

# Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



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عبداللہ بن عربیہ کا اس سے روایت کیا کہ  
جب نبی کریم ﷺ نے مکانوں کے سوا  
اور رتوں میں نہیں جھگڑنے سے منع فرمایا تو  
لوگوں نے آپ صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم سے عرض  
کیا: یا رسول اللہ! ہر کسی کو تکفہاں سے  
مل سکتی ہے؟ اس وقت آپ ﷺ نے فرمایا  
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RAWALPINDI



## Pakistan, Japan agree to deepen bilateral relations in various fields

Pakistan and Japan Monday agreed to further deepen their bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including trade, investment and Information Technology. This was stated by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while addressing a joint press conference along with his Japanese counterpart. (Details on Page 8)



## Transparent elections, only way to end political instability in country

Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi has said free and fair elections were the only solution to economic challenges and political instability of the country. He stated this while talking to media after a public gathering here in Gul-e-Imam area in which local leaders of PTI announced to join PPP. (Details on Page 8)

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## JCSC chairman calls on prime minister

ISLAMABAD: Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Sahir Shamshad Mirza on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and they discussed the professional matters pertaining to the armed forces of Pakistan



## President says he held good meetings with his Bangladeshi counterpart



News Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said that he held good meetings with Bangladesh President Shahabuddin in Makkah, Mina and Madina. On his Twitter handle, the president posted twin pictures and informed that in white was his childhood friend Salman Rehman, who is now a Member of Parliament, Minister and Advisor in Bangladesh.

President says he held good meetings with his Bangladeshi counterpart "We met after 60 years (yrs). Blessings of Allah will do wonders for our relationship," he further added. The president has been in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj. President says he held good meetings with his Bangladeshi counterpart.

# PM Shehbaz hopes current IMF programme to be last

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif on Monday called the current International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme a 'breather' and a 'moment of concern', urging all national institutions to make concerted efforts to rid Pakistan of loans.

Addressing the federal cabinet meeting today, the prime minister said all national institutions - while keeping in their respective jurisdictions - should make a united efforts for at least next 15 years to address the country's economic woes.

PM Shehbaz said the country's deliverance from loans required a vision, unity, hard work and sacrifice by the affluent people. "If we opt this course, no one

can stop Pakistan from achieving progress," he remarked.

"I pray that this is the last IMF deal. But this is easier said than done," he commented, pointing out that the state-owned enterprises like Steel Mills, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and others were eating up around Rs600 billion annually.

The premier noted that Pakistan will receive first tranche of \$1.1 billion under the stand-by agreement in July.

He thanked all of his cabinet members, particularly Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and his team, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Managing Director of IMF for their respective roles to make Pakistan achieve the nine-month stand-by agreement of \$3 billion.

He also lauded the friendly

nations - China, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia - for helping the country 'in difficult economic situation'.

The prime minister spoke highly of Chinese support during last three months by rolling over \$5 billion of sovereign and commercial bank loans which were unprecedented.

He said the situation would have been different if China had not made this rollover. The people of Pakistan should never forget this," he remarked.

Similarly, the prime minister also thanked Saudi Arabia, UAE and Islamic Development Bank for committing \$2 billion, and \$1 billion each respectively for Pakistan.

PM Shehbaz also thanked the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his role in the IMF

agreement and offering his other role in the process, if needed.

Calling it teamwork, he particularly appreciated the role of Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir for his efforts to bring in the support of a total \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

PM Shehbaz said that during the remaining 40-42 days of the government's term, the cabinet members should make efforts to leave behind a policy framework providing a roadmap and a vision for future development.

Last week, Pakistan signed \$3 billion staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) following the conclusion of staff-level agreement.

As per details, the government of Pakistan and IMF \$3 billion staff-level agreement was signed

in a ceremony held in Lahore.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb were present at the ceremony

International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that a "Stand-By Arrangement" between the global money lender with Pakistan has been reached successfully.

IMF Mission Chief Nathan Porter along with his team maintained continuous communication with Pakistani authorities and completed the agreement through virtual negotiation.

The final approval of this agreement will be given by the IMF's executive board, which is expected to take place in mid-July. After this approval, Pakistan can receive a loan of \$3 billion.

## Bilawal Bhutto Zardari calls on Japanese Prime Minister

Hinza Asif

TOKYO: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday called on the Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo and discussed with him matters of mutual interests.

The foreign minister conveyed greetings from the Government and people of Pakistan, according to the ministry of foreign office's spokesperson.

During the meeting, both leaders expressed the desire to further enhance bilateral engagement and cooperation



in different fields.

## Pakistan's electricity shortfall reaches 5,856MW amid hot weather

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The electricity shortfall in Pakistan has reached 5,856 megawatts (MW), amid hot weather in the country.

According to sources, the demand in the country for electricity has surged to 27,000 megawatts while the power supply is 21,144 megawatts.

The shortfall has resulted in power outages of 6 to 8 hours in the country, while the duration is more in areas with high losses and electricity theft. The technical faults have resulted in up to 14 hours of load-shedding.

3,035 megawatts of electricity are being produced through atomic power plants and 772MW from government-owned thermal power plants. Sources further said 576MW is being supplied to National Grid from the wind power plants.

## Vladimir Putin to address Shanghai alliance with Iran set to join



News Desk

NEW DELHI: India on Tuesday hosts the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, with Iran expected to join the Asian grouping and Russian President Vladimir Putin addressing his first summit since a short-lived mutiny, officials said.

Chinese state media reported President Xi Jinping will also attend the virtual summit of the eight-member SCO - headquartered in Beijing but hosted by India which holds the rotating chair - alongside the leaders of Central Asian countries.

The Kremlin on Monday said Putin would attend and address

the summit, without giving further details.

Last month the head of the Wagner mercenary group, Yevgeny Prigozhin, led his forces in a failed rebellion against Russia's top military brass.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday said "the full membership of Iran" would be approved at the summit.

Tehran has intensified its diplomacy with friends and foes alike in recent months, seeking to reduce its isolation, improve its economy and project strength.

"This membership is beneficial both for Iran and for the organisation," Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said Monday, saying it would have "positive effects on economic development" between member nations.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will also take part, calling it an "important forum for regional security and prosperity", Islamabad's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Created in 2001 to discuss security and economic matters, other SCO members are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with countries including Belarus and Mongolia invited as observers.

## Two security personnel martyred, one injured in Balor area

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Two security personnel including one officer were martyred while one officer was injured in an exchange of fire with terrorists in the Balor area of Balochistan.

According to ISPR, a combat patrol of security forces was initiated in general areas of Balor, after credible intelligence with respect to the move of a group of terrorists in the Hoshab area. The group was linked with firing incidents on security forces and civilians besides planting improvised explosive devices

While the establishment of blocking positions to cut the escape routes was underway, a party of terrorists tried to ambush the closing-in patrol and opened fire on security forces.

As a result of the heavy exchange of fire, two brave sons of the nation Major Saqib Hussain and Naik Baqir Ali embraced martyrdom while another soldier was injured.

## French rioters torched Mayor's residence while family sleeps inside



Kashan Bhatti

PARIS: An unfortunate incident came to light where the French rioters torched the Mayor's house while his wife and children were sleeping inside.

According to international media reports, the protest in France enters the fifth day after the government failed to negotiate with the protesters.

In an unfortunate event, the Protesters rammed a torched car into the mayor's residence and the furious rioters chased his wife, Melanie Nowak, and her two children into the garden as the family tried to escape.

The mother suffered a serious leg fracture after trying to push her children over the wall that separates her garden from her neighbour's backyard and was recovering in hospital on Sunday morning, while one of the children was also injured.

Vincent Jeanbrun, the mayor of LHaj-les-Roses, a

suburb south of Paris, termed the attack on his family as an "assassination attempt".

It is pertinent to mention here that a massive protests and riots rocked across France, especially in the neighbourhood of Nanterre in Paris, after the killing of a 17-year-old teenager by a police officer during a traffic stop.

As many as 700 shops and banks were affected by the arson, meanwhile, more than 200 police officers were injured in the clashes, while the number of arrested protesters exceeded 3,000.

Due to the deteriorating situation, the French president postponed his visit to Germany, while more than 45 thousand officers are deployed across the country to take control of the situation.

Furthermore, the aerial surveillance of the troubled areas are also being done by helicopters, while armored personnel carriers have also been deployed in the affected areas.

## Meeting

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Federal Cabinet on Monday.



Photo: PID

## Cabinet briefed about \$ three billion IMF deal

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Cabinet was briefed about the salient features of the \$ 3 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund on Monday.

While chairing the cabinet meeting here, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan was thankful to friendly countries, including China, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Development Bank and the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help in clinching the IMF deal.

The prime minister said a comprehensive solid waste management system for the

Islamabad Capital Territory should be introduced.

He instructed that under the solid waste management programme, responsibility should be given to companies which have experience in disposing off harmful and toxic waste in hospitals in Islamabad.

The cabinet in principle approved sending of the Islamabad Capital Territory Solid Waste Bill to the Cabinet Committee for Legislative Cases (CCLC).

It was given a detailed briefing about the solid waste management in Islamabad. It was informed under the project, two strategies would be formulated. Under the short

term policy, waste collection had started from Islamabad, including the suburban areas, while under the long term one; tenders had been issued to hire services of high standard international companies.

The prime minister sough details of incinerators for disposing off waste in hospitals in Islamabad.

On the recommendation of Ministry of Commerce, the cabinet allowed transit of a container of spare parts of vehicles from Karachi to Kabul. The spare parts would be for the vehicles of World Food Programme which was continuing its operation to provide food to Afghanistan.

On the recommendation

of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, the cabinet approved in principle the Higher Education Commission Amendment Bill 2023. The approval of the amendment bill would bring innovation in the system of higher education according to the requirements of present era.

On the recommendation of the Education Ministry, the cabinet also sanctioned the Federal Urdu University for Arts, Science and Technology Amendment Bill 2023. The amendment would bring reforms in the university and promote research.

On the recommendation of the Education Ministry,

it also approved the National Commission for Human Development Amendment Ordinance 2002.

The drafts of the above three laws would be forwarded to the CCLC.

The cabinet also sanctioned sending of the Private Security Services Regulatory Bill to the CCLC.

Under the bill, a Private Security Services Regulatory Authority would be established to oversee the security system.

It also approved legislation for establishing the Pakistan Land Port Authority, however, it directed that after consultation with the Ministry of Commerce the draft legislation should be sent to the CCLC.

## Punjab Cabinet approves construction of new GOR in 19th meeting

## Bureau Report

LAHORE: The 19th cabinet meeting, chaired by the caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, was held at his office on Monday.

