

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ  
نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے ارشاد فرمایا  
کہ مغرب کے فرض سے پہلے (سنت کی  
دور کشیں) پڑھا کرو۔ تیری مرتبہ آپ  
صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے پوچھا کہ جس کا  
بھی چاہے کیونکہ آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم  
کو یہ بات یاد تھی کہ لوگ اسے لاری  
سمجھ بیٹھیں۔  
(بخاری، حدیث نمبر 1183)  
Barkat Rice Mills  
(Pvt) Limited

RAWALPINDI



## Imran asks workers to ready themselves for polls

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asked his workers on Friday to ready themselves for the general elections. In his video message, Imran Khan said that the country is destroyed when the powerful steal billions of rupees and send the country's money abroad, which weakens the country. (Report on Page 8)



## Sanaulah asks Imran, Shahzad Akbar to apologise to nation

Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah has demanded Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan and Shahzad Akbar to apologise to the nation for using negative tactics to facilitate the British newspaper, Daily Mail, for publishing an article against Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Addressing a press conference here on Friday, he said that negative tactics were used to harm the Sharif family's repute.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 15, Saturday, December 10, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily\_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 246 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

## International Anti-Corruption Day

HYDERABAD: Workers of MK Youth Network hold a rally in connection with Anti-Corruption Day.

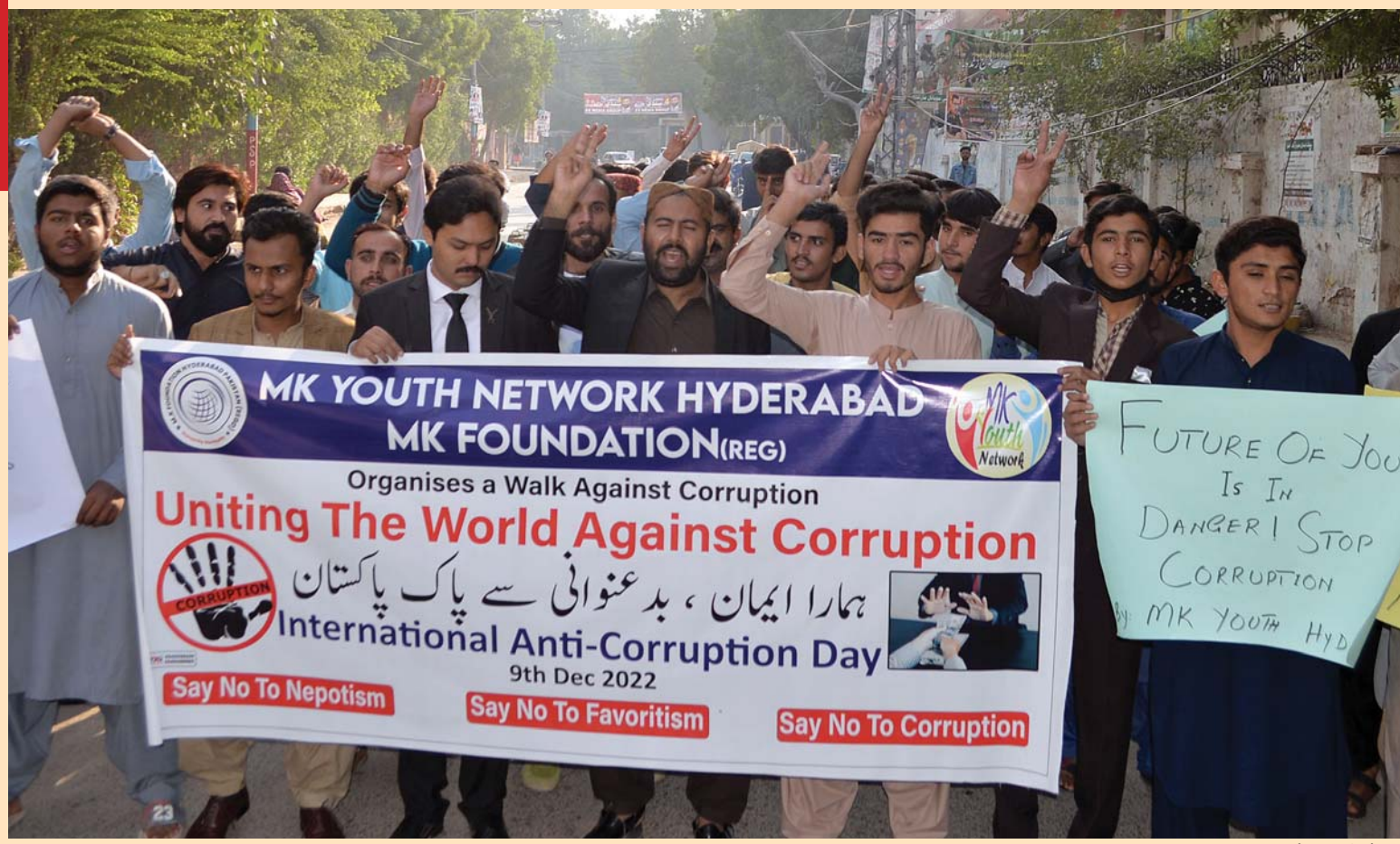


Photo: Online

## FM shares with Singapore's president vision of strong ties with ASEAN



SINGAPORE: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday met the Singaporean President Halimah Yacob during his official visit to Singapore and discussed enhanced engagement and mutually beneficial cooperation. Bilawal, who arrived in Singapore on Thursday on an official visit, shared Pakistan's desire to intensify cooperation with Associated of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also held a meeting with his Singaporean counterpart Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and reviewed the state of bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to enhance bilateral engagements and cooperation. The foreign minister visited the headquarters of multinational technology conglomerate Meta (Facebook) Asia-Pacific in Singapore. He highlighted the achievements and huge potential of the information technology sector in Pakistan and expressed keen desire for enhanced cooperation between Meta and Pakistan. APP

# PM lauds efforts by NFRCC, others for relief, rehabilitation of flood survivors

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday appreciated the fabulous teamwork by the National Flood Response and Coordination Center and other institutions for relief and rehabilitation of millions of distressed flood-hit people across the country, by utilizing all available resources. The prime minister, addressing a ceremony held to acknowledge the efforts by the NFRCC and others during the flood relief operations, appreciated the leadership of Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal and NFRCC's head Major General Zafar Iqbal. He said the Center had made efforts for the suffering flood-hit people who had lost around 1700 of their dear ones, houses and crops to the floods which also damaged the road and power supply infrastructure. He said many villages had lost



road connectivity but the Pakistan Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, National Disaster Management Authority, provincial authorities and governments carried out the uphill task of supplying ration to the stranded people and restoring their access.

The prime minister particularly appreciated the role of former NDMA Chairman Lt. General Akhtar Nawaz, Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, Poverty Alleviation Minister Shazia Marri, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and provin-

cial chief ministers. He also spoke high of the "remarkable job" by Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb for highlighting the catastrophic situation within Pakistan as well as internationally, by capturing the "critical moments" which impacted international viewers. The prime minister said as the government had a model before it which required immediate implementation to save Pakistan as much as possible from any future catastrophic situation and enhance country's preparedness to cope with the disasters. He told the gathering that Pakistan was rich with immense natural resources like Reko Diq and others in Northern Areas, Sindh and Punjab. He said Reko Diq had huge reservoirs of copper and gold to the tune of billions of dollars but despite the passage of sever-

al years, the country could not dig out even a "kilo" of gold or copper and instead lost billions of dollars in terms penalties, fees and tribunal expenses. He said the country would not be able to get rid of poverty unless it pursued the course as advised by founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said the recent floods were the biggest climate disaster of modern history which affected the poorest of the poor regions. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz himself visited the flood-ravaged areas and the relevant institutions made coordinated efforts from the top to the city administrations. He said the hard work and collaborative efforts enabled the country to contain the scale of destruction like deaths consequent to the feared outbreak of diseases due to stagnant water.

## Pakistan committed to achieve SCO's development strategy objectives: Tarar



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Friday said Pakistan remained committed to upholding Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)'s development strategy objectives. The minister expressed these views while addressing the 9th Ministers of Justice meeting of the SCO held here virtually. He said the SCO represented the ambitions of the Member States to build prosperous and sustainable partnerships for promoting common values, interests, and opportunities. The objectives of the SCO were in complete harmony with the foreign policy goals of the Government of Pakistan, which focus on peace, stability, and development, he added. Azam Nazeer said Pakistan remained committed to upholding these shared objectives, including playing an effective role in the promotion of cooperation in the field of law and justice. He said the SCO was also a dynamic platform to forge ties with regional partners, and Pakistan would continue cooperation on forensic activities, legal services, and supremacy of rule of law in order to achieve the goals of this august forum. He said Pakistan believed that the future of our region,

## CPEC a strategic project with economic, logistics, connectivity value: President

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor was a strategic project having economic, financial, logistics and connectivity value for Pakistan and China as well as regional and other countries. The president, in a meeting with China's Ambassador in Pakistan Nong Rong, who called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, said Pakistan would welcome other countries to partner and benefit from this project. He said that full operationalization of CPEC and the planned Special Economic Zones (SEZs) was an important milestone and urged the Chinese IT sector to invest in SEZs and benefit from Pakistan's cost-effective human resources, liberal investment regime, cyber data protection policy and tax incentives. During the meeting, the president emphasized the need to



fully operationalize road linkages between China and Gwadar port in all weather conditions, around the year, to fully utilize their capacity and achieve their fullest potential. He further said that Pakistan had taken tangible steps to ensure the safety and security of Chinese workers and nationals

who were contributing to the development of various strategic projects. President Alvi said that Pakistan was learning from the steps taken by the Chinese leadership to bring millions of people out of poverty and provide health facilities at the grassroots level by adopting out-of-box solutions

which multiplied the quality and efficiency of human resources and led China towards progress and prosperity. He also made a special reference to the Chinese Barefoot doctors who were trained and equipped with the necessary skills and tools in a record period of six months and played a pivotal role in improving the health indicators of China. The president said that in the current changing world scenario, China had assumed great importance in the region where Pakistan was a close partner of China to pursue peace and stability in the region. He said that close cooperation between the two countries in marketing JF-17 Aircraft in the world market would help in expediting the export of state-of-the-art fighter aircraft and meet the security needs of the buying countries.

## ECP issues notice to PTI over amendment in party constitution

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued notice to Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) and demanded from PTI to produce their amended party constitution, ARY News reported on Friday. According to the details, The Election Commission sought an amendment in party constitution in a meeting related to the change of party president. According to the petition, it was a legal and constitutional obligation for party officeholders to be qualified in accordance with Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution under the terms of the Representation of the People Act 1976 and Political Parties Order (PPO) 2002.

## Daily Mail Apology

### David Rose Rejects PML-N claims

LONDON: British journalist David Rose has rejected claims of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) regarding the apology tendered by the UK publication Daily Mail to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, ARY News reported on Friday. The British journalist said, "The apology issued covers only one point: That NAB [National Accountability Bureau] did not accuse Mr Sharif of stealing large sums of DFID [Department for International Development] aid when he was chief minister of Punjab. The newspaper has not apologised for other allegations in the article, such as those covering alleged money-laundering." He added, "Messrs Sharif and Yousaf have not issued replies to our defences that comply with the requirements of English law. Those defences therefore stand, and are public documents." Rose clarified, "The newspaper has not paid Mr Sharif or Mr Yousaf either damages or costs, and it has not waived the costs orders made against them by Mr Justice Nicklin last month." "Mr Sharif and Mr Yousaf have settled their claims. The case is therefore over. The newspaper has removed the article from the internet. I shall be making no comment on the end to these proceedings," said the journalist. Earlier, Daily Mail apologised to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for publishing an article that accused him of embezzling British foreign aid money meant for earthquake victims. The said article, written by investigative journalist David Rose, was removed from all platforms of Mail publishers.

