Stadium after a training session on Thursday, the England cricket team skipper said that the team would enter the ground with one change as Livingstone was being replaced Mark Wood in the playing eleven.

He said that after Livingstone's injury, the Mark Wood would be in and it has been to take advantage of Wood's bowling speed.

He said that the world-class keeper was the main focus but the recent condition makes it difficult to add him in the playing eleven.

Stokes said that the pitch of Multan



Cricket Stadium was looking dry and it would be helpful for reverse swing and for the spinners too. He said that the defending team was

being expected to fight back as they have the ability to change the situation and also the cricket was an unpredictable game.

He said that the England team would enter the ground with the same aggressive strategy which remained successful in the previous game.

The England Skipper said that there was not much difference between the conditions of Rawalpindi and Multan adding that "Let's see" what Babar Azam does after winning the toss.

He said that Mark Wood's presence in the team would make a difference as the bowler with a speed of 150/kmph was an asset to any team.

He said that despite the fact that Pakistan has the world-class fast bowlers but England would try their best to win the series by maintaining the winning streak. APP

# List of local players in silver category for PSL 8 Draft released

A SPORTS

LAHORE: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Thursday revealed the list of local players placed in the silver category for the upcoming Pakistan Super League's (PSL) Draft.

A total of 144 talented local players are listed in the silver category for the PSL 8 Draft, including several top performers of the domestic season.

The much-awaited players' draft for the next year's edition of the PSL will be held in Karachi on December 15.

Earlier, the list of foreign players in the silver category was revealed on Wednesday England's Ravi Bopara, Bangladesh's Afif Hossain, Sri Lanka's Akila Danajaya, Netherland's Max O'Dowd and Vikramjit Singh and Scotland's Richie Berrington, along with a number of foreign players aspiring to play one of the most exciting franchise leagues in the world.

Australia's Aaron Finch, England's Reece Topley, Tom Curran and Adil Rashid, South Africa's Wayne

SILVER - LOCAL (1/2)			
Abdul Hanan	Arshadullah	Hasan Raza	M. Sharoon Siraj
Abdul Rehman	Asad Raza	Haseeb-ur-Rehman	Maaz Khan
Abdul Samad	Ashfaq Ahmed	Hassan Khan	Majid Ali
Abrar Ahmed	Asif Ali	Hassan Mohsin	Mamoon Riaz
Adil Amin	Asif Mehmood	Hazrat Umar	Mansoor Saleem
Aftab Ahmed	Athar Mahmood	Humayun Altaf	Maqbool Ahmed
Ahmed Bashir	Ayaz Tasawwar	Imran Rafiq	Mehran Ibrahim
Ahmed Danial	Azeem Chumman	Imran Randhawa	Mirwais Tareen
Ahmed Safi	Bilawal Iqbal	Irfanullah Shah	Mirza Tahir Baig
Ahsan Baig	Bismillah Khan	Israrullah	Mohammad Afzal
Ahsan Hafeez	Dawood Khan	Jahanzaib Aftab	Mohammad Akhlaq
Aitizaz Habib	Dilbar Hussain	Jalal Khan	Mohammad Ali
Akif Javed	Fahad Iqbal	Jalal Khan	Mohammad Ali Khan
Ali Imran	Faizan Riaz	Junaid Ali	Mohammad Amir
Ali Majid	Farhan Khan	Junaid Ilyas	Mohammad Arham
Ali Sarfraz	Fazal-ur-Rehman	Junaid Khan	Mohammad Asghar
Ali Shafiq	Chulam Mudassar	Kaleemullah	Mohammad Bilal
Ali Usman	Cohar Ali	Kamran Afzal	Mohammad Faizan
Ali Waqas	Cohar Faiz	Kashif Bhatti	Mohammad Chaus
Ali Zaryab	Cohar Hafeez Butt	Kashif Iqbal	Mohammad Hasan
Ameer Hamza	Culraiz Sadaf	Khalid Usman	Mohammad Idrees
Ammad Alam	Hamza Akbar	Khurram Shahzad	Mohammad Ilyas

Parnell, Lungi Ngidi and Rassie Van Der Dussen, Sri Lanka's Dasun Shanaka and Wanindu Hasaranga, West Indies' Nicholas Pooran and Evin Lewis and New Zealand's Jimmy Neesham are some of the notable overseas players, who will feature in the drafts.

Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, Bangla-

desh's Shakib-al-Hasan, England's Alex Hales, David Malan and Jason Roy, New Zealand's Martin Guptill, Netherlands' Colin Ackermann, South Africa's Rilee Rossouw and David Miller, Zimbabwe's Sikandar Raza are also confirmed for the drafts.

The Pakistan Cricket Board had already revealed the pick order for the drafts,

where defending champions Lahore Qalandars will make the first pick followed by Quetta Gladiators and 2021 champions Multan Sultans.

The marquee tournament is slated to take place next year from February 9 to March 19 with Karachi, Multan, Lahore and Rawalpindi selected as host venues for the eighth edition of PSL.

# 'Don't care what people say': Confident Babar Azam eyes victory against England

MULTAN: A day before the second Test match between Pakistan and England in Multan, Pakistan sipper Babar Azam has said that his total focus is on getting the team to victory.

Addressing a press conference in Multan, the skipper said that they would try their best to win the Test so as to fulfil their promise made with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

"I had made a promise with PM about the victory but did not give it in written," he added.

The team's victory was his top priority, the skipper said, adding that he doesn't care what other people say about him.

Unveiling his strategy for the upcoming Test, Babar said that the team would try to take advantage of the spinners on the spin-friendly pitch in Multan.

Responding to a question about the final playing eleven, the captain said that the team has not been finalised yet. He maintained that the final decision in this regard would be made after reviewing the pitch.

To a question about the first Test, the captain said that the match was in their hands but due to some mistakes they lost the game.

He vowed to overcome the faults and said the team would show aggressiveness in the upcoming matches.

"Our fast bowlers are playing all three formats while taking care of their load, we have to keep the fast bowlers fit," he added.

*Sports is a vital source of national unity in the present era. Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari,*



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, a prominent businessman of Islamabad, has said that sports play an important role in the unity, integrity, and solidarity of the nation in the present era, we should focus on the sports and play grounds. As a first step we will initiate activities from F7 and F8 for the promotion of sports and playground. He said that he will try to open the playgrounds in schools and colleges in both sectors for the public so that these grounds can be used in the best interests of the residents. Addressing the people who had gathered to clean the park of F81, Waqar Bakhtawari said that work should be done for the development and promotion of cricket, hockey and other sports committees will also be formed for the promotion of the sports in these areas. The youth have been appealed to contact him for the promotion of their relevant sports. Mian Amjad Mehmood, Arshad Raheem, Anam ullah khattak, Malik Haroon Umar Ali Haider and Sezhan Danial were also present on the occasion.

# Naseem Shah doubtful for Multan Test with shoulder discomfort: sources



Shahid Hashmi

MULTAN: The participation of fast bowler Naseem Shah in the second Test between Pakistan and England is under doubt due to shoulder discomfort.

According to the sources, the right-arm speedster has reported pain in his right shoulder which could possibly lead to his exclusion from the Multan Test starting tomorrow.

With Haris Rauf ruled out of the remainder of the Test series due to a quad injury, Naseem's possible absence in the second Test appears to be a major blow to the Babar Azam-led side who are already 1-0 down in the series.

Skipper Babar, however, made no mention of Naseem's fitness concerns during his press conference held earlier in the afternoon.

Talking about the team's playing XI for the upcoming Test, he confirmed that the team had been almost finalized and would soon be revealed once the deliberations on one final change reached the conclusion.

"We just have to decide whether we should go with Faheem Ashraf or Mohammad Wasim Jr," he stated.

It is important to note here that any official confirmation from the Pakistan Cricket Board on this matter is still awaited.

Meanwhile, England skipper Ben Stokes revealed his playing lineup for the Multan Test which included spearhead pacer Mark Wood in place of injured Liam Livingstone while the rest of the English side would remain unchanged.

# Secretary Sports chaired meeting for review the revival of sports culture in colleges



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta on Thursday chaired a high-profile meeting at Punjab Stadium to review the revival of sports culture in colleges.