The meeting lauded the exceptional cleanliness arrangements implemented by provincial ministers, commissioners, deputy commissioners, and solid-waste companies during Eid al-Adha. Their diligent efforts were commended, and the officials responsible for maintaining cleanliness throughout the province were acknowledged for their outstanding performance.

During the meeting, several decisions were made. The construction of a new Government Officers' Residence (GOR) for homeless provincial government employees



was approved, and the chief minister directed timely steps for the development of a new residential colony.

Furthermore, the cabinet approved the inclusion of the SL-3 project of Lahore Ring Road and the elevated project from Niazi Chowk to Babu Sabu in the annual development program. Additionally, the expansion project of Data Darbar was approved, which

will feature a state-of-the-art almonry and enhanced facilities for visitors. The chief minister instructed that the owners of the land acquired for the expansion project be compensated at the market rate.

Moreover, the cabinet authorized the signing of an agreement between the Local Government Department and the Punjab Infor-

mation Technology Board for the "Your Municipality, Helpline 1198" project. Amendments to the Punjab Government Rules of Business, 2011 were approved to facilitate the training of public prosecutors at the Center for Professional Development of Public Prosecutors. Financial assistance was also approved for the affected children and families of deceased children in Ahmadpur East tehsil of Bahawalpur.

In a significant decision, the cabinet granted financial autonomy to the medical superintendents of all government hospitals in Punjab, enabling them to manage their finances up to 10 million rupees. The cabinet also approved the delegation of financial powers to the medical superintendents.

Furthermore, the establish-

ment of the Nishtar Institute of Ophthalmology & Allied Vision Sciences (IOAVS) in Multan and the revised procedure for the appointment of principals in government colleges were reviewed. The audit report for the fiscal year 2022-23 was also approved for the accounts of the Punjab government.

Additionally, approval was given for a draft agreement between the Excise & Taxation Department and the Punjab Information Technology Board regarding the scanning of motor vehicle registration documents/files. The Okara Arts Council was transferred back to the Punjab Arts Council from the Lahore Arts Council.

The meeting was attended by provincial ministers, advisors, the chief secretary, the IG police, and others.

## Advocate General Punjab calls on CM Mohsin Naqvi



## Bureau Report

LAHORE: Advocate General Punjab Khalid Ishaq called on caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at his office on Monday and discussed judicial matters related to the Punjab government. During the meeting, it was emphasised to vacate stay orders on essential and welfare-driven schemes. Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi particularly emphasized the importance of addressing any reservations regarding public welfare projects.

## Pakistan, Japan agree to deepen bilateral relations in various fields

## Hinza Asif

TOKYO: Pakistan and Japan Monday agreed to further deepen their bilateral cooperation in diverse fields including trade, investment and Information Technology.

This was stated by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari while addressing a joint press conference along with his Japanese counterpart Hayashi Yoshimasa here in Tokyo today.

He said the two sides also agreed to enhance cooperation in mutually beneficial people-to-people contact, human resource development, tourism and agriculture sectors.

The foreign minister said Pakistan and Japan have further agreed to explore avenues for working together on targeted programs in domains of solarization, desalination, water purification and rebuilding of housing structures in the flood-affected areas of Pakistan.

The two sides agreed to conduct language skills assessment tests for the Japanese language in Pakistan to facilitate the export of a skilled workforce.

FM Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said we have also deliberated on scores of joint ventures by Japanese enterprise in Pakistan.

He said Pakistan and Japan have cordial relations and are longstanding friends and



share special bond, based on deep rooted linkages that go far in history and time. He said people of Pakistan carry deep sentiments of warmth and affection for Japan and its people.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto said Pakistan attaches high importance to its relationship with Japan as both countries have also stood with each other in times of need.

On the occasion, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed his gratitude to his Japanese counterpart for hosting him and his delegation.

## First Monsoon spell: NDMA finalises rain emergency plan

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has finalised its emergency plan ahead of the first spell of monsoon rains predicted from July 3 to 8 across the country.

The NDMA spokesperson said that the Met Department predicted the first spell of monsoon rains with thunderstorms from July 3 to 8 in different parts of the country. It added that heavy rains can also occur landslide in mountainous areas and flooding situations in low-lying areas.

The authority issued instructions to the concerned departments regarding its rain emergency plan citing the expected weather conditions. The NDMA ordered concerned institutions to ensure the availability of necessary machinery and staff. In case of an emergency situation, the district administration must ensure the presence of the medical staff. The authority also directed the tourists and passengers to keep themselves aware of the weather developments before starting their journey. Farmers and cattle owners have been advised to adopt precautionary measures due to the weather conditions.

## Acting President writes PM to build martyrs monuments

## News Desk

ISLAMABAD: Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani has written a letter to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif drawing attention towards the establishment of monuments of the martyrs of the nation in the federal and provincial capitals.

He said there were no two opinions on the established fact that their forefathers gave everlasting sacrifices for the creation of the country.

The sacrifices of the martyrs for the stability and integrity of the nation were also memorable, he wrote.

"Martyrs are our heroes and the peace and security in Pakistan is the result of unparalleled sacrifices of our martyrs."

Sanjrani said adding, "as a nation



it is our obligation that we should keep alive the martyrs in hearts of the people particularly youth."

The Acting President said the federal and provincial governments should ensure the establishment of martyrs monuments at the federal and provincial capitals. The pictures of the martyrs and Pakistani flag should be put up at airports, government buildings, schools, important highways, railway stations and other places.

## The funeral prayer of Major Saqib Hussain Shaheed performed



## Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Funeral prayers of Major Saqib Hussain Shaheed (age 31 years, resident of District Sanghar, Sindh) and Naik Baqir Ali Shaheed (age 26 years, resident of District Dadu, Sindh) who embraced shahadat on 2 July 2023 while fighting gallantly with terrorists in Hoshab area of Balochistan,

were offered at first in Turbat and later at their respective hometowns.

The Shaheeds were laid to rest with full military honours.

Senior serving & retired officers/soldiers, relatives and large number of people attended the funerals.

Pakistan Army remains committed towards ensuring defence of the motherland at all costs.

## Transparent elections, only way to end political instability in country



## Adam Khan Wazir

TANK: Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi has said free and fair elections were the only solution to economic challenges and political instability of the country.

He stated this while talking to media after a public gathering here in Gul-e-Imam area in which local leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf announced to join PPP. On this occasion, the state minister was accompanied by PPP District President Sardar Hidayat Ullah Khan Gandapur, Divisional General Secretary Fateh Sher and other party representatives.

Faisal Kundi, who is also Central Information Secretary of PPP, said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) believed in democracy and support in time elections in the country. He said that his party has started its preparations for elections across the country after the announcement of party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari during his visit to Swat.

He vowed that PPP would succeed in the upcoming elections and make governments in center as well as in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the previous government played an active role in making the IMF program a failure. However, he added, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar finalized a deal with IMF through a team work.

## Pakistan evades default, revives market confidence: economists

## Bureau Report

KARACHI: Pakistan's deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), has saved the country from default and revived stock market confidence, economists commented while talking to the Media.

"The bullish trend in market is expected to persist for at least 10 days. It will also boost value of the Rupee, attract investment, save the country from default and create space for a new government to tackle the crisis," experts said in their comments.

"The deal with the IMF has been better than expectations," Moham-mad Suhail, an economic expert said. "It will also help the new government to tackle the crisis," he added.

"A bullish trend could continue in the stock market for next 10 days," Abid Sulehri said. "Things are return-

ing to normal after agreement with the lender, which has also revived confidence of the investors," he added.

"The IMF deal has created investors' interest in buying, it will help the rupee to gain value. Pakistan's rupee is expected to gain five to seven rupees in value against the US dollar," another expert Samiullah Tariq commented.

Dr. Khaqan Najeeb has said that the country has moved away from the shadow of default. "Pakistan will also get stalled funds after the deal and it could likely to receive three billion dollars from the friendly countries," he added.

The Pakistan Stock Market (PSX) entered in bullish mode gaining over 2,000 points on Monday, as investors' confidence revived after the signing of a staff-level agreement between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

# PM AJK condemns in the strongest terms the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar Haq has condemned in the strongest terms the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and said that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation should adopt a joint and lively stance on this incident. In his special statement, the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir said that there is a need to take measures against repeated incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran, we must continuously remind the international community of international laws that clearly prohibit the support of religious hatred, he said.



That the European countries should understand the sanctity of the holy book of the Muslims and they should realize how much the Muslims love the Holy Quran and they cannot tolerate any kind of desecration of it. He warned

of the seriousness of such actions, saying that such incidents undermine mutual respect and harmony among peoples while contradicting interna-

tional efforts to promote values such as tolerance and moderation and reject extremism.

He said that it is the responsibility of all countries to ensure the respect and promotion of human and fundamental rights without discrimination of race, gender, language or religion under the United Nations Charter.

He emphasized the need to exercise the right to freedom of expression responsibly and in accordance with relevant international human rights laws.

He emphasized the need for dialogue between religions, cultures and civilizations for world peace and harmony. He said that only by promoting understanding and cooperation can we achieve the goal of world peace.

## Pakistan Army timely rescue operation in Nezapir



**Bureau Report**

HAVELI: Many precious lives were saved by the timely rescue operation of the Pakistan Army in Nezapir. According to the details, a civil jeep went out of control due to a technical fault in the steering at Neza Pir and fell into the drain adjacent to the road. The soldiers of the Pakistan Army immediately completed the rescue operation and provided the best medical aid to the injured. Two persons who sustained major head and mouth injuries were shifted by military ambulance to the Advanced Dressing Station at Forward Kahota where they are undergoing treatment. A total of seven people including the driver were traveling in the vehicle whose condition is out of danger.

## CBD Punjab equips itself to combat monsoon season

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: As per the directives from the Government of Pakistan and the Government of Punjab, Central Business District Punjab (CBD Punjab), is fully prepared to tackle the upcoming monsoon season head-on. Taking immediate action, CBD Punjab has installed temporary seven drainage pumps on emergency bases to effectively address the rainfall expected during the upcoming monsoon spell. These strategically placed pumps will ensure efficient water drainage and minimize the risk of water accumulation in Kalma Underpass CBD Punjab Boulevard.

At Kalma Underpass CBD Punjab Boulevard, two pumps with capacities of six cusecs and three cusecs have been installed, equipped with both WAPDA and generator backup. Similarly, Saint Mary Park in Lahore now features one pump with a capacity of six cusecs and another with a capacity of three cusecs, supported by WAPDA and generator backup. Additionally, Ali Zaib Road has been equipped with two pumps of six cusecs each and one pump of three cusecs, providing effective rainwater drainage with the assistance of both WAPDA and generator backup.

Furthermore, the Contractor has received three pumps today with a capacity of eight cusecs each whose installation will be started within the next 24 hours.