## Inter-Ministerial Moot

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired an inter-Ministerial meeting on economic situation of the country at Finance Division on Friday.



Photo: PID

## Inter-Ministerial meeting reviews economic situation

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired an inter-ministerial meeting on economic situation of the country at Finance Division today. Minister for Law and Justice Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Pasha, Governor SBB, Secretary Finance, Secretary Interior, Chairman FBR, DG FIA, DG I&I Customs and senior officers from Finance Division and intelligence agencies also participated in the meeting.

The meeting discussed and reviewed the economic situation and current mechanism of foreign currency; wheat and urea smuggling.

Various measures were discussed in order to strengthen anti-smuggling regime. The Finance Minister highlighting the economic situation in the country stressed upon the need of coordination among all the necessary platforms for this purpose.

He further emphasized the relevant authorities to devise a robust and proactive road map to curb the cross-border smuggling of various items in order to bring economic and financial stability in the country. In conclusion, the participants thanked and appreciated the Finance Minister for taking appropriate and active measures for tackling the current economic situation and ensured their support for ensuring smooth and sustainable economic growth.

## Shazia Marri visits BISP's Central Zone office Karachi



### Bureau Report

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Shazia Marri has visited the office of the Director General, Benazir Income Support Programme, Central Zone, Karachi hereon today.

The Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme Yusuf Khan and Director General Operation Manager Hammad Marri were also accompanied with the Federal Minister. She visited various sections of Benazir

Income Support Programme, Central Zone office. On this occasion, the Director General BISP Sindh Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah gave her detailed briefing about the performance of the department.

Federal Minister said that we are committed to simplify and further improve the Benazir Income Support Program system and directed the concerned officers to resolve issues and complaints received from beneficiaries of BISP on top priority. She further directed them to ensure attendance and to maintain punctuality during office timings.

## Imran asks workers to ready themselves for polls

### Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan has asked his workers on Friday to ready themselves for the general elections.

In his video message, Imran Khan said that the country is destroyed when the powerful steal billions of rupees and send the country's money abroad, which weakens the country. Talking about the white collar crime, Imran went on to say that with the NAB amendments, to cope with the challenges of white collar crime becomes impossible.

Taking a jibe at the coalition government, the former premier said that the thieves had been imposed on the



country, adding themselves obtained the license of plundering.

Giving his take over the country's progress, Imran Khan said the country continues to develop as long the rule of law exists, adding to expose the cases of big corruption

will one pave way for country's progress.

PTI chairman Imran Khan said on Thursday that he was the prime minister and never called former army chief retired General Qamar Javed Bajwa his boss and the new army chief should not follow the policies of

his predecessor.

Speaking to the YouTubers at Zaman Park on Thursday, he said that he had never thought about appointing General Faiz Hameed as the Army Chief but propaganda was hatched against him. The former prime minister said that Punjab Chief Minister Parvaiz Elahi has fully entrusted him and will do as he want.

The PTI chairman went on to say that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was under the establishment and it only kept its hands on the weak, adding that the society is not stabilized until there is justice.

On Wednesday, talking to media flanked by party leaders Sheerin Mazari, Fawad

Chaudhry, and Asad Umar, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) vice chairman and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said that party chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan made his decision and dissolution of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies was likely in the next few days.

He said the PTI chairman had summoned a meeting of party's senior leadership in which the PTI leadership has given Imran Khan the right to dissolve assemblies. The PTI vice chairman said Imran Khan took everyone into confidence about his decision during the meeting, adding that the only solution to the country's problems was holding snap polls.

## Envoy lauds contribution of business community in promoting Pak-Indonesia trade ties

### Bureau Report

LAHORE: The Ambassador of Indonesia Mr. Adam M. Tugio deeply appreciated the active support and cooperation of the business community of Pakistan and the Punjab government for promoting Indonesia-Pakistan bilateral trade ties. Addressing a large gathering of prominent businessmen at a reception hosted by the Embassy in Lahore, Ambassador Tugio paid warm compliments to all the friends of Indonesia for their assistance in keeping the high momentum of mutual collaboration intact for positive economic developments.

Ambassador Tugio said that year 2022 remained quite successful in maintaining productive interaction and particularly mentioned the establishment of Indonesian Desk at LCCI and

ASEAN Trade Desk in ICCI and RCCI. "These initiatives would certainly help to boost commercial ties as the Desks would provide relevant information on trade and investment scenario of the growing ASEAN region, and Indonesia as trade hub, to the potential Pakistani business communities and investors", he added.

The envoy also presented on behalf of the Government of Indonesia, the prestigious "Prima Duta award" and certificate of appreciation from the Indonesian government to the selected importers from Pakistan for their best performance in increasing trade with Indonesia. The winner of this award for best business performance from Pakistan in 2022 was Matto Sons represented by CEO Mr. Ali Tariq, who thanked the Indonesian government and the Embassy for support and encourage-



ment. Prima Duta Award is a form of appreciation to foreign companies that have imported Indonesian products and recognition of their contributions in the commercial sectors of Indonesia.

Highlighting the importance of trade connectivity, Ambassador Tugio urged Pakistani business communities to explore various promis-

ing fields such as Herbal Traditional Medicines, spice trade, financial and service sector start-ups, travel & tourism, E-commerce, halal food industry, science & technology and IT to reinforce bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and Pakistan. He expressed strong hope that mutually beneficial trade relations would continue to expand in the New Year

2023 with more prosperity and development for both sides.

Earlier, the Ambassador of Indonesia inaugurated the "Indonesian Desk" at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry. During the visit of LCCI, the Ambassador congratulated the new LCCI President Mr. Kashif Anwar and the executive committee on assuming the charge.

He thanked the support and facilitation provided by the Chamber. The Indonesian Desk will serve as gateway for trade and investment in Indonesia, especially for business community in Punjab Province by providing catalogue info on commercial expo on various industries and list of potential trading partners with the objective to increase and diversify mutual trade between Indonesia and Pakistan.

## 5th Maritime security workshop participants visit naval headquarters

ISLAMABAD: The participants of 5th Maritime Security Workshop on Friday visited Naval Headquarters here.

The delegation was led by Commandant Pakistan Navy War College Rear Admiral Javed Iqbal, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The workshop participants were briefed on Pakistan Navy challenges and responses including Navy contributions towards promotion of Blue Economy. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi interacted with the participants of the workshop.

## 200 Nominees presented their projects at APICTA 2022 Pakistan Awards

### News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Approximately 200 nominees from different countries of Asia Pacific region have presented their projects to the jury of the 21st Asia and Pacific ICT Alliances (APICTA) Awards being held in Pakistan for the first time.

As many as 150 foreign delegates from 16 economies are participating in APICTA Award including Malaysia, Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Japan, Singapore and Thailand etc. On the second day, 64 experienced IT professionals judged various projects of participating companies

to select winners based on live presentations and demonstrations of specialized work.

The projects have been designed in different fields including EdTech, Health-Tech, Fintech, AgriTech, Marketing and Services sectors etc.

The event showcased vibrant cultural evening allowing showcasing of the cultural diversity of the economies under one roof.

The event has been organized by the Pakistan Software Houses Association (P@SHA) and TechDestination for IT and ITES, in collaboration with the Paki-

stan Software Export Board and Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MoITT).

APICTA is an annual event, also known as OSCARS of the IT industry, aimed at enhancing regional cooperation and collaboration in ICT sector which ultimately benefits the member economies. The event is likely to boost up export of IT and IT-enabled services of Pakistan.

Member IT Junaid Imam MoITT, Additional Secretary MoITT Ayesha Moriani, Usman Nasir former MD PSEB, Convenor APICTA Badar Khushnood, Chief Judge Dr. Shoab A. Khan,

Zohaib Khan, Chairman P@SHA, CEC members of P@SHA and Project Director Hira Zainab deserve a special mention for facilitating, organising and executing an excellent event.

The winners of APICTA Awards would be announced in a closing ceremony being held on 11 December at the Air University Auditorium where 26 winning teams would be given shields and prizes.

Pakistan IT's exports surged to over \$2.6 billion in the closing financial year. The event is likely to boost up export of IT and IT-enabled services of Pakistan.

## BHC orders release of Azam Swati, directs quashing all FIRs against him

QUETTA: In a major relief to Azam Swati, the Balochistan High Court (BHC) on Friday ordered to quash all the FIRs registered against the PTI lawmaker in the province, ARY News reported.

Usman Swati had challenged the registration of FIRs against his father in Balochistan following the arrest in the case of controversial tweets.

Justice Hashim Kakar in his decision ordered to quash all five FIRs registered against Azam Swati and ordered to release him.

Earlier, Balochistan High Court (BHC) had ordered to not register more cases against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati.

On the other hand, Sindh High Court (SHC) has also served notices to the provincial government, prosecutor general and the IG police over the registration of multiple cases against PTI senator Swati.



The notices were served on the complaint of Usman Swati, who challenged the registration of multiple cases against his father in Sindh.

Justice K.K. Agha asked where is Swati on which Anwar Mansoor replied, he is in police custody in Quetta.

Mansoor said his client was booked in different cases across the province on the same issue and termed it as a violation of the SC orders. ARY NEWS

## IHC admits PTI plea seeking expeditious decision in PML-N, PPP funding cases

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday admitted a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking early decision in foreign funding cases against the PML-N, the PPP and other political parties.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq ordered the court registrar to fix the petition for hearing on Dec 22.

During today's hearing, PTI counsel Faisal Chaudhry requested the court to take up the plea before the start of the winter vacation. The chief justice remarked that various important cases of the PTI were already scheduled this month. He said the petition for early decision in funding cases would also be heard before the vacation.

Last week, PTI leader Farrukh Habib had filed a separate petition in a pending case in the high court. He named the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) as a respondent in the

case. He also requested the court to order the electoral watchdog to hear prohibited funding cases of other parties on a daily basis.

The former minister argued in his application that a delay in the decisions in cases against other political parties was giving them an opportunity to take political advantage of the "false report" against the Imran Khan-led party. Saying the fundamental rights of the PTI members are being violated, the petition said that questions raised in the application should be answered to safeguard democracy.

In August this year, the ECP announced its verdict in the prohibited funding case against the PTI. It ruled that the party received funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and 34 foreign nationals. It went on to say that the party had taken ownership of eight accounts and kept 16 hidden. APP

# Mountain heritage, ecosystem endangered in changing climate

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: The mountain products, hand-crafts, art exhibition and cultural performances marked the opening ceremony of the grand event of 12th Pakistan Mountain Festival. Devcom-Pakistan in partnership with Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA), Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, organized the mountain cultural heritage mainstreaming event on Friday.

The guests of honour included, Head of Italian Agency for Development Cooperation chief in Pakistan Emanuela Benini, Kyrgyzstan embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Melis Moldaliev, Pakistan's renowned mountaineer Nazir Sabir, Gilgit-Baltistan Parliamentary Secretary Kulsom Farman, National Heritage Division Senior Joint Secretary Abdul Sattar Khokhar, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed.

Speakers urged the authorities to ensure sustainable use of mountain resources. They said the increasing climate variability, coupled with a lack of investment in mountain agriculture, preservation and promotion of its heritage and culture and rural development, has often pushed men to migrate elsewhere in search of alternative livelihoods. Women have therefore taken on many tasks

formerly done by men, yet mountain women are often invisible due to a lack of decision-making power and unequal access to resources.

Emanuela Benini Italy, through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, has in Pakistan to contribute to relaunching the centrality of mountain territories on a global level regarding environmental issues, climate change and the socioeconomic development of entire regions that depend on water, and not only on the mountains. So we can remember that there is water, life and so the opposite.

Melis Moldaliev said the global environment is the core issue that should be standing in the first place when we are talking about the state agendas of each country. Moreover, every citizen all over the world should be aware of the importance of environmental protection and make changes to become environmentally friendly in all aspects of their lives.

