



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ

رسول اللہ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا سورج اور چاند میں کربن سنی کی موت کی وجہ سے نہیں لگتا البتہ یہ دونوں اللہ تعالیٰ کی نشانیاں ہیں، اس لیے جب تم کربن دیکھو تو نماز پڑھو۔ (صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 1057)

Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited

Sadiq Sanjrani suggests Imran Khan to return to Parliament

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani has called for making parliament strong, suggesting former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan to return to the assembly, ARY News reported on Sunday. Speaking to ARY News exclusively, the Senate Chairman noted that it would be a wise move if Imran Khan returns to parliament.



Rana Sanaullah concerned over cross-border firing from Afghanistan

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday expressed concern over the cross-border attack by Afghan Border Forces (AFB) onto the civilian population in Chaman, Balochistan that resulted in the martyrdom of six civilians and injured 17 others. While condemning the attack, the minister requested the Balochistan government to support the affected. (Report on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Jamadi-ul-Awwal 17, Monday, December 12, 2022

www.dailyspokesman.net

@daily_spokesman



Daily Spokesman Vol: 15, Issue: 248 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Discussing political situation

LAHORE: Governor of Punjab Muhammad Baligh-ur-Rehman calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Sunday.



Photo: PID

'Political terrorist' Imran symbol of country's degradation: Marriyum

RAWALPINDI: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, while terming PTI chairman Imran Khan 'a political terrorist' said he was a symbol of the country's degradation.

Addressing the Muslim League-Nawaz workers' convention in power, was blaming those who brought investments worth billions of rupees to the country. The minister said the Daily Mail's apology to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was actually an apology to the 220 million



people of Pakistan. Imran Khan, in animosity of Shehbaz Sharif, used David Rose to publish a baseless news story against the PM, she added.

She said that in 2016 when Nawaz Sharif was holding office, Pakistan's GDP growth

rate was 6.2 percent whereas inflation was only 2.3 percent. During Nawaz's era, she added, the IMF programme was rolled back, CPEC projects were started, employment opportunities were provided to the youth, and 14,000 megawatts of electricity

were added to the national grid. The minister said at that time, a conspirator, incompetent, inefficient and "Toshkhana thief" was waiting for the finger of the empire and holding sit-ins.

She said Nawaz Sharif made the country a nuclear power but Imran Khan ruined the development process. Marriyum said Nawaz Sharif, in his tenure, eradicated the scourge of terrorism, but when Imran Khan came to power, terrorism rose its head again.

She said 'the Toshakhana thief' alleged that the PML-N leadership was involved in money laundering, but he could not give any evidence in the courts of Pakistan and the United Kingdom. On the contrary, he himself was caught doing money laundering. Marriyum Aurangzeb asked when will

Imran Khan give an account of his theft?

Imran Khan made the country's treasury a "retail shop" during his time, whereas Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was striving for the betterment of the people.

She congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, and Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal for emerging victorious in the court cases.

She said Hanif Abbasi was sentenced to 25-years imprisonment in Imran's tenure but he stood firm and even now standing firm like a lion. Imran took false oaths and put a heroin case on Rana Sanaullah, who stood strong like a rock and still standing like a lion with Nawaz Sharif. APP

Azam Swati remanded into Qamber Police Custody

LARKANA: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Azam Swati has been remanded into police custody for three days.

As per details, Azam Swati was produced before the court of judicial magistrate Qamar in a case related to controversial tweets against the state institution. At the outset of the hearing, Qambar police told the court that Azam Swati is booked in two FIRs on the complaints of Zameer Khoso and Qamaruddin. The police pleaded with the court to grant physical remand of the PTI lawmaker.

Later the court, granted three-day physical remand of PTI stalwart and handed over him to the police.

Earlier this week, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Azam Swati was shifted to Sindh after the Balochistan High Court (BHC) ordered to quash all FIRs against him for delivering derogatory remarks against institutions.

In another development, the Sindh High Court (SHC) served notices to the provincial government, prosecutor general and the IG police over the registration of multiple cases against the PTI senator. The notices were served on the complaint of Usman Swati, who challenged the registration of multiple cases against his father in Sindh. Agencies

My wristwatch, my choice: Imran Khan

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Sunday said it was his choice whether he wanted to sell the Toshakhana wristwatch or not, and ruled out the possibility of negotiating with the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) led government.

Addressing a press conference at Zaman Park via video link, he said the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government was not competent enough to steer the country out of economic doldrums adding there would be no economic stability in the country without political stability.

Reacting to news reports highlighting the sale of Toshakhana wristwatch, he said he was rightful to do whatever he wanted to do with the wristwatch adding the PTI would not hold talks with the "gang of thieves".

Earlier, the former Prime Minister said Swati had been "badly tortured",



while proclaimed offenders like Suleman Shehbaz was brought back through NRO-2.

Khan posted on Twitter, saying, "If anyone wants to understand why Pakistan's economy is on the verge of collapsing, only two events are enough: Senator Swati was arrested and beaten in custody, and even in front of his grandchildren, a part of his house was torn away and locks were installed there forcibly."

He continued by saying that because Mr. Swati was the subject of multiple cases based on which he was being

moved from one state to another, even human rights were disregarded in his situation.

Taking a jibe at PDM led government and allies, Khan said "Suleman Shehbaz, a proclaimed offender who was involved in money laundering cases was brought back to Pakistan by NRO-2."

Khan also shared a Hadees-e-Mubarak in addition to his tweet saying "The blessed hadith of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) should be kept in front of everyone, in which The Prophet (PBUH) warned how injustice brings destruction to nations."

Indian law makers, poets criticizing Modi's barbaric policies

ISLAMABAD: Indian parliamentarians, poets, and columnists were criticizing and mocking Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's atrocities and barbaric policies against minority communities particularly Muslims in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Indian revolutionary poet, Imran Pratapgarhi highlighted the Indian government's atrocities and tyranny against the oppressed Kashmiri people in his poetic verses such as 'I am Kashmiri', he uploaded videos on YouTube and other social networking applications.

He said the fascist Modi government was perpetrating gruesome human rights violations against minorities and Kashmiri Muslims. "Modi is a tea seller, who has no moral ethics and political norms," he maintained.

Imran Pratapgarhi further said the Indian prime minister was involved in the massacre of innocent Muslims of Gujrat and Kashmiris.

Six civilians martyred due to unprovoked firing by Afghan border forces: ISPR



RAWALPINDI: Six civilians were martyred due to unprovoked and indiscriminate fire of heavy weapons by Afghan Border Forces onto the civilian population in Chaman, Balochistan, the military's media wing said on Sunday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the firing by Afghan forces on the civilian population in Chaman included heavy weapons including artillery and mortars.

It said that the firing caused the martyrdom of six civilians while 17 other individuals sustained injuries. "Pakistani border troops have given befitting albeit measured response against the unprovoked aggression, but avoided targeting innocent civilians in the area," it added.

Pakistan has also approached the Afghan authorities in Kabul to highlight severity of the situation and demanded strict action to obviate any such recurrence of

the incident in future, it further said.

The Chaman border - also known as Friendship Gate - connects Balochistan province to Afghanistan's Kandahar.

It was closed last month after an armed Afghan reportedly crossed onto Pakistan side of the border and opened fire on security troops, martyring a soldier and injuring another two.

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan termed the event 'sad' and reportedly assigned a high-level delegation to probe the incident and find the perpetrator.

Rana Sanaullah concerned over cross-border firing from Afghanistan

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday expressed concern over the cross-border firing by Afghan Border Forces (AFB) onto the civilian population in Chaman, Balochistan that resulted in the martyrdom of six civilians and injured 17 others.

China offers \$112.33 mln financial grant, \$14 mln in-kind support for flood relief

ISLAMABAD: China has offered Pakistan, a cash grant worth US\$112.33 million for post-flood reconstruction activities, besides sending the in-kind support worth of \$14.06 million (100 million RMB).

Besides the Chinese government grant and in-kind support, the additional support also came from China including 100 million RMB (\$14.05 million) from the Chinese Army, 125 million RMB (\$17.57 million) from the Chinese People's Association, 17 million RMB (\$2.39 m) to Embassy of Pakistan in China, 2.1 million RMB (\$0.3 million) by Red Cross Society of China and US\$0.067 million were provided by All Pakistani Chinese Enterprises Association, according to official documents.

In September the Chinese government committed to provide grant assistance of \$42.13 million (300 million RMB) under the agreement on Economic and technical cooperation signed on March 30, 2022, between the govern-

ments of China and Pakistan for post-disaster reconstruction.

Similarly, another MoU was signed on November 02, 2022, in China for the provision of a grant worth \$70.2 million for post-disaster reconstruction in flood-hit areas of Pakistan.

As per details of the in-kind support, the documents show that so far China has dispatched 8 flights, and 9 commercial consignments carrying 13000 tents, 10,000 blankets, 1000 boxes of cookies, and 10 tons of tomatoes.

The consignments were received on August 30 to September 23 and the receiving authority was National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). By land, China send 200 tonnes of onions on September 11 through the Khanjarab border, GB, the document added.

Likewise, by sea China sent three ships in the first batch carrying 15 containers with 77,000 blankets, 9000 boxes of compressed biscuits, and 3,300 water purifiers, in the first batch.

Govt striving to stabilize economy: Khawaja Asif

Spokesman Report

SIALKOT: Defense Minister Khawaja Asif on Sunday the country will be back on the path of progress and development within a few months due to prudent economic policies of the incumbent government.

Addressing a workers convention in Sialkot, the Minister said that we

are striving to stabilize the national economy since we came into power.

He said Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif is taking practical steps to control inflation and high electricity bills.

The Minister regretted that during the previous era, the media was massively used to defame the opposition and false cases were registered against PML-N leaders.

Solidarity with Pakistan Army

KARACHI: The citizens of Karachi have shown their solidarity with the Pakistan Army on Sunday.



Photo: PID

Economic Coordination Committee meeting held

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar presided over the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, virtually through Zoom, today. Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr. Ayesha Ghous Pasha, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Federal Secretaries, Chairman



FBR and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The ECC considered and approved two important agenda items related to Reko Diq project, thus paving the way for early start of the Reko Diq Project. Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) submitted a summary

on accrued interest with respect to the amount held in an escrow account in connection with the Reko Diq Project dispute settlement. It was presented that government of Pakistan (GoP) and Provincial Government of Baluchistan (GoB) entered into an out-of-court dispute settlement with

M/s Tethyan Copper Company Pvt Limited- a consortium of Barrick Gold Corporation of Canada and M/s Antofagasta PLC of Chile, in respect of Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project in Chaghai district of Baluchistan. As per settlement terms, Government of Pakistan has to clear liabilities to Antofagasta PLC.