CBD Punjab remains committed to the safety and well-being of its citizens during the monsoon season. The organization urges the public to remain vigilant, follow safety guidelines, and report any emergency situations to the authorities.

## Agreement with IMF will restore the confidence of domestic and foreign investors

**Kiran Asim**



MULTAN: The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan has hailed the current government's stand-by agreement to provide three billion dollar loan from the IMF for a period of nine months as a boon for the economy and said that for 15 years, "long Term Economic Policy" should be set. All the political parties of the country should work together for the "covenant economy". Industrialization should be promoted for economic development and elimination of unemployment in the country. Acting President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Multan Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh, Vice President Sheikh Asim Saeed, former President Khawaja Muhammad Hussain and member Executive Committee Ehtishamul Haq while talking to the media said that we the Pakistani rupee against the dollar and the rupee is likely to appreciate by 10 percent in the open market. There will be an immediate boost in business activities in the country and the government has also got an opportunity to make reforms to restore the economy on a sustainable basis. The current agreement with the IMF will restore the confidence of domestic and foreign investors and increase economic activity. Nadeem Ahmed Sheikh said that most of the country's imports were stagnant, which started to clear after this agreement. It will be done and a good era will begin. Now is the time for all the political parties of Pakistan, all the national security agencies and all the business organizations to work together to restore the economy.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Multan, along with all the Chambers of South Punjab, will formulate its proposals for the Milkar Charter of Economy, which will be forwarded to the Government through the FPCCI. At this time, the government should put the industry on its feet. Along with this, the country will also help to end the black marketing of dollars and the country will move forward in imports and exports. It was short dollar, now the situation will improve. After a long time, the government and institutions are seen working to restore the country's economy on a sustainable basis.

Spend the loan from this IMF agreement in such a way that on one hand the country appears to be developing and on the other hand we do not go back to such a program again.

## Govt immediate start procurement of cotton due to continuous decline in prices: Chaudhry Waheed

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The Pakistan Cotton Growers Association (PCGA) has demanded the government to start immediate procurement of cotton due to continuous decline in prices. PCGA Chairman Chaudhry Waheed Arshad while talking to the media said that on the one hand the government is taking measures to increase the production of cotton in the country, on the other hand it is not following its own announcements and exploiting the farmers. What is being done is causing great disappointment among the country's farmers and cultivators. The government had fixed the support price of cotton at 8500 rupees and announced that the government would come in on the reduction of cotton prices and buy cotton from the farmers at 8500 rupees.

Now that the market is experiencing a drop in cotton prices due to new cotton and the prices have reached 7000 rupees, the government has not started the procurement process, and the government has also announced the abolition of the tax imposed on binola. What was which has not yet been implemented due to which the price of cotton has decreased by Rs.500. Due to rising rate of mark-up in the country and manipulation of the textile sector, cotton prices are also having a direct negative impact. If the government does not pay attention to this and steps are not taken to purchase cotton, there will be no cotton cultivation in the next year, which will have disastrous effects on the economy. The Pakistan Cotton Growers Association demands the government to immediately start procurement of cotton.

And take measures to eliminate the problems faced by the farmers so that the country's economy can be strengthened.

## Cause of death

TAFTAN ACCIDENT: Four people lost, including one female, their lives for not giving way to the ambulance during the BNP strike.



# Desecration of the Holy Quran greatly pinched the hurts the entire Islamic world: Allama Tahir

**Mian Rashid Asghar**

FAISALABAD: The desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden has greatly pinched the hurts and the sentiments of the entire Islamic world, said Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan.

According to the details, the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden has hurt the sentiments of the entire Muslim world & we condemn the heinous act under the patronage of the government. Allama Tahir further said that the Insulting of the sacredness of Islam in the name of freedom of expression will not be tolerated. The forces will never allow the conspiracy to make Pakistan controversial. At every level, they support the narrative of their organizations & it is very



important to bring the evildoers involved in the May 9 tragedy to justice so that no one will have the courage to insult the state institutions in the future too. Head of Kistan, Allama Ghulam Akbar Saqi, Pir Abu Ahmad, Maqsood Madani, DrIftikhar Hussain Naqvi, Allama Muhammad Riaz Kharl, Deputy Secretary General of Pakistan Ulema Council

Allama Tahir-ul-Hassan, Mufti Nasrullah Aziz, Allama Safdar Raza Kazmi, Qari Abdul Razzaq Abid, Parvez Akram Maidani, and others held a press conference at the Press Club. They further said that the blasphemy of the Holy Quran in Sweden is highly condemned by the government. Tahir expressed that, It is a sad and reprehensible act. We strongly condemn this act of insulting the Holy Quran in Sweden. The West must revise the laws of expression because insulting the Holy Quran is definitely not considered as freedom of expression, but The hearts of us all Muslims have been hurt by this, & there is no more than this heinous act.

He said, also "The government's silence and criminal

silence is regrettable." The West should avoid its double standards and respect the sacred things of all religions. The Islamic world should also be present in the field with a strong voice and play its full key role.

He said that at present the country has the worst inflation due to which the purchasing power of the people has been exhausted. It is time for the government to take measures on an emergency basis to control the inflation for the economic stability of Pakistan. And being defensively stable is essential for economic stability of Pakistan, it is definitely very strong because our forces are among the best forces in the world, which makes us proud, Allama Tahir showed his trust over the forces.

# Inauguration program of the renovation project of Saddar Road Peshawar

**Bureau Report**

PESHAWAR: Station Commander/President Cantonment Board Peshawar Brigadier Mohammad Usman inaugurated the project.

Cantonment Executive Officer Mr. Ali Irfan Rizvi, Deputy Cantonment Executive Officer Mr. Aamir Sohail Barki, Vice President Cantonment Board Peshawar Mr. Yadullah Khan Bangash and various ward members of Peshawar Cantonment including Faizan Khan Nazim, Mohammad Usaid Sethi, Youth Member Ali Jan, Minority member Andreas Sharif and presidents of Anjuman Tajran, media representatives participated in the



inauguration ceremony.

The Station commander shared the

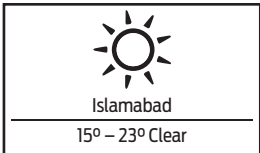
details of the project while talking to the media representatives.

The project includes the development works of underground transmission of electricity system, footpaths, widening of roads, car parking and renovation.

The business community appreciated the project and assured full cooperation in this regard.

Traffic police support for traffic problems and traffic flow/congestion.

Uninterrupted power supply has also been ensured and discussions have been held with WAPDA/PESCO in this regard so that traders and shopkeepers do not face any power interruption during the project.



**SERVICES**

**Namaz Timings**

Fajr ..... 3:19 am  
Zohr ..... 12:12 pm  
Asr ..... 5:12 pm  
Maghrib ..... 7:22 pm  
Isha ..... 9:05 pm

**EMERGENCY**

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

**Women Police Stations**

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

**ENQUIRY**

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

**HOSPITALS**

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

**DEPARTMENTS**

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

**COMPLAINTS**

Water Tanker Service  
E-7, F-10 & F-11 ..... 9204654  
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8 ..... 9203883  
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8 ..... 9266316  
Wapda Islamabad ..... 9217579-80  
Sui Gas Complaint ..... 119, 9272249  
Wasa Water Tank  
Rawalpindi ..... 0331-5022125

*Systems Limited and its subsidiary Techvista recognized as the winner of 2023*

**City Desk**

LAHORE: Systems Limited today announced it has won Country/Region 2023 Microsoft Partner of the Year Award for Pakistan. Its subsidiary Techvista has also been recognized for the same award in United Arab Emirates. The company was honored among a global field of top Microsoft partners for demonstrating excellence in innovation and implementation of customer solutions based on Microsoft technology. "Systems Limited continues to hold a long-standing relationship with Microsoft and winning 2023 Microsoft Country Partner of the Year underscores our commitment and dedication to demonstrate innovation and create customers' value and success. This prestigious accolade reflects our shared values, passion, and unwavering pursuit of excellence. We extend our deepest gratitude to Microsoft for this recognition and continuing our successful partnership, delivering exceptional results together," expressed Asif Peer, CEO & MD at Systems Limited.

# IMF agreement is an opportunity for long-term economic reforms, Ahsan Bakhtawari

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that the IMF agreement is a positive development for Pakistan in a very difficult political, economic and international diplomatic environment. This success is possible due to the efforts of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and their team. This agreement will prove beneficial for the struggling Pakistani economy. Now is the time for the government to formulate a long-term economic policy together with the political leadership and stakeholders so that Pakistan can stand on its own feet permanently. The current short-term agreement with the IMF gives Pakistan an opportunity for sustainable economic reforms. In a statement issued on Monday, he said that the government has made the current agreement possible after a year-long discussion with the International Monetary Fund.



This agreement was indispensable to gain the trust of other international financial institutions and friendly countries. Pakistan had to face political and economic situation at the local level and difficult diplomacy at the global level to reach this agreement, which was indicated by the Federal Finance Minister in his statement.

This is the right time to take measures like transparent and fast-track privatization of loss-making government-controlled enterprises, planning to increase tax net, increase exports and decrease imports. After the current agreement with the IMF some steps should be taken immediately. There is a need to focus on the promotion of regional trade, especially with ECO countries Turkey, Iran and Central Asian countries.

He said that we can deal with the challenges of rapid population growth, water problems, climate change only when the country stands on its feet economically. Pakistan's business community should be made part of the reform programme. Focus should be on the development of SMEs, A sustainable policy should be brought forward for the promotion of small businesses. All political parties and stakeholders including the government should pledge that this IMF program will be the last for Pakistan.

## Abdul Waheed strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran

**City Desk**



The president of Central Trade Association Liaquat Road Rawalpindi and social leader Sheikh Abdul Waheed strongly condemned the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden. He said that the sanctity of the Holy Quran is a priority for every Muslim. Whose insult is not acceptable in any way. Muslim countries around the world, including Pakistan, should protest against the Swedish government. We demand that strict laws be made against the perpetrators of blasphemy at the global level. The application of which should be strictly ensured.

Sheikh Abdul Waheed said that the business community across the country is protesting against the desecration of the Holy Quran. The feelings of Muslims all over the world, including Pakistan, are full of grief. Holy Quran is very important for us more than our life, which has been desecrated many times. Which is not acceptable in any case. Our patience has run out. Business communities and Muslims around the world, including Pakistan, demand from international institutions that immediate action be taken on the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. Strict action should be taken against the elements found guilty in this act. Such laws should be made at the international level under which those who desecrate religions should be severely punished.

## Now is the time to make Urdu official language: Javed Intizar

**News Desk**



ISLAMABAD: Javed Intizar, Chairman of United Front for Implementation of Urdu Pakistan, has said in a statement that the national talent can be prevented from rusting by the establishment of Implementation of Urdu. The abilities of the majority poor and middle class of the country can be utilized. Now is the time to demand to make Urdu the official, judicial and educational language.