Nazir Sabir said mountain communities need to wake up and realize the fast happening changes around them. International Mountain Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the need to empower mountain women so they can participate more effectively in decision-making processes and have more control over productive



resources. By sharing excellence, opportunities and capacity development in mountains, the Day shall promote gender equality and therefore contribute to improve social justice, livelihoods and resilience. Abdul Sattar Khokhar Though Pakistan government and the respective provincial govern-

ments are playing their role in mainstreaming climate change, conservation of mountain ecosystem, natural habitats - the cultural heritage is the one that we need to shift our focus on. Our heritage is a story of centuries that is depleting in the changing climate though its preservation and promotion can bring money to the land of peaks. The traditional craft development and heritage sustainable tourism can bring big money to the communities.

Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said Women play a key role in environmental protection and social and economic development in mountain areas. They are often the primary managers of mountain resources, guardians of biodiversity, keepers of traditional knowledge, custodians of local culture and experts in traditional medicine. That is why the world is celebrating 2022 International Mountain Day on the theme 'Women Move Mountains' on 11 December. This event is in connection with it.

Some senior visual artists including Ahmed Habib, Asrar Farooqi, Saima Amir, Riffat Ara Baig, Riffat Khattak, Hajra Nadeem, Beenish Azam, Nadia Raza, Nahida Raza, Shahnaz Akram, Sidra Shah, and Tayyaba Aziz put up their paintings reflecting the mountains, its womenfolk and their work.

## International Mountain Day

ISLAMABAD: Visitors take keen interest in a painting during painting exhibition on the eve of International Mountain Day Conference at Pakistan National Council of the Arts in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

## Arts Council inaugurated the theater play "Soo Din Chor K"

**News Desk**



KARACHI: Arts Council of Pakistan Repertory Company of Theater Academy of Karachi was inaugurated in Auditorium I. The Arts Council Repertory Company was inaugurated with the theater play "So Din Chor Ke" based on the great acting of the students and teachers of Arts Council's Theater Academy. Theater play "So Din Chor Ke" was directed by director Zeeshan Haider. Theater Productions Head is Azib Khan. The students of Arts Council Theater Academy performed in the theater, including Muneeb Sheikh, Ghulam Mohiuddin, Sufi Ghos, Sheryl John, Komal Hayat, Alina Gulzar, Sara Taqi, Hassam Irfan. Academy teacher Nazarul Hasan and Fawad Khan also performed, on this occasion President of Arts Council Muhammad Ahmad Shah expressed his views and said that we are inaugurating the theater academy's repertory company of Arts Council today. Four different theater plays will be presented under it. The student who are graduating from the theater academy will find work in the Arts Council's repertory company. The Arts Council is going to open a talent agency. We will not take a single rupee in the name of commission. The talent agency will be for all the students of Karachi. Any good artist who has talent is the agency. They can join Zeeshan Haider is our director. His hard work has changed the theater academy. This theater play is made with great effort. I request that theater goers must come here. Theater play So Din Chor Ke. Will continue till December 16.

## Amir S. Chinoy Foundation pledges to support Dawn Relief Rehabilitation efforts for the flood victims



**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: The Amir S. Chinoy Foundation "ASCF" is associated with the Amir S. Chinoy Group which comprises of 3 publicly listed companies; International Steels Limited "ISL", International Industries Limited "IIL" and Pakistan Cables Limited. International Steels Limited's partner Cargill has also pledged to support Dawn Relief along with ASCF. Together ASCF and Cargill have committed to rebuilding over 90 homes in villages devastated by the floods, starting with Bajara Sindh. "With the devastation caused by the floods and winter approaching,

## Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO) Organizes Cash Flow Story by Alan Miltz at IBA Karachi

**News desk**

KARACHI: In times when Pakistan is suffering through the worst of all economic recessions, EO Karachi organized a learning business event called "CashFlowStory" led by the world-famous leader in financial analysis, Alan Miltz on 1st December at IBA City Campus, Karachi

Co-author of the global best-selling book by Verne Harnish, Scaling Up; Alan is wanted by businesses all over the world for his reformation of how banks and organizations interact with each other. With his mantra of "Revenue is Vanity, Profit is Sanity and Cash is King"; he has helped businesses upscale and transforms themselves into glorified empires.

As many as 70 top CEOs attended the session where the speaker shared his wisdom about the best financial techniques being used by global companies. He imparted knowl-



edge on how CEOs can maximize their cash flow using a concept called "The Power of 1". The same strategy has proven to be true for international businesses and they have become examples of "Double the Profit, Triple the Cash, and Ten Fold the Business Value.

The session turned out to be an enlightening experience for all attendees who were aiming to boost their businesses exponentially.

Alan is one of the co-founders of Optimus, the banking software being used by more than 500 banks globally and is just being sold for \$7 Billion.

## Annual function of Oxford Public School Raghzai



**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: Annual events were held at Oxford Public High School in Raghzai, Lower Waziristan.

Dr. Saddam Wazir, Chairman of WEWA (Waziristan Enlightening Welfare Association) was the chief guest of the event.

Addressing the event, Dr. Saddam Wazir said, "Today I am truly impressed by the intelligence, talent and activities of the students of Oxford Public High School.

Our children are very, intelligent, talented and creative minded, we the people of Waziristan demand peace and equal opportunities for the education system.

He said that I pay tribute to Mr. Ikrumulah, principal of Oxford Public High School Raghazai.

## ICCIA's 5th Best of Entrepreneurship (BOE) event on Green Entrepreneurship took place at KSBL

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA) organized its 5th "Best of Entrepreneurship Pakistan (BOE)" round in partnership with Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry, FPCCI and hosted by Karachi School of Business and Leadership (KSBL).

Under the theme of "Green Entrepreneurship in Pakistan: Challenges, and opportunities", the event aimed to highlight the opportunities the green economy presents for the future entrepreneurs as well as existing businesses and hear their challenges in realizing

their plans.

The morning session of the event discussed two of the most important areas within the climate context: Energy and Plastic. In the Energy segment, green transitioning of the sector was discussed by a panel of multinationals as well as local businesses including Mr. Mujtaba Khan of Reon Energy, Mr. Zain Hak, Vice President/Global Head - of Agriculture & Forestry, Chairman of the Board SPL PLC, Shell, and Mr. Hashim Raza, CEO K-Solar.

The second panel was dedicated to the Plastic consumption and how the businesses are moving towards reducing their contributions to our landfills, sea, rivers, and the environment at large. The panel included repre-

sentation from Academia including including Dr. Yasir Nawab, Associate Professor / Dean SET, National Textile University and Ms. Shiza Aslam, Head of Circular Plastic Institute, KSBL and the private sector including Mr. Khawaja Bilal Hussain, Senior Vice president, Head of Strategy, Sustainability and Business Development, Engro, Mr. Shariq Vohra, Former President, Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Executive Committee Member of FPCCI and Mr. Waleed Bin Ayub, Sr. Packaging & Sustainability Development Manager at Unilever.

The afternoon session of the day focused on entrepreneurial journeys to create interest in the university students and aspiring or new entrepreneurs so they understand what it takes



to start and run a business. Speakers included Mr. Farhan Adil Mehboob, Director S.Mehboob & Co, Mr. Ahmad Shabbar, Founder, Director and CEO of Garbage Can, Mr. Kumayl Khaleeli,

CEO of Zephyr Power. All stressed on the need for perseverance, measurement of impact and the leadership that is needed from the youth to secure their future.

Other notable personalities such as, Mr. Mubashar Hameed, Rector, Karachi School of Business Leadership (KSBL), Mr. Amjad Rafi, Senior Member FPCCI, Dr. Mirza Ikhtiar Baig, Chairman, Baig Group and Honorary Consul General of Republic of Yemen in Pakistan, Syed Muhammad Habibullah, Assistant Director Youth Affairs, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh, Mr. Hamza Nisar Kushtiwala (Author of BEHIND THE GREEN), Mr. Andeel Ali (Head of M&E department at the National Incubation Center, Karachi), and Syed Muhammad Habibullah, Assistant Director Youth Affairs, Sports & Youth Affairs Department, Government of Sindh also spoke at the BOE.



Islamabad  
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr ..... 5:32 am  
Zohr ..... 12:00 noon  
Asr ..... 3:22 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

Women Police Stations

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

ENQUIRY

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

HOSPITALS

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

DEPARTMENTS

CDA ..... 9221334-43  
CDA ..... 9208301-04  
Met Office ..... 9250360-6  
RDA ..... 5555864  
TMA ..... 5770886  
Cantonment Board ..... 9270151-3  
Islamabad Metropolitan  
Corporation ..... 9209224  
Potohar Town ..... 9209224  
Rawal Town ..... 5773343

COMPLAINTS

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316

Health Activists concerned on legalizing HTPs in Pakistan

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: In a dialogue with media organized by Society for Protection of Rights of the Child (SPARC), health activists expressed grief and concern on federal cabinet's decision to approve SRO to regularize heated tobacco products. According to the health activists, this move will further dent Pakistan's public health infrastructure and economy.

Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) said that tobacco consumption has become a pandemic in Pakistan with over 31 million people consuming tobacco in some form. Around 170,000 people die due to tobacco-induced diseases every year. Tobacco Industry keeps hurting our health and economy by introducing new products.

Malik Imran Ahmed further added that the economic cost of smoking in Pakistan is PKR 615.07 billion which is equal to 1.6% of Pakistan's GDP but the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is only 20% of the total cost. He said it is depressing to see how much tobacco industry has influence in the policy making. Legalizing heated tobacco products will generate more revenue for the industry but our national exchequer will suffer more due to the diseases caused by these products.

# Govt. asked to establish Housing Bank to promote low costing housing

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: Many dignitaries visited the 1st International Housing EXPO 22 on its second day being organized by the Ministry of Housing & Works in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Safdar PNL-N leader and former MNA, H.E. Chakkrid Kraichaiwong Ambassador of Thailand, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Vietnam, H.E. H.E. Khazar Farhadov Ambassador of Azerbaijan and H.E. Ms. Dilshad Senor, Ambassador of Northern Cyprus.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Ifikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Works took the visiting dignitaries to various stalls put up for display in the EXPO. The visiting guests took great interest in the products and projects

displayed in the EXPO and highly appreciated the Ministry of Housing & Works and ICCI for organizing such a wonderful EXPO.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari briefed the Capt. (Retd) Muhammad Safdar about the importance of establishing a new industrial estate in the region to promote industrialization and investment and he assured that ICCI should give him a proposal and he would try to get its approval from the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

On the second day, panel discussions were also held on the sidelines of the EXPO. The first session was held on "Low Cost Housing and Financing Frameworks with panellists Muhammad Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Najeeb Haroon Chairman PEC, Maj Gen (Retd) Amer Aslam Khan, Acting Chairman NPHDA, Dr. kamran Shams CEO Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance, Dr. Athar Mansoor, Consultant Public Poli-



cy Business School Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Hassan Junaid, Head Islamic Business Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company, Jamshaid

Meher'homji CEO Trelis Housing Finance Company, Ch. Abdullah UPDL and Shoji Hasegawa DRR Expert JICA as Keynote Speaker. The second session was held

on "Urban Governance, Urban Development and Regulation" with panellists Waseem Hayat Bajwa Member Planning and Design CDA, Ms. Emma Ahmed,

Director Altair International, Naveed Ifikhar Co-Founder Atom Camp, Ms. Sabouhi Sarshar, faculty TAF-LAST Haripur and the third session was held on "Affordable Housing Needs, Realities, Options and Actions" with panellists Zaigham Mahmood Rizvi Chairman Task Force on Housing, Dr. Waqas Ahmed Meher Chairperson Department of Architecture BUTEMS Quetta Pak, Dr. Shariyeh Hossei, Chairperson Department of Architecture COMSATS Lahore, Dr. Faraha Tariq Acting Dean School of Architecture and Planning, UMT Lahore and Dr. M. Usman, Head of Department Structure NICE, NUST, Islamabad.