In the light of the terms of agreed settlement, the ECC allowed Finance Division to direct GHPL (for its own as well as GoB's share), OGDCL and PPL to deposit the aggregate amount of interest to the sum of US\$ 22,718,173/- in the escrow account from March 31, 2022 to December 15, 2022. The ECC further

allowed Finance Division to arrange the interest payable for GoB's share amounting to US\$ 8,519,314 /- from the loan of Rs. 65 billion already raised by the GHPL with the GoP guarantee. Further, the ECC allowed the concerned Divisions of GoP and the SOEs to act in such a manner to ensure that the deposited amount alongwith interest deposited by the SOEs in the escrow account to form part of the consideration for share purchase of Reko Diq Mining Company Limited.

The ECC also considered and approved a proposal of Finance Division through a summary on funding plan of Government of Pakistan for

Ethiopia, Pakistan discuss counter terrorism cooperation

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ethiopia and Pakistan have discussed various ways to develop bilateral cooperation in diverse sectors including security and counter terrorism.

The bilateral cooperation on counter terrorism and security came under discussion here during a meeting between Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Beker Abdula and State Minister for Interior Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju.

Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula eulogized the efforts of Pakistan against terrorism and said his country would look forward to learning from Pakistan's experiences in counter terrorism.

He suggested to develop a framework between the two

countries on counter terrorism. "Our military's technology and determination against the terrorism is very high, but we still want cooperation in this sector," he added.

The ambassador said Pakistan and Ethiopia needed to work together closely as there were a lot of challenges in the 21st century.

He said there was a dire need to create a platform to promote south-south cooperation for betterment, progress and prosperity of our people. "It is the only option we have in this 21st century and we have seen what happened to Pakistan in the wake of climate change that triggered flash floods in the recent past," Jemal Beker maintained.

The ambassador said he had visited the flood affected camps in Sindh after the flash floods to share their pain



and grief. "Pakistan will not be left alone in this climate fiasco as my government is ready to share its experiences in averting the impacts of climate change."

He said Prime Minister of Ethiopia Dr. Abiy Ali Ahmed launched a green legacy programme which brought green revolution in his country. "We have planted 25 billion seed-

lings in the last four years to address the climate related issues," he added.

Ambassador Jemal Beker said both the countries shared similarities in many ways and heirs of the ancient civilizations. Ethiopia had a federal system like that of Pakistan and held elections after regular intervals, he added.

He said he was amazed by

political dynamism of Pakistan where democracy has been flourishing gradually. "There are a lot of areas where both the countries are needed to strengthen close cooperation such as economy, security, technology transfer and others."

On the other hand, Abdul Rehman Khan Kanju, State Minister for Interior appreciated all rounded recent achievement of Ethiopia under the leadership of Abiy Ahmed, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia that increase the diplomatic and political leverage of Ethiopia across the globe. The minister assured the ambassador all-out support in this regard and said the Interior Ministry and the nation of Pakistan would be delighted to extend all-out assistance to Ethiopia on counter terrorism.

Rana Sanaullah concerned over cross-border firing from Afghanistan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday expressed concern over the cross-border attack by Afghan Border Forces (AFB) onto the civilian population in Chaman, Balochistan that resulted in the martyrdom of six civilians and injured 17 others.

While condemning the attack, the minister requested the Balochistan government to support the affected. Earlier, six civilians were martyred due to unprovoked and indiscriminate fire of heavy weapons by Afghan Border Forces onto the civilian population in Chaman, Balochistan, the military's media wing said on Sunday.

According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the firing by Afghan forces on the civilian population in Chaman included heavy weapons including artillery and mortars.

It said that the firing caused the martyrdom of six civilians while 17 other individuals sustained injuries. "Pakistani border troops have given befitting albeit measured response against the uncalled for aggression, but avoided targeting innocent civilians in the area," it added.



Pakistan has also approached the Afghan authorities in Kabul to highlight severity of the situation and demanded strict action to obviate any such recurrence of the incident in future, it further said.

The Chaman border - also known as Friendship Gate - connects Balochistan province to Afghanistan's Kandahar.

It was closed last month after an armed Afghan reportedly crossed onto Pakistan's side of the border and opened fire on security troops, martyring a soldier and injuring another two.

The Taliban-led government in Afghanistan termed the event 'sad' and reportedly assigned a high-level delegation to probe the incident and find the perpetrator.

Federal Minister Sajid Turi applauds Qatar for hosting FIFA World Cup



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi has appreciated the State of Qatar for hosting FIFA World Cup and thanked for providing employment opportunities for Pakistani people.

In his tweets, Sajid Hussain Turi has praised Qatar for its incredible security and other arrangements. He tweeted "Profound gratitude and appreciation for Qatar for hosting FIFA World Cup and making incredible security and other arrangements for visitors." In another tweet while

highlighting the importance of such activities, Federal Minister said "Such events not only engage the world in healthy activities but also create employment opportunities for thousands of workers of poor countries.

Events like FIFA promote peace, unite nations, and bring cultural diversity under one umbrella.

Minister also thanked the State of Qatar for the empowerment opportunities it provided for the people of Pakistan for FIFA World Cup. "As Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development, I am thankful to Qatar for giving jobs to our people on this occasion."

It should be noted that Pakistan exported thousands of workers to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development is trying to enhance the Pakistani manpower export to Qatar. The minister retaliates that he is engaged in negotiations with the relevant authorities in Qatar to make the immigration process easier and faster.

PMLN to hold workers' conventions country wide



News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) President Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday decided to initiate party's workers' conventions across the country.

PM Shehbaz had released the schedule of conventions from December 11 to 17 and had also given directions to the provincial party office

holders.

According to the schedule, PMLN will hold conventions in Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Shergarh and Mardan today (Sunday). On Dec 13 and 14, the conventions will take place in Islamabad and Lahore respectively.

Furthermore, the workers' conventions will be held in Sheikhpura, Kasur and Faisalabad on Dec 15, 16, and 17 respectively.

Developed countries responsible for climate change, says Murad

News Desk

KARACHI: Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah said on Sunday Pakistan faced severe floods this year, which was a human tragedy and developed countries are responsible for it.

The CM further said "We have been discussing climate change for 30 years and now is the time to face consequences has come in the form of tragic floods in Pakistan, developed countries of the world are responsible for this. UN Secretary General visited Mohenjo-Daro himself to see the disasters of water."

SEZs significant for shaping Pakistan's new industrial identity: Chairman SEZA

BELJING: Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are significant for shaping Pakistan's new industrial identity, under which Pakistan is supposed to stand side by side with Chinese companies to embark on contemporary economic projects, said S.M. Naveed, Chairman, Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), Punjab.

In an interview with China Economist Net (CEN), he said that nine SEZs under CPEC would be a lifetime opportunity for Pakistani companies to collaborate with Chinese companies for the development of export-oriented manufacturing sectors. It will

also enable firms to cluster and tap the benefits of external economies, and will thus provide an opportunity to put domestic industries on a higher learning curve.

The chairman believes that SEZs under CPEC has the potential to enhance productivity, integrate Pakistan with global value chains and revive its manufacturing industry in the long run.

"The development of SEZs must be aimed at improving the overall business climate in the country. This can be done through improved infrastructure and trade facilitation to attract investment from foreign and domestic firms in

the zones."

He further mentioned, "it is also important to note that Pakistan has a weak legal regime, which is also a major hurdle to attract foreign investment in the country. In this regard, Pakistan can learn from China to strengthen its security legislation."

Over the past few decades, China has experienced the largest economic expansion of any country in history, largely as a result of its efforts to launch and develop SEZs.

"China has made an incredible triumph in establishing SEZs to achieve remarkable economic growth. It is worth mentioning that China

employed 30 million workforces in SEZs that have brought down inequalities and alleviated poverty," underscored S.M. Naveed.

China's SEZs have grown rapidly in cultural, economic, and trade terms. The products from the SEZs are mainly sold to foreign countries. By improving and promoting their economic conditions and preferential policies, they attract foreign investment to set up factories in China to produce those products.

S.M. Naveed said that Pakistan should focus on cluster-based industrialization, which is a key factor in China's progress. APP

APICTA promotes Pakistan's image and culture among Asia-Pacific Economies

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: APICTA and P@SHA's teams came together for an exclusive press conference prior to the final award ceremony for APICTA 2022. Asia Pacific Information Communication Technology Alliance (APICTA) held its APICTA Awards in the lush green foothills of Islamabad. Pakistan had won the bid in early 2022 to host the APICTA and the teams had been at work since then. As the host, Pakistan's IT industry (P@SHA) welcomed delegates and judges from 16 economies who brought a whole new perspective to collaboration, business activity and creativity in the strengthening IT Industry of the Asia Pacific region.

Chairman APICTA, Stan Singh, repeatedly highlighted the fact that he sees a lot of potential in Pakistan as a country and in its IT industry, and that he is ever so proud for casting his vote in favour of Pakistan to host APICTA 2022. "When I compare Pakistan's IT ecosystem with that of the other more developed ones, I can comfortably say that you are on the right path. I have found the start-up eco-system to be impressive and the talent pool limitless. Keep working the way you are for



reaching any landmark that you wish to. If you were to ask me to mark Pakistan on a checklist of 1-10, I would say that Pakistan gets 10 on 10."

Vice Chairman APICTA, Fulvio Insera spoke on the need for a long-term policy framework for digital eco-system that is above any political change to ensure continuous success for Pakistan's IT industry. "Investors need to see the stability and ROI and that is only possible when uncertainty is done away with. Progressive policies

need to be cast in stone for industry's steady and long-term development."

Chief Judge APICTA 2022, Professor Dr. Shoab A. Khan, stated, "I am proud of all Pakistani teams to have stood shoulder to shoulder with their foreign counterparts. My friends and colleagues who were assigned the responsibility of judging witnessed a well-fought-out competition and faced a tough challenge in shortlisting only a few as winners. I feel that all have won and most of all it is a great win for

Pakistan." He elaborated on the strict parameters that were set for all judges regarding punctuality and conformity to given paradigms. With no room for non-compliance, a zero-tolerance policy was followed.

Newly elected Chairman P@SHA, Zohaib Khan, was grateful to the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication for their immense support and continuous partnership in enabling all teams to ensure the execution as planned. He thanked all the sponsors, facilitators, PSEB, and especially the 16 visiting economies for making APICTA 2022 Pakistan such a major success. "I am especially grateful to the Asia Pacific economies that made Pakistan their destination for APICTA 2022"

Badar Khushnood, Convener and EXCO APICTA and former Chairman P@SHA, declared it to be a dream come true for him and his team. "I want all the visiting foreign teams going back home to carry positive beautiful Pakistan in their hearts; I would also like to see their continuous collaboration and engagement with the talent, start-ups and businesses in Pakistan. Through APICTA, I look forward to Pakistan's potential getting empowered for a global role."

Asad Qaiser inaugurates Government Girls Degree College Topi



Correspondent

SWABI: Former National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser inaugurated Government Girls Degree College Topi. While addressing inauguration ceremony he said that providing and promoting women education is his top priority. He said that Women University Swabi is one of the important project of incumbent provincial government which is promoting women education in Swabi.