While the national elections are being talked about in October and November. Talking to Nafaaz Urdu organizations and officials in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad, he said that we are inviting all the movements and organizations of Nafaaz Urdu for a joint struggle. Will make a grand alliance soon.

## Quran Pak is Red Line of Muslim World: Dr Safdar Hashmi

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: Under the auspices of Jamaat-e-Islami Multan, the protesters hold the copies of the Holy Quran in the demonstration at Kachhari Chowk. At this point in time

Jamaat-e-Islami Multan Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that Quran is our red line. The protection of the honor of the Holy Quran is more important than our lives. It is a matter of regret that under the auspices of the Swedish government, on the order of the Swedish judiciary, the manner in which the holy Quran was insulted on the occasion of the Eid prayer is regrettable and condemnable. Dr. Safdar Hashmi said that the government of Pakistan should immediately terminate all trade and diplomatic relations with Sweden and expel the Swedish ambassador. He further said that from time to time, the same way the Holy Quran is insulted, it is done as part of a deliberate conspiracy.

The OIC meeting has no value, it is a dumb organization that does not have the guts to boycott Sweden. It is a pity that Pakistan government's silence on this issue is giving an object to this illegal act of Sweden. He further said that nothing is possible without getting rid of the dumb and deaf rulers imposed on the Muslim Ummah. This is what Jamaat-e-Islami demands, Foreign Minister, your silence is telling that you want to please Europe. In the name of freedom of speech, Europe creates this kind of agitation, but unfortunately, the international institutions are playing the role of silent spectators. On this occasion, the protesters shouted slogans against the Swedish government and set fire to the Swedish flag.

## Xenith PR announces Raheel Nabi as the new Director and Chief Executive

**Commerce Desk**

KARACHI: Xenith Public Relations (Private) Limited, a leading full-service communications agency in Pakistan, has announced the appointment of Raheel Nabi as its new Director and Chief Executive. Zainab Ansari, founder of Xenith PR, will be taking on the role of the organization's Chairperson.



In his new role, Raheel will be responsible for overseeing all aspects of Xenith PR's operations, including client management, business development, and strategic planning. He will also be the key force in leading the agency towards expansion within the country and strengthening its position in the industry. Sharing her views on the announcement, Zainab Ansari said: "I am proud to be presenting Raheel as the new Director and Chief Executive of Xenith PR today. He has been with us for over a decade and has risen from within the organization's ranks to taking charge of the agency today. This will mark a new chapter in the company's growth and success, and I have full faith in his abilities to build upon our strong foundation and drive the agency to even greater heights."

Raheel Nabi is an award-nominated marketing & communications expert, with over 13 years of local and international experience and expertise in Digital Marketing, Client Communications, and Project Management. Raheel has been affiliated with Xenith PR since 2012, starting from the agency's digital wing and moving up the ranks to his previously assigned role of Chief Disruption Officer. "I am absolutely honored to lead Xenith PR into its next phase of growth and success. Zainab Ansari has built an incredible organization, respected by all businesses and business leaders, across all industries, alike, and I am committed to continuing forward her legacy of professional excellence. As we look towards expanding our operations and reach, our core focus will always remain on driving innovation and delivering value to our clients, across the communications framework," said Raheel Nabi upon his assuming of the new title.

## Protest

ISLAMABAD: Workers of Jamaat-e-Islami hold protest outside Sweden Embassy against burning of Holy Quran in Sweden.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

# BankIslami Honored with Best Bio Technology Award

**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: Pakistan's leading Islamic financial institution, BankIslami, has been recognized with the prestigious Best Bio Technology Award for its innovative OneTouch Banking solution at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2023. The award ceremony, held on 24th June 2023, celebrated the outstanding achievements and contributions of organizations in the field of Digital Technology.

The Best Bio Technology Award at the Pakistan Digital Awards 2023 recognizes BankIslami's relentless pursuit of innovation and its commitment to delivering exceptional digital banking solutions that cater to the evolving needs of customers in an increasingly digital world.

Commenting on this remarkable achievement, President and CEO, BankIslami, Syed Amir Ali, expressed his gratitude and enthusiasm, stating, "We are truly honored to receive the Best Bio Technology Award for One Touch Banking at the Paki-



stan Digital Awards 2023. This recognition is a testament to our unwavering commitment to providing our customers with innovative and secure banking experiences. Our OneTouch Banking solution not only simplifies the banking process but also ensures enhanced security through biometric authentication, allowing our customers to conveniently access their accounts with

just a thumb impression. This award reaffirms our dedication to leveraging cutting-edge technologies and creating a digital banking ecosystem that exceeds customer expectations."

Ashifa Paracha (Founder & CEO of PDA) extends her best wishes for BankIslami's continued success in transforming digital banking.

# Using its recycled plastic Shell Pakistan builds road in Karachi

**News Desk**

KARACHI: Shell Pakistan introduces a plastic infused road in Karachi by recycling discarded Shell lubricant bottles. The organization collaborated with start-up BRR Enterprises and local authority District Municipal Corporation South to construct the road, which helps reduce plastic waste materials and promote environment friendly practices.

Over 2.5 tons of discarded Shell lubricant bottles were recycled for the construction of a 730 feet long and 60 feet wide road on which Shell House is located in Karachi. The discarded Shell lubricant's plastic bottles were incorporated in the construction of the asphalt road using the dry process method, reducing plastic waste. Plastics pose threat to nature by being non-biodegradable and toxic. According to



research, a simple plastic bag can take up to 500 years to decompose while a plastic bottle can take around 300 years. Plastic roads offer higher flexibility, durability and a lifespan almost three times longer than regular roads. Moreover, the construction materials for regular

roads are more expensive, whereas plastics are practically free, taking down construction costs by several folds. The innovation is considerably more sustainable. And most importantly it contributes to helping our social problem of plastic waste.

The Chief Executive and Managing Director of Shell Pakistan Limited, Waqar Siddiqui, inaugurated the newly built road in Karachi and stated, "This is the first time we have used our discarded lubricants bottles to make a road and I'm amazed to see the result. This innovative method helps reduce plastic waste and can provide an environmentally friendly option for future infrastructure projects in Pakistan. Innovative solutions such as this need to be tried and tested, and I hope will be adopted to contribute to building a cleaner society."

Shell provides energy in a responsible way: we aim to limit any impact on the environment and support the transition towards a lower-carbon future. We recognise the importance of climate change, along with our role in helping people to achieve and maintain a good quality of life.

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# OIC strongly condemns despicable act of desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden

## Spokesman Report

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in an extraordinary meeting, held at Jeddah General Secretariat, has strongly condemned the recent despicable aggression against the sanctity of the copies of the Holy Quran, on the first day of Eid al-Adha, outside the central mosque in the capital city of Stockholm, Kingdom of Sweden.

In an open-ended meeting convened at the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 14th Islamic Summit, and Chair of the Executive Committee of the OIC, the Executive Committee deplored the recurrence of acts of desecration of the copies of the Holy Quran, and deeply regretted the issuance of a permit by the authorities allowing that action to occur.

The participants expressed grave concern at the increasing incidences of intolerance, discrimination, and acts of violence in the world.

It noted with concern that Islamophobia was on the rise in many parts of the world as evidenced by the increasing number of incidents of religious intolerance, negative stereotypes, hatred, and violence against Muslims.

The OIC also expressed its deep concerns by the resurgence of racist movements and far-right extremism in multiple regions of the world through repeated acts of provocation by supporters of the far-right insulting Islamic religious symbols and sanctities, including the desecration of the copies of the Holy Quran.

It also condemned any advocacy of hatred that constituted incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence, whether through the use of printed means, audio-visual or electronic means, social media, or any other means.

The members reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among religions, cultures, and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and that spreading the values of tolerance and peace was the best way to confront hate speech, fanaticism, extremism, violence, and incitement.

It also stressed upon the commitment made by all states under the UN Charter to promote and encourage universal respect for the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination based on race, gender, language, or religion.

"Underscoring that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression entails special duties and responsibilities in the light of Article 19 (3) and Article 20 (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the role played by the exercise of those rights in countering all forms of religious intolerance," it further added.

It also recalled various relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) which had called for global efforts to promote tolerance, peace, and dialogue among civilizations and referred to the UNGA's Resolution 76/254 that designated 15 March as the "International Day to Combat Islam-

phobia".

The OIC also recalled relevant resolutions and declarations by the Islamic Summit Conference and Council of Foreign Ministers in this regard.

The meeting requested the Secretary-General to send a letter on behalf of the OIC Member States to the Swedish government and to consider conducting an official visit to Stockholm and the European Union Commission to express the condemnation of the incident of burning the copies of the Mushaf ash-Sharif and call on them to take the necessary measures to prevent the recurrence of that criminal act under the pretext of freedom of expression.

It called upon the ambassadors of the OIC Member States in the respective capitals where vile acts against the copies of the Holy Quran and other Islamic holy symbols took place to collectively make efforts concerning the national parliaments, media, civil society organizations as well as the governmental institutions, to express the OIC's stance and to induce the relevant authorities to take the necessary legislative actions to criminalize such attacks, cognizant of the fact that the exercise of freedom of expression carried with it special duties and responsibilities.

It also called on Muslim civil society organisations to work with their counterparts in those countries where Islamophobic attacks against the copies of Mushaf ash-Sharif and other sacred values took place to resort to local courts and exhaust domestic remedies, with the guidance of professional legal counsel, before taking their cases to international judiciary

bodies, where applicable.

The OIC further reaffirmed the essential role of political commitment at the highest level towards the full and effective implementation of UN Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18 and encouraged states to pay particular attention to the importance of criminalizing incitement to violence based on religion or belief while recognizing the positive role of open, constructive and respectful debate and interfaith dialogue in this regard.

The OIC meeting also called on the Secretary-General to send a letter to the UN Secretary-General and the Chair of the Security Council, urging them to issue statements of condemnation to reject insults to religious symbols and sanctities, which stirred hatred, promoted the growth of violent extremism and fueled terrorism, and called for mutual respect for all religions and beliefs and the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance.

The OIC member states called for placing the desecration of copies of the Holy Quran and the Islamic symbols and sanctities on the agenda of the coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of member states on the sidelines of the upcoming UNGA in New York and the upcoming Islamic Summit in Gambia to take more measures to address this negative phenomenon against Islam and Muslims.

It welcomed the convening of an international conference on Islamophobia and Anti-Muslims Discrimination being held from 22 to 23 August in Kuala Lumpur, in coordination with the OIC General Secretariat.

## Teenage Art exhibition: highlight refugee issue in Pakistan

A two-day youth charity art exhibition Empowering with Love: Pakistan was held in Beijing on Saturday, collecting works created by hundreds of children and teenagers aged 4 to 14 years from 25 cities across China.

