



Dar urges SECP to ensure regulatory oversight for high economic growth

Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday emphasized the newly appointed team of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to ensure consistent, transparent and focused regulatory oversight across sectors for achieving high economic growth. (Report on Page 8)



BISP emerged as most effective social security program: Shazia Marri

Federal Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Shazia Marri, on Friday, said that Benazir Income Support Program has emerged as the most successful and effective social security program by providing financial assistance to more than 8 million beneficiaries. Shazia Marri, who is also chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program, expressed their views while briefing assembly members on BISP. (Report on Page 8)

Wooring foreign investment

ISLAMABAD: Naquib Sawiris, a well known businessman from Egypt calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday.



Photo: Online

Govt to facilitate foreign investors to promote business: PM

Prime Minister, chaired a high-level meeting on the investment of overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday directed the authorities concerned to develop housing societies and modern residential buildings for overseas Pakistanis in the federal capital.

The prime minister, chairing a high-level meeting on the investment of overseas Pakistanis in the housing sector of Islamabad, said the experienced and well-reputed firms should be engaged for the construction of residential buildings for the expatriates.

The senior officers of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) briefed the prime minister on the prospects of investment by overseas Pakistanis in the housing sector.

The prime minister also directed for proper marketing of the CDA's projects which had the potential to attract investment.

He said the government

would make no compromise on the quality of development projects in federal capital and called for projects' completion before the deadline.

Federal ministers Ishaq Dar and Azam Nazeer Tarar, Advisor Ahad Cheema, Special Assistant to PM Tariq Bajwa and senior CDA officers attended the meeting.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said the government would extend facilitation to foreign investors in a bid to promote investment in the country.

He was talking to Naguib Sawiris, a prominent businessman from Egypt, who called on him along with a delegation here at the PM House.

The prime minister said Pakistan was following investor-friendly policies to encourage the foreign businessmen explore the investment opportunities. In this regard, he

mentioned the fields of information technology, telecommunication, energy, agriculture, food processing, livestock, tourism and natural resources.

Sawiris expressed his interest in investing in more sectors in Pakistan, especially in the mining sector.

The business group of Naguib Sawiris has made successful investments in telecommunication and real estate sectors in Pakistan. Agencies

APS martyrs

Nation will never forget the sacrifices of APS martyrs: President



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi on Friday said the tragic memory of the Army Public School attack is still fresh in the hearts of the nation, which will never forget the sacrifices of the martyred children.

"December 16 will always be a reminder of the great sacrifices of the martyrs of the Army Public School," he said in his statement on the eighth anniversary of APS incident.

President Alvi recalled that the militants committed extreme barbarity by targeting innocent young children in 2014.

He said the APS tragedy brought the nation together to get united for a decisive war against terrorism.

He said the entire nation was firm in finally eradicating the remnants of terrorism and expressed the commitment that no attempt could weaken the resolve against this fight.

The president prayed for the elevation of ranks of the martyrs of Army Public School.

He said the day was also a reminder to the international community that terrorism was a common problem of humanity and required intensified efforts for its eradication at the global level.

APS Martyrs' Day – a reminder for nation to be one voice against terrorism: PM

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said December 16, when terrorists committed barbarity against the children of Army Public School (APS) eight years ago, is a reminder for the entire nation to be one voice against terrorism.

"The Pakistani nation will never forget the sacrifices of its martyrs," the prime minister said in a tweet.

Prime Minister Sharif said the day is to pay respect to the martyrs of APS tragedy and share the grief of their families.

"This day is a message to the whole world that Pakistan has made great sacrifices to eradicate terrorism," he said.

The prime minister vowed to continue fight against terrorism and extremism.

"Our fight against terrorism will continue with the same strong resolve and perseverance until the complete elimination of this menace," he said.

Imran wants law allowing extension in COAS' tenure abolished

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Friday said the law allowing extension in the tenure of Chief of Army Staff (COAS) must be abolished.

At a meeting with columnists and analysts, he said former COAS Gen (ret'd) Qamar Javed Bajwa mocked the country by giving NRO-II [to the PDM] adding the PTI would not hold talks with the looters of billions of rupees. "Negotiations could be held only on the date of fresh elections", he added.

He said he was expecting the new army leadership to stay 'neutral' adding that institution could deliver only while staying in the ambit of law. "I do not hold personal grudge against anyone, instead I am concerned about people",



he added.

He averred that those thinking assemblies would not be dissolved must wait for his tomorrow's speech adding there was no rift between Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) and the PTI over the matter.

Talking about the date of dissolution of assemblies, he said the assemblies would be dissolved

in December adding there was no way to country's prosperity other than fresh elections.

Earlier, the PTI chief said people were fleeing the country in sheer frustration over what had happened in the past seven months.

The former premier emphasised the importance of the rule of law in his address which he delivered via video link. He said rule of law was a topic that required discussion and attention. "It is absolutely necessary for the country to come out of this catastrophic situation," he said. He bemoaned that the country was lurching towards a quagmire.

Mr Khan took a swipe at the coalition government, claiming that no precedent for the looters being installed as the nation's rulers existed in Western democracies or that such a thing was unthinkable.

Date for dissolution of assemblies to be announced today

Bureau Report

LAHORE: PTI Vice President Fawad Chaudhry clarified on Friday that there is no ambiguity in Imran Khan's decision as he is going to announce the date for the dissolution of the assemblies on Saturday 17 December 2022.

While addressing a press conference in Lahore today, he said Punjab Chief Minister Pervaiz Elahi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) CM Mahmood Khan will participate in tomorrow's historical rally on Lahore's Liberty Chowk tomorrow.

He added that the date for the dissolution of the assemblies will be announced in the presence of the Punjab and KP chief ministers.

People's prosperity, country's development govt's top priorities: Musadik Malik

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Friday reaffirmed that the prosperity of people and the development of country were top priorities of the incumbent government.

All policies of the government were aimed at providing maximum relief to the poor people and creating employment opportunities, which, however, was linked with the growth of gross domestic products (GDP) and running of industries, he said while addressing here a press conference.

The minister said there was dire need of energy for achieving 5-6 per cent GDP growth and for which Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had directed to devise a comprehensive devel-



opment strategy. The new energy policy would be presented in the cabinet for approval, which would also be shared with the media.

He said more gas was provided to the consumers in October, November and December this year so far as compared to the corresponding months of last year despite 10 per cent annual depletion in its reserves in

the country.

Additional 20,000 to 30,000 tons liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) was being brought in the country every month, he said, adding they were grateful to Qatar for providing one additional cargo in January and February.

He said more LPG distribution points were set up in areas where gas infrastructure was not available.

Musadik Malik said Pakistan was about to sign a trade agreement with Azerbaijan on LNG (liquefied natural gas), which would enhance its capacity to buy any distressed cargo throughout the world at cheap rates.

He said during his recent visit to Russia, it was clearly told that they would provide crude oil to Pakistan on discounted rate or at prices even lower than other countries.

Another purported audio of Bushra Bibi comes to light

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Another purported audio of Bushra Bibi, wife of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, has come to the fore. Dunya News reported

The audio leak emerged days after an alleged audio clip of PTI Chairman Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and former special assistant to prime minister Zulfikar Bukhari's conversation about the sale of expensive wristwatches gifted to the former premier by world leaders.

In the latest leaked audio, Bushra Bibi can be heard grousing at Bani Gala's administrator Inam Khan for taking pictures of Toshakhana gifts and lashed out at him for not taking permission from her.

Inauguration ceremony

LAHORE: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Islamic republic of Pakistan, Yerzhan Kistafin addressing inauguration ceremony of the Consulate General of Kazakhstan and the celebration of Independence of Kazakhstan. Speaker National Assembly Raja Parvez Ashraf is also present on the occasion.



Photo: APP

Dar urges SECP to ensure regulatory oversight for high economic growth

Federal govt appoints Akif Saeed as new SECP Chairman

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday emphasized the newly appointed team of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) to ensure consistent, transparent and focused regulatory oversight across sectors for achieving high economic growth and social harmony in the country.

During a meeting with SECP management, the minister extended full support to the commission and emphasized the SECP team to work with dedicated focus and zeal.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Special



Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Finance, Tariq Bajwa; SAPM on Revenue, Tariq Pasha, Secretary Finance, Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Chairman SECP, Amir Khan, SECP Commissioners, Akif Saeed, Ms. Sadia Khan, Abdul Rehman Warraich, Mujtaba A. Lodhi and senior

officers from finance division.

Finance Minister Senator Ishaq Dar extended felicitations to the newly appointed SECP commissioners and highlighted the role of SECP as a regulator of the corporate sector, capital market, insurance and investment sectors for the betterment

and progress of Pakistan's economy.

The Finance Minister further appreciated SECP's work as a contributor to the financial and economic development in Pakistan by taking a number of regulatory measures in restoring and maintaining the confidence

of domestic as well as foreign investors.

On the occasion, Chairman and SECP commissioners apprised the minister of various regulatory initiatives being taken for mitigating systemic problems and building investors' confidence and further ensured their full support and cooperation.

Later, The federal government here on Friday issued notification, appointing Akif Saeed as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with immediate effect.

Saeed had earlier served as Commissioner SECP from December 2014 to December 2017. He joined SECP in 2004 and served as head of various divisions.

BISP emerged as most effective social security program: Shazia Marri

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Federal Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Shazia Atta Marri, on Friday, said that Benazir Income Support Program has emerged as the most successful and effective social security program by providing financial assistance to more than 8 million beneficiaries.

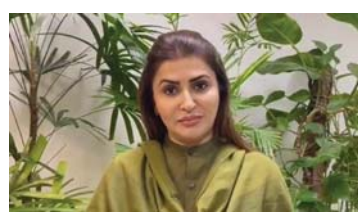
Shazia Marri, who is also chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Program, expressed their views while briefing assembly members on BISP, here, at Sindh Assembly building on the invitation of the Deputy Speaker Rehana Laghari.

The federal minister said that BISP has an annual budget of Rs.364 billion, while the ministry of Poverty

Alleviation and Social Security was working on the financial empowerment of the poorest sections of the country particularly the women through National Poverty Fund, National Poverty Graduates Program, Baitul-Mal, Benazir Kafalat, Benazir Nasho Numa and other programs.

She informed that over Rs.70 billion were distributed to flood-affected families at the rate of Rs.25,000 per family using a unique data of BISP during the recent floods.

Shazia Marri said financial assistance under the Benazir Kafalat program was currently being provided to deserving families through bio-metric system while proposal of disbursement of amount through bank accounts was under consider-



ation.

In case of no availability of bank accounts disbursement would continue under the existing bio-metric system, she added.

In the previous regime more than 850,000 deserving families were excluded from the Benazir Kafalat Program on the basis of some filters, she said and informed that present government not only given right of appeal to the excluded households

but also asked Chairman NADRA to review these filters and re-induct the excluded deserving families.

Lauding the important role of Sindh Assembly in the identification and resolution of problems of the people Shazia Marri said that assembly members raise problems and sufferings of the people of their elected areas on the floor of the assembly and represent the people.