The panellists gave useful proposals to promote low cost housing in Pakistan and said that the government should consider setting up a Housing Bank to promote low cost housing for low income segments.

## Lifesaving

ISLAMABAD: Traffic police personnel arresting one wheeling motorcyclists at Jinnah Avenue in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

# Govt. urged to strengthen policy reforms to improve implementation of human rights

News Desk

LAHORE: The government must undertake legal and administrative measures to strengthen the rule of law for addressing human rights violations for countering impunity, and ensure fundamental freedoms for all without any distinction, and introduce an amendment to the Child Marriage Restraint Acts to put an end to child marriages, and pass a law to criminalize forced conversions conforming to standards of human rights. These demands were made by the participants of the conference titled "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All" to mark international human rights day in commemoration of the 74th Universal Declaration of Human Rights, organized by Voice for Justice, wherein Bishop Indrias Rehmat, Peer M. Hassan Chishti, Shazia George, Ashknaz Khokar, and Prof. Jalil Butt were among the speakers. At this juncture, human rights awards were presented to several recipi-

ents including; Asif Munawar (journalist), Aqsa Kanwal (social activist), Alwera Rashid (peace activist), Sadiya Mazhar (journalist), and Shazia George (human rights activist).

Speaking on the occasion, Bishop Indrias Rehmat noted that intolerance against any social group or community harms all of society and undermines universal values of equality and human dignity. He emphasized that the government needs to introduce a policy to promote religious tolerance and social cohesion, whereas, opinion-makers including religious leaders and teachers must adopt positive narratives to counter intolerance, hate speech and violence, and promote respect for diversity within and among their respective communities.

A former member of the Punjab Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), Shazia George deplord that Pakistan is ranked at 145th position in women's economic participation, 135th position

in educational attainment, 143rd in health and survival, and 95th in women's political empowerment according to the global gender gap report 2022. She said that child and forced marriage persist in Pakistan that leave harmful effects on the education, health and development of girls, therefore, the government must pass a bill to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Acts to ensure that the minimum age of marriage is set at 18 years for both boys and girls like Sindh province, and the marriage of minor children is declared legally impermissible.

A human rights activist, Ashknaz Khokar said that it is sad that the criminal laws dealing with defamation are misused against journalists and dissenting voices, therefore, the laws and policies relating to freedom of expression and association need to be reviewed to bring them in line with article 19 of the constitution of Pakistan.

In a statement, the chairperson of the Voice for Justice

(VFJ), Joseph Jansen said that minorities and women face prejudice, discrimination, and violence in Pakistan on the basis of religion and gender, therefore, the perpetrators involved in hate crimes should be prosecuted, and if convicted, punished.

He added that the data compiled by the PCSW shows an increase in violence against women with 9734 cases reported in 2021 in the Punjab province which includes cases of rape (4598), domestic violence (1415), acid burning (34), and killing in the name of honour (197) and other crimes. He further said that the sexual violence under the guise of faith conversions and marriages of underage girls from minority communities goes unchecked and poses a serious threat to the minorities' rights to religious freedom, therefore, the government must enact a law to stop the practice of forced faith conversions, and effectively implement pro-women laws to address issues that women face in Pakistan.

## AIOU announces results of Matric, FA

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the results of Matric, FA and I.Com programs offered in the spring semester 2022. According to controller examinations, results have been uploaded to the CMS portal of students.

It is pertinent to mention here that university has denied the false and baseless news on social media regarding the admissions of MA/MSc programs and stated that as per the policy and guidelines of the Higher Education Commission, admissions in MA/ MSc programs is halted. Moreover, admissions for the spring semester 2023 will start from January 15, in which candidates who have passed BA (Associate Degree) are eligible for admission in the fifth semester of B.S.

## Senator Salim Saifullah grieved over demise of Farid Rehman

City Reporter

Ex-Federal Minister, Senator Salim Saifullah Khan has expressed his heartfelt condolence on the sad demise of Mr. Farid Rehman, President Board of Governors, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute (GIKI) here today.

In his condolence message, Salim Saifullah Khan eulogized the services of Mr. Farid Rehman rendered by him for the promotion and betterment of the Institute with a view to provide quality education to its students in the field of Science and Technology. He sympathized with the bereaved family members and prayed that almighty, Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace (Aameen).

Mr. Farid Rehman was an Ex- civil servant with illustrious career, who also served as Provincial Minister for Local Government and Planning and Development in KP before joining as President of the Board of Governors, GIKI in March, 2020.

## Maroof Int'l Hospital is the Official Healthcare Partner of the First International Housing Expo 2022



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The first of its kind and a great collaborative initiative of the Ministry of Housing & Works and the ICCI with the aim of providing "Housing for all".

Maroof Int'l Hospital participated in the event as the Official Healthcare Partner proving free blood pressure, sugar check and medical consultation to the visitors at the Expo from Thursday 8 December-Sunday 11 December 2022.

The hospital had it's periodical team to deal with minor emergencies or injuries and also had it's ambulance on standby in case of any serious emergencies where the patient might need to be shifted to the hospital.

Mr. Haroon Naseer the CEO of Maroof Int'l Hospital said that where ever, whenever the community needs medical assistance, Maroof Int'l Hospital is there to provide its services. He appreciated the efforts of the organising committee in bringing to light the housing and construction needs of the country, particularly in the time of the recent devastating floods which affected one third of our country.

# Centre of Excellence Inaugurated to Improve Skills Sector in Punjab

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: To improve the skills sector in Punjab, the European Union, Germany, and Norway handed over a modernized Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to the Government of Punjab in a ceremony on Friday.

The new facility is the result of an upgradation of an existing TVET centre which has been supported by a TVET Sector Support Programme and funded by the European Union (EU), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Norwegian government.

Opening the handover ceremony,

Chief Operating Officer TEVTA Punjab, Akhtar Abbas Bharwana said that "The provincial government and TEVTA Punjab will responsibly utilize the resources and modern machinery. This facility opens new corridors of opportunities for learning, not only for youth but also for the teachers in Punjab."

Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Ovidiu Mic, Head of Cooperation of the European Union Delegation to Pakistan, said "the TVET sector has always been a priority for the European Union in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. The center with its state-of-the-art equipment sets out a new vision and is a hallmark for delivering quality training

within the TVET sector. We hope that this Centre will become the blueprint for other public and private sector institutes in aligning TVET with international standards."

The Head of Development Cooperation at the German Embassy, Dr Sebastian Paust, highlighted "the great potential in not only relying on jobs but entrepreneurship models in Punjab under the umbrella of the Centre of Excellence. Germany is strongly committed to continuing its work in the skills sector of Pakistan until 2026."

Addressing the audience, Dr. Mansoor Zaib Khan, National Team Leader, GIZ Pakistan mentioned: "I hope that the Government of Punjab

and TEVTA will take all measures to keep the CoE fully operational by providing the best leadership to the centre. This will ensure producing high-quality human resource and trainers for producing an excellent workforce and meeting the demands of the labour market.

The chairman TEVTA speaking at the occasion appreciated the efforts of the TVET SSP and the donors for turning the institute into Center of Excellence.

Chairman NAVTTC, Shahid Khan also attended the event and said that the CoE will serve as a hub to play an instrumental role in providing demand-driven training to the youth of Punjab along with training of staff while partnering at length with the private sector.



Group Chairman/Chief Editor: **Almas Ayoub Sabir**  
 Vice Chairman: **Asim Nazir Ahmad**  
 Managing Editor: **Naveed Ahmad Khan**  
 Head Editorial Advisory Board: **Amjad Mehmood**  
 Bureau Chief Karachi: **Saleem Zaman Khan.**  
 (mszk786@gmail.com)  
 Bureau Chief Lahore: **Syed Afraz Ali Nazish**  
 (afrazalishah@gmail.com)  
 Islamabad Office: Rose Plaza, I-8 Markaz.  
 Karachi office: Flat No.C.3.A.One Comfort, Block No 11.  
 Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Main Rashid Minhas Road.  
 Lahore Office: 7-E,Samanberg, Johar Town.  
 Email: **spokesmanislamabad@gmail.com**  
 Whatsapp: **0346-5008408**

# State of School Education in Pakistan

**Abdus Sattar**

In Pakistan, there are approximately 1.9m teachers in the education system, teaching 59m students in 284,000 educational institutions. About 1.6m teachers, with 53m students between the ages 3-16 years enrolled in 270,000 public and private schools. Enrollment in pre-primary, primary, middle and high schools stood at 14.4m, 25.7m, 8.3m, and 4.5m, respectively. The importance of school education is clear from the share in total enrollments; the number of schools and teachers is around 90, 95 and 85 percent, respectively. Moreover, the share of pre-primary and primary in total enrollments, number of schools and teachers is 68, 66 and 28 percent in public and private schools.

Currently, enrolments, number of institutions and teachers at the school level show improvement compared to the previous years. At the same time, the Single National Curriculum (SNC) is being implemented in three steps during 2021-24 at the school

level in Pakistan. Education is almost free in public schools, while private schools charge a fee. Around 81 and 19 percent of students were enrolled in public and private schools, respectively, in 2021. Most private schools are affordable for the middle and lower middle class but becoming expensive with the passage of time. The household expenditure on education in 2021 was 57 percent in Pakistan, the second largest in South Asia. Moreover, 18 percent of primary and 14 percent of lower secondary schools provide education without regulation and registration in Pakistan.

The byproduct of public and private schools is coaching centers which regularly provide education services without checks and balances in the evening. About 45 percent and 25 percent of private and public school students were privately tutored. It shows that public and private schools do not entirely fulfill students' education needs.

The scarcity of schools; for every 13 primary schools, there is only one middle school. There is also a shortage of teachers; around 50 percent of primary schools in Sindh and

Balochistan and 29 percent in Pakistan as a whole have only one teacher. Additionally, 22.8 million children aged 5-16 are not attending school. Unfortunately, the number of schools and teachers is not increasing in proportion to a growing

It is projected that about 930,000 children will drop out of primary and secondary education. Private school enrollments between ages 6-16 in 2019 dwindled from 23 percent to 19 percent in 2021. Due to the recent flood; more than 24,000 schools became un-operational, while the educational activities of 3.5 million students have suffered badly.

The sole purpose of schooling is to encourage critical thinking among students. But teachers cannot individually focus on each student in large classrooms, and students cannot fully understand lectures and resort to cramming, which harms their natural thinking process. Schooling is not limited to the classroom; extracurricular activities matter and also count in making a fully-rounded student! Cramming should be discouraged and creativity encouraged through phenomenon based learning. Private school exams of classes 5 and 8 are strictly conducted under the district boards. All private schools and coaching centers should be registered while a clear cut tuition fee policy should be formulated and

implemented through proper check and balance on a permanent basis.

In case of a professional teacher's appointment, private schools should follow the government teacher appointment procedure. Phenomenon-based learning should be a compulsory part of the teacher training program. School shortages can be resolved by starting a second after-school shift in the short run while there is a dire need of professional teachers and new schools. Pakistan spent around 2 percent of its GDP on education in 2021-22, while it should be around 4 percent. Investing in primary, secondary and higher education pays 20, 14 and 11 percent returns, respectively, this is higher than many other sectors of the economy. Considering the importance of school education, a separate budget should be allocated according to its share in total enrollments, the number of schools and teachers. More investment is needed in schools, particularly in primary education.

*The author is a researcher at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).*

## International Anti-Corruption Day

On International Anti-Corruption Day, Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to eliminate corruption in all its forms and manifestations and promote transparency and accountability in our governance system. Corruption is a serious challenge faced by both developing and developed countries and requires consistent efforts, effective monitoring and controls, committed leadership, and an active civil society to curb this menace from society. The scourge of corruption and its various manifestations, moral or financial, are responsible for some of the gravest threats facing our nation.