The exhibition was sponsored by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation (CBCGDF) and supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

A total of 600 works were exhibited in the children's art, digital and refugee handicraft exhibition area, reflecting the UNHCR's initiative to establish a human community awareness of refugees and global green energy among children and young people.

A UNHCR Representative in China, Vanno Noupech, made a video speech for this event, emphasizing "I hope that all young people participating in this exhibition can continue to use their brushes to convey love and strength by arousing the attention of refugees and environmental issues through art."

It is truly expected that by collecting teenager's creative artistic works, we can show our new generation's understanding of Pakistani refugee and environmental issues, revealing their awareness of the United Nations' sustainable development goals," noted an officer from CBCGDF.

According to data released by the National Disaster Management Authority (Pakistan) in September 2022, during the rainy season from mid-June to September last year, about 1,559 people were killed, 12,850 were injured, and 1,979,485 houses were destroyed in Pakistan due to monsoon heavy rainfall brought about by climate change, not to mention 973,632 livestock were killed and 12,716 kilometers of roads and 374 bridges were destroyed, which has brought immeasurable huge losses to the local livelihood. UNHCR statistics showed that in the past two decades, the continuous wars and conflicts in Afghanistan have forced about 3.5 million people to be displaced, of which 60 percent are under-age children and adolescents.

Neighboring Pakistan and Iran, which are also developing countries, have accepted 2.2 million of them, accounting for about 90 percent of the total number of Afghan refugees in the world.

Even more unfortunately, floods in Pakistan further increased the scale of climate refugees.

The sudden influx of people exacerbated the shortage of natural resources. Villages are often far apart, and limited water points require residents to walk hundreds of meters every day to get water. Facing hot weather, people have no electrical appliances for storing and preserving food and medicine.

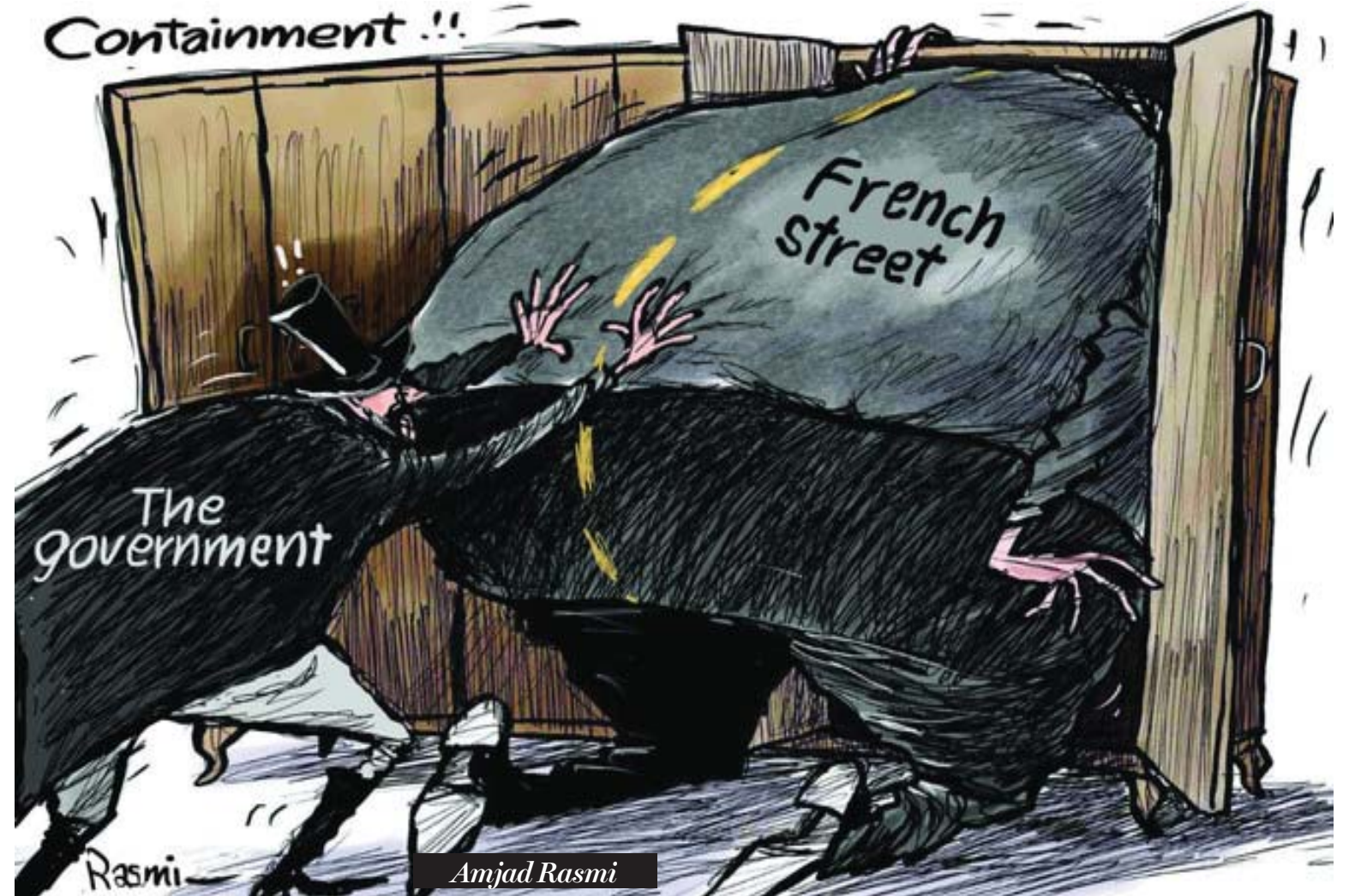
Nonetheless, over the past four decades, Pakistan has made incredible efforts to resettle and protect Afghan refugees and support the maintenance of regional peace.

How to align the Sustainable Development Goals with the global refugee plight? How can we provide sustainable, clean solutions to refugees while aiding and improving their lives? How to apply green energy and the latest renewable technology to solve the life problems of refugees?

The answers to these questions are being interpreted and conveyed through artworks created by these young artists.

Through different themes, they strive to use brush to reshape the fate of many people with light and warmth in Pakistan, many of whom are teenagers like them.

Jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind is not only the obligation of China and Pakistan, but also the common pursuit of the whole world.



## The reasons why climate change is a neglected cause

Climate change is one of evolution phenomenon that can lead the world to catastrophe. From greenhouse gas emissions to water pollution and irregular weather patterns, climate change has affected human life in many ways. The reason that despite urgency, it has been neglected cause is because of lack of political will of world governments, the financial and zero sum game approach of governments, crony capitalism and profitism at the expense of environmental sustainability and most importantly the lack of attention given to this cause by mass media.

Although, liberal scholars argue that ideas of complex interdependence and especially economic interdependence bring relative peace and prosperity in the global system but there is another side of the coin as well, is this economic interdependence or dependence of global south on global north? And does capitalism promotes cooperation or competition?

Starting from first question, although different global institutions have been established to promote peace, solidarity, cooperation and collectivism but because the economic system, capitalism, is inherently enshrined on the principle of competition between different transnational corporations to get ahead of others, rather than mutual cooperation for collective survival of humanity, this is why the world governments are neglectful on coop-

erating for a collective problem of climate change. One such instance is the lack of technology transfer between global south economies and global north economies. The North wants to sell technology at a higher cost to south, for which south lacks resources and capital. These technologies are essential for combating climate change but there is politics and economics over them that is because of inherent nature of capitalism that promotes conflict and competition. The global south is systematically dependent on global north for all practical purposes.

Coming towards second question, whether democratic norms such as human rights and equality if are compatible with capitalism? Well, they are not. Because, democracy is based on collectivism, cooperation, humanitarianism and human rights, while capitalism is based upon competition between man and man rather cooperation, which puts survival of humanity in jeopardy. Its the economics over environment, that is the fundamental reason for neglectfulness for combating climate change because the governments are engage in a pursuit for economic advantages over collective cooperation for climate change. It is this crony capitalism the reason why politicians do not talk much

about climate change because its the big businesses and multinational corporations that funds elections campaigns of politicians. Moreover, the reason why there is lack of coverage in the media regarding climate change is also because media industries receive advertisements from these corporations and their business is dependent on these advertisements. This is the reason why public is unaware of issue of climate change. As Allama Iqbal sums up this phenomenon as, "This paint (capitalism) and perfume (democracy), this mirage, a garden's blooming face You thought, simpleton, and financial, your cage a downy nesting-place."

Another reason for this neglect for this cause is lack of funding by governments to most climate vulnerable nations. As developing nations, such as Pakistan, which produces less than 0.1% of global emissions is the most vulnerable nations to climate change. It has witnessed floods, landslides, rain-storms, cyclones and other catastrophic meteorological events in the past few decades and yet it lacks technological support and financial capital to combat climate change. Recently, in the COP 27 meeting in Egypt, it was announced that most vulnerable nations will be provided financial assistance to combat

climate change. Its a good step but world needs to do more. It needs to address structural issues of climate change such as reforming capitalism and establishing institutional mechanisms to deal with global climate crises effectively.

Regarding reforming capitalism, the world should impose carbon tax on industries producing mass wastes. There should be a mechanism to judge emissions coming out of chimneys of industrial plants and factories and tax them accordingly. Alongside taxation, there should be a universal limit for the quantity of products that can be manufactured by each corporation. Moreover, world markets needs to be regulated to prevent mass production of goods. Each year, companies wastes billions of dollars of products and dumps them in landfills, so, there should be check on how much a company or industry can produce the amount of products. Moreover, at the structural level, WTO (world trade organisation) protocols should be amended and carbon tariffs be introduced to reduce imports of such goods that comes out of those countries and corporations that are noncompliant to environmental standards. Then these taxes and tariffs should be used to purchase technologies and capital to combat climate change.

(The writer is a graduate of London School of Economics and a former Research analyst at Ministry of Foreign Affairs can be reached [zohaibzohaib36@gmail.com](mailto:zohaibzohaib36@gmail.com))

## The need of the hour is to limit extreme wealth

### Haleema Saadia

After seeing the super-rich people paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to see titanic wreckage, many people are criticising rich people for their lavish lifestyles and extravagance. People think that rich people could have put this money to better use. While people and children all over the world are dying from preventable diseases and struggling to put food on their table, it's immoral to pay this much money to see titanic wreckage. Meanwhile another rich person bought a handbag smaller than a grain of salt for 63000 dollars. If we go by this reasoning then you shouldn't go to a park or a theater, nor you should buy new clothes, car, computer, camera etcetera because these things are clearly less important than feeding starving people and saving live. Moreover one should give most of his material resources until one's living standard is lowered to the level of neediest people that he could help. Humans cannot act like that in reality.