The federal minister also invited Deputy Speaker Rehana Laghari and other MPAs to visit BISP headquarters at Islamabad.

Secretary BISP Yousaf Khan and Director General NHCR Naveed Akbar briefed in detail about various ongoing and future programs of BISP and their registration procedure.

OGDCL-Fatimid lay foundation of thalassemia center in D.I. Khan

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: While continuing with its mission to ensure health facilities to the local communities, the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), in collaboration with the Fatimid Foundation, has laid the foundation of a thalassemia center in Dera Ismail Khan.

The OGDCL CSR department is striving to improve the livelihood of the communities through welfare initiatives in various sectors. Keeping in view locals' demands for health facilities, CSR has given maximum importance to health in recent years.

Fall of Dhaka, APS tragedy teach unity, brotherhood, love: Ashrafi

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday said the fall of Dhaka and Army Public School (APS) tragedy which coincidentally occurred on the same date, December 16, gave the lesson of unity, brotherhood and love.

He said the mishap of East Pakistan happened because of personal interests and egoism while the sorrowful incident of APS united the whole nation at one platform to counter enemy's nefarious designs with collective efforts.

Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council told APP that the enemy was engaged in conspiracies against Pakistan in a bid to create division between the nation and Pakistan Army. Some elements working on foreign



agenda were spreading negative propaganda against Pakistan, he added.

Paying tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan Army, martyrs, Ghazis and people in the tragedy of East Pakistan, he said the survival and security of any nation and its homeland was possible only with the mutual understanding between the nation, army and defense forces.

He said the culprits hatching conspir-

acies against Pakistan created a division between the people and army in East Pakistan, which unluckily caused separation between the East and West Pakistan.

Ashrafi said if the political and military leadership of the time had attempted to address the issues through mutual consultation and unification and had recognized the enemy's plots, Pakistan would not have been divided.

He said even today certain elements were burning midnight oil to create division in the nation and army to weaken Pakistan, but they had failed and would be so in the future.

He said sacrifices of the nation brought positive results by eliminating terrorism from the country.

He proposed the religious and political parties to ink an accord to improve the social and economic conditions of the country on the permanent basis.

FO summons Afghan Chargé d'Affaires over Chaman firing incidents

Staff Reporter

ISLAMABAD: The Chargé d'Affaires of Afghanistan based in Islamabad was called in to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to register Pakistan's strong condemnation over recent firing incidents.

The FO conveyed condemnation over the unprovoked cross-border shelling by Afghan Border Security Forces in the Chaman-Spin Boldak area, resulting in loss of life, injuries and damage to property.

It was reiterated that protection of civilians remained the responsibility of both sides and that recurrence of these incidents must be prevented.

It was agreed to use established institutional mechanisms in this regard.

The FO in a statement said Pakistan remained committed to maintaining fraternal relations with Afghanistan.

"Peace along the Pak-Afghan border is intrinsic to this end," it said.

US govt-funded \$40m BHFA to enhance primary healthcare across country

News Desk

KARACHI: Mission Director for United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Reed Aeschliman and Sindh Minister for Health and Population Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho launched a new family planning, maternal, newborn, and child health program.

The U.S. Government-funded \$40 million Building Health Families Activity (BHFA) will operate in Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to enhance primary healthcare systems. The activity will support voluntary family planning (FP) and improve maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) services in Pakistan, said a news release issued here on Friday.

"The United States has a long history of partnership with the Government of Sindh," Mission Director Aeschliman said. "USAID is committed to strengthening this relationship by building upon the

foundation and legacy of our partnership and a shared goal to save and improve lives."

Minister Dr. Azra Fazal Pechuho lauded the continued support from the US government through USAID and emphasized the Sindh government's commitment towards improving health care for the people.

Focus on healthcare equity is fundamental to BHFA's approach, and the activity is committed to addressing the needs of women, girls, and youth as well as people traditionally marginalized from accessing quality healthcare. Making health systems resilient to shocks from climate change is another core focus.

The activity will meaningfully engage men and boys, strengthen human resources for health, deploy new digital health solutions, and ensure commodity and supply chain security for FP/MNCH services, eventually contributing to more resilient health systems, it added.

Swiss Ambassador Georg Steiner calls on Minister Qadir Patel

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner on Friday called on Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel.

During the meeting, issues of mutual interest were discussed including further promotion of bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially in the health sector.

The minister said that Pakistan faced a tough time due to floods across the country as it affected major parts of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He added massive damage had occurred which caused destruction of infrastructure, animal livestock and precious human lives. In many areas, fields crops were ready to reap were destroyed, especially women and children were affected the most, he added.

He said that Pakistan never faced such a natural disaster and added that the primary and basic health units were completely devastated, which immediately need the help of the world to restore the health system.

He said that the government was utilizing all resources to restore the health system. He thanked the Government of Switzerland for its support to flood victims.

Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner said that their government was fully supporting the Government of Pakistan for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

He expressed deep sympathies over the recent floods in Pakistan and the loss of lives and property and assured that the Government of Switzerland would continue its support for the flood victims in Pakistan.

He invited the minister to join Patients' Safety Conference being held in Switzerland in February next year.

Inaugural ceremony for the establishment of COMSATS University Islamabad Campus at Quetta

Bureau Report

QUETTA: An Inaugural Ceremony for the Establishment of COMSATS University Islamabad Quetta Campus was held in the premises of PCSIR Campus, Mastung Road, Quetta. Agha Hassan Baloch, Federal Minister for Science & Technology was the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony.

Dr. Shahnaz Naseer Baloch, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Science & Technology, Dr. Syed Hussain Abidi, Chairman PCSIR, Dr. Muhammad Tabassum Afzal, Rector CUI, Mir Farooq Langove, JS, MoST, Dr. Jan Muhammad Baloch, VC Turbat University, Dr. Sajida Noreen, VC Sardar Bahadur Khan Women University, Dr. Shafiq ur Rehman, VC Baluchistan University, Prof. Naeem Shahwani, Dean BUIITEMS and several official, political and social dignitaries were also present at this auspicious occasion.

The Federal Minister while delivering his speech highlighted that the promotion of Scientific & Technical

education is one of the most priority agenda of the present government, particularly for the Baluchistan region.

The establishment of CUI Campus at Quetta is indeed an implementation of one of the visionary agenda of our dynamic leadership Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal who is more emphasized to bring the educational reforms for prosperity Baluchistan province.

The establishment of CUI Campus at Quetta will play a vital role for our younger generation to compete at national and international level in the field of science & technology.

The Federal Minister appreciated the efforts of the Chairman PCSIR and Rector CUI for extending their full cooperation for implementing this noble cause.

The Federal Minister also assured his full support for budget allocation so that the Campus could be functional by March, 2023. He also highlighted his recent initiatives, after taking the charge as Federal Minister, for the progress and prosperity of Baluchistan community especially educational scholarship scheme.

Malala Fund's co-founders Malala & Ziauddin Yousafzai conclude visit to Lahore

Spokesman Report

LAHORE: Malala Fund co-founders Malala Yousafzai and Ziauddin Yousafzai concluded their visit to Pakistan this week where they held a series of interactions with key stakeholders in education, government, the development community, media, digital cultural creators, students and youth, along with advocates from the Malala Fund Education Champion Network and partners.

In Lahore, Malala Fund Pakistan and its Education Champions Network held a dialogue on "Driving the Girls' Education Agenda in Pakistan - Current Status and the Way Forward". The objective of the dialogue was to hear girls' voices, discuss some of the challenges that are being faced by them on ground and bring stakeholders together to put forward recommendations that bring systemic change through collective and continued efforts.

Speaking at the event, Ziauddin Yousafzai, co-founder of Malala Fund said, "Malala Fund has been operating in Pakistan for 7 years. With our partners, we work to change policy in favour of girls' education, hold leaders account-



able to their commitments on education and amplify girls' voices. It brings me great pride to see the achievements and partnerships we have made."

The dialogue was attended by more than 50 participants, including parliamentarians, representatives of the government, NGOs, academia, education experts and school girls, including Mehnaz Akber Aziz, Parliamentary Secretary Law and Justice; Convenor Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights and Co-Chair International Parliamentary Education Network, Manzoor Javed Ali, Managing Director, Punjab Educa-

tion Foundation, Izzah Farrukh, Senior Education Specialist, The World Bank, Dr Omar Mukhtar Khan, Education Governance Expert, Baela Jamil, CEO, Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi, Haroon Yasin, Co-founder and CEO, Taleemabad and Imama Moin Owaisi, Senior Project Officer, Science Fuse.

Malala Fund Pakistan Director Javed Ahmed Malik said, "We are meeting Waqas Ali Mahmood, Secretary Schools Education, this week to discuss the next steps and continue engagement with the Chief Minister's office. The government is fully committed to improving

education outcomes for girls in Pakistan and Malala Fund will support this work through technical assistance, policy engagement and forging impactful partnerships."

The co-founders were joined by a delegation from Oxford Pakistan Programme [OPP] in Lahore for a discussion at the Lahore University of Management Sciences [LUMS] premised on "Building higher education institutions for 21st century". Malala Yousafzai joined LUMS Founder, Syed Babar Ali, Dean of LUMS Dr Faisal Bari, Professor Stephen Blyth, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and Dr Nick Brown, Principal of Linacre College, Oxford, on the discussion panel, following which the co-founders enjoyed Lahore's cultural heritage with a tour of the old city.

The co-founders last visited Pakistan in October to meet with young women and families from flood-impacted communities in Sindh and called on the international community to increase aid to Pakistan. During the trip, Malala announced Malala Fund's commitment to pledge \$700,000 (PKR 154 million) to organizations in Pakistan to support flood relief.

Battling Climate Change for a Sustainable Future: A discussion by industry experts

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: "Climate Change and Karachi - Building Coastal Resilience" Conference was held in Karachi, which aimed to highlight the impacts of climate change on the city and the measures that can be taken to mitigate its effects through a series of presentations by keynote speakers followed by panel discussions. The event started with opening remarks by Racha Alkhwaja, CEO, TPL Investment Management, Abu Dhabi, emphasizing the role of our country's business and government fraternity towards sustainable development. "We have gathered here to contemplate possibilities, pledge towards sustainability and commit our efforts to the generations ahead." The conference included professionals from both private and government sectors who could play a vital role in encouraging sustainable practices to steer the city towards building coastal resilience.

"This conference has allowed us to move in the right direction," said Nazifa Butt, Senior Manager, Climate and Energy Programme, WWF. "Climate change has ravaged our current ecosystem and if not addressed, will devastate our future generations. The planet's future is at stake". Nazifa has been associated with the organization for the past 12 years and has more than 18 years of experience in areas like Climate Change, Sustainable Living & Healthy Urban Lifestyles. She heads Corporate Partnerships and Fundraising at WWF-Pakistan where she has carried out various corporate and citizen engagement activities.