He further said that country is facing economic and political turmoil and only way to get out of this situation is earlier general election. He said that Chairman PTI Imran Khan narrative of "Sovereign Pakistan" has got support of masses. He said that Pakistan Tahreek-e-Insaf will clean weep upcoming general election.

He said that construction of education institutions, sports grounds and uplifting highway roads of Swabi will be his top priority in future. He said that billions of development projects are in progress in Swabi. Members of provincial Assembly Kpk Rangeez Khan, Aqibullah Khan, Tehsil Swabi Mayor Athaullah Khan and District Swabi PTI President Muhammad Sohail Yousafzai also address the inauguration ceremony.

NUMS follows zero tolerance towards sexual harassment

News Desk

RAWALPINDI: National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) is committed to enforce zero tolerance towards sexual harassment for ensuring a dignified learning and enabling environment both for its students and employees, said Focal Person on anti-sexual harassment of the university here Sunday.

Dr Erum Monis was giving a talk on "Laws and Policies about Sexual Harassment" at NUMS PWD Campus which was organized by Department of Psychology. Dilating upon the subject she explained the laws governing sexual harassment to create awareness and said that the university had well-defined policy and would never show any leniency in this regard.

NUMS gives familiarization sessions on sexual harassment laws to all its new batches of students getting admission in different departments, to put at rest whatever concerns they may have in this regard, so that they can concentrate on their studies in a peaceful environment, she added.

Prof. Dr. Shazia Khalid, Head of the NUMS Psychology Department, sharing her observations on psychological impact of sexual harassment said "People have a common perception that sexual harassment is usually fabricated by the victim and it does not exist in our society. The invasion of personal space is never a pleasant experience especially for young girls and boys to whom such experiences are extremely traumatic and have a long-term impact on their emotional and psychological wellbeing."

"The victims develop a negative worldview and have a pervasive trouble in functioning socially. Therefore, there is a dire need for awareness on anti-sexual harassment laws and policies and we should equip our youngsters to ward off such advances and build confidence in them to reach out to appropriate forums," added Dr Shazia.

Dr Erum also mentioned that NUMS has taken significant steps of adopting HEC's "Policy on Protection Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace", which is in line with the "Protection of Women at Workplace 2010", and its amendment announced in 2022.



Mr. Azim Qureshi M.D, Legend Hotels are distributing the certificates to the cooking team.

1st Convocation

LAHORE: Students throwing their caps in the air during 1st Convocation 2022 of Shaikh Khalifa Zayed Al-Nahyan Medical and Dental College in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

President AJK thanks OIC for its consistent support to Kashmiris'

Spokesman report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has thanked the OIC member countries particularly the OIC secretary general for his consistent support to Kashmiris' just struggle for right to self-determination. "The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has helped the Kashmiri people at every stage and we are deeply grateful to the Secretary General Hussain Ibrahim Taha for visiting Muzaffarabad and reaffirming his unwavering support to Kashmir cause", the president said this while talking to media persons here on Sunday.

"Kashmir is not a border dispute but it is all about the right of self-determination of millions of Kashmiris settled on both sides of the ceasefire line", Barrister Chaudhary said. Welcoming the OIC delegation, the president said that the OIC delegate's visit to Azad Kashmir would boost the morale of the Kashmiris living on both sides of the LoC. "I would like to express my special thanks to Hussain Ibrahim Taha, for visiting Muzaffarabad", he added. Referring to the worsening political and human rights situation in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the president urged the international community to play its much-needed role stop bloodshed and violence in the Indian Occupied Kashmir.

It is high time that the world community should come forward in a big way and pressurize the Indian government to fulfil its commitments regarding holding of a plebiscite so that Kashmiris can determine their political future. Speaking on the occasion, the OIC secretary general while reiterating his all-out support to Kashmiris just cause said that he has had many meetings with Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and "I assure you that we stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Kashmir in their struggle". While interacting with Kashmiri leaders during a meeting which was held at the presidency, the OIC chief Hussain Ibrahim Taha, said that seeking a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue was the first priority of the OIC.

"We want to open a 'channel of discussion' between all stakeholders on the Kashmir issue so that this issue can be resolved through diplomacy",



Taha said adding that the voice of Kashmiris would be conveyed to the Islamic world and the international community will also be taken on board in this regard. "Kashmir is a part of the OIC and it is our responsibility to resolve the Kashmir issue peacefully and according to the wishes of Kashmiris", he added. The Secretary General of the OIC said, "Today we have had the opportunity to visit the LoC and talk to the victims of the Indian aggression".

He said that the world needs to be told more about the human rights violations taking place in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Replying to a question, the Secretary General said, "Being the representative of Islamic countries, it is our responsibility to highlight the Kashmir issue and solve it. We will solve this problem together with friendly countries to ensure durable

peace in the region".

Earlier, the OIC secretary general held a detailed meeting with President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at the President's House. Besides AJK premier Sadar Tanvir Ilyas Khan, Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar-ul-Zaman Kaira, Ambassador Saleh Hamad Al-Subhani Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Shaheen Abdullah Abdullawi Azerbaijan, Ambassador Muhant Mutinkar Turkey, Ambassador Oscar, Mr. Mansoor, Hamal Imani, Muhammad Atif, Waqas Latif, Minister of Azad Kashmir SDMA Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Chief Secretary of Azad Jammu and Kashmir State Muhammad Usman Chacha and others were also present.

Secretary General of OIC visited the LoC

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZAFFARABAD: The Secretary General of OIC Hussain Ibrahim Taha said that today we have visited the LoC and have also met the victims of the Indian Army's aggression there in order to review the situation and take steps towards solving this problem.

He said that the world needs to be told more about human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir. Answering a question, the Secretary General said that being the representative of Islamic countries, it is our responsibility to highlight the Kashmir issue and solve it. We will solve this problem together with friendly countries so that peace and order can be established in the region. He said that we have asked all the member countries to take a better decision for a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem and instead of talking Believe in action.

These views were expressed by the OIC Secretary General while talking to the media after meeting the President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry and the Prime Minister of the Independent State of Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan at the President's House in Muzaffarabad.

On this occasion, Federal Adviser on Kashmir Affairs Qamar-ul-Zam-

an Kaira, Ambassador Saleh Hamad Al-Subhani Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Shaheen Abdullah Abdullawi Azerbaijan, Ambassador Muhant Mutinkar Turkey, Ambassador Dai Ali Nigeria, Ambassador Suf Al-Dubdawi, Ambassador Ahmed Sarir, Ambassador Oscar, Mr. Mansoor, Hamal Imani, Muhammad Atif, Waqas Latif, Minister of Azad Kashmir SDMA Chaudhry Muhammad Akbar Ibrahim, Chief Secretary of Azad Jammu and Kashmir State Muhammad Usman Chacha and others officials were present in press conference.

The Secretary General of OIC said that today we have visited the LoC and have also met the victims of the Indian Army's aggression there in order to review the situation and take steps towards solving this problem. He said that the world needs to be told more about human rights violations in Occupied Kashmir. Answering a question, the Secretary General said that being the representative of Islamic countries, it is our responsibility to highlight the Kashmir issue and solve it. We will solve this problem together with friendly countries so that peace and order can be established in the region. He said that we have asked all the member countries to take a better decision for a lasting solution to the Kashmir problem and instead of talking Believe in action.

Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:33 am
Zohr 12:01 pm
Asr 3:22 pm
Maghrib 5:00 pm
Isha 6:29 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

IRSA releases 77,600 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Sunday released 77,600 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 42,900 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1498.45 feet and was 100.445 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 20,800 cusecs while outflow as 42,000 cusecs.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1127.50 feet, which was 77.50 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded at 8,500 cusecs and 22,000 cusecs, respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa, Guddu and Sukkur was recorded at 44,200, 40,700, 33,500 and 13,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 8,500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 2,000 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala.

Women Move Mountains.

International Mountain Day Celebrated

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) held Eco Hike at the eve of International Mountain Day at Margallah Hills on Traile-5. The students from different educational institutions participated in this Hike.

The participants were briefed about the importance of mountains. Mr. Abu Zafar Sadiq, President, ACP highlighted the importance of environment care in mountain regions of Pakistan for empowering the women of remote regions of mountain areas of Pakistan as their livelihoods are Dependent upon Mountains.

Stressing the importance of mountain sports tourism, he allured youth of the country to engage themselves in outdoor healthy pursuits especially in mountain areas of Pakistan. The President, ACP said that activities to celebrate International Mountain Day shall continue throughout the At the occasion, Karrar Haidri, Secretary ACP,



Mr. Ayaz Shigri, Vice President, Rana Mukhtar, Manager, PTDC, Dr. Ikram Ch., Director, Punjab College of Commerce and Mian Ather Jameel from Riphah Institute of Hospitality and Culinary Arts also addressed the participants.

They all stressed the importance of mountains and engagement of youth for sustainable mountain sports tourism. The participating institutions were presented shields and all the participants were given certificates at the end of the hike.

Remember that 'International Mountain Day Celebrated Today on 11 November. International Mountain Day was celebrated today to increase public awareness of the value of mountains to both life and climate. The United Nations General Assembly established an international mountain day to recognize the importance of mountains. Every year, this day is observed with a specific theme and the theme of this year is 'Women Move Mountains'. Women play a key role in mountains' environmental protection and social and economic development. 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.

Lantern(Lalteen)

ISLAMABAD: Girls look at a traditional lamp Lantern on a stall during Crafts Festival at a local hotel in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Floods: Polio Workers to Get Rs250 Million

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Health Ministry on Sunday decided to distribute Rs250 million among the flood-affected polio workers across the country.



Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel said that the workers continued relief activities despite the damage caused by the calamity.

Around 33 million people got affected and polio workers also suffered heavy losses during the catastrophe with one-third of the country under water, Qadir Patel added.

Abdul Qadir Patel said that according to the polio program, about 12,500 polio workers have been affected by the floods.

"In this testing time, we cannot leave our workers alone and we should ensure maximum compensation to polio workers," the health minister said.

Read more: Type 1 poliovirus detected in environmental samples Mr. Patel said that majority of the polio workers are in Sindh and Balochistan, many of their houses were either washed away in the floods or partially damaged.

Type-1 wild poliovirus has been detected in environmental samples, the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) confirmed.

According to the details, the positive samples were collected from Dera Ismail Khan (DI Khan) on November 19 and Lahore on November 17.

WAPDA issues water position in rivers, barrages, dams

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Water & Power Development Authority (WAPDA) issued the position of river inflows and outflows at Tarbela, Mangla and Chashma along with the reservoirs levels and the barrages on Sunday Morning.