Human beings are not designed to be so selfish. Humans are by nature selfish and partial. They care about their's and their family and friend's welfare first and foremost. They can't be expected to treat the welfare of all humans as equally important. If they have slightly more material resources than the neediest people, they will most likely spend it on themselves and their loved ones instead of giving it to charity. Personal relationships become possible due to this characteristics of humans.

Today the most wealthiest people are using various tactics to dodge taxes. They buy power with their wealth and use this power to construct the rules in their favour. They not only influence the elections, the lawmakers but even what is being taught at schools and universities. So far they have dissuaded most of the governments

from making progressive tax laws. The economic inequality and wealth gap that ensues is not only putting poor people at disadvantage but the whole planet. Earth ecosystem is deteriorating and climate change is putting everyone's life in danger. Moreover in such environment, terrorist outfits, xenophobia, hatred, gender discrimination, corruption, instability etcetera are thriving. Rich people should pay more taxes and corporations should reduce their carbon emissions and pay living wages to their workers. Its the workers who add value to their products. If wealthiest people keep ignoring the welfare of earth and its residents, they will eventually kill the goose that lay the golden egg.

Some rich people justify their tax evasion by saying that they give charity. Its clear by now that philanthropy cannot be a substitute for fair tax system. Governments need to take the reins in their own hands and limit extreme wealth. More equal world is the need of the hour if we want to make this world a better place. Inequality holds back economic growth by wasting human potential.

Philosophers call it a supererogatory act if someone gives most of his money or material resources to poor and consider everyone happiness and well-being equally important as his own. But most of the times, only saints perform such acts. It's not immoral to spend one's own money on activities and projects that gives meaning to one's life. But hundred of thousands of dollars should not be spend on things such as microscopic handbags, yachts, trips to titanic wreckage, space tourism, because any person with common sense can see that they are far less significant than the lives of other humans. In addition governments should keep this in mind while making economic policies that meaningful economic development should improve the position of whole population, not just few families.

Write is analyst and can be reached at [saadia-haleema11@gmail.com](mailto:saadia-haleema11@gmail.com)

# Karot Hydropower celebrate one year of success



## Spokesman Report

(KARACHI: CPEC's flagship project "Karot Hydropower Project in Pakistan celebrated one year of safe operation, with a cumulative power generation of 3.64 billion kilowatt-hours. This is equivalent to saving about 1.59 million tons of standard coal and reducing approximately 3.98 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

Karot Hydropower Project is the first large-scale hydropower investment and construction project under the Belt and Road Initiative and the first hydropower investment project under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. With a total installed capacity of 720,000 kilowatts (720MW), the plant can meet the electricity needs of over 5 million local residents.

The Karot Hydropower Project operation team made early preparations, based on the "Three

Gorges Standards," to establish institutional systems and production management systems. They successfully achieved a seamless transition from unit commissioning, installation, and testing to operational management.

Since the full commissioning of power generation, they have continuously improved the safety production management system, implementing over 100 regulations, procedures, and operational guidelines to ensure the safe and stable operation of the plant. In the past year, the Karot Hydropower Project has achieved its goal of zero accidents and zero losses in power production.

On June 17, the Karot Hydropower Project held a public open day, and a delegation from the Pakistan Senate Defense Committee visited the plant. During the visit, the delegates praised the Karot Hydropower Project as a successful example of the China-Pakistan Econom-

ic Corridor, bringing significant changes to the local economy, society, and energy security.

The delegation mentioned that the project actively fulfills its social responsibilities by building hospitals, schools, and other public facilities, benefiting local residents and that Pakistan highly appreciates China Three Gorges Corporation's corporate social responsibility initiatives and its commitment to clean energy generation at the Karot Hydropower Project.

Currently, Pakistan is facing a tremendous demand for electricity during the hot summer season. The four units of the Karot Hydropower Project are operating at full capacity, continuously delivering clean energy to support local social and economic sustainable development. This endeavor injects green momentum into the high-quality development of the Belt and Road Initiative, further solidifying Pakistan's energy

# Mahdi Imanipour condemning the desecration of the Holy Qur'an in Sweden

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: The recent move of the Swedish court to issue permission to anti-Islam extremists to desecrate the Holy Qur'an outside the main mosque in the capital city of Stockholm on the day of Eid al-Adha, under the pretext of freedom of speech, has once again revealed the obvious anti-Islamism of the government and security apparatus of this European country. This brazen act has raised the anger of Muslims around the world.

It is a known fact that keywords such as "freedom of expression" and "right to express opinion"—instead of being used in the way of protecting

ethics and human rights—are, in fact, used as a tool and an excuse to fight against such principles.

Surprisingly, while the Swedish authorities have regarded the burning of the holy book of Muslims as "freedom of expression", they have referred to the protest against this offensive and intolerable act as an example of "the violation of freedom of expression"! This decision made by the Swedish court reflects the purposeful and fully conscious anti-Islam objective that the overt and covert movements in the West have been trying to establish for years.

Undoubtedly, Muslim nations consider preserving the sanctity of the Holy Quran as the red line that

should not be crossed and will never remain silent in the face of offensive acts like what is happening in Sweden.

The Islamic Culture and Relations Organization strongly condemns the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and asks the Swedish government to prevent anti-Quran gatherings and apologize to the Muslims of the world for violating their religious sanctities and insulting their religious emotions.

Systematic and brazenly designed anti-Islam and anti-Qur'an moves in the decision-making and policy-making system of Sweden will eventually result in the expansion of hatred in this country to the detriment of



the Swedish government and security institutions. A change in the existing trend and replacing it with a constructive and interactive approach toward the Islamic world can lead to the spread of peace and justice.

# TITAN - A trail of Errors & Omissions

## Ahmed Saeed

Owing to the inherent risks involved, submarine service is generally perceived to be unsafe. However, keeping in view the stringent safety standards and oversights at all levels, submarining has been made very safe. That's why, we rarely come across such occurrences i.e. sinking of Titan. Although it was not a submarine, rather a submersible, constructed for limited undersea application i.e. tourism exploratory missions. Owing to its compact size, very few facilities are provided onboard. These subs are operated in consort with a support ship (mothership) that provides launching/recovery, navigation, communication, logistics, and on-scene assistance in distress. Prior to this Titan mission, OceanGate Company had conducted over 200 successful missions, including 10 dives by Titan.

The unfortunate incident of Titan that claimed 5 valuable lives on June 16 had its genesis in the inception of OceanGate Company, an American tourism company co-founded by Stockton Rush in 2009, operated on the basis of corporate commercialism psyche. The company initially acquired a submersible Antipodes, and later built two of its own: Cyclops 1 and Titan. In 2021, OceanGate began taking paying tourists in the Titan to visit the 'Unsinkable' Titanic's wreck. The company had established well its credentials in the exotic maritime tourism industry. As of 2022, the price per passenger on an OceanGate expedition had risen to US\$250,000.

The mothership MV Polar Prince sailed from St John's Newfoundland, Canada on June 16 with four thrill seeker tourists; Hamish Harding, Shahzada Dawood (a prominent Pakistani businessman and philanthropist), his son Suleman Dawood, Titanic expert Paul-Henri Nargeolet. The company's CEO, Stockton Rush, acted as the pilot.

The next day, the ship arrived at the wreck location of Titanic, around 400 NM (740km) south



of Newfoundland, which is lying on the seabed of the North Atlantic 3800m (12,460ft) depth since April 15, 1912.

On June 18, Sunday morning, the ill-fated submersible Titan initiated her descent at 08am ET (11pm PST). Dr. Rush started steering Titan with the help of Logitech video game controller toward the Titanic wreckage. Within about 07 hours of mission duration, Titan was expected to be in visual range of the wreck in two hours. But, communication with Mothership was lost within the initial 1:45mins. It did not raise alarm bells since it was taken 'a usual business' due known fact of thrusters' interference with communication systems. Despite repeated communication failures in the past, no efforts were made to rectify this anomaly.

An uneasy situation started developing when Titan did not surface by 03pm ET on completion of the scheduled 7 hours of dive time. After an unsuccessful search of 2:45mins, the mothership alerted shore authorities including US Coast Guard at Cape Cod, located about 900NM away from the dive position. The disappearance of the submersible triggered extensive SAR efforts.

US and Canadian maritime forces swung into action for a very complex SAR operation with 10



ships and 4 aircraft; including 2 advanced long-range reconnaissance P-3C Orions. Later, France also deployed ship Atalante with a deep diving Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV).

On Tuesday, 20 June, Canadian P-3C detected some banging sounds on its hydrophones at 30-minutes interval. The available Canadian ROV was directed towards area of sound signals. Meanwhile, received signals were sent to US underwater sound experts, who later classified these as 'non-submersible'.

By then, experts had started speculating about a major-scale accident onboard Titan with the probability of fire, flooding, power loss, or entanglement with floating fishing nets. As the 96

hours' limit of Oxygen supply onboard Titan was approaching, the panic amongst the SAR forces started setting in.

After a hectic coordinated search, the first breakthrough came around on Thursday at 11:48am when Canadian ROV found a trace of debris near Titanic wreck. ROV discovered 5 major pieces of the Titan including its titanium tail-cone. At 4pm, it was officially announced that five members of Titan were instantly killed in a 'Catastrophic Implosion'. The debris pattern was also "consistent with a catastrophic loss of pressure chamber". At this point, the SAR mission was called off and the focus was shifted towards accident investigation.

Occurrences of this magnitude are usually caused by a series of unregulated practices, inactions, errors, and omissions attributable to human, material, or violations of SoPs. In Titan's case, it was a combination of all three. This mystery can be unplugged by identifying trail of errors committed at various tiers.

Titan's cylindrical portion of the hull was made of carbon fiber material instead of titanium alloy, which was a risky proposition as it could not withstand the successive dives' fatigues. Reportedly, the carbon fiber material used in Titan's construction had expired shelf life as well. On completion of its test dives in 2020, Titan's hull had begun to show signs of cyclic fatigue.

Yet another design flaw was that the Titan used to be bolted from the outside after passengers were slipped in with no possibility of opening the hatch from the inside contrary to the safe submarining practices. Moreover, Titan was not equipped with a locator buoy, which is essential for localization in case of disability.

David Lochridge, the OceanGate Director of Marine Operations had shown his concerns about the non-conduct of NDT to ascertain hull integrity. He also voiced reservations about the design limitations of the front viewport. Unfortunately, he was expelled by the company CEO at short notice.

Rush did not consider certification of Titan's design from a renowned classification society despite advice from the US-based 'Marine Technology Society' in 2018. Instead, he used big names like NASA, APL, and Boeing, etc. to authenticate his design credibility.