Corruption contributes to instability and poverty and is a dominant factor driving fragile countries towards state failure. Fighting corruption is a serious concern for developing countries, especially Pakistan, as it weakens security, hinders economic growth, deprives the nation of precious and scarce public and private resources, creates social and economic disparities, erodes the economic edifice of society, and weakens state institutions.

International Anti-Corruption Day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made over the past years in the fight against corruption, but also to think about the work that remains to be done in the years ahead.

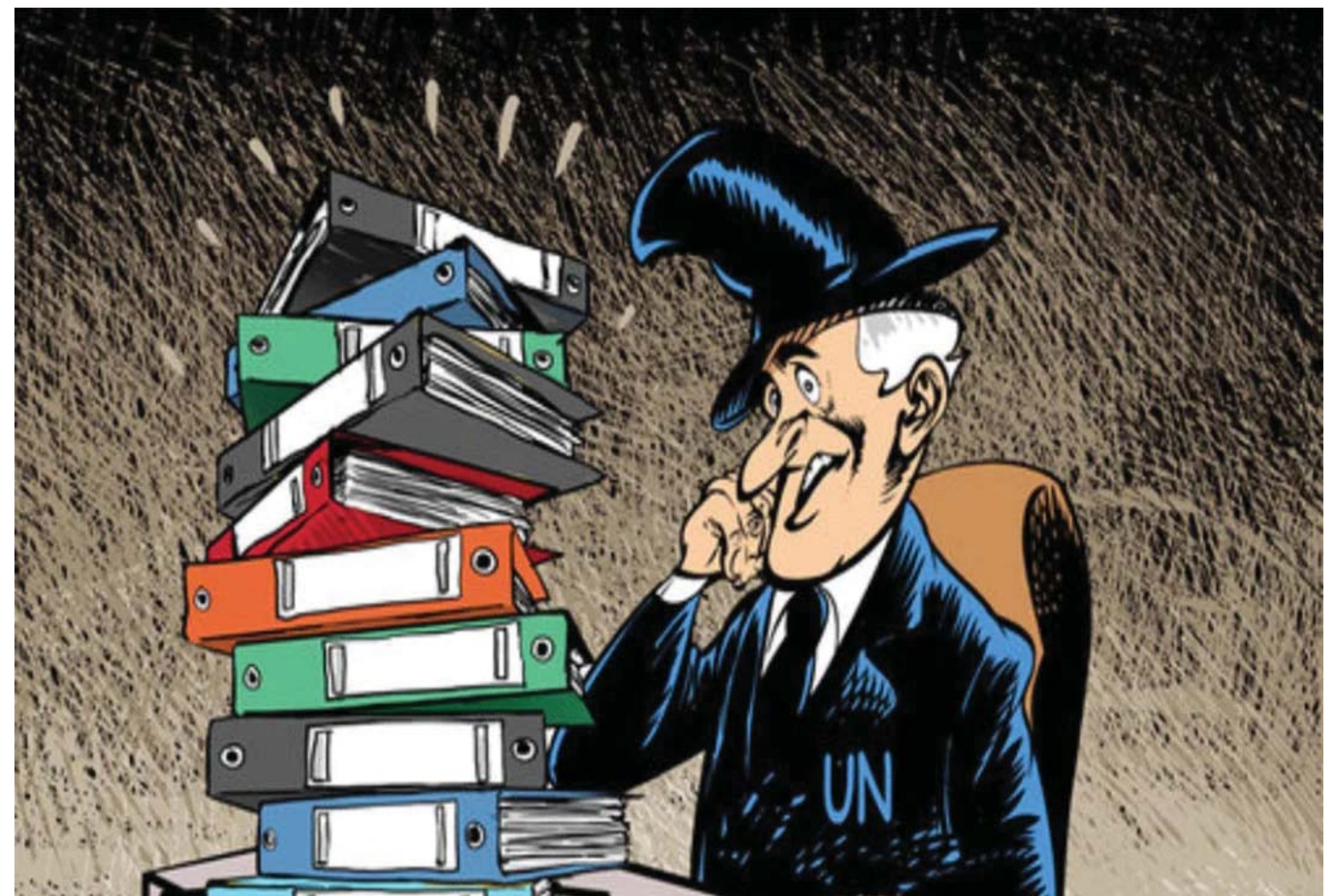
Elimination of corruption is a mission but we will not succeed in this fight unless we are fully committed to its elimination, and are guided by the ingenuity, expertise and energy of those who are on the frontlines of this fight. Although Pakistan has taken a number of actions to eliminate corruption and ensure accountability, however, much needs to be done in this regard.

The fight against corruption cannot be won unless all segments of society join their hands in the efforts to uproot corruption. The role of civil society is also very critical in detecting the root causes of corruption, exposing corrupt acts, shifting social norms, and mobilizing support for ambitious reforms based on moral values, justice, fairness and equal opportunity for all. When anti-corruption efforts are well-rooted, they are more likely to be effective and sustained. It is, therefore, vital that we come together with a collective response to eradicate corruption. Enhancing parliamentary oversight and constructing a legislative framework that deters corrupt practices and promotes transparency is essential in addressing corruption.

Enhancing the capabilities of criminal justice institutions to investigate and prosecute corruption is also crucial to exposing malign influence. In addition, procurement processes that comply with international anti-corruption standards will ensure a level playing field for investors. Most importantly, a robust civil society and free press are critical to hold public officeholders responsible for their actions.

It is high time to unite the role of key stakeholders and individuals in the elimination of corruption by sharing best practices and examples of preventing and countering corruption worldwide. This could be achieved by strengthening international cooperation against corruption, tackling linkages with other forms of crime, enabling the recovery and return of stolen assets, developing innovative solutions, advancing prevention through education, leveraging youth engagement and mobilizing allies in civil society, academia and the private sector in line with the dictates of United Nations Convention Against Corruption.

Once again, we reaffirm our commitment on this day to eliminate corruption, promote transparency and accountability, and purge this evil from society. I am hopeful that Pakistan can emerge as a strong and prosperous nation if we make committed, concerted and sincere efforts to root out this menace from our society.



## 'A phenomenal International Conference on Mental Health'

**Iqra Rasheed Sial**

The Department of Applied Psychology of Islamia University Bahawalpur recently organized an international conference in which I had the opportunity to participate and today I am writing about this most successful and phenomenal conference because it is very important to hold such conferences for the development of Pakistan's educational institutions and recognition at the international level. Conference theme was "Mental Health for all: social challenges and sustainable remedies". The conference was full of qualitative and beneficial discussion by experts and trained national and international psychologists. Psychologists from around the world were invited to the conference and talked about the mental challenges and their solutions.

Many of them were from universities in Malaysia, the UK, the Philippines and Pakistan. A panel discussion session was very informative in which national and international speakers discussed mental health issues in detail and they talked about the ways to improve mental health. Nowadays People all over the world are facing mental health problems. Such types of conferences will be helpful to find scientific solutions to these problems. International conferences are a great way to bring

together people from different parts of the world and learn more about different topics or issues from the world so for this purpose the the department of applied Psychology have provided a platform in which 34 different psychologists delivered keynote speeches at the conference.

The conference shared its recommendations with policy makers and deci-

The Department of Applied Psychology is engaged in a number of projects alongside teaching and high-quality research.

sion makers so that steps can be taken to create a peaceful and prosperous society. The Department of Applied Psychology is engaged in a number of projects alongside teaching and high-quality research. The conference aim was positive mental health, high quality of scientific research and enhancement in teaching and parenting skills. In the conference, papers were presented on mental health, media psychology, impact of corona crisis, educational psychology and impact on parental psychology.

It was a special event where Chief Guest

Mohsin Rafique, DIG Jail Khana Jatt, and Prof. Dr. Niaz Maqsood, Head of Psychology, Quaid-i-Azam Medical College spoke. He discussed important psychological issues related to prisoners. Representatives from different countries including Professor Christopher Lewis from the UK and Professor Joselito Banano from the Philippines were present at the conference. They discussed important topics in their respective countries. Dr. Khan Muhammad Raziuddin Tawfiq from Great Britain delivered the keynote speech.

Dr. Phil spoke about mental health issues affecting students and youth, family relationships, professional responsibilities, impact of the digital world, mental health and society, negative effects of violence and exploitation of marginalized groups, and education. A detailed discussion was held on the educational institutions. A large number of speakers were present in this event.

After the conference, a wonderful cultural event was organized by the Head of the Department, Dr. Muhammad Saleem Sahib, in which cultural dances were performed and the voice of South Punjab, the gem of Psychology department Iub Aurangzaib Ahmed entertained the guests with his magical and beautiful voice. At this time, organizing such events is the need of the hour for the development of Pakistani educational institutions and mental well being.

## Climate Change without Gender Equality

**Hoor Rizvi**

Women's roles in the fight against climate change are crucial. There is no climate justice without gender equality, and the world cannot achieve grand plans such as the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goal 5 (gender equality) and subsequent COP27 outcomes.

Post-COVID-19, gender inequalities have deepened, and women and girls are more exposed to climate risks and less empowered to drive solutions due to considerable obstacles in climate adaptation, disproportionate economic repercussions, increased unpaid and domestic work, and heightened risks of violence. Women across the globe depend more on natural resources, yet they have less access to them. In rural regions of Pakistan, agriculture is the sole employment sector to secure resources and income. Women have to bear disproportionate responsibility, especially during drought and erratic rainfall periods, which puts added pressure on girls, who often have to leave school to help their mothers manage the burden.

Due to the recent floods in Pakistan women and girls have become more vulnerable in terms of accessing relief and assistance, information, resources, training and mobility, threatening their livelihoods and creating a vicious cycle of gender disparities as they are less likely to survive and more likely to be injured in disasters. Women's and girls' health has also become endangered due to climate change, which has increased the risks related to maternal and child health. In addition, climate changes have spread vector-borne illnesses such as dengue fever and malaria and are causing an increase in the incidence of stillbirth. As primary caregivers in many families, women observe their responsibilities increase as family members suffer from long-serious and seasonal illnesses and they have less access to medical care.

We must understand that women's decision-making processes, leadership roles, and participation in climate change action can make climate change adaptation and mitigation possible. As they are at the forefront of functional approaches to promote sustainable energy transition and agro ecology that protect the local ecosystem.

The government and relevant authorities must implement special measures, such as quotas, to increase women's meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of decision-making, and address inequalities, particularly in poor and deteriorated excluded communities. Interventions that create greater awareness and understanding of the complex links between gender equality and the environment can help build the capacity of the poor, mainly poor women, to adapt to the effects of climate change and to take action on it.

Concerned policy and programming considerations should be promoting cleaner-burning fuel for household use, which will be helpful to lower air pollution and harmful emissions. Include women and men in the decision-making framework on climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes, and support vulnerability-reduction measures to address women's needs. Women can and generally do play an integral role in response to climate change due to their local knowledge of and leadership in, e.g., sustainable resource management and leading sustainable practices at the household and community level.

On the contrary, if policies and projects are put together into practice without their meaningful participation, it can increase existing inequalities and decrease effectiveness.

Hence all commitments to gender equality and climate change must be implemented just as a transition that prioritizes poverty eradication over economic growth.

*Bio: Hoor Rizvi Tweets @HoorRizvi. Can be reached at hoor.rizvi@gmail.com*

# Ethiopia adheres to equitable and reasonable utilization of transboundary water: Envoy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula has said that his country fully adhered to the international rule of equitable and reasonable utilization of transboundary water.