Higher Education Department (HED) representative Mr Shaikat, Director Public Instructions (DPI) Colleges, Additional Secretary Sports Malik Sanaullah, Deputy Secretary Admin Liaquat Bhatti, Director Sports Chand Parveen and Divisional Sports Officer Lahore also attended the key meeting.

The revival of sports activities in colleges and estimated expenditures of these events were discussed in detail during the meeting.

Annual Academic and Sports Calendar of colleges, monthly sports plan in colleges for 12 months w. e. f January 2023, Annual Sports Gala in all colleges in January and Inter-District, Inter-Division and Provincial level sports competitions also came under discussion during the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said Sports and Youth Affairs Department Punjab will extend all sports technical facilities such as coaches, trainers, grounds etc for the successful holding of sports activities at colleges.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said that the sports activities have been halted for a long time in educational institutions and it was the major reason for our downfall in different sports at international level. "Sports and Youth Affairs Department is reviving sports activities in educational institutions, particularly colleges systematically, in a bid to regain lost glory in the sports field," he stated.

Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said that a complete detailed plan will be finalised within two days after the collaboration between the officers of both the departments.

# Sir Nick, developed the first signature golf course of Pakistan in Multan

Tahir Amin Malik.

LAHORE: Sir Nick Faldo, a top golf player of his era, a television commentator and a golf course designer developed the first signature golf course of Pakistan, the Rumanza Golf Course, DHA, Multan with admirable facets like, 270 acres spread, three zones, the desert zone, the wetland zone and the woodland zone. This golf course managed to captivate and fascinate the English Cricket Team members who are golf enthusiasts and during the course of their visit to Multan the team players along with Manager, coaches and commentators visited DHA Multan Rumanza. The eminent visitors were welcomed by DHA Management and presented with Golf Souvenirs.

After warm at the Driving Range, the golf admirers moved to the golf course and played 18 holes.

Harry Brooks the star England Batsman applauded the Rumanza Hospital-



Harry Brook, Bin Duckett, Colonel Habib, and Bill Jacks.

ity and stature of International Standard Golf Course in Multan. He said "Hole No 16-par 5 was toughest hole but he played safe to secure a par in the end. He further said "the greens were fast and challenging. Sir Nick Faldo has done exceptional designing of this International Standard Golf Course. It is no doubt the best course

in South Asia that we have played. Certainly fairways have scenic beauty of lakes and mango trees, dates, Citrus and Orchards."

Nasser Hussain, TV Commentator and former Captain was amazed by the driving range facility and its beauty and commended the topography and size of the upcoming club house and hoped there

would be a lot of activity on this golf arena. He said, "I merely caddied but enjoyed the long walk and hopes to come back in a few years and stay here. He was all praise for the way Michael Atherton played his golfing round coming up with an applaudable performance.

Brendom Meculum just loved the greens speed as did Oliver Pope. No doubt the lush green meadows, fruit filled orchards, classy fairways and 51 Eco Bunkers enthrall and dazzle the earnest ones.

The management at Rumanza Golf Course felt honored over hosting the English Cricket Team Management and Cricketers who in their concluding remarks said they would love to come back again.

In response the hosts responded by saying "The Rumanza Golf Course Doors are open for golfing action and enjoying fulfilling rounds of golf on a golf course that puts Pakistan much ahead on the world map of golf

# Minister Sports Punjab a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to Boxing Champion Usman Wazir

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood awarded a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to Boxing Champion Usman Wazir, who called on him at National Hockey Stadium on for the preparation and participation in his upcoming international boxing fight.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan and other officials were also present on this occasion.

Talking on this occasion, Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood said Usman Wazir is a national hero, who won huge respect for the country at international



level by defeating top boxer of Thailand Somphot Seesa in WBO World Welterweight Youth title fight in Bangkok, Thailand in Sept this year.

Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood said that the Punjab govt is extending every possible support to every nation-

al hero. "Usman Wazir is an energetic young man and we are quite upbeat that he will return home as a winner in his upcoming world boxing title fight," he added.

Young boxer Usman Wazir on this occasion thanked Punjab Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Malik Taimoor Masood for extending financial cooperation for the preparation and defence of his upcoming world boxing title. "Sports Board Punjab is taking effective measures for the promotion of sports across the province," he added.

Boxer Usman Wazir further said that Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi is also encouraging all talented male and female athletes of the province.