To cut the cost, Rush used to prefer off the shelf components instead of military specs. He was too possessive and complacent about the design of RTMS (Real Time Acoustic Monitoring System). He used to say if everything fails, RTMS will bring the Titan to the surface. Therefore, he termed Titan's design as 'In-

vulnerable', something consistent with Titanic's 'Unsinkability'. Alas! Both 'Unsinkable' and 'Invulnerable' are laying on the ocean bed, side by side at a depth of 3800 m.

With all his intellect and professional acumen in engineering, Rush had become overconfident and complacent with regard to safety standards. He used to express his views about the US Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993 as "needlessly prioritized passenger safety over commercial innovation".

Generally, the specialized vehicles are piloted by a well-qualified crew. Likewise, the test pilots of newly developed vehicles are the best selected so as to effectively deal with emergencies. In this case, Rush himself used to steer and didn't employ a qualified operator.

Lastly, the role and responsibilities of countries and authorities to oversee Titan's certification and safe operation have become highly questionable. Their failure to exercise a comprehensive regulatory system opined to be the 'contributory cause' of the accident. This trail of errors and omissions could have been disrupted by the system.

It can be safely concluded that the 'main cause' of this occurrence was complacency on the part of CEO Stockton Rush. He ventured into the unknown territory i.e. diving depths in excess of Titan's capacity and paid the price.

With all the media hype during the past week, Titan incident has exceedingly highlighted the importance of adherence to safety standards, protocols, and regulatory framework at all levels. So far, only preliminary analysis has been done on the basis of facts projected in the media. Much more is likely to come to light by technical experts on the basis of primarily two ongoing inquiries by US and Canadian Coast Guards respectively.

The author is a retired Vice Admiral of Pakistan Navy's Submarine Service, currently serving as Director General National Institute of Maritime Affairs. He can be approached at pstodgima@bahria.edu.pk

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

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
43,899.00	41,452.68
Day's High	Day's Low:
43,933.94	43,404.69
Index Value	Change
169,579,716	+2446.32
Percentage	Time
+5.9%	3 Jul, 2023 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
7,527.26	-4.27
Percentage	Time
-0.057%	3 Jul, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
34,418.47	+10.87
Percentage	Time
+0.032%	3 Jul, 1:20 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
33,753.33	+564.29
Percentage	Time
+1.70%	3 Jul, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	184.25	192
Bahrain Dinar	761.39	769.39
Canadian Dollar	210	219
China Yuan	40.01	40.41
Danish Krone	41.98	42.38
Euro	305.5	308.5
Hong Kong Dollar	36.53	36.88
Indian Rupee	3.5	3.61
Japanese Yen	1.91	1.98
Kuwaiti Dinar	928.28	937.28
Malaysian Ringgit	61.67	62.27
New Zealand \$	175.52	177.52
Norwegians Krone	26.72	27.02
Omani Riyal	743.59	751.59
Qatari Riyal	78.65	79.35
Saudi Riyal	74.25	75
Singapore Dollar	217.5	219.5
Swedish Korona	26.94	27.24
Swiss Franc	319.96	322.46
Thai Bhat	8.11	8.26
U.A.E Dirham	76.2	76.95
UK Pound Sterling	355.5	359
US Dollar	283	287

# Chinese Charge'd Affairs called on Finance Minister Ishaq Dar

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar warmly greeted the Charge de Affairs and appreciated the deep rooted historical bilateral relations between Pakistan and China.

The Finance Minister further informed the Charge de Affairs about the progress on the 9th review with IMF stating that Pakistan has successfully reached the staff level agreement.

He also apprised the Charge de Affairs about stability in the economy and how the government is making efforts to preserve this economic stability and move the economy towards growth.

Additionally, he appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts, and specifically thanked for the cooperation of



Chinese Financial Institutions with Pakistan during last few months.

Ms. Pang Chunxue reciprocated the sentiments about the deep-rooted friendly relations between both countries.

She also appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to bring economic stability in the country despite difficult economic circumstances. She further assured the Finance Minister that the Chinese Government will continue to support Pakistan.

The two sides also discussed the various avenues available for both countries to deepen bilateral relations in economic, trade, and financial sectors in order to expand the exiting cooperation to unprecedented levels.

In the end, Finance Minister Mr. Ishaq Dar expressed gratitude to Ms. Pang Chunxue, Charge'd Affairs for all the support and cooperation Pakistan has always been receiving from the leadership in Beijing.

## Success of agreement depends on politicians: 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 said on Monday the credit of IMF Staff Level Agreement goes to Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Ishaq Dar.

The Prime Minister has once again proved his leadership skills and the business community supports the steps taken to fully restore the confidence of the IMF, he said.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that those anticipating a default have failed in their designs and the success of the standby program will depend on the capabilities of the current government, the caretaker government and the new government elected as a result of the election.

Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that the SBA is very disappointing for the opposition while the public and the business community are satisfied, which is reflect-



ed in the increase of 2400 points in the stock market.

If the country had gone bankrupt, the sufferings of the people would become unbearable and inflation would exceed the current level many times. Due to the efforts of the government, the country has temporarily come out of the uncertain situation, but the confidence of the IMF has not yet been fully restored, he said.

The business leader said that government should take all the necessary steps to improve relations with the IMF, for which the business community will continue to support it unconditionally.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that as a

result of the agreement, in addition to three billion dollars from the IMF, it will also be possible to obtain funds from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, friendly countries and the international market at low interest rates and a total of 10 to 12 billion dollars are expected to be brought into the country.

If there is political instability, its success will be difficult, so matters should be kept under control at all costs and no political party or group should be allowed to do mischief.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that in the current year, Pakistan has to repay debts of about 25 billion dollars, which is six times more than the foreign exchange reserves. After the agreement with the IMF, new loans and rollover of old loans will be possible, so we have no option but to obey the IMF dictation.

After the current agreement, the newly elected government will also have to sign another long-term agreement with the international organization and if there are no breaches of promises, the terms of this agreement will be somewhat lenient, he said.

## Islamabad Industrial Associations strongly condemns Holy Quran desecration in Sweden

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Industrial Associations (IIA) Senior Vice President Karim Aziz Malik said that Islamabad Industrial Associations (IIA) strongly condemns the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and calls it an act of racism, xenophobia.

He emphasized the importance of delivering a clear message that desecrating the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are not ordinary incidents of Islamophobia. He stressed the need for the international community to implement laws that explicitly prohibit the promotion of religious hatred.

Malik said that the Qur'an burning incident in front of the Central Mosque in Stockholm, Sweden, on the first day of Eid Al-Adha is a



major crime which cannot be tolerated. He said that this is the fourth time that a similar incident has occurred in Sweden, "under the false pretext of freedom of opinion and expression." The recurrence of such willful and vile acts is a troubling manifestation of growing hatred, racism and phobia against Muslims and their faith.

Karim Aziz Malik is Former Vice President FPCCI and also CEO of Barkat Rice Limited

## Celebration of a Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor

**Bureau Report**

LAHORE: Ministry of Energy (Power Division), State Grid Corporation of China and NTDC celebrated a special event to commemorate the completion of the 11660 kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line, marking a decade of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The event took place at the HVDC Converter Station in Balloki, where distinguished guests and officials gathered to join in the celebration.

Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, the Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), graced the event as the chief guest. In his address, the Federal Minister highlighted the deep economic partnership between China and Pakistan, which has transformed into an all-weather strategic cooperative partnership over the past ten years. He emphasized that CPEC is a profound commitment by China for the development of Pakistan, solidifying the bond between the two countries as



iron brothers.

Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, the Managing Director of NTDC, also shared his views on the occasion. He highlighted the numerous success stories attributed to CPEC, with the 11660 kV HVDC Matiari-Lahore Transmission Line project being a remarkable achievement.

This endeavor enables the transmission of power from

coal-based plants located in Port Qasim, Hub, and Thar. With approximately 886 km of HVDC 11660 kV transmission line, capable of handling up to 4000 MW, the project includes two converter stations and two grounding stations.

Representatives from China also spoke at the event, reaffirming their commitment to supporting the development of Pakistan.

Additionally, the event was attended by local politicians, Mr. Li Yong, Counselor Chinese Embassy, Mr. Cao Ke, Deputy Counselor General of China in Lahore, Mr. Shan Shewu, Chairman CET and other

Chinese representatives also spoke at the occasion and affirmed that china will continue its support for the development of Pakistan.

## Dar did not let country go bankrupt despite delay in IMF loan

**Commerce Desk**

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt said on Monday the Finance Minister Ishaq Dar prevented the country from becoming bankrupt despite more than expected delay in the loan by the IMF.

During this time, he continuously assured the nation that Pakistan will not default, and ensured all the repayments on time, which is laudable, he said.

Shahid Rasheed Butt said that the commitment of the finance minister is commendable; we are proud of him and acknowledge his dedication.

In a statement issued here today, he said that now is the time to take substantial steps



to correct the direction of the country's economy and stabilize it.

Stabilising the economy is very important as soon as possible to free it from the shackles of international institutions, he added.

The business leader said that the agreement reached with the IMF is a very significant development, which is having positive effects at the domestic and international levels, but the economy will never develop with the help of loans.

What Pakistan badly need is political determination, supremacy of merit and action of the rulers to save the economy and if this is not done, the country will never develop and will always remain in need of loans, he observed.

Shahid Rashid Butt said that the country is in dire need of political stability, financial discipline, market based exchange rate and reforms in various key sectors including the bleeding energy sector, which should be strictly followed beyond political considerations.

He said that the previous governments took a lot of loans and made frequent claims to raise the economy to the sky, but instead of doing anything to stabilize the economy, they kept on stabilizing their politics.

## OGDCL enhances energy production with renewed focus on community development

**Tariq Khattak**

ISLAMABAD: In a significant move towards meeting the country's growing energy demands, Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), the leading exploration and production company in Pakistan, has revived Jhal Magsi Gas project.

The state-of-the-art gas processing plant, with a daily capacity to produce 13.7 MMSCF process gas and 45 BBL/day condensate, will mitigate escalating energy needs of Pakistan. The installation of this plant is a testament to OGDCL's commitment to furthering

the exploration and production of oil and gas resources in the region.

Besides the commercial operations, the company has underscored its dedication to transforming the lives of the local community in Jhal Magsi through a series of social welfare initiatives in the areas of education, health, water, and infrastructure.

As part of its efforts to enhance healthcare facilities, OGDCL has provided ambulances to the District Headquarter Hospital (DHQ) in Jhal Magsi. Additionally, OGDCL has installed a Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant, recognizing the importance of clean drinking water.

*All the promises of the government turned out to be false: Adil Bhatti*

**Asad Hashmi**

ISLAMABAD: General Secretary of Real State Consultants Association (RECA) Adil Nawaz Bhatti has said that all the promises of the government turned out to be false. The government failed to take correct decisions under the pressure of the IMF.