"As far as, the Nile River water is concerned, Ethiopia is determined to follow international rules, treaties and conventions, but we do not recognize any treaty to which Ethiopia is not the party," the ambassador said while delivering a lecture on international water law, hydro-politics and hydro-diplomacy at a workshop titled "Winter School for International Law".

The "Winter School for International Law" was hosted by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with the Research Society of International Law.

At the outset of his lecture, the ambassador elucidated the terms of hydro-politics and hydro-diplomacy and shed light on this



subject's evolution in the last couple of decades.

He also informed the audience about the existing international water laws and treaties, the United Nations Watercourse convention, and theories regarding the use of shared transboundary water resources.

Around the world, he said three-quarters of UN Member States shared rivers or lake basins with their neighbors. "There are more than 270 shared river basins, which provide freshwater for almost 40% of the globe's

population, including the Nile, the Indus, the Ganges, the Euphrates-Tigris, and the Mekong."

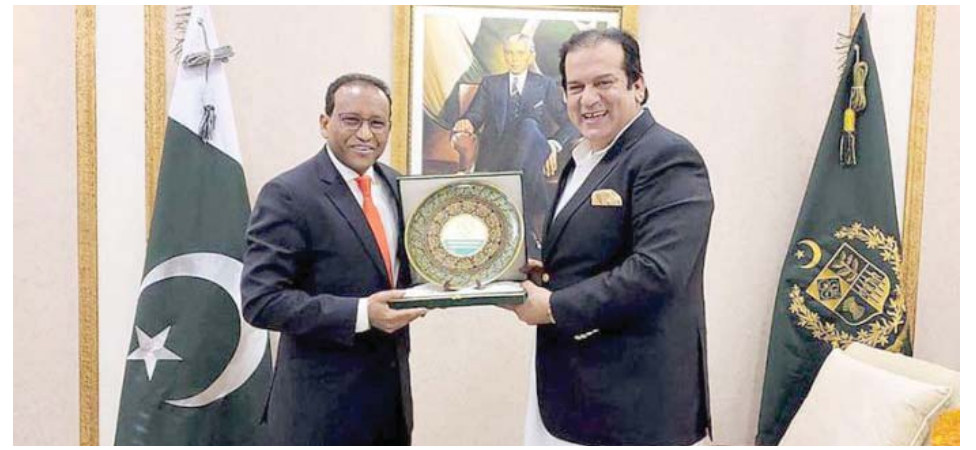
As regards the inter-state relations of the African continent in the context of shared water resources, he said the Nile River was the longest transboundary river in the world whose water was shared among 11 countries including Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Sudan, and Egypt.

The ambassador said during the

last two centuries, several treaties were concluded in respect of the Nile River, which Egypt has been invoking to justify their 'right' to the use of the waters of the Nile River.

He said Ethiopia was not the party to any of these treaties, however, it directly and actively participated in the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) forum which was established in 1999 to "achieve sustainable socio-economic development through equitable and reasonable utilization of, and benefit from the shared Nile Basin water resources."

The ambassador said the NBI produced a draft agreement called the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) after a decade-long extensive negotiation among the riparian countries with the help of WB, UNDP, and other donors. The Comprehensive Framework Agreement entailed, reflected, and contained the international water laws and principles such as equitable, reasonable, and fair utilization of water, do no harm rule, the obligation to protect the ecosystem, the principle of cooperation, and



Ambassador of Ethiopia Jamal Baqir Abdullah receives souvenir from Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Kanju

the obligation to share information and exchange data that end the monopoly of Nile River and begin the new era of cooperation.

He said the upper riparian countries of the Nile River including Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi had signed the CFA and agreed to utilize more of the Nile's water resources based on the international water laws, instruments, and principles mentioned above.

To this end, Ethiopia has taken a decisive measure of confidence restoring by establishing an International Panel of Expert, and a National Independent Scientific Research Group (Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan) to conduct scientific studies on the impacts of the Dam in which Ethiopia accept the outcome of the study.

The ambassador said Ethiopia had built the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in line

with international water laws, the UN watercourse convention, NBI, CFA, and the Declaration of Principles (2015). It was the largest hydro dam in Africa and 10th in the world which would eventually generate 6500MW of clean energy.

H.E. Jemal Beker Abdula said Ethiopia was ready to uphold and continue the trilateral negotiations under the auspices of the African Union.

## UNOPS arranged stakeholder consultation on the challenges affecting expansion of TB and malaria



Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) Pakistan organizes a day-long workshop on the stakeholder consultation on the challenges affecting expansion of Tuberculosis and Malaria responses at the provincial level.

The event was attended by senior officials from the Health Departments of the Government of Punjab, KP, Sindh and Balochistan. The participants from the provincial health departments presented their findings, challenges and recommendations specifically in the context of TB and

malaria. Provincial Disaster Management Authority representatives from all the provinces were also present and gave presentations on the post flood situation in their respective provinces.

In Pakistan, a high burden of malarial disease has been reported in the provinces of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh. Over 30% of our population lives in high-risk zones for malaria. The province of Punjab is also classified as a medium to low-risk region for malaria.

Unfortunately Pakistan is ranked as 5th in the world for reporting high cases of TB, with an estimated incidence of 263/100,000.

Annually, more than 580,000 cases appear, while over 44,000 people lose their lives to the disease.

MultiDrug Resistant TB poses a great threat to our community with an estimated 27,000 cases reported per year.

Earlier this year Pakistan faced devastating floods which affected over 33 million people. As of October 11, over 94 districts were declared as "calamity hit". The majority were in the provinces of Balochistan, Sindh, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A rise in reported malaria cases was also observed after the floods. The provinces of Sindh and Balochistan

together account for 78% of all reported confirmed cases of malaria in Pakistan in 2022. Similarly TB diagnosis and treatment was compromised during the floods.

UNOPS is already working in supporting the Sustainable Development Goals: 3 Good health and well-being, 4 Gender Equality, 6 Clean water and sanitation, 9 Industry Innovation & Infrastructure, 13 Climate action, 16 Peace Justice & Strong Institutions, and it is aligned with the Pakistan Government's Vision 2025 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for Pakistan 2023-2027.

## Int'l Symposium on Post COVID Higher Education Challenges held

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH, (COMSTECH Consortium of Excellence CCoE), IUCPSS (The largest network of public universities of Pakistan), American Institute of Pakistan Studies, and The Hollings Centre for International Dialogue organized an International Symposium on Post COVID Higher Education Challenges and Way Forward at COMSTECH on Friday. Vice Chancellors/Rectors of Muslim Universities from Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Kazakhstan, and Pakistan participated in the symposium.

The Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said in his welcome address that the topic of today's symposium is both relevant and important. He said that the COVID pandemic impacted the world very profoundly. He said that the pandemic has exposed the world that no one is out there to help to combat pandemic, one has to solely rely on one's own capabilities.

Pro-Rector Superior University, Prof. Dr. Moham-



mad Nizamuddin said in his keynote address that we need to conduct study to find how higher education sector responded to the pandemic. He said that the quality of higher education delivery effected during the pandemic, because we were not prepared. He said in one aspect the higher education sector was benefited by the COVID pandemic and that was the initiation of hybrid system of education delivery and adoption of the technologies. Prof. Nizamuddin recommended to strive for technological advancement, building community centers and making access to higher

education easy for everyone. He appreciated the online education system and recommended to adopt the online education system.

The chief guest of the concluding session of the symposium was the chairman standing committee on foreign affairs, senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed. He said like other parts of the world, COVID-19 has severely affected higher education sector in South Asia, highly populated and unique geographical region of the world, which accounts for 25% of the world population having the highest proportion of youth under the age

of 18 years. Mr. Sayed said, in Pakistan, about 47 million students have been affected including 2 million students enrolled in more than 230 universities and more than 120 sub campuses. He said that the universities across the region had to face multiple challenges during and post COVID period.

National Coordinator IUCPSS, Mr. Murtaza Noor said that the purpose of today's symposium is to bring all stakeholder close together to discuss and find solutions to the challenges being faced by higher education section after COVID.

## Adoption of the Resolution of Turkmenistan at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 45th plenary meeting of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly was held. During the meeting, the General Assembly considered the draft resolution "International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, 2023", submitted by Turkmenistan under agenda item 14 "Culture of Peace".

Presenting the draft resolution, the Turkmen delegation stressed

that the President of Turkmenistan for the first time put forward the global initiative "Dialogue is a guarantee of peace" in December 2021 during the International Conference "Policy of peace and trust—the basis of international security, stability and development".

The delegation of Turkmenistan noted that the draft resolution "International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace, 2023" was prepared after a wide

range of consultations between UN member countries, taking into account all constructive opinions and proposals.

The document reflects the fundamental purposes and principles of the UN Charter, above all the obligation to settle disputes by peaceful means and the determination to save future generations from the scourge of war. The draft resolution confirms that inclusive dialogue in its various manifestations plays an

important role in strengthening relations and cooperation among member states.

Presenting the draft resolution, the delegation of Turkmenistan paid special attention to the fact that on December 11 this year Turkmenistan will host the International Conference "Dialogue is a Guarantee of Peace", which will create a platform for a broad exchange of views on the topics covered in the draft resolution and lay the

foundation for launching 2023 Global Campaign for Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace. The delegation of Turkmenistan invited all member countries and agencies of the United Nations to take an active part in the upcoming Forum.

After discussions, this resolution was adopted by consensus. The resolution was co-sponsored by 68 member countries of the Organization.



## Live: 2022 China-Pakistan Folk Music Concert

ISLAMABAD: 2022 China-Pakistan Folk Music Concert "Online" will be broadcasted on the 9th December 2022 at 5:00 PM local time.

To promote China-Pakistan cultural exchanges and cooperation, China Cultural Center in Pakistan and Hebei Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism of China with collaboration of Pakistan National Council of Arts jointly produce a China-Pakistan Folk Music Concert to highlight the bilateral ironclad friendship.

This folk music concert will be performed by Chinese Orchestra of Hebei Song & Dance Theater and Pakistani Folk Band of Salman Adil /National Performing Arts Group of Pakistan National Council of the Arts. It is supported by China News Network, CNS Hebei Branch and

Hebei Arts Center (Hebei Foreign Cultural Exchange Center)

In this 80 minutes Live online concert, artists from Chinese Orchestra of Hebei Song and Dance Theater will perform different musical performances. These include "Battling Against Typhoon" played on Guzheng by Zhang Pei, musical "Date Harvest" by Zhang Guoming, Wu Yahui, Wang Haiyun using Suona, which is a traditional Chinese musical instrument with double-reed horn as well as Musical performance by Pakistani artist such as Pakistani Folk tune of Rubab and Tabla, "Man e di mauj vich" by santoor artist Ali Raza and Flute performance "Heer Ranjha & Mast Qalandar" by Salman Adil.

Concert also includes various different musical performance by other well-known artists from



China and Pakistan. Hebei Provincial Song and Dance Theater National Orchestra is affiliated to Hebei Provincial Song and Dance Theater Performing Arts Co., Ltd.,

established in 1960, is the only professional national orchestra in Hebei Province. After years of practice and development, especially after 2018, it has gradually developed into a full-staffed national orchestra with many high musical literacy. It has performed in the United States, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Greece, North Korea, Mongolia, Malaysia, Thailand and other countries as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

Salman Adil is a famous Pakistani musician who is good at playing bansuri, flute and singing. The participating members also include Pakistani folk instrument players such as Pakistani sitar player Arsalan Nizami, tabla drum player Amos Khan, and keyboard player Obaid Baber and dancers from the National Performing Arts Troupe of the

National Arts Council of Pakistan.

The Concert is scheduled to be broadcast Live Online via chinanews.com and the Official Facebook Page of China Cultural Center in Pakistan from 16:15 to 18:00 Pakistan Standard Time on 09 December, 2022, with culture and tourism promotion films of both countries broadcast from 16:15-17:00 as warm-up. It should be mentioned that video speeches by senior officials from each country will also be given before the Concert.