The presentations discussed areas for adaptation, methods to combat the shifting climate, and key initiatives that need to be taken to help vulnerable communities adapt to climate change through sustainable solutions. "We have a series of milestones ahead. Development initiatives of the future should encompass sustainability goals. Keeping our environment as a prime factor, restoring mangroves to mitigate climate change should be considered on a national level across both government and private sectors," said Tariq A. Qaiser, Principal Architect, TAQ Associates, an architect, environmentalist, filmmaker, and former faculty member at the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston.

Each session showed the reality of climate change effects in the future, and what needs to be done to restore the ecosystem. "Man has trifled with nature, in its own greed, and now nature is having its say. We need to restore the balance disturbed by us if we plan for our generations to have a brighter future." Said Masood Lohar, an award-winning climate change adaptation and mitigation expert with over two decades of experience in ecosystem restoration and promoting urban forests/wetlands.

PM AʒK terms APS attack as national tragedy

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that the sacrifices of the students and teachers of Peshawar Army Public School will always be remembered in the annals of Pakistan's history. In a statement issued here on Friday the PM while referring to the tragic incident that shook the entire country said that the attack on innocent children was a national tragedy that left everyone shellshocked. He said that after the APS tragedy the Pakistani nation united and defeated the terrorism. The Pakistan army, he said scripted a new history of sacrifices during its war against terrorism. He said that the entire nation contributed to the war against terrorism. "The whole nation stands shoulder to shoulder with armed forces against their unwavering struggle to get rid of the country of the menace of terrorism", the PM said adding that the APS tragedy made everyone cry. While paying tributes to the parents of the martyred children, he said, "The memory of the martyrs of Peshawar can never be erased from our hearts". Extending his sympathies with the parents of the martyred children the PM said "We can never forget the sacrifice of our children".



JUI Protest in Wana



Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Organized Peace Message Protest Demonstration in Wana, Lower Waziristan,

A large number of people participated in the demonstration. On this occasion, JUI Wana President Maulana Mir Zajan and General Secretary Maulana Rafiuddin Wazir and other presented a joint resolution while addressing the protest demonstration.

Establishing a peaceful government becomes the responsibility of the time, therefore a peaceful government should be established in the entire merged districts, especially in Lower Waziristan, through the mediation of mass public power.

JUI leaders demanded that all drugs should be completely banned in Waziristan and all drug centers should be dismantled. And at the same time black glasses, extortion and kidnapping should be prevented.

Local leaders said that the notification of two districts of South Waziristan should be implemented and all line department offices should be shifted to Lower Waziristan.

A tribute to APS martyrs

ISLAMABAD: Members of civil society lighting candles to present tribute to martyrs of APS Peshawar, outside National Press Club in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

'Beaming Furtuescapes' A Digital Art Exhibition at COMSATS Art Gallery

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: A digital Art Exhibition titled "Beaming Futurescapes" opened at COMSATS Art Gallery on Wednesday 30th November, 2022. The exhibition was jointly organized by Department of Computer Arts (Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi) and COMSATS Art Gallery (COMSATS University, Islamabad). The exhibition displayed art work prepared by emerging artists of the Department of Computer Arts, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Rawalpindi. These art works included VR projects, animations, illustrations, digital paintings and textile art.

The participating artists included Aimen Khan Tajik, Amna Bibi, Amna Syed, Aqsa Nadeem, Arena Amir,



Arooj Raza, Esha Malik, Fatima Azher, Hunna Sajid, Kashmala Qazi, Laiba Mobasher, Momina Iqbal, Muqaddus Zulfaraz, Noorulain Shahzad, Rabia Waqar, Ramsha, Rimsha Fatima, Sarah Ghazi, Sitara, Sumama Shakeel, Sumiya Rizwan, Syeda Aisha Altaf and Zunaira Naveed.

Mr. Wajid Kamran, Deputy Regis-

trar CUI presented the vote of thanks on behalf of Prof. Dr. Muhammad T. Afzal, Rector COMSATS. In his address Mr. Wajid Kamran expressed gratitude to the participating artists and said the CUI will continue to patronize arts through its Department of Art & Design, Architecture as well as a dedicated Art Gallery.

Ms. Zarin Gul (Assistant Professor

Department of Computer Arts, FJWU) explained the concept behind the work done by artists and said we need to exhibit more work of emerging artists as they always have fresh and innovative ideas which appeal the audience. She also thanked COMSATS Art Gallery for organizing a show for these young aspiring artists.

Speaking at the occasion Ms. Farrah Mahmood (In Charge COMSATS Art Gallery) appreciated the students work and said it is always exciting for her to exhibit work of amateur artists as they get a boost for the work they have done and the confidence to face criticism in public exhibits. She wished all the artists best of luck for their future endeavors.

The show will be on display till 14th December, 2022.

€43.76m loan signed for construction of 500 KV Chakwal grid station

News Desk

LAHORE: The National Transmission & Despatch Company (NTDC) has inked a 43.76 million Euro loan agreement with KfW Bank on Friday for financing the construction of 500 kV Chakwal Grid Station. Apart from this, another grant agreement amounting to 2.4 million Euro was also signed which was provided by the Government of Germany for capacity building in NTDC. The loan signing ceremony was held at the Economic Affairs Division, Islamabad where Mr. Sebastian Jacobi, Director KfW, Islamabad, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary (Economic Affairs Division) and MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan signed the agreements.

The construction of 500 kV grid station Chakwal will be done on a swathe of land measuring 715.13 Kanal in district Chakwal. The land

has already been acquired and the contractor has been mobilized for the construction of grid's boundary wall. The grid station would not only help in the development of industries by meeting the growing electricity demand, but also improve the power supply position in surrounding areas of district Chakwal, including Chowah Saidan Shah, Gujjar Khan, Dandot, Pinawal, Talagang, Tamman, Padshahan and Chakri. Moreover, it will also strengthen the associated NTDC and IESCO networks. The voltage profile improvement would be beneficial, especially for the cement industries in Chakwal and would also help generate employment and business opportunities in the area.

MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan thanked the KfW team for extending consistent financial support to NTDC as well as in other sectors of Pakistan. It is worth mentioning that on 15 Dec



2022, a USD 189 Million loan under Second Power Transmission Enhancement Investment Program (Tranche-4) was also inked by Secretary (Economic Affairs Division) and Dy. Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank, Islamabad for power infrastructure enhancement, including transmission lines and grid

stations.

The said loan will be utilized for the procurement of transformers, circuit breakers and other allied equipment for expansion of four 500 kV grid stations and four 220 kV grid stations to remove the system constraints in the transmission network for Summer-2023, thereby providing relief to the associated

DISCOs and the end consumer. Similarly, a 220/132 kV grid station Jamrud New and its associated transmission lines for evacuation of power from Mohmand Dam will also be financed under the same loan.

NTDC team, KfW representatives and officers from Economic Affairs Division Islamabad were also present

during the ceremony.

Caption: . Mr. Sebastian Jacobi, Director KfW, Islamabad, Dr. Kazim Niaz, Secretary (EAD) and MD NTDC, Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan signing the agreements of financing of €43.76 million and €2.4 million for 500kV Chakwal grid station and capacity building in NTDC.



Islamabad
15° - 23° Clear

SERVICES

Namaz Timings

Fajr 5:36 am
Zohr 12:03 pm
Asr 3:23 pm
Maghrib 5:01 pm
Isha 6:30 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 Enquiry 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

COMSTECH funds rupees 50 million science projects in OIC states

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: OIC ministerial standing committee on scientific and technological cooperation (COMSTECH), Islamabad and International Foundation for Science (IFS), Stockholm, Sweden have selected 18 research projects from 12 OIC member states – Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda for the session 2022.

A total funding of US\$ 221,762 has been granted to projects in the fields of Food Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Natural Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Genetic Engineering, and Health Sciences.

Project funding granted in this session ranges from US\$ 10,000 to 15,000 each project. Two Pakistani scientists have won grants worth Rs. 6.06 million for their research projects.

COMSTECH and IFS agreed in February 1998 to enter into a collaborative program to strengthen the capacity in developing countries which are members of OIC to conduct relevant and high-quality research in sciences related to the management, use and conservation of biological resources. The program is funded in equal parts by COMSTECH and IFS.

CPEC SEZs' progress to be expedited: Ahsan Iqbal

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal vowed on Friday that the development process on Special Economic Zones under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would be accelerated.

He was chairing a meeting to review the progress on implementation status of CPEC projects.

The meeting was held here at the Ministry of Planning and Development that was attended by Special Assistant to Prime Minister, Tariq Fatemi, officials from Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Energy, Communication, Commerce, Aviation; Board of Investment, Embassy of Pakistan – Beijing, National Highway Authority, Transport department – Government of Punjab, LESCO, National Highway Authority, CEO, CPPAG, Islamabad; and CEO, KPEZDMC, Peshawar.

While referring the Prime Minister's visit of China and 11th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), the Minister for Planning and Development observed that



the PM's visit of China and 11th JCC have breathed a new lease of life in CPEC.

The Minister directed the concerned departments and Ministries to ensure review progress on the implementation of the decisions taken in the 11th JCC meeting.

Minister directed the concerned officials to expedite the development

process on 1000 Acre Islamabad Special Economic Zone while also directing the Pakistani Embassy in Beijing to follow up the matters pertaining to CPEC projects.

Minister expressed displeasure over the inaction on the part of concerned departments on matters concerning the uninterrupted power supply to Orange Line Project.

Donation

ISLAMABAD: Syngenta Pakistan joins hands with TCF to provide education to flood-affected children.



AIOU inks MoU with Sanjh Preet

ISLAMABAD: Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education (DNFCE) of Allama Iqbal Open University and an NGO Sanjh Preet signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bring the out-of-school children, living in the slums into educational network and make them useful and responsible citizen.

The MoU signing ceremony was held in the university yesterday. Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood presided over. Registrar AIOU, Raja Umar Younis, Chairman, Department of DNFCE, Dr. Muhammad Ajmal Chaudhry, Chief Executive Officer Sanjh Preet, Pervez Akhtar and JICA representative, Bilal Aziz was also present.

MoU was signed by Registrar, AIOU, Raja Umar Younis and Chief Executive Officer of Sanjh Preet, Pervez Akhtar. According to MoU details, both organizations will provide access to education to children from the most disadvantaged areas, working together to



prevent violence, abuse and child labour. "International Journal of Literacy Theory and Practice" of the Department of DNFCE, Faculty of Education was also launched in same ceremony.

Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that the Open University has focused on promoting education and strives to collaborate with national and international institutions to increase the quality of education. He said that with the support of Sanjh

Preet, we will easily achieve the goal of primary pass and connecting out-of-school girls with education in rural areas. We are engaged in bringing them into the educational network in collaboration with JICA and other national and international institutions.

Parvez Akhtar said that Sanjh Preet's effort is to provide education and protection to out-of-school children living in slums and backward areas of the country, for which we have collaborated with Allama Iqbal

Open University. He said, with the cooperation of JICA and other institutions, we have been engaged in the welfare of society since 1996 across the country. Bilal Aziz said that we are working with the Ministry of Education and AIOU to bring the out-of-school children into the educational network. He said that we have successfully completed the Middle Tech program under Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) with the support of AIOU and now proceeding to provide matriculation education.