According to a spokesperson of the authority inflows and outflows

in the Indus River at Tarbela were 20800 cusecs and 42000 cusecs while in Kabul River at Nowshera, the inflows and outflows was 8500 cusecs and 8500 cusecs while at Khairabad Bridge, inflows and outflows in Kabul River was 16800 cusecs and 16800 respectively.

Similarly, Inflows and outflows in Jhelum River at Mangla was

8500 cusecs and 22000 cusecs while inflows and outflows in Chenab at Marala was 5100 cusec and 2000 cusecs.

In Jinnah Barrage inflows and outflows was 52200 cusecs and 47200 cusecs, Chashma (inflows 55200 cusecs and outflows 47000 cusecs), Taunsa (inflows 45400 cusecs and outflows 40700 cusecs), Guddu (inflows 39500

cusecs and outflows 33500 cusecs), Sukkur (inflows 31700 cusecs and outflows 13800 cusecs), Kotri (inflows 16600 cusecs and outflows 5400 cusecs), Trimmu (inflows 5800 cusecs and outflow Nil cusecs) while inflows and outflows in Panjnad 4400 cusecs and Nil cusecs.

Meanwhile, Tarbela Dam was operating at 1498.45 feet against

the maximum conservation level of 1550 feet and minimum operating level 1398 feet. Live storage was 3.121 million acre feet (MAF).

Mangla: Minimum operating level 1050 feet, present level 1127.50 feet, maximum conservation level 1242 feet, live storage today 0.997 MAF.

Chashma: Minimum operating level 638.15 feet, present level

641.40 feet, maximum conservation level 649 feet, live storage today 0.047 MAF.

The inflows and outflows of River Indus at Tarbela, Jinnah and Chashma, River Kabul at Nowshera and River Jhelum at Mangla have been reflected as mean flows of 24 hours, whereas the other flows have been gauged at 6.00 a.m.

Super Cop: From Myth to Reality

Dr. Akbar uplifts the performance bar with his character & hard work

AmjadMehmood

ISLAMABAD: The dynamics of the capital city are rapidly changing with an ever-growing population that demands effective policing to maintain a law and order situation. Since 2014 with the start of sit-ins and road-blocking culture from various political parties in Islamabad, the role of the Islamabad Capital Police has increased manifolds. These challenging situations directly hit the life of common men in their businesses, education, commuting, and other routine affairs of daily life. The city once popular for its beauty and peaceful life has turned into a land of agitation and uncertainty. In such situations, the ICT Police has a very crucial role in maintaining law and order situations for a smooth and safe life.

The performance and character of the police department in Pakistan have remained compromised due to a non-transparent selection process and political interference. Additionally, the other powerful departments with unlimited privileges have deprived the police department of many basic rights, credits, and modern equipment in the fear of performance. Unfortunately, services for the elites and powerful are part of the culture within police departments across Pakistan that guarantee them rewards at the cost of core responsibility.

Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, IG Islamabad Police

Amid the political turmoil, the Govt has appointed Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan as Inspector General (IG) of the Islamabad Capital Police in May 2022. Dr. Akbar is a highly qualified, trained,

and experienced officer who has served in many key positions prior to this appointment. He possesses vast and diverse experience in command and is passionate about start-ups, reforms, and institution-building. He remained part of formalizing the national policies of Pakistan in the security domain. He is credited as a pioneer to develop Punjab Safe Cities Authority in Punjab in 2015. Earlier in his career, he also contributed to the reforming process of the National Counter Terrorism Authority of Pakistan. He is among the few police officers in Pakistan who have contributed to the literature by writing books. His interests in sports, film-making, poetry, and music indicate his pleasing personality contrary to the general perception associated with policemen.

Dr. Akbar qualified for his Doctorate of Business Administration (DBA) in Business Administration & Law (2016-20) from the University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom. He passed a Master of Public Administration in International & Global Affairs (2009-11) from Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, USA as a Fulbright scholar. He completed LLM in Public International Law (2006-7) from the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London as a Chevening Scholar. He passed a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Civil Engineering (1990-95) from the University of Engineering & Technology Lahore. During his stay in the UET, he actively participated as Vice President of the Dramatic Club and a Member of the Literary Society. Earlier between 1990-1992, he did a Bachelor of Arts degree



in Journalism from the Islamia University Bahawalpur. During 2012-13, he published various articles which show his intellectual capacity and keen interest in doing research.

He has also contributed academic papers and articles on a variety of topics including the US policy of Target Killings by Drone Attacks in Pakistan, War Crimes in Afghanistan, Legality of Drone Attacks in Pakistan, Preventive Strategy of Suicide Attacks in Pakistan, Making Elections Egalitarian and Lawful, Roadmap for Fair FATA Elections, Fear Free Elections are Fair Elections. These articles are very informative and useful for researchers and young police officers to seek guidance in their literary work and careers.

Starting his policing career as ASP under training in September 1999 from the Civil Services Academy of Pakistan, Lahore he has been appointed to various key positions including Assistant Superintendent of Police,

Peshawar (2001-2), District Police Officer of Kohistan, Chitral, Dera Ismael Khan, Nanakana Sahib and Mianwali Districts between 2005 to 2009, National Governance Adviser (UNDP) 2011, National Training Consultant, UNODC Pakistan 2012-13, Director General NACTA Pakistan 2014-15, COO, Punjab Safe Cities Authority / Deputy Inspector General of Police, Lahore 2015-20, DIG Telecommunications & Transport Punjab Police 2020, Director General (Monitoring, Evaluation & Capacity Building), National Counter Terrorism Authority 2021-22. He has also been awarded with the Quaid-E-Azam Police Medal, a gallantry award for the police officer in August 2013 for his excellent services. In May 2022, the federal government engaged Dr. Akbar's services to lead the capital police considering his vast experience and capacity to lead the force in much-needed time.

After the successful move of a "vote of no confidence" in April 2022 against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government, Islamabad has turned into a place of distress. PTI's calls for holding rallies, protests, and sit-ins in Islamabad fueled this trauma to the next level when inhabitants of the city including commuters, patients, students, employees, and businessmen were equally stressed. In these challenging moments, ICT Police has maintained active contact with the citizens through their social media accounts by posting updated information at every short interval. They have defused the rumors and also countered the spread of fake news on social media. They not only maintained the flow of traffic to keep life active in the city but also kept updated road situations for travelers to avoid undue delays and hurdles. This active liaison with the public through social media is added value to Islamabad police under the leadership of Dr. Akbar. People are used to tagging the ICT police on social media for various illegal happenings around and the department is responding as well. The crime rate has registered an upward trend in Islamabad including snatching and robberies. This is a challenge for the police to control law and order situations and to curtail the crime rate with effective policing.

The head of an institution has a vital role in the delivery of performance and Dr. Akbar Nasir personally monitors every happening in the capital city and maintains a zero-tolerance policy for departmental negligence. He has marked his role without giving an impression of political

tilt which is usually a rare element in the police department. He has expertise in establishing safe city projects and the performance of safe city cameras in Islamabad is gradually improving. A full-scale E-Challan system for traffic violators is a coming-up feature in Islamabad which may further improve traffic situations on roads. The performance of the police officers and staff in various police stations and the elimination of corruption from the department are real challenges for him as years-long dirt cannot be laundered overnight. The police force's attitude towards the public is very important and this needs significant improvement. He is also required to educate the police staff about civilized policing norms. He is well conversant with the use of modern technologies in the investigation process to catch the culprits in a short span therefore, he needs to equip the force with modern gadgets.

The appreciating aspects which Dr. Akbar has introduced in Islamabad police are recognition of services and care for the martyred families; this would not only boost the morale of the police force but also their energy to face every situation without any fear. With the concurrent efforts of Dr. Akbar, the launch of a dedicated hospital for ICT police is a very good welfare project. This project can be further extended with the establishment of a modern forensic laboratory in the capital city. The composition of intellectual capacity, experience, and commitment has made Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan a 'super cop' in reality and he is a good role model for the young officers in the force.

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

Rising population put capital's health facilities under extreme pressure

Yawar Abbas

With the federal capital's population growing three times during last 15 years, health facilities in Islamabad are falling short to fulfill medical needs of the ailing people especially the poor as rising population influx continues to aggravate the challenge.

Seeing the present infrastructure of health facilities within Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), the few facilities built years back were quite insufficient for over two million people (2017 census) with population density per kilometer rising every passing day.

Besides providing medical facilities to capital resident, the existing few hospitals also cater to the needs of patients arriving from Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and adjacent rural areas falling within the Punjab province jurisdiction.

According to 2017 census, the population of ICT was recorded to be 2,006,572 residing in an area of 906 square kilometers. The population density of the area is around 2,214 per sq kilometer with the ICT having the highest average growth rate of 4.91 as compared to other parts of the country.

The population in rural area was recorded to be 991,747 with an inter-censal rate of 6.95, while the population in the urban areas was 1,014,825 with a growth rate of 3.48. It is expected that

soon the population in rural areas will exceed the urban areas with poor quality healthcare services while the high growth rate in Islamabad is mainly as a result of in-migration.

"Provision of health services, especially in rural areas were not scaled during last two decades, resulting in growth of quackery, unnecessary burden of providing primary healthcare by tertiary hospitals and dissatisfaction of citizens on quality of services," complained a medical practitioner Dr. Mazhar Naeem.

"Islamabad has emerged as the tenth largest district of Pakistan population-wise, with the highest growth rate in the country, mainly as a result of in-migration, almost one million living in rural areas," he said.

Although he mentioned to a comparatively better situation at public sector hospitals in the capital as compared to other areas of the country yet there are disparities and challenges that need to be addressed in view of continued population influx and ever rising need of quality and specialized treatment of diseases.

The existing hospitals also need immediate restoration with extended facilities and state-of-the-art health services not only for locals but also referral specialized services for people patients pouring in from far-flung areas of Gilgit Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir and parts of Punjab.

"We have seen rampant growth of quacks busy in illegal medical practice owing to insufficient healthcare facilities in the capital. They are taking advan-

tage of the limited number of public sector hospitals and increasing number of patients," remarked a citizen, Saleem Khalid.

Demanding action against illegal practitioners, he said, the capital's public sector healthcare system should set some good examples for other cities in terms of providing better health facilities. "There is dire need of extended healthcare to facilitate poor patients as affluent can easily afford treatment at private hospitals."

Official statistics show 19 health facilities presently functional in rural areas including three RHCs, 15 BHUs and one dispensary under the control of ICT health department. There are three major hospitals (PIMS, Polyclinic and CDA hospital) functioning under the health department and Capital Development Authority besides 64 dispensaries and health centers. Moreover, setting up Islamabad General Hospital under the health department, with the financial assistance of the Saudi government has been approved.

"A plan has been devised to establish 13 more primary health centers within the ICT jurisdiction to cater healthcare needs of growing population and ease pressure on tertiary hospitals," said an official at Islamabad District Health Office (DHO).