Pakistan Television Network (PTV) will broadcast live the China-Pakistan Folk Music Concert at a proper time and with PNCA to physically exhibit the recorded China-Pakistan Folk Music Concert in its auditorium at 17:00 hours Pakistan Time on 09 December, 2022.

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
41,698.28	41,651.61
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,747.57	41,550.70
Index Value	Change
2,548,675,098	+ 46.67
Percentage	Time
+ 0.11%	9 Dec, 2022 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,480.27	+8.10
Percentage	Time
0.10%	9 Dec, 2:58 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
33,714.31	-67.17
Percentage	Time
-0.20%	9 Dec, 10:00 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
27,901.01	+326.58
Percentage	Time
+1.18%	9 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	251.5	254
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	63.35	64.1
Singapore Dollar	165.7	167
Swedish Korona	21.61	21.91
Swiss Franc	238.89	240.64
Thai Bhat	6.41	6.51
U.A.E Dirham	65.6	66.2
UK Pound Sterling	291.5	294
US Dollar	230	232

# Political frictions troubling businessmen, crippling economy: Mian Zahid Hussain

**Tariq Khattak**

LAHORE: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said Finance Minister Ishaq Dar's efforts to reduce the political temperature in the country are commendable.

The political tension between different parties has turned into enmity and the current level of hostility is worrying for the people, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the political enmity is destroying the country's economy which is a cause of great concern.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that if the political conflict continued, the confidence of the



business community will continue to decrease and the economy will sink.

He said that the ruling party is trying to

reduce political tensions in the country and in this context Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has met President Arif Alvi twice in seventeen days so that the government and PTI negotiations can be started.

It will reduce tensions and the government will be in a better position to provide relief to the people, manage the economy, restore agriculture, help the flood victims and reestablish the reputation of Pakistan.

He said that President Arif Alvi's attitude is also positive, but so far the opposition leaders are not showing positive signs.

The government wants unconditional talks with the PTI in which pressure tactics will not be allowed. The government has given a positive signal to the opposition by delaying the implementation of the no-confidence motion against the Punjab Chief Minister, to which PTI should respond appropriately, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that President Arif Alvi has been trying to resolve the political issues for the past three months. His views are positive regarding the Charter of Economy and he is not in favor of PTI's decision to resign from the National Assembly.

He did not allow the appointment of the new Army Chief to become controversial, therefore the business community pays tribute to President Arif Alvi for his positive attitude in domestic affairs.

The business community expects that the new army chief will also take effective steps to restore the reputation of the army and keep the institution away from political affairs and confined to professional affairs.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the sooner the opposition realizes that dialogue is the best way to solve problems, the better it will be for the country.

## Alibaba.com reaffirms commitment to serving export businesses in Lahore with second local seller summit

**News Desk**

LAHORE: Alibaba.com, a leading platform for global business-to-business (B2B) trade, hosted its second seller summit in Lahore to highlight export opportunities available to local businesses from online commerce, reaffirming its commitment to helping exporters in the region enter the global market. The event this time was well attended by more than 250 participants including over 100 participants who tuned in online.

The Alibaba.com seller summit, titled "Bharo Digital Export ki Nayi Udaan Lahore se", discussed various aspects of B2B e-commerce including the promising categories of products from Lahore in the global market and how Pakistani exporters can tap the opportunity. Alibaba.com representatives also provided the participants with tips and advice on equipping themselves with the necessary skills and tools to thrive as sellers on Alibaba.com.

The event featured a line-up of leaders from Alibaba.com as well as prominent industry leaders from Lahore's business circle, including Mr. Song Song, Head of Alibaba.com Pakistan; Mr. Maaz Mehmood, Executive member of Sundar Trade and Industry Association; Mr. Ahmed Jahangir, Executive Director of Home Textile Business at Nishat Mills; Ms. Amy Li, Marketing Head at Alibaba.com Pakistan; and Mr. Aziz Ur Rehman, Founder of Adan Enterprises.



"I am greatly encouraged to see the enthusiasm of the business community in Lahore for transitioning to the digital age by grasping opportunities in B2B e-commerce, which is why we are here again to meet with local business leaders and entrepreneurs. We look forward to working with more SMEs here to help drive export opportunities for Lahore, and contribute to the growth of Pakistan's national economy," said Mr. Song Song.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Maaz Mehmood said: "We are thankful to Alibaba.com for organising this event. Lahore has huge potential for e-commerce but we are still following traditional ways of doing business. We need to encourage buyers and sellers of this age to become part of global e-commerce through platforms such as Alibaba.com."

Commenting on the potential of Pakistani exports, Ms. Amy Li said: "Apparel

and textile export from Pakistan is on the rise with a year-on-year growth of 4.18% in export volume during July-August 2022, according to data from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. In particular, the knitwear category witnessed a year-on-year growth of 16.95% in export volume while non-knitted garment a year-on-year growth of 8.49% during the same period. We expect Pakistani export will reach a new level as an increasing number of sellers go online and go global with e-commerce."

Sharing his thoughts at the event, Mr. Ahmed Jahangir said: "Platforms like Alibaba.com are creating level playing fields and helping businesses to reach genuine global buyers with minimal investment. This helps exporters save time from looking for buyers and allows them to spend more energy on making good-quality products for buyers."

## Get the 'Festive Feels' with Emirates, all December long

KARACHI: It's the most wonderful time of the year and Emirates is ensuring passengers get the festive feels for the whole month of December, with magical moments sprinkled upon journeys from start to finish.

Wishing all passengers a very Merry Christmas around the world, Emirates will have festivities and celebrations at check-in desks, across international lounges, and onboard—ensuring the 1.4 million passengers booked to travel this December are immersed in the merry mood. Season's greetings at Emirates Lounges

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas at Emirates Lounges in Dubai, where passengers jetting off to greet family and friends for the holiday season can pause to indulge in some festive fare before boarding. Business Class lounges will be serving warm and crumbly mince pies dashed with cream, traditional Stollen cake, soaked and spiced lady fingers with a Christmas dulce-whipped ganache, roasted chestnut and biscuit cake with a pop of lime and lemon sable. First Class Lounges will also have the flavoursome winter favour-

ites—gingerbread profiteroles, dark chocolate salted caramel tarts and cinnamon haba au orange. Those dreaming of a white Christmas can enjoy some gingerbread ice cream and Perrier's winter white cosmo—festively flavoured water. For those who seek a warm and cosy feeling, savour the aromatic flavours of a cinnamon cortado, toffee nut oat latte, gingerbread mocha, or relax with a special festive tea brew by Dilmah—Charming magic or Christmas Holly Jolly. Around the globe, Emirates Lounges will be offering festive treats too, with local favourites taking centre stage. A December to remember onboard Emirates

For the entire month of December, 'tis the season to be jolly onboard Emirates with festive meals and snacks in all cabins on select routes, with green and red Christmas lights aglow. First and Business Class passengers can indulge in all the classic Christmas dishes, from lemon and herb marinated king prawns with fennel salad and marie rose sauce, to cured salmon gravadlax with mustard crème fraiche to start, also enjoyed in Premium Economy Class.

## Ufone 4G users to get 1GB free data on 'UPower 120' subscription

**Spokesman Report**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G after the resounding popularity of its flagship UPower offerings, is further boosting the utility of its UPower 120 offer to deliver enhanced control and enablement to its customers. Going forward, upon subscribing any of the options in UPower 120, consumer will be awarded Free 1GB data.

The free data will be useable for top two social media platforms, Facebook and YouTube. The offer has been designed to help users fulfill their entertainment, educational, or work-related requirements, besides connecting with their loved ones. A product that is already packed with value, this limited time offer provides more convenience to UPower consumers.

The offer further enriches the value of UPower 120, which has unprecedented value for money by allowing customers to choose their own package from amongst four options: All-In-One-Bundle, Internet Bundle, All Network Calling Bundle, or Unlimited Ufone/PTCL calling bundle, as suited to their Voice and Data needs.

## Employee Safety at Workplace

ISLAMABAD: Photo shows PTCL Group officials posing for a group photo along with representatives from office of Islamabad Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad Police, Capital Development Authority - Disaster Management, Islamabad Traffic Police and Rescue 1122 following the conclusion of a fire drill at Ufone Tower Islamabad. The activity was in line with PTCL Group's Health, Safety & Environmental (HSE) protocols on workplace and employee safety.



## EBM recognized for gender diversity in the workplace by CFA Society Pakistan



**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Pakistan's leading local FMCG company, English Biscuit Manufacturers (Pvt.) Ltd (EBM), has won the Gender Diversity at Workplace Award 2022-Local Corporates, in the 19th Annual Excellence Awards Ceremony held by the CFA Society Pakistan. This prestigious accolade is a testament to EBM's commitment to

empower and promote gender diversity at the workplace.

The Annual Excellence Awards recognize the efforts of companies in fostering an environment that empowers women, while inculcating strong leadership qualities in them. EBM stands at the forefront in upholding a gender diverse workplace, with one-third of their senior leadership positions occupied by women.

## Dawlance opens its fourth 'Experience Store' in Pakistan – the first in Karachi

**Bureau Report**

KARACHI: Continuing its pursuit of delivering exceptional quality of products and services, Dawlance – the technology-leading innovator in Pakistan's Home-Appliances industry, has recently inaugurated its fourth 'Experience Store' in Pakistan. Located in Karachi, this specialized outlet will provide customers with hands-on experience with a wide range of Dawlance products, all under one roof. As the company is committed to further expanding its nationwide network of dealers, it is promising great convenience for consumers all

over Pakistan. Dawlance is a wholly owned subsidiary of Arcelik AS—the 2nd largest manufacturer in Europe, based in Turkey. In Pakistan, Dawlance—Arcelik have plans to establish many more experience stores in future, with its vision to achieve unmatched customer care. The vibrant ceremony held in Karachi to launch this new Experience-Store was attended by senior management executives of Dawlance, many stakeholders of the technology industry, many loyal customers and other prominent personalities of Karachi. The Director of Marketing at Dawlance—Syed Hasan Jameel

stated that: "We are very excited about the opening of another revolutionary concept-store, to enhance the Consumer Retail-experience. Our global parent-company – Arcelik, has inspired this strategic investment to enable easier access for customers, who prefer to evaluate the performance of an electronic product, before making the purchase decision. It also reflects the confidence we have in our product line-up that promises more than 50% energy conservation."

Dawlance has the largest network of dealerships and distribution outlets in every major city across Pakistan. Every

Dawlance Experience Store will have a standardized layout, decor and visual design, along with state-of-the-art equipment. The complete range of Dawlance home appliances includes; Refrigerators, Deep-Freezers, Washing-Machines, Dishwashers, Cooking Range and smaller kitchen appliances, with the highest European quality standards adopted by Arcelik in Turkey.

With extensive research & development, customer care and after-sales service, Dawlance strives to exceed the expectations of every customer and cater to their evolving needs. Since its acquisition in 2016, Arcelik has



already invested in Dawlance, and quality. Every employee is trained to ensure higher productivity and compliance with the global best practices, at every operational level.

# Babar, Saud solid after debutant Abrar cracks England on Day 1 in Multan

By A Sports

MULTAN: Mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed stormed through England's batting line with seven wickets on his debut Test before skipper Babar Azam raised a brilliant fifty to put Pakistan on top in the second Test.

England's strong batting line was completely shattered by the magical spin of the 24-year-old debutant, who claimed his maiden five-wicket haul in international cricket in the very first session on the opening day of the Multan Test.

Abrar becomes the third Pakistani bowler after Mohammad Nazir and Mohammad Zahid to take seven scalps on a maiden Test as he went on to knock down skipper Ben Stokes and Will Jacks in the afternoon session.