Chairman, Department of Distance, Non-Formal and Continuing Education (DNFCE), Dr. Muhammad Ajmal highlighted the educational services of the department. He said that this department of the Faculty of Education has started a collaborative process with JICA, Parwan and other institutions for the promotion of education. Dr. Tahira Bibi explained the objectives and objectives of the MoU in detail.

Students must understand their national responsibilities: Abrar Ahmad Khan



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Education is not just about getting a degree but about protecting higher values and changing social attitudes. In order to cope with the economic challenges faced by the country of Pakistan, students must understand their national responsibilities.

These views were expressed by All Pakistan Private Schools Management Association Rawalpindi Division President Abrar Ahmad Khan while talking to degree holders students at the end of the 18th convocation ceremony of Capital University of Science and Technology Islamabad.

Abrar Ahmad Khan congratulated the successful students and said that educated and talented youth are the asset of our country and their exemplary role in the development of the country has a prominent place.

In the context of the changing global scenario, we have to hone our skills in every field.

On this occasion, Abrar Khan praised the prominent role of the university in the promotion of higher education and also appreciated the tireless work and passion of the teachers.

Abrar Ahmad Khan congratulated Mohammad Rafi Khan on his success in MS Project Management degree with outstanding marks and expressed his best wishes.

Pakistan exports 120,000 locally manufactured mobile phones



Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The export ceremony of locally manufactured mobile phones by PTA Authorization holder: Inovi Telecom was held at PTA headquarters today. The ceremony was held to mark Inovi Telecom's achievement of exporting one hundred and twenty thousand (120,000) "Manufactured in Pakistan" mobile phones of SEGO brand to United Arab Emirates for African markets.

The ceremony was attended by Member (Finance) PTA, Mr. Muhammad Naveed; Member (Compliance & Enforcement) PTA, Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar and senior officers of PTA. CEO Inovi Telecom, Mr. Zeeshan Mian Noor was also in attendance.

Inovi Telecom is the first company to export locally manufactured mobile phones of a large quantity outside Pakistan. CEO Inovi Telecom thanked and appreciated PTA for the active support and taking measures to help bolster the mobile industry. Moreover, both PTA Members also extended their continued support for the development of a mobile device manufacturing ecosystem in Pakistan.

Inovi Telecom Pvt. Ltd was issued Mobile Device Manufacturing Authorization on 9th April, 2021 in accordance with the PTA mobile device manufacturing regulation 2021

Awareness programmes for the safety of young persons

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab, on the instructions of Secretary Youth Affairs and Sports Punjab Ehsan Bhutta, continued to organise its awareness programmes for the safety of young boys and girls from the menace of drugs and electronic devices. Punjab University's Al-Raazi Hall hosted Youth Affairs and Sports Department Punjab's latest awareness session on Friday.

Additional Secretary Sports Malik Sanaullah, Director Admin Syed Umair Hassan, Assistant Director Youth Affairs Nazish Noor, Project Development Specialist Qasim Zia, Research Officer Sadia Pervaiz, Director Students Affairs Prof Dr M Shafique, Deputy Director Students Affairs Dr Ali Klasra, Deputy Director Students Affairs Dr Shahzeb Khan, Incharge Students Counseling Services Ms Sadia Shahzeb, Directorate of Students Affairs Dr Akram, CMO PU Health center Dr Abdul Qayum, Director Career counseling and placement center, several university professors, officers of Youth Affairs and Sports Department and a large number of male and female students participated.

U Microfinance Bank Islamic Banking receives international recognition

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: U Microfinance Bank (U Bank) Islamic Banking has received the prestigious international award for Upcoming Islamic Retail Banking Window in Pakistan 2022 during the 8th Islamic Retail Banking Awards 2022, hosted by Cambridge IFA in Indonesia.

The award honors U Bank's recent introduction of Shari'ah-compliant financial solutions in Pakistan, and comes soon after U Bank's full-scale commercial launch of Islamic Banking services nationwide. The bank's Islamic Banking services were piloted earlier this year and have now encompassed many cities across Pakistan, thus financially including the segment of society that seeks banking services in line with Islamic values.

Mr. Kabeer Naqvi, President & CEO – U Microfinance Bank shared, "It is an honor for us to be recognized for the efforts towards making U Bank one of the first microfinance banks in Pakistan to introduce Islamic Banking services. With an enhanced deposit and financing products portfolio that complies with the Shari'ah principles, we will continue to accelerate our Islamic Banking expansion efforts to serve customers across Pakistan."

Conference on Arabic Language & Literature concludes at NUML

City Reporter

ISLAMABAD: One-Day National conference on "Arabic Language & Literature in 21st Century (Trends & Possibilities)" organized by Arabic Department of National University of Modern Languages, (NUML), held here at NUML. The Chief Guest of the inaugural session was Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia H.E Mr. Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malki, while the closing ceremony was presided by Ambassador of United Arab Emirates (UAE) H.E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem ALZaabi. Prof. Dr. Habib Ur Rehman Asim from Bahria University and Dr. Abdul Mujeeb Bassam from Islamic International University participated as keynote speakers in opening and closing sessions respectively. Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd), Pro-Rectors, Deans, Directors, HoDs, faculty members and a larger number of students also attended the conference.

Speaking on the occasion H.E Nawaf Bin Saeed Al Malki said that Arabic is the language of Quran, and it is protected by Almighty Allah. Arabic is a very vast



and well-established language; learning this language will connect us to the brotherhood and source of unity among Ummah. He said that Kingdom will support every effort to promote Arabic language in the country. He appreciated the role of NUML in promotion of Arabic language and thanked Rector NUML for organizing such a knowledgeable conference.

Ambassador of United Arab Emir-

ates (UAE) H.E Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem ALZaabi in his address stressed the importance of Arabic language and said that it is spoken by over 420 million people. He was of the view that there is need to increase digital content in Arabic on internet. He briefed the audience about the steps taken by UAE government to promote the Arabic language on internet. Ambassador thanked Rector NUML and praised NUML role in

promoting the language in the region.

At the end, Rector NUML Major General Muhammad Jaffar HI (M) (Retd) thanked the honourable chief guests of both sessions for sparing time and participating in the conference. Rector highlighted that Arabic is a very vast and one of the sweetest languages of the world. He stressed the need of learning Arabic language irrespective of age or profession.

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Growing encroachments creating mess for Pindites

Azhar Siddiq

Amidst oblivious interest of the city managers to clear roadsides and pavements from encroachers, the city residents face traffic mess and heavy rush on almost all busy and commercial areas of the city.

Ever-increasing encroachments in different localities of the city have become a permanent source of nuisance for commuters with roadside bazaars, street hawkers and push up carts prop up almost along every main or connecting road.

This tendency results in frequent traffic jams, create hurdles for pedestrians and often results in accidents and brawls. It is sometimes even difficult for pedestrians to walk through Raja Bazaar, City Saddar Road, Bara Bazaar, Trunk Bazaar, Kishmiri Bazaar, Jamia Masjid Road, Narmkari Bazaar, Adiala Road, Dalgara Bazaar, Fawara Chowk, Sadiqabad, Commercial Market and several other localities of the city.

The situation is no different in Cantonment Board jurisdictions where encroachment mafia freely ruling several commercial areas

including Tench Bhatta, Chungi No 22, Tulsa Road, Sher Zaman Colony, Saddar, Scheme-III and other areas.

As the bazaars offering a budget alternative to the public already experience heavy footfall particularly throughout winter season, the encroachers leave minimum space for them to tread from one shopping center to another.

The situation is also not different at Circular Road, Banni, Gawalmandi, Saddar, Murree Road and Commercial Market as residents are often seen complaining about the spread of this menace.

"It feels like free for all. They are everywhere encroaching busy roads, pavements and footpaths leaving no space for pedestrians," said Faheem Ahmed, a resident of Gawalmandi. "Even the vehicles cannot move smoothly on important roads of the city. We also see roadside accidents and brawls due to this tendency."

Faheem also complained about the attitude of concerned authorities demanding strict action against encroachers. "Authorities continue to turn a blind eye on encroachments. TMA should remove the encroachments and reclaim the pavements for the commuters."

Couple of years back, even the Lahore High Court (LHC) Rawalpindi Bench had also directed the officials of district administration and cantonment boards to remove encroachments in the city within one week. But, after taking some cosmetic measures, the authorities once again went oblivious to this phenomenon.

"After the displeasure expressed by the LHC, a campaign was launched in the city's cantonment areas. The encroachments (temporary and permanent) were removed but to no vain as these re-emerged after sometime," Faheem said.

"Besides mental agony, the encroachments also result in waste of time and fuel and damages to costly vehicles of passing by owners," he added.

Most of such roadside businesses in Rawalpindi city and cantonment areas have been set up without permission from relevant authorities. The residents stated that pavements on both sides of the roads in Raja Bazar, Bani have been gobbled up by hawkers of all hues and illegally parked vehicles and several vital roads turned from residential areas into a commercial hub over the past few years.

Many residential areas were

no longer residential because of the heavy vehicular movement and commercial establishments. Moreover, with the expansion of commercial areas to the residential, the encroachers get more and more space for illegal business by installing carts and tuck shops on footpaths and narrow roads leading through the thickly inhabited areas.

Tehsil Municipal Authority (TMA) came up with traditional mantra and a stereo type statement of taking action against encroachers. "An operation was underway to remove all such encroachments from the city's streets," said a TMA spokesman. "We take action against them but they reappear. Rising population and shrinking business spaces also result in encroachments," he stated and claimed that the authorities were fully aware of their responsibility and they frequently take action against encroachers.

The spokespersons of Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonment Boards have claimed of continuous efforts to remove encroachments. "We are often on the move to remove temporary and permanent encroachments and operations to clear roads were being conducted on daily basis," said Incharge of anti-encroachment

drive at RCB. "We have confiscated 39 truckload goods during last month," he added.

Although, these small outlets provide for a source of earning for some very poor and deserving pushcarts and stalls owners, yet encroaching space illegally cannot be acceptable in any society. Some shopkeepers deliberately provide space for illegal installations for the sake of rent they receiver from vendors.

Some residents believe that there is certain mafia backing such illegal operators and the main reason behind their re-emergence.

"Such illegal markets widely set up in different areas are seemingly operated by some kind of mafia as they continue operating despite the government orders to uproot them," said Muhammad Mush-taq, a resident of city area. "Seeing them doing all this bravely also raises doubt of alleged involvement some TMA officials who could provide them shelter."

Although, the City Traffic Police also collaborate with the administration to remove illegally erected stalls from roads, streets and sidewalks, yet instances of rampant encroachment are all around and need serious efforts by authorities to provide a congenial living environment to people.

Akif Saeed new SECP Chairman

The federal government here on Friday issued notification, appointing Mr. Akif Saeed as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) with immediate effect. Mr. Saeed was appointed as SECP on December 13 by the incumbent government.