"We have also sent a summary to Health Ministry seeking appointment of 358 medical officers for these health facilities to be set up mostly in far-flung and rural areas of the ICT," he stated.

As the issue needs immediate atten-

tion of the authorities, Spokesperson of Ministry of National Health Services, Sajid Shah said sufficient allocation has been made under the Public Sector Development Program (PSDP) to ensure better health facilities for the capital residents.

"The government has allocated Rs 250 million for establishment of a Cancer Hospital in Islamabad and Rs 100 million for Community Health Centre (CHC) at Bokra. An amount of Rs 170.318 has also been allocated for strengthening Mother and Child Health Services at Bhara Kahu," he informed.

He also mentioned to an allocation of Rs 250 million for extension of intensive care department of Mother and Child Health Center and Children Hospital and Rs 495 million for up-gradation of Neurosurgery Department and provision of essential equipment in PIMS hospital Islamabad.

He said the government has also allocated Rs 73.675 million for installation of machinery and other equipment in newly established OPD block of Federal General Hospital besides Rs 96.640 million for strengthening and upgradation of Diabetes and Endocrinology Department at Polyclinic hospital.

As mushroom growth of housing societies in Capital's vicinity and mass influx of people has emerged as a serious challenge for the capital administration and Ministry of Health Services, therefore they will have to evolve comprehensive strategy to ensure better healthcare for capital residents.

OIC Secretary General visits LoC

The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Hissein Brahim Taha has said that Kashmir was on the top priority of the OIC's agenda and he will submit a comprehensive assessment report on the human rights situation in Kashmir to member countries.

He made these remarks during a joint presser with Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President here on Sunday at Presidency after meeting with the AJK President and Prime Minister and a brief visit to the Line of Control (LOC) and refugee camps.

He said he was visiting AJK under the resolutions passed by the OIC contact group on Kashmir to assess the situation and will submit a comprehensive report to the group and Foreign Minister's Council of the member countries and would like to seek permission from India to visit the other side of the LOC.

He said the second purpose of his visit was to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir who had been suffering for long time and assured them that OIC being a Muslim community was making constant efforts to find a solution to their issue in consultation with the world community.

He said during his day-long visit to AJK, he met with people affected by Indian firing across LOC and refugees migrated from the Indian side of Kashmir due to atrocities to assess their problems and sufferings as to made part of his assessment report.

Replying to a question, Hissein Brahim Taha said being Secretary-General of the Organisation, his duty was to take this issue with all the stakeholders, and partners and to find out a solution of this long-standing issue.

"My duty is only to inform the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFMs) about the situation and thereafter they would find or suggest further line of action but most important is to find out a solution of this long-standing issue and for this purpose, I would also contact with India as well," Taha replied to questions during the presser.

He expressed gratitude to Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry for hosting his visit.

Earlier, while welcoming secretary general, AJK President Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary said the visit of the OIC chief was a source of encouragement for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and called it "a big day" for Kashmiri people.

Recalling his meetings with secretary general, Barrister Sultan said he held three meetings earlier, first in summit conference in March last year, second at Jadda in April and thereafter in Washington and New York on the occasion of United Nations General Assembly (UNGS) meeting and found him very sympathetic towards the Kashmiri people.

Sultan said on the occasion of international human rights day, he informed the OIC chief about grass human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) adding that the secretary general had always supported the right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir.



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

Saudi Arabia hosted the first Riyadh Gulf Cooperation Council-China Summit

Lama Alhamawi

Saudi Arabia hosted the first Riyadh Gulf Cooperation Council-China Summit for Cooperation and Development on Friday.

The event was jointly chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who was in the Kingdom on a three-day state visit, and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman.

In his opening address, the crown prince said the meeting reflected a mutual desire to enhance Chinese-Gulf cooperation and would establish a historic new phase in relations.

Among the GCC leaders in attendance were King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain; Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Sharqi, the ruler of Fujairah and representative of UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan; and Sayyid Fahd bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Oman's deputy prime minister.

Xi said his country will work with the GCC over the next three to five years across five priority areas. (SPA)

The delegation also included Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the emir of Qatar; Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the crown prince of Kuwait; and Nayef Falah Mubarak Al-Hajraf, the GCC secretary-general.

Xi said China and the GCC were natural partners due to their shared values and interests.

Xi said his country will work with the GCC over the next three to five years across

five priority areas, including energy, investment, the digital economy, space, and cooperation in culture and language, with plans to teach the Chinese language in 300 schools and universities.

He said he wants to work with the Gulf to import natural gas and enhance cooperation in the fields of upstream recycling, engineering services, storage and refining of oil and gas, and to make full use of the Shanghai Petroleum and Natural Gas Exchange as a platform for oil. Xi said: "China will also enhance cooperation in the field of clean and carbon-reduced energy technologies, such as hydrogen energy, energy storage, and smart electrical networks, and enhance cooperation in consolidating the production of equipment related to new energy."

He expressed his desire to establish a Chinese-Gulf forum for the sound uses of nuclear energy, and a center of excellence for nuclear security to train 300 qualified specialists in the peaceful uses of the power source for the GCC countries.

The event was jointly chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping, who was in the Kingdom on a three-day state visit, and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman. (SPA)

Xi highlighted the potential for cooperation in space technology, giving Arab and Chinese students and specialists the chance to work together. "Chinese foreign relations are distinguished by a long history and a promising future," he said.

Other topics covered during the summit were security and stability, and the priority of

restoring international peace through mutual respect and cooperation.

Xi said: "To be partners to improve security, China will continue its unwavering support for the GCC countries in maintaining their security, and support the countries of the region to resolve differences through dialogue, consultation and building a collective security system in the Gulf."

"China welcomes the GCC countries to participate in the global security initiative in order to maintain peace and stability in the region with joint efforts, and to be partners for the advancement of civilization."

"Then we must strengthen the rapprochement among our peoples, diversify human and cultural communication, benefit from the distinguished cultural fruits on both sides, and strengthen the jewel of Eastern civilization, which provides a positive contribution to the development and progress of human civilization."

Bahrain's King Hamad expressed his gratitude to King Salman for his invitation to participate in the summit.

He said it reflected "the keenness of the GCC countries, brotherly Arab countries, and the friendly People's Republic of China to intensify cooperation and joint coordination in various fields, for the benefit and good of our countries and the whole world."

Al-Hajraf said President Xi's visit to Saudi Arabia represented an important opportunity to address issues of common interest, build on countries' relations, and enhance cooperation in energy, investment, the economy, and development.

Soaring dry fruit prices drastically plummet buyers footfall

Husna Khattak

Like many other daily use items, the dry fruit has also gone beyond the reach of common buyers for its soaring prices due to prevailing economic recession and inflation with buyers' footfall plummeting drastically.

The gorgeous recipes of winter that once used to be an essential component of most of dining tables have now become a distant dream even for the middle class, already struggling to meet its ends in an era of exemplary dearth.

Economic recession, rising inflation, dwindling source of income and the soaring cost of living coupled with lessening purchasing power had brought down the buyers' footfall to 50 percent as compared to the previous year.

Thanks to four years government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf whose economic policies not only landed the country in real trouble but also deprived common users of essential commodities.

Today, like other parts of the country, the dry fruit markets in the heart of Balochistan's provincial capital Quetta have worn a deserted look. Once packed with customers from across the country, the dry fruit traders are seen sitting idle waiting for buyers as skyrocketing prices had equally impacted the lower, middle and high classes.

"Dried fruit prices have registered a massive increase. I feel the result of faulty economic policies of the previous regime has started surfacing," said Ezatullah, a local dry fruit shopkeeper in Quetta. "The peak buying season has started but dry fruit markets in Quetta present a gloomy picture."

As part of Balochistan's unique tradition, dry fruits always remained a compulsory item on the sheets and dining tables usually set for the visiting guests. With its exorbitant prices, now dry fruit is no more an essential dining table item even for those earning handsome money.

"I have cut short the quantity of dry fruit as rising

prices had left me with no other option," said Abdul Rehman, Deputy Director at a Federal Department.

Despite that Abdul Rehman receives a sizable salary, he finds himself unable to bear the cost of dry fruits as he used to do in the past. "I have not only cut short the dry fruit items I used to purchase but the skyrocketing prices of pistachio and cashew nuts have compelled me to drop them from the list wholly."

The prevailing situation has not only impacted the small businessmen but also wholesalers and big businesses.

President Pak-Iran Chamber and All Pakistan Dry Fruit Association Haji Hamdullah also looked unhappy with the prevailing situation.

Economic downturn and declining purchasing power of consumers had put us too in real trouble. The entire business community in Balochistan is upset about price hike and less purchasing."

Haji Hamdullah has urged the government to review regulatory duty on dry fruit import to steer traders out of this slumber. "Reviewing the regulatory duty and strengthening rupee value against the US dollar will help lower the commodities prices."

The situation is also not different in other parts of the country with even the middle class now unable to purchase dry fruit for their families. And when some essential items are missing from your menu, it means people head towards food deficiency and lack of nutrients in their bodies.

If we see this situation otherwise, the economic recession is a gift of the previous government who ruined all sectors including trade and commerce.

The cosmetic measures propagated during their tenure proved to be sheer bubbles whose bursting not only dragged the country to the verge of default but also made the lives of people miserable.

The present government, despite facing multiple and serious challenges on the economic front, is struggling hard to free people from the clutches of inflation and price hike as well as generating more foreign exchange to put the country on strong economic footing.

Iran slams 'economic terrorism' at Turkmenistan summit

IRNA

TEHRAN: Deputy Iranian Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Reza Njafai has rapped countries that impose unilateral coercive measures including sanctions against other nations, saying that the measures are regarded as economic terrorism.

Najafi was addressing a United Nations-backed summit in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat on Saturday.

He said that the unilateral coercive measures weaken international peace and security, clearly violate human rights, and prevent the socio-economic development of the targeted countries.

In addition, he added, the countries that impose the coercive measures are in fact using medicines and medi-



cal equipment as a weapon against patients, which is a "shameful, illegal and inhumane" act. The Iranian official stressed that

sanctions and coercive measures are not a solution to world challenges. Instead, he added, these challenges should be resolved through dialog as well as mutual respect and cooperation based on international law.

Ashgabat hosted the first meeting of the Group of Friends of Neutrality for Peace, Security and Sustainable Development.

Proposed by Turkmenistan, the group was established at the UN in August 2020 and currently has 20 members.

It aims to "facilitate regular dialog internationally, in particular within the United Nations, on practical use of peacekeeping potential of states building their policies on the principles of neutrality," according to the website of Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry.

Pakistan participates in Beijing' as 'International Forum for Energy Transition'

Spokesman Report

BEIJING: Pakistan participated in the International Forum for Energy Transition 2022 which was held in the Chinese capital, with wide participation from across the world.

Federal Minister for Energy, Khurram Dastgir Khan represented Pakistan at the forum while the Chinese government was represented by Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng who delivered remarks at the event, according to a press release issued here.