After Abrar effectively derailed England's solid batting line on 231 for 7, fellow spinner Zahid Mahmood ran through the lower order and booked England on 281 in the first innings before Tea.

Pakistan, on the other hand, went through a disappointing start to their innings when James Anderson removed opener Imam-ul-Haq on a duck in a



caught-behind wicket while Abdullah Shafique fell prey to Jack Leach after he stitched a second-wicket stand of 46-run with skipper Babar.

Babar, however, led the charge and played a skilful knock of an unbeaten 61 off 76 to steer Pakistan to 107/2 before stumps alongside Saud Shakeel who notched up not-out 32 off 46.

Opting to bat first, England tried to continue their momentum of the previ-

ous game, where they scored a record 506/4 on the opening day, but a mystery unleashed by Pakistan in form of Abrar had other plans.

A brilliant googly in the very first over which clean bowled last match centurion Zak Crawley on 19 from 37 balls had nearly set the stage for the new entrant.

Duckett and Pope, however, nullified the early scare and went with the full throttle as the two gathered 79 runs

from just 61 balls before Abrar provided the breakthrough. He plumed Duckett, who looked in sublime form on 63 off 49, while he was attempting to sweep with a successful call from Babar Azam to review the umpire's original decision of not out.

At 117 for 2 in 19 overs, England looked indifferent and tried to continue the tempo with Joe Root, their best bid against spin, on the crease but a big leg break knock him down with a successful Pakistan review once again.

He then went on to hunt Pope at 60 and completed his five-wicket haul with Harry Brook's miscued shot at mid-off which ended in the hands of Mohammad Nawaz.

Captain Ben Stokes, however, was left awe-struck after the break when a wrong one by the youngster knocked the stumps with an incredibly googly.

Will Jacks soon followed the suit as Abrar struck him down on 31 off 44 after he stitched a 61-run stand with skipper Stokes in the post-lunch session.

Mark Wood played an unbeaten knock of 36 off 27 lower down the order while the wickets kept on falling as Mahmood hunted down the tailenders Ollie Robinson Jack Leach and James Anderson.

## Abrar Ahmed picks his favourite wicket from dream Test debut

By A Sports -

MULTAN: Pakistan's mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed, who made headlines in his dream Test debut; picking up seven wickets — five of which came in the first session — chose Ben Stokes' wicket as his favourite.

Abrar, while talking at the post-match press conference after the conclusion of Day 1 of the ongoing Multan Test responded to a question regarding his favourite wicket among the seven wickets he took in his debut Test.

"As I said before making my debut, Joe Root and Ben Stokes' wicket would be my favourite and by the will of almighty Allah, I was able to achieve it," said Abrar.



"Meanwhile, I cannot describe my happiness in words," he maintained.

Regarding his goal for the second innings, Abrar shared that he is eyeing to take another five-fer in the second innings.

"Yes, I have a goal for the second innings and that is to take another five-fer and

with my performance, my team wins," Abrar stated.

"International cricket is a bit different but if you keep hitting good areas, it would eventually reward you in the form of wickets," he maintained.

The debutant then went on to respond to a question regarding how former

Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed gave him confidence in first-class cricket and stated that the latter has always motivated him.

"Yeah, I have a really good relationship with Saifi bhai, he's really close to me. So, he was guiding me that whenever I will play, I should not get nervous and perform the way I did for Sindh," shared Abrar.

It is pertinent to mention that Pakistan skipper Babar Azam raised a valiant half-century to anchor Pakistan to 107/2 at the stumps on the opening day after Abrar stormed through the English batting line-up, who claimed his maiden five-wicket haul and played a significant role in restricting England to 281.

## Leave Ronaldo alone, says Portugal coach Santos ahead of quarter-final

AL RAYYAN: Cristiano Ronaldo was upset when he was left out of Portugal's starting lineup against Switzerland but the conversation to drop him was completely normal and it is high time the world stopped focusing on the matter, coach Fernando Santos said on Friday.

Ronaldo was benched as Portugal thrashed Switzerland 6-1 in the last 16. Later, the country's football federation had to publicly deny reports that their skipper had threatened to leave during the tournament after talking with Santos.

Portugal play surprise package Morocco in the quarter-finals on Saturday and a visibly frustrated Santos took great pains to explain what happened behind the scenes to put the issue to bed.

"He (Ronaldo) has never told me he wanted to leave our national team. It's high time we stopped talking about this conversation... It's high time to leave Ronaldo alone and acknowledge what he has done for Portuguese football," Santos said.

## 1st CNS All Pakistan Squash Championship 2022

News Desk

KARACHI: The Semi-Finals of COMBAXX 1st CNS All Pakistan Squash Championship 2022 were played here at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, Fleet Club, Saddar Karachi.

The following are the result of the Semi Final matches: (Prefix numbers denote seeding, Q "Qualifier")

Result: Men's Semi-Final [8] Waqar Mehboob (KP) bt [6] Naveed Rehman (Sindh) 4-11, 11-8, 11-13, 11-9, 11-9 (56 mins)

[2] Nasir Iqbal (Wapda) bt Q-Sadam Ul Haq (Army) 11-6, 11-9, 11-5 (34 mins)



Result: Women's Semi-Final (Prefix numbers denote seeding, Q "Qualifier")

[1] Zainab Khan (Army) Vs [4] Komal Khan (Wapda) 11-5, 11-4, 11-7 (17 mins)

Q-Noor Ul Ain (SNGPL) bt Maryam Malik (Army) 6-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 11-8 (40 mins)

Fixture (Saturday): Women's Final (Prefix numbers denote seeding, Q "Qualifier")

[1] Zainab Khan (Army) Vs Q-Noor Ul Ain (SNGPL) at 1200 hours

Fixture (Saturday): Men's Final (Prefix numbers denote seeding) [8] Waqar Mehboob (KP) Vs [2] Nasir Iqbal (Wapda) at 1400 hours

## Team Dreamworld wins Leisure Leagues CUP 2022 title at Manora Beach



Sports Reporter

KARACHI: Team Dreamworld defeated Memon FC (2-0) to clinch Leisure Leagues CUP 2022 Small-sized Football title, which was held at Destination Manora Beach, Karachi to Celebrate the Current Ongoing FIFA world Cup.

A total of two teams participated in the Tri Sereis, The teams were Team Dreamworld and Memon FC. Dreamworld team won two matches while one match is draw between them.

Mukarram was adjudged Best Player of the tournament. Asif Meraj Executive Manager from Leisure Leagues, and Tauseef Ali Baig Facility & Recreational Head Dreamworld, and Abdul Rashid (Ex Coach Of Street child world Cup) also attended the Leisure Leagues Cup 2022 on behalf of the organizing bodies.

## Pakistan Women's football team camp begins in Lahore



Sports Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan women's football team began their training camp in Lahore as they are preparing to participate in the Four-Nation Cup on January 11 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

The national women's team members gathered at the team hotel before making their way to training camp for a brief team session and were presented with training kits for camp.

Pakistan Women's National Football Team Head Coach Adeel Rizki is conducting the camp with Goalkeeping Coach Ahsanullah Khan.

SAFF Championship 2022 was Pakistan women's team's first international event after more than eight years. They last competed in the third edition of the same championship back in 2014, which took place in Islamabad.

## FBISE annual inter School Hockey championship 2022-23



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Education Board (FBISE) annual inter School Hockey championship 2022-23 won by FG School Wah Cantt on shootout from FG Cantt public School Rawalpindi. Final match Chief Guest was Madam Fouzia Maroof Director Sports Federal Education Board the tournament was based on knockout.

The Tournament Director was Mr Najeeb Khattak and organising Secretary was Rana Rizwan DPE G 10/4 and supervision was under the Sultana foundation Sarwar dogar where official is Chacha Ashraf Shaheryar Touqeer and umpiring panel was on national umpires Mr Azem Jutt Mehboob Javaid Mr Sajid Raza.

The final Match supervised by CDA Umpires Mr Azem Jutt and Mehboob Javaid. FG school wah cantt beat FG cantt public school tariq road by shootout full time match was draw with 1-1 after full time 5,5 shootout given to both teams where FG wah cantt school beat FG cantt public school by 3-2 after clinched battle.

## Qatar wins bid to host 2025 World Table Tennis Championships

DOHA: Qatar has won the honor of hosting the 59th edition of the 2025 World Table Tennis Championship during the General Assembly meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), which was held in Amman, Jordan, over three days in the presence of 227 member federations.

This is the second time that Qatar has won the hosting of the World Table Tennis Championship after the 2004 edition, which achieved very great successes technically and organizationally.

Doha received 57 votes against 39 for the other Spanish candidate city of Alicante during the vote of the member federations to choose the host city on the sidelines of the FIFA General Assembly meeting.

Qatar's choice to host the largest international event in table tennis comes after it has recently established itself as a key location and launching pad for a new era in this game, after hosting the most prominent international table tennis tournaments, which achieved great

success, and perhaps the most recent of which was hosting five major sporting events of world table tennis over the past month of March for the first time in the history of the game.

This comes as a clear indication of the confidence that the Qatar Table Tennis Association has in the ITTF, in addition to the accumulation of experience among Qatari administrative cadres who are characterized by the necessary professionalism and the ability to make major global hosting a success.

The most notable of these events was the hosting of the International Youth Camp at the Aspire indoor hall, followed by the World Table Tennis for Young and Junior (WTT) championship at the Aspire Zone women's sports hall, followed by the men's and women's Federer championship at the same hall, the WTT CONTENDER championship and the WTT STAR CONTENDER championship at Lusail Arena.

These tournaments witnessed the participation of world stars of the game, and Doha became the

world sports capital par excellence. It has become the center of major sporting events for almost three decades.

The Qatar Table Tennis Association officially submitted the candidacy file to host the 2025 World Table Tennis Championships last July, to be the second time to host the world championship in Qatar after the 2004 edition, which achieved great success.

Throughout the history of the world championships, no Arab country has hosted the tournament except Egypt in 1939, and it was the second time in Qatar.

This edition of the World Table Tennis Championship will be exceptional as it will be the last tournament before the huge celebration organized by the ITTF in 2026, in the British capital, London, to celebrate its 100th anniversary.

President of the Asian Table Tennis Union and ITTF Executive Vice President, and chairman of the file submission committee, Khalil Al Mohannadi expressed his great happiness at Qatar's winning the honor of

hosting the 2025 World Championship.

Al Mohannadi said in a statement today that the timing of the announcement of Qatar's winning the hosting coincided with the great successes of the 2022 football World Cup, which is heartening and confirms that Qatar is moving in the right direction at the sporting level in all games, not just in football.

He underlined that this is the second time historically that Qatar has been honored to host the largest and most important global event in the field of the game after the 2004 edition, which achieved very great successes from a technical and organizational point of view.

Al Mohannadi added that Qatar received great confidence from the member federations of the General Assembly of the ITTF, by obtaining 57 votes to 39 for the Spanish city of Alicante.

He continued that from the beginning, Qatar found a strong competition to host this particular edition, which is historic, as it precedes the huge celebration that will be organized by the



ITF in 2026 on the occasion of the golden jubilee of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the federation, noting that many countries applied for hosting, and all of them are old countries in the game, friendly, and Qatar has a special relationship with all of them, and the competition was heated.

He said that Qatar relies on the services provided to the world of table tennis and prom-

ised everyone a special organization for the event, and Qatar's file was admired and won the confidence of the members, thanks to the great potential of the State of Qatar in terms of infrastructure and logistical capabilities at the highest level, he explained.

Al Mohannadi underscored that throughout the history of the world championships, no Arab country has hosted the tournament except Egypt 83 years

ago, specifically in 1939, and the second time was in Qatar in 2004.

He promised a historic and exceptional edition of this tournament, stressing that Qatar always welcomes everyone to Doha, and everyone will live an organizational atmosphere that has not been seen before throughout the history of the world championships of the game. (QNA)