Mr. Saeed had earlier served as Commissioner SECP from December 2014 to December 2017. He joined SECP in 2004 and served as head of various divisions. He has extensive regulatory, operational and business knowledge of various infrastructure entities in the capital markets. During his tenure at SECP, he has contributed significantly towards instituting various legal and regulatory reforms for enhanced corporate governance, transparency, investor education, investor protection and risk management. He was instrumental in introducing legal framework for REITS and private equity, in addition to introducing private pension through implementation of voluntary pension rules and issuance of license to 4 pension fund managers in 2007.

He played a vital role in achieving compliance with the IOSCO benchmarks principles of the securities market. Mr. Saeed also led the team that worked on overhauling the securities laws in Pakistan and drafted the new Securities Act 2015 and Futures Act 2016. He has also worked in various private sector entities including the American Express Bank and as consultant for Asian Development Bank. He is a Chevening alumnus and completed his Master's in Business Administration from the University of Edinburgh and also holds master's degree in economics from Government College Lahore.

Earlier during the day, the Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar had held a meeting with the SECP Management at Finance Division. The Minister extended his felicitations to the newly appointed SECP commissioners. The Finance Minister further appreciated SECP's work as a contributor to the financial and economic development in Pakistan by taking a number of regulatory measures in restoring and maintaining the confidence of domestic as well as foreign investors.

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



7th forum on China-Pakistan scientific & economic cooperation held

Spokesman Research

The 7th forum on China-Pakistan scientific, technological & economic cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was held by the Pakistan Study Centre at Beijing Technology and Business University (BTBU) according to report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Friday.

The scientific, technological and economic cooperation between China and Pakistan has continuously injected new impetus into the closer China-Pakistan community of a shared future.

In his welcoming speech, Liu Minhua, Vice President of BTBU, highlighted that the university attaches great importance to cooperation with Pakistani universities, scientific and technological organisations and other institutions.

They continue to promote the exchanges between China and Pakistan in various fields. "BTBU will take the initiative to serve Chinese high-level opening-up, deeply integrate into the construction of the Beijing centre for international exchanges, release the achievements of think tanks, build cultural parks, expand people-to-people exchanges and deepen international cooperation," he added.

Prof. Wang Qinlin, Counsel (Director General Level), International Cooperation Department, China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), stated that China and Pakistan are brotherly

friendly neighbours and all-weather strategic cooperative partners.

CAST will implement the spirit of the meeting between the two leaders with concrete actions and continue to work for the building of a China-Pakistan community with a shared future.

Khan Muhammad Wazir, Deputy Scientific Advisor (International Liaison), Ministry of Science and Technology, Pakistan presented the formal institutional mechanism for existing science, technology, and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Prof. Tian Wen, Beijing Association for Science and Technology (BAST) said that BAST actively promotes the BRI science and technology people-to-people exchange, and promotes dialogue and cooperation among science and technology organisations.

Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi, President, ECO Science Foundation pointed out that ECOSF would continue to work with BTBU to inject vitality into China-Pakistan scientific and technological cooperation.

Chairing the keynote speech session with the topic of China-Pakistan engineer organisations exchange & cooperation, Prof. Manzoor Hussain Soomro, Honourable Professor of BTBU and Advisor to ECOSF underlined that training and mutual recognition of engineers is an important part of scientific, economic and personnel cooperation between China and Pakistan.

He said, "Engineering is the engine of all development. Both countries are making joint efforts to promote exchanges and cooperation between engineers."

During the session, Fang Siping, Director of Secretariat Office, Chinese Society of Engineers, CAST, introduced international mutual recognition of qualified Chinese engineers and engineering competency assessment system; Xu Wei, Secretaries General, Beijing Institute of Engineers, explained the international mutual recognition of engineer qualifications; Engr. Xiao Hua, General Manager of the PKM Project and Chairman of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation Pakistan (Pvt) Ltd, shared his views on promoting in-depth exchanges and integration in the engineering field between China and Pakistan.

Engr Dr Nasir Mahmood Khan, Secretary/Registrar, Pakistan Engineer Council, Prof. Shahbaz Khan, Director and Representative of UNESCO Beijing Office, Mr. Muhammad Ammar, Director, International Cooperation Department, TANG International Education Group, and about 70 experts, scholars and youth representatives were also present.

On the occasion, the book titled 'In Quest of Knowledge' which is a compilation of the stories of Pakistani scholars' during their student days in China, was launched. The Youth Forum themed 'cooperation on digital development under the BRI' was also held.

Pakistan & Turkey: Muslim Alliance in Eurasia

Munaza Kazmi

Contemporary coordination among Islamabad and Ankara had strengthened not only in the defense, diplomatic and commercial realm but also in social and cultural aspects.

The syndicate aiding both countries in creating an advantageous situation, Pakistan's former dependency in procuring arms from NATO countries has quickly been shifted to the sale of artilleries made in Turkey, on the other side Turkey is buying training aircrafts, bombs and drone parts from Pakistan. The remarkable success in this alliance is that, together these two have combined their resources to create the largest warship MILGEM-class PNS Badar which was launched in Karachi in May 2022. Indeed, this is a brilliant illustration of the brotherly cooperation between the two countries in the defense sector, aspirations from bitter experiences of being sanctioned by the West. However, I would say that setback make them self-sufficient.

Moreover, both are correspondingly increasing their technological support, let's say Turkish Aerospace Industries have signed memorandum for R&D, Pakistan's leading institution for R&D and faculty exchange programs.

In recent years beside defense, economic investment of Turkey in Pakistan has witness growth, for example exceeding Turkish FDI, construction of power projects and chemical production etc. Along with FDI, the bilateral trade between the countries has increased over time, where land-based routes

added value.

Virtuous routes lead to memorable places, economic and development sectors Pakistan and Turkey combined are progressing in art and culture, since they have much in common and in contrast. Rumi from Turkey and Iqbal from Pakistan shares the identical ideologies, that why many of the student exchange programs can be seen, many of the subjects relating Sufism now a days being lectured. In Islamabad there are many Turkish restaurants now can be found, Doner Kebab is the most notorious of the cuisines, likewise there are some Historic Turkish serial that have become Pakistani's favorite. Which resulted in many people are flying to see in person those historic landscapes. Similarly, market in Turkey are selling various Pakistani colors and delicacies.

In the outside world both Muslim countries seem supporting each other weather its regarding Syrian issue or Kashmir, in U.N. General Assembly, Erdogan has vocally advocated a negotiation settlement for Kashmir, where Abu Dhabi and Saudia backed off, which further tightened the bond.

Together they have a deep-rooted relationship and share harmony on most of the subjects of regional and international importance. For the past 75 years, the two countries have experienced a healthy alliance, and stood side by side in times of need or cherish, that developed as a vigorous Muslim alliance in Eurasia.

Lastly, I would like to advice all the Muslim countries around the globe to connect and form a circle of harmony that could never be shaken. So, there remain no force that could turn down.



Analysis
Munaza Kazmi
Pakistan and Turkey are key members of the Islamic World and share common outlook on problems confronting the Muslim Ummah.

Recalling about Chairman Kim Jong Il

Ten years have elapsed since Kim Jong Il (1942-2011), the eternal Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, passed away.

Following are the reminiscences of Kim Jong Il by international figures.

Umalatova's Reminiscences
What was Kim Jong Il like seen by Sazhi Umalatova, chairwoman of the Party for Peace and Unity of Russia? Kim Jong Il was a staunch defender of justice and truth.

When socialism began to collapse in succession in the East European countries including former Soviet Union in the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, Kim Jong Il encouraged the socialists in Russia and saved them from spiritual wandering.

Umalatova saw the profile of the saviour and defender of socialism while reading the books written by Kim Jong Il, including *The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party, Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable and Socialism Is a Science*.

His firm political conviction and will dealt a severe blow at the renegades of socialism and capitulationists and instilled a hope for the revival of socialism in the people who were aspiring after progress.

What Umalatova, a Leftist figure, could not forget was his ennobling human traits transcending ideology, ideal, political view and religious belief.

Like many Russians, she still remembered August 4, 2001, when Kim Jong Il visited the Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square in Moscow. When

the career and exploits of Lenin, the pioneer of the socialist cause and leader of the international working class, were being debased by the renegade socialists and they were even insisting that the mausoleum should be moved from Red Square, Kim Jong Il visited the mausoleum and paid tribute to his memory.

She recalled: I am an atheist but I revere Chairman Kim Jong Il as a divine being; he was a politician of strong conviction and a leader who would carry out his position to the end.

Yazov's Reminiscences
Marshal Dmitry Yazov, former USSR Defence Minister, wrote in his memoir:

It was a great pleasure in my life to get acquainted with Comrade Kim Jong Il; as the 13th defence minister of the former Soviet Union, I was attracted to him while meeting him several times during my visits to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the resourcefulness and courage of a great commander is estimated in a war or military expedition where rise and fall of a nation is decided; then, who is a great commander in modern times when political confrontation and military situation are acute? I dare say that Comrade Kim Jong Il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, is a man of that type.

A veteran military expert with rich battle experience and military knowledge, which he had gained through his lifetime service in the army, recognized the outstanding military talent and achievement of Kim Jong Il, which would shine for ever in the world military history.

He recalled the whole process of the DPRK-US confrontation in the 1990s.



As the world knows, many military experts and analysts characterized the confrontation in early 1993 as an event full of dramatic shocks and sensations. A military conflict was unavoidable owing to the all-out political and military offensive and collective sanctions on the part of the forces hostile to the DPRK, and the international community was concerned and worried about the possible gun sound on the Korean peninsula and its chain reaction in the international arena. But the situation changed dramatically:

the tense confrontation was peacefully removed; government-level delegates of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States sat at the negotiating table, and the DPRK-USA joint statement was made public for the first time in the history of bilateral relations; the US president sent a letter of assurance to Kim Jong Il, supreme leader of the DPRK, and many other miraculous events took place.

The United States, the "only superpower" in the world, lost the showdown.

Kim Jong Il defended the sovereignty and dignity of his country and changed the dynamic structure of the Korean peninsula with iron will and courage and outstanding insight. He won without firing a shot by combining hard and soft lines.

Such ability is not easy to find in the world military history and in other great commanders.

Hair-trigger situations were created on the Korean peninsula for several times later, but a war did not break out thanks to his military strategy.

The world community recognized that the factor was the decisive role Kim Jong Il had played.

Yazov said that history recorded no great man possessed of perfect political qualifications as the leader of a nation and ability of a brilliant commander other than Kim Jong Il.

Vishwanath's Statement

Kim Jong Il was a man sent by heaven to serve mankind; such a great man is born once in ten centuries—this was what Vishwanath, a prominent social figure in India, said when Kim Jong Il passed away.

He stated.