Addressing the Forum, the federal minister spoke at length about Pakistan's vulnerabilities to climate change and enhanced focus on effective climate mitigation and adaptation.

He highlighted the government's priority of transitioning into clean energy in order to save costs and protect the environment.

Khurram Dastgir Khan briefed the audience on the 10,000 MW solar initiative by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the initial bidding for which will be opened in a few months.

Chinese Vice-Premier Han Zheng underlined the need for efforts to accelerate transition into clean and green energy and highlighted China's achievements in promoting the green and low-carbon energy transition and addressing global climate change.

Clean energy also remains to be a priority area of China-Pakistan bilateral cooperation including under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



Erdogan and Putin discuss efforts to export other goods via grain corridor

News Desk

ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke by phone with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin about starting work on exporting other food products and commodities through the Black Sea grain corridor, Erdogan's office said on Sunday.

Bilateral ties between Ankara and Moscow, as well as energy and the fight against terrorism, were also discussed in the call, according to a readout from the Turkish presidency.

British PM Sunak faces new demands from his fractious party

News Desk

LONDON: British Conservative politicians on Sunday launched two campaigns to address concerns about the direction of the party and the government, the latest challenge to new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's attempts to unite a fractured party.



The Conservative Party has already ousted two prime ministers in 2022—Boris Johnson and Liz Truss—and trails the opposition Labour party in the polls by double digits, with another national election expected in 2024.

Sunak became prime minister in October when Truss resigned after less than two months. Her chaotic tenure was fatally damaged when her fiscal plan for unfunded tax cuts lost the confidence of markets.

Sunak has reversed those plans and instead raised taxes, reassuring financial markets, but upsetting some Conservative lawmakers. "In the recent budget, the government decided to tax the British public at levels not seen since the end of the Second World War," a group of 40 Conservative lawmakers wrote to finance minister Jeremy Hunt on Sunday.

"We need to be able to reassure our constituents, who are worried about the cost of living crisis, that every penny of taxpayers money spent on their behalf provides value for money and is not wasted."

The group, which calls itself Conservative Way Forward, said it would publish a report on Monday outlining 7 billion pounds (\$8.58 billion) of "waste" that could be shed, allowing the government to cut taxes or spend more on frontline services.

Sunak's first six weeks as prime minister have been calmer than his predecessor's, but restive backbench lawmakers have already forced policy concessions on housebuilding targets and onshore wind farms.

He is also having to deal with the impact of surging energy bills, a cost-of-living crisis, and industrial action set to disrupt hospitals and transport in the run-up to Christmas.

Christmas celebration

KARACHI: Christians community hold a Christmas celebration rally at Shahrah-e-Faisal Road in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Russia ramping up production of 'most powerful' weapons: Medvedev

News Desk

MOSCOW: Russia's ex-president Dmitry Medvedev said on Sunday the country was ramping up production of new-generation weapons to protect itself from enemies in Europe, the United States and Australia.

"We are increasing production of the most powerful means of destruction. Including those based on new principles," Medvedev said on messaging app Telegram.

"Our enemy dug in not only in the

Kyiv province of our native Malorossiya," Medvedev said, using the term to describe territories of modern-day Ukraine that were part of the Russian Empire under the stars.

"It is in Europe, North America, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and a whole number of other places that pledged allegiance to the Nazi."

Medvedev, who serves as deputy head of Russia's Security Council, did not provide details of the weapons.

President Vladimir Putin repeatedly said that Russia has been developing



new types of arms including hypersonic weapons that he boasts can circumvent all existing missile defence systems.

Since Putin sent troops to Ukraine on February 24, 57-year-old Medvedev has regularly taken to social media to write increasingly bombastic posts.

With Moscow on the back foot in its offensive in pro-Western Ukraine, the military stalemate has raised fears that Russia could resort to its nuclear arsenal to achieve a military breakthrough.

On Friday, Putin said Russia could amend its military doctrine by introducing the possibility of a preemptive strike to disarm an enemy, in an apparent reference to a nuclear attack.

"A Preview of Occupied Kashmir"

International Kashmir Congress organized by LFK & ESAM

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The two-days "International Kashmir Congress", is being organized by the Legal Forum for Kashmir-LFK in collaboration with Center for Economic and Social Research (ESAM) under the title of "The Narrative of Occupation and Scope of International Law: A Preview of Occupied Kashmir", was held in a hotel in Ankara.

Experts from the UK, USA, Pakistan and Palestine and many local and foreign participants attended the sessions on the first day of the two-day congress.

Prof Richard Falk, Princeton University Professor of International Law Emeritus, spoke at the session titled "The Occupied Territories and the Scope of International Law."

There has been a long period of victimization in Kashmir and said, "This occupation is both unlawful and unjustified. It is one of the longest-lasting occupations in history," he said. Pointing out that Kashmir has been suffering for a long time, Falk said, "This occupation is both illegal and unjustified. It is one of the longest-lasting occupations in history," he added.

emerged and led to the partition of Pakistan and India. When we look at the rest of the world, Cyprus, Palestine, Ireland, some parts of Africa, we see that their lands are divided and conflicts are taking place.

These occurred after Britain withdrew its colonial, colonial administrations there.

While doing this, they did not do it by providing security, they did not make this withdrawal by ensuring the safety of the people living there. Kashmir is one of those places."

Noting that India declared that it would respect Kashmir's independence in the first period, Falk emphasized that the United Nations (UN) also supports the "right to self-government" of the Kashmiri people.

Falk underlined that the tragedy in Kashmir stems from being in the midst of geopolitical conflict tensions, noting that these tensions make it difficult for Kashmir to be liberated. Stating that international law is insufficient in the Kashmir issue and the geopolitical element causes international law to remain weak, Falk said, "The implementation of the (UN) veto means that strong countries do not have to comply with international law if they do not want to comply, because the only UN decision-making body,

he said.

Pointing out that international law cannot carry out the act of liberation alone, Falk said that political support should be generated for the execution of international law.

"An issue that should be perceived as a problem of Muslim countries" Saadet Party Chairman Temel Karamollaoğlu stated that the Islamic world has many problems and emphasized that the Kashmir and Palestine problem has exceeded 75 years and could not be resolved.

Pointing out that the pressures in Jammu Kashmir have increased a lot, Karamollaoğlu emphasized the human rights violations there.

Pointing to the importance of the Kashmir issue, Karamol-



laoglu said that the reason why no progress has been made on this issue for 75 years is that "the influential powers that rule the world do not care about oppression".

Karamollaoğlu used the following statements: "It is not possible for us to say that we have fully embraced this issue, even as Islamic countries. However, first of all, this is an issue that should be perceived as a problem of Muslim countries. There is definitely a need for conclusions on this issue. I am sure Islamic countries have put this issue at the top of their agendas. If they did, this problem would be solved."

Iran's Ambassador to Ankara Mohammad Ferazmend said that Kashmiri people have the right to self-determination.

Ferazmend argued that the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) did not fulfill its responsibilities regarding the Kashmir issue.

"The Kashmir region was not on the agenda of our conversations in the international arena" Hilal Elver, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food, spoke at the congress' first session titled "Can Settler Colonialism Be Applied to Kashmir: Learning from Palestine".

Addressing the food security situation in different conflict zones, Elver stated that he writes 4 reports to the UN every year on conflict zones and different dimensions of food security.

"The Kashmir region has never been on the agenda of our conversations in the international arena. I think this is a very

important issue." Elver emphasized that Kashmir has become an issue that comes to the fore in the international arena together with Palestine.

Elver explained that almost 80 percent of Kashmir's population makes a living from agriculture, adding that the population is increasing and agricultural lands are shrinking.

Palestinian Research Writer Abdullah Moaswes, on the other hand, stated that the concept of "settler colonialism" was a theory that was first discussed in mainstream history.

Noting that this concept has been used in academia for the last 15-20 years, but it is not a new concept, Moaswes said that settler colonialism as a practice is the basis of modern capitalism.

President, World Kashmir Awareness Forum (WKAF) Ghulam Nabi Fai Said, "Indian may have killed 100000 people in Kashmir but what India couldn't kill is the aspirations and hopes of Kashmir to wake up to the dawn of freedom."

Pen is also one of the powerful tools of the modern world. We have 2 billions pens at our disposal and reminding the world through this medium can change the destiny of Kashmir, he said.

Ghulam Muhammad Safi, former Convener, APHC said, "India after 9/11 replicated its

own version in the form of Parliament attack. It was done to justify state terrorism against defenceless & voiceless minority who were fighting Indian occupation."

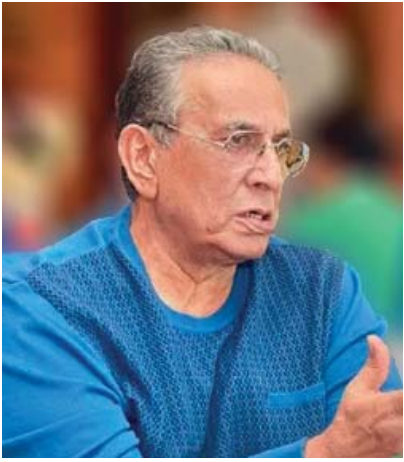
Dr. Muhammad Mushtaq, former DG Sharia Academy Pakistan while addressing the conference said "Kashmir is an issue of broken promises. Indian first prime minister Pandith Jawaharlal Nehru promised people of Kashmir that they will be given right of self-determination but still people of Kashmir are waiting and struggling for that right. Kashmir was one among the princely states of India with Muslim majority. According to the geographical factors it was more a part of Pakistan than India.

Moreover, he stated that the worst kind of atrocities are going on in Kashmir, Indian occupational forces have been given unlimited powers to suppress and oppress the fundamental rights of people. India is not only violating the international human rights laws, international standards, UN charter, Geneva convention but also, their own constitutional laws. There is a long list of fundamental rights in Indian constitution that is being violated by Indian forces n daily basis.

The "International Kashmir Congress" will continue tomorrow.

IMF's cold shoulder, Pakistan cannot survive without help of friendly countries

Spokesman Report



ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Sunday said the foreign exchange reserves have fallen further while the IMF is not ready to cooperate.

In these circumstances, it has become impossible for Pakistan to survive without more loans from friendly countries, he added.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that containers full of fruits, vegetables and other food items are piling up at the ports, which are not being cleared resulting in scarcity and price hikes.

The authorities are not clearing poultry and animal feed which is increasing the inflation in the country.

In a statement issued here today, he said that necessary raw materials and medicines are not being cleared to save dollars, while foreign companies and investors cannot repatriate their profits.

He informed that the value of the goods stopped at the port has reached about five billion dollars and it is increasing daily panicking masses and the business community.

The business leader noted that friendly countries have kept ten billion dollars in Pakistan and the country's treasury cannot afford more than one month's worth of imports.