It was entirely thanks to the wisdom of Chairman Kim Jong Il that there had been no gun sound of a third world war or a world nuclear war on the Korean peninsula, the hotspot in the world. He prevented the wars by turning his country into a military power; had Kim Jong Il failed to turn his country into one with a great military capability (though this could never happen) and had the United States unleashed a war on the Korean peninsula, the three gigantic transformations—material prosperity, technological leap and spiritual civilization—which the world has achieved in a peaceful environment over half a century at the highest-ever level in their thousands of years of history would have been unthinkable on this planet; the DPRK is willing to launch missiles over the Pacific and fight an all-out, missile war against the US if the latter launches a preemptive strike; its great spear, called ICBM, will make the first great hole in the golden shield, called NMD of the US, in order to defend sovereignty of the country; as a result, though the US is controlling the world at will and occupying medium-sized and small countries by resorting to political high-handedness and military arbitrariness, this high-handedness and arbitrariness are nothing but a broken sword in front of Korea; having saved the whole world from the "earthquake" of a war to be caused by tens of thousands of nuclear bombs is the political weight of the ever-victorious politics pursued by the DPRK.

Indeed, Kim Jong Il was a messiah who, by victoriously leading the DPRK-US showdown, defended the safety of 200-odd countries of the world and secured peace for billions of people.

UN General Assembly supports the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

On December 14, 2022, the UN General Assembly unanimously approved a Resolution on enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The adoption of the resolution was proposed by the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in 2020.

The resolution highlights the important role of parliaments in re-committing to unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation to support an inclusive, resilient and lasting recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate action for sustainable development while leaving no one behind.

The General Assembly calls on states to support and engage parlia-



ments in SDG follow-up and review processes, especially in the preparation of voluntary national reviews, and to assist them in securing and strengthening national ownership and accountability.

The main attention is paid to ensuring gender equality, which should be a central element of efforts to accelerate progress toward achieving the SDGs by promot-

ing the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in legislative bodies and parliamentary processes.

The important role and contribution of youth in the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the need for ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of youth in parliamentary processes is recognized.

The document was co-authored

by 80 states from all continents of the world, including all countries of Central Asia, as well as Austria, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Belgium, Germany, Egypt, Spain, Indonesia, Italy, Qatar, China, Colombia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Finland, France, Sweden, Japan, and others.

The resolution was warmly welcomed by UN structures and other international organizations. It is emphasized that the resolution will become a unique guide for parliamentarians, mobilizing their efforts in the accelerated implementation of the SDGs.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union considers this document an important step in preparing for the SDG Summit, which will be held in September 2023 as part of the High Level General Debate of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

Fire near French city of Lyon kills 10, including children

PARIS: Ten people, including five children aged three to 15, were killed in a fire in the early hours of Friday in a residential building in Vaulx-en-Velin, near the French city of Lyon, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said.

Another four people were seriously injured in the fire, which started on the ground floor before spreading up the seven-storey building, rescue authorities told local media.

The fire, which began around 3 am (0200 GMT), has been extinguished.

Footage on social media showed a huge, dark cloud billowing above the building earlier in the day.

"I was woken up by the screams," a neighbour, Mohamed, told *Le Progrès de Lyon* newspaper. "We wanted to help people but the smoke was too thick."

Other witnesses, quoted by local media said a woman had thrown her child into the crowd, which managed to catch him. She then jumped



out of the window to escape the fire and smoke and fell to her death.

The Lyon prosecutor's office opened an investigation to determine how the fire broke out, and said it could not rule out any hypothesis, including that someone started the fire deliberately.

Darmanin, who is heading to the scene on Friday, said there were "several scenarios".

Neighbours told media, including *Le Progrès de Lyon* and *BFM TV*, that squatters — possibly drug

dealers — had lived on the ground floor of the building, located an underprivileged suburb of Lyon where many feel abandoned by public authorities.

In February 2019, 10 people were killed and 96 wounded in a fire in Paris which was the deadliest in the French capital since 2005.

In 2005, 24 people were killed in a fire in a residential home used by families of African origin. A woman was jailed for starting it by throwing clothes on candles during an argument.

Creating Job Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities to Ensure Social Uplift

Sightsavers, EFP join hands to promote employment opportunities for persons with disabilities

ISLAMABAD: Inclusion of People with Disabilities in every walk of life can lead to an inclusive society, to ensure this, a letter of understanding was signed between Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) and Sightsavers Pakistan for promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities in Pakistan's job market.

According to WHO's World report on disability, globally every 7th person out of total population is living with some form of disability. The partnership between Sightsavers and EFP will facilitate the inclusion of People with Disabilities into employment while improving disability confidence of employers.

The letter of understanding was signed by Country Director Sightsavers Pakistan Syeda Munazza Gillani and EFP President Ismail Sattar on behalf of their respective organizations.

This collaboration will promote, influence and sustain inclusive employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in the country.

President EFP, Ismail Sattar, termed this collaboration a positive step towards achieving the provincial government's mission of inclusion of persons with disabilities. He also urged sustainable collaboration with other national and international organizations for this cause.

"Utmost efforts of our Federation are to ensure decent job opportunities for all especially for persons with disabilities at work places so that



they are not exposed to any social or economic discrimination," Ismail Sattar ensured his commitment on behalf of EFP.

While addressing the audience, Country Director Sightsavers Pakistan Syeda Munazza Gillani shared the findings of recent labour market assessment which identified the need of improving employers' disability confidence and job readiness of youth with disabilities. She urged the employers to join Pakistan Business and Disability Network to ensure inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in job market.

While highlighting the barriers and aspirations of youth with disa-

bilities, she said, persons with disabilities are an integral part of the society where they are exposed to various issues like health problems, discriminatory attitudes, dependence on others, economic hardships and transportation issues.

Office Incharge (ILO, Country Office Pakistan) Ms. Khemphone Phaokhamkeo, considered this partnership a significant milestone for the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities and congratulated Sightsavers and EFP. She said that people with disabilities is a large segment of society and their inclusion in job market will empower them as well the society at large.

She further added, that the initiative will help Pakistan in meeting international commitments such as SDGs and UNCPRD. She emphasized on the importance and responsibility of employers for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities at work places.

Ms. Gillani said in a closing statement that Inclusive employment opportunities can be linked to inclusive and sustained economic growth on the basis that it creates a free and fair platform for ALL, which is devoid of their age, race, gender, and diversified abilities to have access to jobs, which can spur economic growth.

Russia rains missiles on Ukraine, causes new power outages

KYIV, UKRAINE: Russia pounded Ukraine with missiles on Friday, hitting critical infrastructure across the country and knocking out power as people took cover in shelters, Ukrainian officials said.

Explosions were heard in the eastern city of Kharkiv and local officials said critical infrastructure had been hit. Local officials in the Black Sea region of Odesa said critical infrastructure had also been hit there.

Kharkiv, the central city of Poltava and parts of the capital Kyiv were left without electricity and the northern Sumy region suffered power outages, regional officials said.

Reuters witnesses heard explosions in Kyiv. It was not immediately clear if any were caused by missiles getting through air defences.

There was no immediate word of casualties and it was not clear what critical infrastructure had been hit.

"Do not ignore air raid alerts, remain in shelters," Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the president's office said on the Telegram messaging app.

As many as 60 Russian missiles had been spotted heading for Ukraine, said



Vitaly Kim, who is the governor of the Mykolaiv region in southern Ukraine.

Russia has carried out several waves of attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure since October, causing power outages across the country.

The governor of the northern region of Sumy said there were power outages in his region because of Friday's missile strikes.

Air defence Global economic powers pledged to beef up Kyiv's military capabilities with a focus on air defence, as Russian missiles, artillery and drones hammered targets in Ukraine with no end in sight to Europe's biggest conflict since World War Two.

The Group of Seven promised to "meet Ukraine's urgent requirements" after President Volodymyr Zelen-

skiy appealed for modern tanks, artillery and long-range weapons to counter Russia's devastating invasion.

Zelenskyy also urged G7 leaders gathered at a virtual meeting to support his idea of convening a special Global Peace Summit dedicated to bringing peace to his country.

The summit would be focused on the implementation of Kyiv's 10-point peace plan that insists on, among other things, Russia's withdrawal of all its troops from Ukraine and no territorial concessions on Kyiv's part.

British Defence Minister Ben Wallace said on Monday he would be "open minded" about supplying Ukraine with longer-range missiles to target launch sites for Russian drones that have hit infrastructure if Russia carried on targeting civilian areas.

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index

Current	Prev. Close
41,301.48	41,179.76
Day's High	Day's Low:
41,393.97	41,087.59
Index Value	Change
3,369,785,861	+121.72
Percentage	Time
+0.3%	16 Dec, 2022 5: 00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index

Index Value	Change
7,328.34	-97.83
Percentage	Time
-1.25%	16 Dec, 2: 36 pm GMT

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average

Index Value	Change
32,943.02	-259.20
Percentage	Time
-0.78%	16 Dec, 9: 40 am GMT-5

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average

Index Value	Change
27,527.12	-524.58
Percentage	Time
-1.87%	16 Dec, 3: 15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	153.1	154.35
Bahrain Dinar	597.63	602.13
Canadian Dollar	164.68	166.03
China Yuan	32.23	32.48
Danish Krone	32.14	32.49
Euro	255.5	257.5
Hong Kong Dollar	28.91	29.26
Indian Rupee	2.72	2.8
Japanese Yen	2.13	2.16
Kuwaiti Dinar	731.99	736.99
Malaysian Ringgit	50.95	51.4
NewZealand \$	143.33	144.53
Norwegians Krone	22.43	22.73
Omani Riyal	584.2	588.7
Qatari Riyal	61.75	62.25
Saudi Riyal	64.1	64.7
Singapore Dollar	165.24	166.54
Swedish Korona	21.78	22.08
Swiss Franc	241.9	243.65
Thai Bhat	6.4	6.5
U.A.E Dirham	67.2	67.8
UK Pound Sterling	295	298
US Dollar	231.8	234.1

Libya interested to promote trade ties with Pakistan

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Fouzi Althahir Rahoumah Salim, First Deputy Speaker of Libyan House of Representatives said that Libya considers Pakistan an important country for business relations and is interested to further promote trade and economic ties with it. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry in honor of the 12-member visiting delegation of Libyan House of Representatives to Pakistan.

Fouzi Althahir Rahoumah Salim said that Pakistan is a beautiful country and investors of Libya would try to take advantage of the business and investment opportunities available in its economy. He said that by investing in Pakistan, Libyan investors would play a role to further improve the economies of both countries. He thanked ICCI for hosting a dinner reception in honor of the visiting Libyan delegation and assured that he would play a role



in promoting business linkages between the private sectors of both countries to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Mirza Muhammad Afridi, Deputy Chairman Senate of Pakistan highlighted the business and investment opportunities for Libyan investors in Gwadar and CPEC project and stressed that they should take full advantage of them

to achieve further growth. He said that many international companies are doing successful business in Pakistan and added that by investing in Pakistan, Libyan investors can export to many other promising markets.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the Libya's

annual turnover is over US\$ 48 billion, but its existing level of bilateral trade with Pakistan is just around US\$ 14 million, which is not in commensurate with the actual potential of both countries. He said that Libya is importing many products including agricultural products, construction material, consumer goods and Pakistan can supply these products to Libya at competitive prices. He stressed that both countries should encourage regular exchange of trade delegations to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation that would help further enhance bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries. He assured that ICCI would provide all possible support and cooperation in connecting the Libyan investors with right partners in Pakistan.

Senator Afnan Ullah Khan, Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Ajmal Baloch, Amir Hamza, Akhtar Hussain, Dr. Muhammad Usman, Raja Imtiaz, Humayun Kabir, Khalid Chaudhry, Saif ur Rehman Khan and others were also present at the occasion.

Problem of food security will become more serious: Mian Zahid Hussain

Tariq Khattak

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said a huge amount of cotton and food items will have to be imported due to the flood damages.

The imports will strain forex reserves and the current account deficit will cross the target of ten billion dollars.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the current situation the problem of food security will become more serious due to lack of resources with the government.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that due to floods and other reasons, cotton production has decreased by 40%, while rice production has decreased by 10% compared to last year.

He said that wheat cultivation has become impossible in various areas of Sindh due to floodwater due to which wheat production will be affected.



Textile and rice exports will be affected which will also damage export earnings exuberating the dollar crisis in the country, he added.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that falling prices of oil and other commodities may give some support to the country's treasury, but it is not certain.

He noted that the agricultural sector is suffering from the lack of attention of the authorities, wrong policies, non-provision

of credit, costly inputs, climate change, weak infrastructure, water theft, substandard agricultural pesticides and seed, and lack of research few to mention.

Due to the apathy of authorities, agricultural production is decreasing and poverty is increasing in rural areas which is causing mass migration.

In this situation, Pakistan had already become a food and cotton importing country before the flood and last year the government imported seventeen billion dollars worth of agricultural goods and now the situation is getting worse, he observed.

The government has announced a package for the agricultural sector while trying to find a solution to the lack of investment, but it is insufficient and the entire country, especially the rural population, will suffer the consequences of floods for many years.

If the government modernizes its country's agriculture instead of distributing 17 billion dollars i.e. 4100 billion rupees to foreign farmers and companies every year, then Pakistan can become a country that exports agricultural products instead of importing them, he said.

Coca-Cola İçecek Pakistan launches bottles made from 100% recycled plastic

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: In a collaboration, Coca-Cola Beverages Pakistan Ltd (CCI Pakistan) and The Company have launched PET bottles made from 100% recycled plastic, a new packaging innovation for Coca-Cola in Pakistan.

Initially launched in Sindh, where 2.25-liter Coca-Cola bottles will be made using food-grade recycled plastic (rPET), the initiative will be rolled out in other provinces as well.

Working closely with Pakistani provincial food authorities, Coca-Cola İçecek Pakistan has created a cycle through which used plastic bottles are collected for subjecting into a unit operation. This process ensures thorough cleaning and washing of the plastic while breaking them into small pellets. The pellets are eventually converted into food-grade packaging for Coca-Cola Pakistan

Earlier in 2022, CCI announced its "Sustainability Pledge for 2030". Under the pledge, CCI, as a group, is taking action to use at least 50 percent recycled plastics in all its packaging. The pledge also aims to evaluate and initiate multiple projects falling under 6 categories including Packaging, Water Stewardship, Climate Change, Human Rights, Diversity and Inclusion, and Community.

Speaking about this achievement, Mr. Ahmet Kursad Ertin, GM - CCI Pakistan, said, "Sustainability is a fundamental and indispensable aspect of our business. It is embedded in our vision and goals. We



integrate sustainability principles into all our operations. The use of rPET packaging is a step towards honoring our Packaging related commitment. We are thrilled to incorporate 100% rPET packaging for our products and will continue to take responsibility in line with CCI's Sustainability Pledge for 2030."

As part of its World Without Waste vision, the Company has committed to using 50% recycled material in its packaging by 2030. Currently, the company offers 100% rPET bottles in more than 25 markets.

Fahad Ashraf, Vice President of the Coca-Cola Company said, "Through this rollout starting in Karachi, Company aims to create a looping, circular economy, where all bottles are made from recycled plastic and are 100 percent recyclable. In doing so, we reduce the need for new plastic, and cut down the carbon footprint of our operations."

The introduction of recycled plastic products builds on the work done by Company under its World Without Waste and Water Stewardship initiatives. The company recently marked the first anniversary of Pakistan's first plastic road in Islamabad - built using 10 tons of plastic waste-introducing the concept of re-carpeting national roads with plastic waste.

2nd Pakistan Property EXPO & Convention

Islamabad: Federal Minister Senator Talah Mehmood inaugurates 2nd Pakistan Property EXPO and Convention at Pak-China Friendship Center, Khurshid Barlas, Chairman PAEI, Nasir Mirza former President RCCI, Fahad Barlas COO and others also present on the occasion.



Spokesman Photo by Ghulam Farid

Govt poor policies and external factors put economy in trouble: PIAF

News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial & Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol has said that the country's economy has nosedived partly due to external factors of the Russia-Ukraine war, global recession and the devastating floods but equally relevantly due to some questionable domestic policy decisions, besides widening differential between interbank and open market rupee-dollar parity, which has led to a decline in remittance inflows by enabling the hundi-hawala system to get a meaningful boost after the global lockdown in the aftermath of Covid-19.

Productivity Enhancement through Chemical & Environmental Management Systems

Commerce Reporter

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization, (NPO) Pakistan in collaboration with Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Tokyo, Japan developed demonstration companies on "Productivity Enhancement through Chemical Management Systems and Environmental Management Systems". APO's role in the development of Asia-Pacific region is critical. This was highlighted during a dissemination conference held in Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ali Sajid, Tamgha-e-Intiaz, and a renowned Professor & trainer added that working together with NPO Pakistan we will be able to find solutions to long-standing problems of the industry.

CEO NPO, Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry welcomed the delegates and apprised the participants about NPO and APO



services. He said that this program will develop a deeper understanding of industrial processes incorporating the latest knowledge on environmental management and techniques for controlling the

pollution. The demonstration company project is part of APO's initiatives to promote the adoption of productivity concepts through CMS and the ISO 14001: 2015 EMS.

Through the demonstration and replication of the improvement journey, the multiplier effects of the project can be expanded to other organizations in the country so that they can embark on similar

initiatives in supporting sustainable development and promoting productivity improvement.

There is growing interest in sustainable practices such as waste management, water and air pollution control, and solid waste pollution control. The industrial sector of Pakistan needs to enhance its capability through process optimization, chemical management, and waste management to minimize the negative impacts of its operations on the environment. Therefore, promoting CMS and EMS through the creation of model companies in the country can be considered as one viable endeavor for finding sustainable solutions to the challenges.

Pakistan has prioritized meeting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and was the first country to adopt the SDG 2030 agenda through a unanimous resolution of Parliament.

Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Staying true to its commitment of driving the energy sector forward, the leading energy company, Pakistan State Oil (PSO)

has added yet another product to its extensive portfolio by introducing the latest technology around the world as per API standards - DEO MAX, the country's first fully synthetic CK-4 graded diesel engine oil. Being the first of its kind in Pakistan, DEO Max offers longer oil drain interval, enhanced engine protection and reduced emissions.

The rising concerns of its predecessor's (CJ-4) inability to withstand the aggressive & harsh operating environment of technically advanced engines brought forward the need for a new, improved and cost-efficient solution. Since its launch globally, CK-4 engine oils already have a proven performance track record confirming its robustness, reliability

and economic efficiency. In comparison to its predecessor CJ-4, CK-4 prolongs the oil change interval up to 60%.

Revolutionizing the energy landscape in Pakistan, DEO Max is formulated to deliver exceptional performance in modern as well as pre-dated heavy diesel engines. Technology being used in DEO Max has passed strict performance tests to qualify where API CK-4, CJ-4, CI-4 Plus, CI-4 & CH-4 oils are recommended.

Built with the world's best lubricant additive, DEO Max is available country wide at all PSO retail forecourts, Hi street lubricant markets and also throughout B2B segment. Being the national flag bearer, PSO continues to be at the forefront of introducing new and advanced technologies in every sphere of its operations as it pledges to enhance the fueling experience in Pakistan.

Azhar Ali announces retirement from Test cricket

Bureau Report

KARACHI: Azhar Ali, Pakistan's one of the most successful batters, will hang his boots following the third Test against England, which begins on Saturday. With 7,097 runs in 96 matches at an average of 42.49, Azhar is Pakistan's fifth leading Test run-getter behind Younis Khan (10,099), Javed Miandad (8,832), Inzamam-ul-Haq (8,829) and Mohammad Yousuf (7,530).

In 2010, Azhar, as a 25-year-old, made his Test debut in England against Australia at Lord's and scored his maiden Test half-century in only his second match. He would score 34 more half-centuries and went past the 100-run mark on 19 instances.

Azhar, 37, is the only Pakistan batter to score a triple-century in a pink-ball Test – a feat that he achieved against the West Indies in Dubai in 2016. That unbeaten 302 remains his highest score in Test cricket.

Over the course of his 12-year career, Azhar also made two double-centuries – 226 against Bangladesh in Dhaka (May 2015) and 205 not out against Australia in Melbourne (December 2016) – and has, at least, one century in Australia, Bangladesh, England, Pakistan, Sri



Lanka, United Arab Emirates, the West Indies and Zimbabwe. Against Australia in Abu Dhabi in 2014, Azhar scored a century in each inning (109 and 100 not out) to help Pakistan win the second Test by 356 runs and the two-Test series 2-0.

Azhar captained Pakistan in nine Tests in two separate tenures from 2016 to 2020.

He retired from One-Day Internationals in 2018 – a year after helping Pakistan win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017. In that tournament, Azhar had scores of 50 (v India), 9 (v South Africa), 34 (v Sri Lanka), 76 (v England in semi-final) and

59 (v India in final).

Azhar Ali said, "It has been a great honour and privilege for me to represent my country at the highest level. Deciding on when to call it a day is always tough, but, after contemplating deeply, I realised that this is the right time for me to retire from Test cricket."

"There are many people who I am grateful to in this strenuous, yet beautiful journey. I want to make a special mention of my family without whose sacrifices; I would not have been where I am today. My parents, wife, siblings, and children have been my strength throughout."

"I have been blessed to share the dressing room with some of the most outstanding cricketers with whom I share a strong bond. I feel much richer by calling these people my friends. I am also blessed to have played under some wonderful coaches to whom I will always remain grateful."

"I retire from international cricket as a fulfilled cricketer who ticked most of the goals he had set for himself. Not many cricketers go on to lead their countries, and that I was able to captain Pakistan is a matter of great pride for me. From being a kid who started as a leg-spinner to becoming a mainstay in the Test batting line-up, I had the loveliest moments of my life that I will cherish forever."

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja said, "Azhar Ali has been one of the most committed and loyal servants of Pakistan cricket. His grit and determination have been an inspiration for many young cricketers and he is a role model for up-and-coming cricketers."

"While it is sad that Pakistan will not have a player of his experience in the dressing room to draw upon, it only reflects the circle of life. I hope to see Azhar continuing to play a role in the development of Pakistan cricket and sharing his vast knowledge and experience with budding cricketers."