Despite grim scenario, the options of reducing oil consumption, banning foreign travel, and closing shops in the evening are not being considered which is unfortunate.

It is possible to save three and a half billion dollars by saving electricity alone while making travel for religious purposes subject to NOC can also save two billion dollars.

Ban on traveling on foreign airlines and some restrictions on the use of private vehicles like being observed in many European countries can also cut import bills.

Mr. Butt said that Pakistan is confronting multiple, compounding crises, from Covid-19, energy, inflation, debt, and climate shocks to unaffordable living costs and political instability.

A lack of effective taxation and debt-reduction initiatives threatens to exacerbate the macroeconomic instability and daily hardships that people are facing and policies are making economic recovery even more difficult.

The indifference to the ground realities of the government will be deeply harmful to the population, especially to women.

Saudi Arabia's GDP grows 8.8% year-on-year in Q3



News Desk

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's economy grew by 8.8% in the third quarter of 2022 compared to the same period a year earlier, mainly due to a sharp increase in oil-related activity, according to official estimates released on Sunday.

Oil activities grew by 14.2% year-on-year in the third quarter, but GDP growth was also boosted by 6% growth in non-oil activities, the General Authority of Statistics data showed, though non-oil activity fell 0.5% quarter-on-quarter.

Saudi Arabia said last week it expects to post a second consecutive budget surplus in 2023, though down 84% from this year as an uncertain global economic outlook and lower crude prices look set to weigh on the top oil exporter's revenues.

The statistics authority said GDP at current prices amounted to 1.036 trillion riyals (\$275.53 billion) in the third quarter, with crude petroleum and natural gas activities contributing 35.2%. The non-oil private sector contributed 50.7% to overall GDP.

Finance minister Mohammed Al Jadaan said last week that the kingdom has revised its GDP forecast for 2022 upwards to 8.5%, from the previous 8%, attributing the adjustment "largely" to non-oil private sector activity which is forecast to grow around 6% annually over the next three to five years.

Govt. asked to focus on innovative housing solutions to bridge the gap of housing shortage

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Abdul Aleem Khan, Chairman Vision Group said that Pakistan needs innovative and creative housing solutions to bridge the gap of rising housing shortage and stressed that the government should amend building byelaws to encourage innovative constructions as current building laws were a major hurdle in vertical growth, which is the future need of the country. He said that the condition of real estate is the yardstick to judge the growth of a country as when real estate grows the country grows and when the real estate is in slump, it means that the economy is in trouble. He said this while addressing as Chief Guest at the Awards Distribution ceremony of the 1st International Housing EXPO 22 organized by Ministry of Housing & Works in collaboration with Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry at Jinnah Convention Centre, Islamabad from December 8-11, 2022, which ended on a high note.

Abdul Aleem Khan said that Dubai has achieved historic development in the last 20 years by encouraging vertical growth in construction and said that Dubai should be the role model for Pakistan. He said that Abu Dhabi, Sharja, Qatar etc. have achieved great economic growth by focusing on the construc-



tion industry and said that Pakistan needs a vision to promote the construction industry to revive its economy as this industry boosts the growth of roughly 100 allied industries. He appreciated the Ministry of Housing & Works and ICCI for organizing such a wonderful housing expo.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that many big players of the housing and construction sector are developing good housing projects and the

purpose of organizing the Expo was to provide them a good platform to market their projects. He said that the Expo has also provided the people an excellent opportunity to see the housing products of latest trends that help them in building smart and energy efficient houses. He said that the Expo has come up with very good recommendations during breakout sessions to provide shelter to all and hoped that the government would consider implementing them to provide affordable housing options to low-income people. He thanked the platinum,

diamond and gold partners and all the exhibitors for making the Expo a successful event. He also thanked the Ministry of Housing & Works for partnering with ICCI to organize the 1st International Housing Expo in these tough economic conditions.

Ifikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Works said that organizing the 1st International Housing Expo in the current difficult economic times was a great challenge and thanked ICCI for joining hands to make it a successful venture. He said that the housing and construction industry has a vital role in the development of the economy and vowed that this Expo would be made an annual feature of the Ministry.

The first exclusive award was given to Ch. Abdul Rauf, Chairman, Fair Group. From the platinum partners, the top five awards recipients included Grana.com, Gandhara City, Star World, Star Marketing, Fair Deal Marketing. From diamond partners, the top five award recipients included Taj Residencia, Movida, KK Enterprises, Property Enclave and Crescent Lake Tower. From gold partners, the top five award recipients included AMS Group, Amar Builders, Gulberg Mall, R. Power, Chawla Aluminum. The awards were given to various other categories including exhibitors and universities.

Rizq-e-Halal

PESHAWAR: A woman vendor is selling bangles alongside a road at Jinnah Park and waiting for customers in Provincial Capital.



Photo: Online

Business leader calls for improved tax mechanism

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said tax mechanism should be improved to realise the full potential of taxes without which country cannot survive anymore.

He said that tax evasion is resulting in unrest, inflation, poverty, unemployment and illiteracy in the country which should not be allowed.

Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that loans and grants can never be an alternative to economic activity which is imperative for national development.

He said that the regressive taxation regime introduced by many countries has killed economic activity keeping them dependent on loans and charity.

He added that no amount of borrowing or charity can help a country as economic activity is the only solution to the problems.

Economic activity is reducing due to multiple problems which are triggering unrest, inflation, poverty, illiteracy and child labour putting the future of the country at stake.

He said that our economic situation is unsatisfactory, inflation is highest in the region and increasing taxes are opposing economic progress.



The majority of poor nations impose high taxes to please institutions like the IMF which has reduced their chance of development.

Policies like difficult rules and regulations in the name of reforms, penalising masses to improve GDP and choosing economic depression have failed in many countries therefore we should not repeat these mistakes.

IMF has pressurised Pakistan for a market-based exchange rate which means the devaluation and depreciation of the currency which increases the landed cost of all the imported goods.

According to the seventh and eighth reviews of Pakistan's economy, the IMF stated that the exchange rate is market-based. As a result, the Pakistani rupee depreciated by 17 percent in July 2022.

IMF provides the rationale that a market-based exchange rate will act as a buffer protecting economic activity and foreign reserves.

They think that a market-based exchange rate will support competitiveness. However, this has never happened in practice. Increased fuel and power prices, increased taxation, ending subsidies, and tightening monetary policies discourage private sector investments and increase the cost of production which makes the industries non-competitive.

Moreover, devaluation increases public debt without borrowing even a single dollar i.e., one-rupee devaluation adds Rs95 billion to public debt without borrowing a single dollar.

As a result, instead of getting stabilized through these measures, the economy has not only gotten worse but also deindustrialized.

Policy makers must learn a lesson from other countries because our economy is still left with some energy which is not favoured by some influential countries, he remarked.

Iran's currency falls further against the dollar amid unrest

News Desk

CAIRO: Iran's currency fell to a record low against the dollar on Sunday, with nationwide anti-government protests now in their third month. A breakdown in negotiations to restore Tehran's nuclear deal has also hurt the value of the rial.

Traders in Tehran were exchanging the rial at around 370,000 to the dollar on Sunday, up from 368,000 on Thursday. Iran's currency was trading at 32,000 rials to the dollar at the time of the 2015 nuclear accord that dropped international sanctions in exchange for tight controls on Iran's nuclear program.

Iran has been gripped by nationwide protests since September. Demonstrations broke out following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police. She was detained by the force for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code for women. The status of the morality police remains unclear after Iran's chief prosecutor, Mohamed Jafar Montazeri, said last week that the force had "closed down."

Iranian state media has distanced itself from Montazeri's claim. Protesters have focused much of their anger on the country's heavy-handed policing and the deep-rooted power of its Islamic clergy. But the poor state of Iran's economy is also another

factor driving the protests, with soaring prices, high unemployment and corruption a common complaint among protesters.

Iran's government for months has been trying to argue that foreign nations are driving the unrest but has offered no evidence to support this claim.

So far, at least 485 people have been killed and over 18,200 others arrested in the protests and the violent security force crackdown that followed, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group monitoring the demonstrations. On Friday, Iran said it executed the first person convicted of a crime allegedly committed during the protests. At least 12 other protesters have been handed death sentences by Iranian courts since the demonstrations began, according to data recorded by HRNA.

Efforts to revive Iran's nuclear deal stalled months ago. The United States and European Union have since imposed further sanctions on Tehran for its crackdown on the demonstrators and its decision to supply Russia with hundreds of drones for its war against Ukraine.

Last week, Iran began construction on a new power plant. Last month, Iranian authorities said they had begun producing enriched uranium at 60% purity, one short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

ECC approves agenda items related to Reko Diq Project

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Sunday approved two agenda items relating to Reko Diq Project.

Federal Finance Minis-

ter Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the ECC and approved two important agenda items related to Reko Diq Project thus paving the way for the early start of the Reko Diq project, Ministry of Finance Tweeted.

Private sector urged for embracing new technologies to explore global opportunities

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis Sunday said that embracing new technologies and new forms of business was the need of the hour to grasp and explore new development opportunities to propel national economic growth besides boosting exports.

Talking to a delegation of export-

ers and importers led by Shahid Nazir, CEO Lahore Filter House, he said we must upgrade and transform traditional industries and promote industrial digitization and foreign trade as a top priority, adding that optimized measures and policy support also needed to ensure for private foreign trade enterprises to continue to gear up national economic growth.

He said hit by COVID-induced

lockdowns nationwide, many enterprises could only operate at a much lower capacity, with some even forced to close down. Quoting China he said many Chinese private enterprises have now embraced cross-border e-commerce as a means to increase competitiveness and sustain their growth momentum.

Over the past five years, foreign trade through cross-border e-com-

merce conducted by Chinese small and medium-sized private companies has increased nearly 10 times, he said adding that it is still growing at a two-digit rate annually.

It is vital for the business community of Pakistan to equip with modern technology and tools to compete in global and local markets, especially e-commerce, he said and stressed the need for taking pragmatic initi-

atives to arrange on-job training and capacity building to enhance professional technical skills of human resource, workforce to meet mounting hovering challenges.

He also called for strengthening industry-academia linkage adding that educational institutions need to be focused on the development of students' technical skills to meet the requirements of market trends.

Second Test set for thrilling fourth day with high hopes

News Desk

MULTAN: The second test match between Pakistan and England on Sunday entered into a thrilling phase as Pakistan need 157 runs to level the series while the visitors have to grab six wickets for winning the series.

England started the day at 202/5 with Harry Brook on 76 and Ben Stokes on 16, Ben Stokes got out at 41 when the total score was 256. Abrar Ahmed with an outstanding performance bowled Ollie Robinson and then Zahid Mahmood restricted England at the total of 275 by taking wickets of Mark Wood at 270, Harry Brook at 271 when he scored 108 runs and James Anderson at 275.