LAHORE: Malala Yousafzai Nobel peace prize holder along with her husband Asser Malik met with the Pakistan Women's cricket team. Malala who is in visit of Pakistan met the team stars Diana Baig, Tuba Hassan, Sidra Amin, Eman Ali and Shawal Zulfqar. She expressed the best wishes for their opening endeavours, especially the 2023. ICC Women's T-20 T-20 Cricket World Cup. She also motivated to Pakistan Women team to have faith in their abilities, and said to the players to continue practicing and enjoy the game.

France players sidelined ahead of World Cup final

DOHA: France's World Cup final preparations were rocked as three more players were forced to miss training with cold-like symptoms on Friday just two days before their showdown with Argentina.

Raphael Varane, Ibrahim Konate and Kingsley Coman were all sidelined as Les Bleus prepare to take on Lionel Messi and Argentina in Sunday's final at Doha's Lusail Stadium.

The trio of absentees sparked further fears of a mystery virus in the French camp after two players – Adrien Rabiot and Dayot Upamecano – were ruled out of the semi-final win over Morocco.

Rabiot and Upamecano both returned to training on Friday. Coman, the Bayern Munich winger, had already been forced to miss a training session on Thursday because of a "light viral syndrome", the French Football Federation (FFF) said.

France forward Randal Kolo Muani sought to play down the illnesses on Friday.

"There is little bit of flu going around but nothing serious," he said.

Earlier this week, France coach Didier Deschamps suggested frigid air conditioning might be to blame for the illnesses in the French squad.

"The air conditioning is on all the time and so we have had a few cases of flu-like symptoms but we will try to avoid it spreading," Deschamps said.

"The players put in so much effort on the pitch and so their immune systems suffer. Your body is weakened and you are more prone to getting infected."

France are aiming to become the first team to win back-to-back World Cups since Brazil achieved the feat in 1962 as Argentina captain Messi looks to crown his glorious career with the one major title that has eluded him.

Magical Messi saves his best for last in Qatar

DOHA: As if he had not made enough fairy-tales, Argentina's little genius Lionel Messi has saved the potentially most magical script for his last World Cup – with one line left to write.

With immense pressure on him to match the late great Diego Maradona and send the trophy back to Buenos Aires, Messi has lit up the Qatar tournament while others in the superstar stratum – Neymar, Cristiano Ronaldo – have underwhelmed and gone home.

From Argentina's opening game until their semi-final win over Croatia, Messi, near the end of his career and at his fifth World Cup aged 35, has been the tournament's out-and-out star.

His match statistics speak for themselves: six starts, five goals, three assists en route to Sunday's final against France.

Smashing so many records it is hard to keep track, Messi has beaten Maradona's tally of World Cup goals and appearances for Argentina, and on Sunday will jump ahead of Lothar Matthaeus' joint record 25-match appearances at the tournament.

Beyond the dazzling data, however, it has been Messi's mesmerising motion, and joyous celebrations, that have electrified football fans around the world.

Spending large passages of play at walking pace and barely bothering to defend at times, Messi has waited for his moments, employing with deadly effect his low centre-of-gravity, stunning change of pace and shimming runs with ball glued to feet.

49th Pakistan Open Golf Championship

Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Out of four rounds, two rounds stand completed in the 49th Pakistan Open Golf Championship endorsed and supported by Pakistan Golf Federation at the Lahore Garrison Greens Golf Course. The holding of this grand event gets a respectful salute from the golf professionals of the national golf circuit as it lays out a gainful occasion for them whereby commendable performances reap befitting rewards. And visible are the efforts of the golfing duelists who toil and exert themselves to exhibit perfection in the golf arena. And as the Tournament Director Malik Kamran shared that at the conclusion of the second round on Friday, the youthful Ahmed Baig of PAF Skyview Golf Club showed his enormous golf playing capabilities through shot control and mastery on the greens and thereby emerges as the leader with an assertive performance. With a second round score of gross 68, Ahmed Baig finds his two rounds aggregate of 140, four under par, fittingly suitable to place him at the top ladder on the leaderboard. Leader he certainly is but not alone. His playing adversary Ansar Mehmood of Margalla Greens is also there with him by matching the aggregate score of gross 140 with two rounds scores of 68 in the first round and 72 in the second round yesterday. No doubt this might be upsetting for the herculean ones like Shabbir Iqbal, M. Munir and Matloob Ahmed who have reigned the golf arena of Pakistan for the past fifteen years but it appears in this 49th Pakistan Open, they are not the ones in command.



At the start of the 18 holes on Friday, Ahmed Baig was placed way down the leaderboard but as the flow of second round progressed, Baig began to look zestful and spirited and totally unmoved by the stress of the competition and yearning to cast a spell of ascendancy. His drives off the tee were forceful backed by errorless approach shots. These attributes fetched him seven birdies, eight pars and though he encountered three bogies also his score for the second round was gross 68 and that added to the first days score of 72 gives him an aggregate of 140, four under par for two rounds. At the same score is placed Anser Mehmood and from hereon the battle of nerves is on.

Two strokes behind the two leaders is Muhammed Alam (Lahore Garrison).

With two rounds scores of 68 and 74 and an aggregate of 142, Alam is two strokes behind the leaders, all committed to show his strengths over the remaining two rounds.

Out of the other contenders Arif Ali (Gymkhana) is placed fourth with two rounds aggregate of 143, one under par and he is three strokes behind the leaders, Ahmed Baig and Anser.

More contenders in line for good positions are Hamza Taimur Amin (Islamabad) at a score of 145 and also at 145 are Shahid Javed Khan (Gymkhana), M. Saqib (Garrison) and Muhammed Naqas (Islamabad). Following them are Aashir Masih (Gymkhana) and Waheed Baloch (Karachi) at 146. At a score of 147 are placed Minhaj M. Waraich (Rawalpindi), Matloob Ahmed (Garrison), M. Munir (Rawalpindi) and Abdul Zahoor (Multan).

The number one ranked player of the country had lost his bearing in the first round and his score was an unbelievable 79. In the second round however his excellence stood restored and his round of 69 gives him a two rounds score of gross 148 and he is placed 16th on the leaderboard.

In the amateur category the teenager Saad Habib Malik of Rumanza showed his talent and merit and is the leader in amateur section with two rounds scores of 76 and 75 and a two rounds aggregate of 151. Placed one stroke behind him is 15 years old Irtiza Hussain. His two rounds scores are 73 and 79 and total for two rounds is 152. Ali Amin of Sargodha is at a score of 153. Out of 35 amateurs, only three amateurs made the cut, which represents a huge compliment for these young ones.

The overall cut was placed at the end of two rounds and based on scores only 56 made the cut. That included 53 professionals and only three amateurs.

The senior professionals played their first round on Friday. Leaders at the end of the first round are Muhammed Tariq (Islamabad) and Zulfqar Ali (Multan) with a score of gross 71, one under par. Irfan Mehmood, Tariq Mehmood and Tahir Naseem are placed together at a score of 73.

Tee off in the third round on Saturday will be at 8am in the 49th Pakistan Open Golf Championship at the Lahore Garrison Golf Course. This was stated by Malik Kamran, the Tournament Director.

Iran Shotokan Karate Federation awarded honorary back belt 1st Don Prof. Faisal

Sports Reporter

LAHORE: Iran Shotokan Karate Federation had awarded honorary back belt 1st Don & Chief Guest Shield to Prof. Faisal Fayyaz, in Pakistan kancha Mamoru Mewa Cup Karate championship 2022.

Faisal also received best Educator Award 2022, world most inspirational teacher, global Excellence Award and honorary doctorate award on world teachers day 5th October 2022.

Faisal had signed MOU with Six International Indonesian Universities. According to Faisal, there are other affiliations and collaborations are in process for the promotion & development of physical education & sports sciences specifically for the young generation of Pakistan and international collaborators by following the United Nations SDG Goals with international universities & sports bodies of Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, India, Iraq, Egypt, Romania, Ukraine, Oman, Germany, etc.

Recently, Faisal Fayyaz, Founder and President of Sports Promotion Society International and Pakistan Sports Promoters had



received National Youth Empowerment Award 2022 on the basis of Physical Education, Science, Technology, Gymnastics and Sports Sciences by Rising Pakistan, Educasa International and Minhaj Youth League.

His services to the youth at the grassroots level were appreciated. Faisal Fayyaz, International Sportsman, gymnast, Coach and Sports Administrator, as well as Researcher in Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Educational Technologies and Computer Sciences, and Ambassador of several International Bodies.

Faisal Fayyaz is also an editorial member of the Asia Pacific Journal of Advanced Education and

Technology. Faisal Fayyaz of Pakistan successfully presented his research on May 10 at the Regeneration ISEF in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, representing Pakistan at the C101 Auditorium, World Congress Center where he was appreciated by the international audience, directors, teachers, school and college.

Meanwhile, Faisal Fayyaz also visited the World Olympic Park, World Aquarium Center and Atlanta Sports & Gymnastics Academy. Faisal has twice received special awards from the President of Pakistan, especially in the field of gymnastics and computer science. Mr. Faisal had received Roll of Honor and special award Henry Lal Gold Medal from Chief Executive & President

of Pakistan General Parvaiz Musharraf.

He also received five Roll of honor that he earned while staying in his educational institutes like Govt College Lahore, FC College Lahore, Punjab University, & Govt College of Physical Education Lahore. He also the grand prize winner in Microsoft Pakistan Developer Conference 2005 and received this prize from acting president & Chairman Senate Mian Somro in Pearl Continental Hotel Karachi while late Arfa Karim was also accompanying at that moment with Faisal.

Faisal Fayyaz is well renowned Computer Science Professional, Researcher, Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert, Wakelet Community Leader, Project Management Professional, Cambridge certified Computer Science teacher, physical education, sports sciences & educational technologies mentor.

He has organized a lot of research conferences in the field of Computer Science, Educational & Informational Technologies, Gymnastics, Sports & Physical Education for the development of young generation.

Shaheed BB National Tennis Championship

ISLAMABAD: Amarah Khan returns a shot against Soha Ali during women single tennis match during Shaheed Benazir Bhutto National Tennis Championship in Federal Capital.



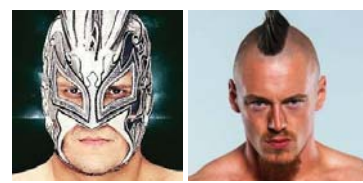
Photo: Online

Former WWE superstars Kalisto, Sam Gradwell to wrestle in Multan

News Desk

MULTAN: Former World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) superstars Kalisto and Sam Gradwell will wrestle here on December 17 and 18 for the Ring of Pakistan Heavyweight Championship.

According to the details, local wrestler Badshah Khan will be defending his heavyweight title in a Fatal-Four way match, which will feature Kalisto,



Sam Gradwell and an Austrian wrestler. Notably, Kalisto had been linked with the American sports entertainment firm WWE and won several prestigious titles

including the United States Championship.

Whereas, Gradwell was linked with the WWE franchise NXT where he participated in United Kingdom Championship in 2018 and WWE's The Bump a year later.

Meanwhile, besides them, several notable names in the wrestling industry will also feature in the wrestling event here at DHA Multan Sports Complex.