Pakistan changed the opening combination after bringing Muhammad Rizwan to open after Imam-ul-Haq was taken to hospital for a hamstring. The opening couple makes a partnership of 66 runs when Muhammad Rizwan was bowled by Jams Anderson after scoring 30 runs. Skipper Babar Azam was also bowled on an in-swing delivery of Ollie Robinson at 67/2. Abdullah Shafiq could not resist Mark Wood's pace and bowled after scoring 45 runs left Pakistan on 83/3.

Imam-ul-Haq put on 108 runs partnership with Saud Shakeel and repaired the damage done by the England seam-



ers.

Jack Leach brought the desired result, tempted Imam-ul-Haq into a full-blooded drive at a ball pitched in the rough took edge, flew to Joe Root at

slip who pounced it brought great relief for England and stun the biggest crowd of the match into silence.

Following the behavior of the pitch in the morning during last three days,

England was hopeful to get advantage by taking all six wickets, however, Pakistan was also committed to level the series after starting the day at 198/4, requiring another 157 to win.

TCF's 19th Annual Golf Tournament

News Desk

KARACHI: On an early Sunday morning, avid golfers of the city gathered at Karachi Golf Club to support education for less privileged children at TCF's 19th Annual Golf Tournament. The tournament was hosted by The Citizens Foundation (TCF) – a leading non-profit organisation that builds and operates schools in the urban slums and rural areas of Pakistan – to raise funds and bring flood-affected children back to school in the midst of the flood crisis.

The TCF Golf Tournament, now in its 19th year, followed a Texas Scramble format and was attended by more than 140 golfers who formed a total of 36 teams. Among the participating teams, Dubai Islamic Team-1 emerged as the title winner, whereas Dubai Islamic Team-2 secured the runners-up title. During the presentation ceremony,



prizes were awarded to the winners and runners-up.

Mr Atif Bajwa, the President and the CEO of Bank Alfalah, attended the tournament as the chief guest and distributed prizes during the presentation ceremony. As he addressed the audience, he voiced his support for the cause of education and stated "Bank Alfalah is looking forward to work with renowned charities such as the TCF to rebuild the lives of flood-impacted children for a successful way forward. In a disaster of unprecedented proportions, it only makes sense that all of us come together;

people and entities to provide continuous support to those affected. Through our collective efforts to contribute to education, numerous impacted children will return to school, resume their learning journey and fulfilling their potential for a prosperous life ahead."

After taking the stage, the Director and Co-founder of TCF, Mr Mushtaq Chhapra, said, "Every year, we are able to make a significant difference in the lives of the less privileged thanks to the generosity of the golfing community and the sponsors of this annual event. Because of our combined efforts to

support education, thousands of flood-affected children will be able to return to school and pursue the path toward a better future."

The categories in the competition were winner, runner-up, nearest to pin and hole in one. The main sponsors of the event were Bank Alfalah, Bank Al Habib, KIA Motors Pakistan, Bachaa Party, Dubai Islamic Bank, Habib Metropolitan Bank, Engro Corp, Cambridge Garments, and Jubilee Life Insurance. The in-kind sponsors include Interloop, Richa Leathers, Abbott, Uniferoz, and Pakistan Beverage Limited.

Parkha Ejaz wins 5th PGA Ladies Amateur Golf Trophy

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Parkha Ejaz of Defence Raya who plays to a handicap of one ended up triumphant in the 5th PGA Ladies Amateur Golf Championship at the conclusion of a three rounds, 54 holes engagement at the Royal Palm Golf and Country Club Golf Course on Sunday. Up against adversaries like Hamna Amjad (zero handicap), Rimsha Ejaz (handicap 1), Aania Farooq (handicap 2) and Suneya Osama (handicap 3), this adroit golf playing lady of the national golf scene bolstered her command over the run of play through cohesive control over her shot making

and attaining perfection on her skillful play on and around the greens. In the final round of 18 holes on Sunday, she achieved a spirited score of gross 74 and that added to her first two rounds scores of 76 and 72 gave her a championship aggregate of 222, giving her a winning edge over Hamna Amjad who ended up the championship at a score of 223. Hamna Amjad is a very young one of enormous expertise but had to be content with the runner up slot. Her scores for three rounds were 74, 75 and final days 74 and she played with valour and pluckiness to remain in intimidating sway till the very last hole. Achieving the third gross

was Aania Farooq of Karachi Airmen Golf Club with three rounds aggregate score of 234.

Winner net in A category for competitors in handicap range 0-14 was Bushra Fatima (Lahore Garrison), while second net was won by Zebunnisa (Royal Palm). Amina Tiwana, also of Royal Palm won third net.

A wonderful tournament exclusively for the ladies superbly managed by a lady, Mrs Minaa Zainab.

Winners in Handicap category 15-24 were Shabana Waheed, first gross, Dr Rubab Haider, second gross and Nida Arfeen, third gross. Net winner net was Momina Tarrar while

second net went to Rabia Tiwana and third net was secured by Nida Haq. In handicap category 25-36 winner gross is Minaa Zainab, second gross winner was Samina Ishtiaq and third gross went to Huma Bilal. Net section winners were Shazia Imran, second net was won by Saqiba Batool and third net went to Salbia Murtaza.

In the Senior Ladies category gross winner was Shahzadi Gulfam and net winner was Ayesha Hamid.

Other results; Longest Drive, Parkha Ejaz; Nearest to the Pin, Minaa Zainab; Inter Association Team Match was won by Punjab Golf Association; Junior Girls 11-14 years; Aleesa Almas

Rashid, winner; Junior Girls 10 and below; Aminah Ali Khan, winner; Young Ladies 14-21 years; Yasmin Zaman Khan.

At the conclusion of the 5th PGA Ladies Amateur Golf Championship the prizes were awarded to the performers by Mrs Javairia Bhatti wife of Chief Justice of Lahore High Court along with CEO of The Springs Apartments and Brig Ayyaz Masood Khan (Retd), Secretary, Punjab Golf Association, in a ceremony attended by Justice Abid Aziz, PGA Executive Committee members Col Asif Mehdi, Sarmad Nadeem, Shahid Abbas, Muhammad Zakir of PGA, participating ladies and families.

The 59th birthday of Legendary Jahangir Khan was celebrated in style



Sports Reporter

KARACHI: The great and legendary world squash player Jahangir Khan has seen 59 beautiful years of his life. On this occasion of his birthday, the former world squash champion who remained unbeaten in 555 international matches, had a simple but elegant cake cutting ceremony held at Pakistan Navy Roshan Khan Jahangir Khan Squash Complex, which Jahangir Khan cut his birthday cake along with Commodore Tauqir Ahmad Khawaja, CEO Comboxx Sports Omar Saeed, Media Advisor of Pakistan Olympic Association Asif Azeem and others.

Born in Karachi in 1963, the legendary player received his initial training from his great father, the former British Open champion Roshan Khan, at the age of 15, he became the world's youngest amateur champion, while at the age of 17, he became the world champion at that time. He won the World Open title six times, and the British Open title ten times (1982-1991).

Jahangir Khan is widely regarded as the greatest squash player of all time.

The former World No. 1 won the world title by defeating Australia's Jeff Hunt. And he is also the recipient of the Hilal-e-Imtiaz. He has also been the honorary president of the World Squash Federation.

On the occasion of his birthday, Jahangir Khan said I never thought that I would reach this prestigious position. Allah Almighty has given me a position beyond my dreams. I wish that Pakistan squash players regain their lost position in the circuit, but for this, the young players should be trained according to modern times. In particular, you have to keep your fitness at a reasonable level.

CEO Comboxx Sports Omar Saeed, while congratulating Jahangir Khan, said that this great player of Pakistan has gained eternal fame from the squash field and intends to produce future legends like Jahangir Khan in the game of squash, our institution will take all possible steps to provide opportunities to young athletes to exhibit their skills in maximum events to prepare them for international level.

Sports secretary discusses revival of games in colleges



Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: The Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta chaired a second meeting at Punjab Stadium on Friday to finalise the way forward for revival of sports in colleges in light of discussions with Secretary Higher Education Department Ahmed Raza Sarwar.

Additional Secretary Sports Malik Sanaullah, DPI Colleges Mr Shaukat, Deputy Secretary Liaquat Bhatti, Director Sports Chand Parveen, Divisional Sports Officer Tariq Khanzada, Provincial Coach Shaista Qaiser, District Sports Officer Lahore Tanveer Shah were also present in the meeting.

Additional Secretary Sports Malik Sanaullah while giving briefing in the meeting explained that the Sports Department will extend all technical support for the organization of all events but the Higher Education Department will bear the expenditures of these sports events.

Detailed sports calendar was also finalized during the meeting. Director Sports Chand Parveen and DSO Lahore presented details of expenditures and equipment required for the holding of sports events in colleges.

Addressing the meeting, Secretary Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab Ehsan Bhutta said that the proposals have been finalized for the revival of sports in colleges but the details will be issued officially after meeting with Secretary HED in next week. "The revival of sports at school and college level is key to promotion of talent in sports," he added.

It was decided in the meeting that sports galas including tug of war and carrom etc will be held in every college from January 16-18, 2023 while Inter-district sports competition will be conducted at the end of January. Divisional level college sports competition will be organized from February 6-9 whereas Provincial level college sports competitions will be staged from Feb 18-21.

The cricket and hockey events will be conducted in March while Table Tennis and Badminton events will be conducted in April, May and June. Table Tennis and Badminton in August, Volleyball, Table Tennis and Badminton in September, Football, Wrestling, Boxing, Judo and Karate in October, Cricket, Athletics and Kabaddi in November while the events of Football and Hockey will be staged in December 2023.

Thousands of children selected in grand talent hunt programme

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that the Directorate General of Sports and Youth Affairs Punjab while taking a revolutionary step in the sports sector in the province is currently conducting the largest talent hunt programme of the country at all public and private schools in different games.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi said that thousands of children have been selected in grand talent hunt programme in which the school trials and games will be organized in the form of clusters. "The games of hockey, gymnastics, volleyball,

athletics, table tennis, badminton, archery, handball, cricket, wrestling and martial arts are included in the first phase," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further said that it is for the first time in the history of Pakistan that the biggest talent hunt campaign is being conducted at the school level. "In the school games, the competitions will be organized at tehsil, district, division and then at the provincial level," he explained.

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi the trials of lakhs of children will be conducted at tehsil, district and division level through talent hunt program till January 10, 2023. "The school

games, inter-division games and provincial competitions will be conducted at different stages of the revolutionary program. The most important component in the talent hunt program is the organization of coaching and training camps."

Director General Sports Punjab Muhammad Tariq Qureshi further informed that the expert coaches of the Directorate General of Sports will train the players at the academies established for different sports. "The mega talent hunt campaign has been linked with SBP's Olympic Vision Program. The International Coaches and Exchange Program will help a lot in capacity building of the coaches and players of Punjab," he elaborated.