The government should admit its failure and immediately withdraw the cruel and unjust taxes imposed overnight. Adil Bhatti said that the government has not only oppressed the real estate and construction sector, but has taken the path of destroying the economy of the entire country by further losing the confidence of overseas Pakistanis.

He said that the government has not only oppressed the real estate and construction sector, but has taken the path of destroying the economy of the entire country by further losing the confidence of overseas Pakistanis.

The real estate community of the entire country and overseas Pakistanis are suffering from intense anger. We are warning the government that if the government does not roll back the recent increase in advance tax and gain tax on property sales and restore the announced tax relief for overseas Pakistanis, we will announce the biggest peaceful protest in history on behalf of the business community of Pakistan with the support of overseas Pakistanis.

More than 100 industries and millions of overseas Pakistanis are associated with the real estate and construction sector, which are currently protesting. Pakistan's business community and overseas Pakistanis are patriotic and well-wishers of the country.

We have submitted a comprehensive plan for the development of the country's economy to the government houses, but in response, the government oppressed our business and put not only our business at stake, but the entire country's economy at stake.

# PM congratulates Naila Kiyani, Sameena Baig for scaling Nanga Parbat

## Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday congratulated mountaineers Naila Kiyani and Sameena Baig for scaling the world's ninth highest peak of Nanga Parbat.

The prime minister, in a statement, said besides summiting the world's highest peak of Mount Everest, both Naila Kiyani and Sameena Baig were the first Pakistani women to scale the most dangerous peak of Nanga Parbat and brought fame to country.

The two mountaineers were representatives of those brave women of Pakistan



who were second to none in their pursuit of tenacity, ambitions and objectives as they had proved that their mettle, determination and intentions were "higher than the highest mountains", PM Shehbaz added.

Praying for their more successes in future, he said the daughters of the nation like Sameena Baig, Naila Kiyani and others should continue to project Pakistan's bright image across the globe.

In May 2023, the prime minister conferred Sitara Imtiaz on Naila Kiyani. After Sameena Baig, she is the second Pakistani woman mountaineer who has scaled the Mount Everest.

## Climber Asif Bhatti stranded at Nanga Parbat due to snow blindness

### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's climber Asif Bhatti, who had proceeded for final summit push of the treacherous Nanga Parbat (8,126m) mountain was stranded with snow blindness, the Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said on Monday.

"Asif is stuck at camp 4 with snow blindness at altitude 7,500-metre to 8,000-metre. He needs help," ACP Secretary Karrar Haidri told APP.

According to Haidri, a number of outfits were attempting the peak and some of their members had conveyed the message



that Asif was suffering from snow blindness.

"A helicopter will be needed to pick him up but

for that he will have to come down to around 6,000-metre to 6,500-metre," he added.

Asif along with renowned Pakistani mountaineer Lt Col (R) Dr Jabbar Bhatti, Dr Naveed, Saad Muhammad and Faheem Pasha had departed for the expedition a few days back. "His other team members have not yet begun their final summit push," Haidri said.

With a death probability of 21%, Nanga Parbat continues to claim its place among the top five most dangerous mountains in the world.

Till now 85 of the climbers have died while attempting it.

## Pakistani racer Enaam Ahmed battles slick track to earn top eight finishes

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: British-Pakistani racer Enaam Ahmed earned another top 10 result this past weekend in the Indy NXT by Firestone race, battling against top drivers and a treacherously wet track in the process.

The seventh round of the 2023 season took place from the Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, and the track, which has so many elevation changes that it resembles a roller coaster, was lined with many American fans camping in their tents and trailers cheering on the action.

Ahmed started the Mid-Ohio Grand Prix in 11th, and immediately began fighting his way towards the front of the field. Before the first lap was even completed, the Pakistani Panther had moved his way into the top 10 and was looking for more.

The track had received a heavy rain just hours before the race began, and the track was not yet dry when Ahmed was fighting for position at 180 miles per hour. To make things even more difficult, light mist began falling in the middle of the race and made the track surface slicker still.

The 23-year-old Ahmed was not daunted by the challenge, and contin-



ued to attack for position at every opportunity. At one point he was nearly pushed into the wet grass by Rasmus Lindh, and smartly backed out of the encounter.

If he would have so much as touched the wet grass lining the track, his purpose-built race car would have become stuck and his race would have been over immediately. Ahmed regrouped and was able to pass Lindh a few laps later, using his unmatched pace on a restart to gain another position.

Track conditions worsened near the end of the race, and multiple other drivers slid off into the grass even though

they are all the most talented racers in America.

Ahmed was more than happy to take the positions given up by those that crashed, taking care to keep his Cape Motorsports car on the racing surface. As a British Formula F3 champion, Ahmed has learned a lot about how to race in cool and rainy conditions, and it showed this weekend.

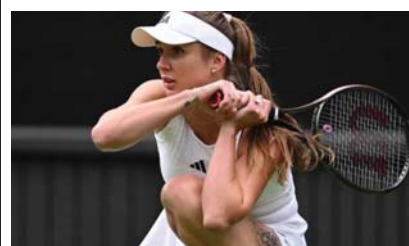
"I capitalized on the first laps of the restarts," said Ahmed, describing the strategy he used to gain positions. "Every time there was a restart I was overtaking, so that was good. It was very, very slick out there.

"The team are making good improvements on the car, it's just that we get there too late at the weekend. But that's just because of our lack of experience. The Cape Motorsport guys, it's their first year doing Indy NXT, and we're against teams that have been doing this for 10-20 years.

"It's only a matter of time before we get it right, and once we're at the front I know we can win."

This weekend was the third time Ahmed has scored a finish in the top eight, even though he's just a rookie himself. There is still half of the 2023 season left for him to show what he's capable of.

## Wimbledon: Svitolina sends Venus Williams packing in opening round



In a bittersweet moment at Wimbledon's Centre Court, five-time champion Venus Williams saw her record-breaking 24th appearance come to an end with a first-round defeat against Ukraine's Elina Svitolina.

The 43-year-old American, once the undisputed queen of Centre Court, fought valiantly against her opponent but was unable to summon the old magic, eventually falling 6-4, 6-3.

Williams started the match with determination, winning the opening two games. However, a dramatic twist occurred when she stumbled on the grass, clutching her right knee, causing concern among the spectators. The gritty veteran received medical attention but chose to battle on, demonstrating her unwavering spirit.

"I'm proud of my efforts, and I gave it my all out there. It's tough when you can't perform at your best physically, but I never back down from a challenge," Williams remarked after the match.

Despite her courageous effort, Svitolina's fierce gameplay and consistent form proved too much for the American icon. The Ukrainian, who reached the semi-finals in 2019, showcased her dominance on the court, breaking Williams' serve multiple times and securing the first set 6-4.

"The atmosphere was incredible, and I knew I had to stay focused and execute my game plan. Venus is a legend, and defeating her at Wimbledon is an honor," Svitolina said, praising her opponent.

As the second set unfolded, Williams faced an uphill battle, trailing behind with a break early on. The Centre Court crowd, aware of witnessing a historic moment, rallied behind the American veteran, cheering her on with unwavering support.

Amidst the intense competition, Svitolina served for the match in the eighth game. Williams, despite her injury, showcased her legendary determination and broke back, igniting a brief glimmer of hope for a stunning comeback. However, Svitolina remained composed, breaking Williams again and sealing her victory with a 6-3 win in the second set.

"Venus pushed me to my limits today, and it was a challenge to close out the match. I'm grateful for the opportunity to compete against such a tennis legend," Svitolina stated, paying tribute to her resilient opponent.

## Wimbledon to celebrate Roger Federer career on Centre Court

### Sports Desk

LAHORE: Wimbledon will celebrate Roger Federer's achievements at the All England Club with a special ceremony on Centre Court on the second day of the championships on Tuesday.

The Swiss eight-time champion, who announced his retirement last September, will visit the scene of some of his greatest triumphs and be honoured before the start of play.

"I'm pleased to say that Roger will be with us tomorrow and we will have a special celebratory moment on Centre Court before play starts just to honour him as the man holding the most gentlemen's singles titles here at Wimbledon," All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said on Monday.

She added: "We'll have a moment just to celebrate his achievements and to say thank you for all the memories."

Roger Federer, 41, has mostly stayed



away from tennis since bowing out in emotional scenes at the Laver Cup in London but was similarly honoured at the grass-court event in Halle, Germa-

ny last month.

Bolton revealed that Serena Williams, 41, who bowed out a few weeks earlier at the US Open, had also been invited

to Wimbledon but was unable to travel.

"We invited Serena similarly this year but as you'll know she's pregnant so understandably couldn't travel," said Bolton.

"We of course wish her lots of luck with the remainder of her pregnancy and we hope maybe we might see her next year."

Novak Djokovic is the hot favourite to equal Federer's men's record of eight singles titles at Wimbledon this year and secure his 24th Grand Slam title.

The Serb created history last month when he outclassed Casper Ruud to win the French Open title and captured a record-breaking 23rd men's Grand Slam title.

The 36-year-old Serb brushed off an early wobble to defeat Casper Ruud of Norway 7-6 (7/1), 6-3, 7-5 to win a third French Open title and snap the tie of 22 Slams he shared with career-long rival Rafael Nadal.

## Training and Media Activities For Pakistan and Shaheens squads

### Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Training camps for the Pakistan men's national and Shaheens sides will commence later this week. Babar Azam's side will tour Sri Lanka for the two Test match series scheduled from 16 to 28 July. This will be Pakistan's first assignment in the third cycle of the ICC World Test Championship. Mohammad Harris' Pakistan Shaheens will too travel to Sri Lanka to feature in the eight-team ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup scheduled from 14 to 23 July.

Following are the training and media opportunities at the two training camps.

4-7 July: Pakistan men's camp. All activities at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre

4, 5 and 6 July - The team will training from 9 AM. At the end of the training session, a player will be available for a media talk.

7 July - The team will training from 9 AM

8 July - Pakistan Cricket team will depart for Sri Lanka

Amir Siddiq will look after the media operations. He is available at 0312 2195116.

4-10 July: Pakistan Shaheens' camp. Activities at National Cricket Academy and LCCA Ground

4, 5 and 9 July - The players will have training sessions at the National Cricket Academy from 1600 till 1830. The PCB will provide video clips and pictures to Media from the sessions.

6 and 8 July - The players will feature in 30-over match scenario at the LCCA ground, which will begin at 1415. On 8 July, head coach Mohammad Masroor will be available for a media talk at 1400 before the match at the LCCA ground.

7 July - Rest

10 July - The players will feature in 50-over practice match, which begins at 0930 at the LCCA ground. At 1400 captain Mohammad Harris will be available for a media talk at the LCCA ground.

11 July - The team will depart for Sri Lanka

## Test squad to train from July 4



### Sports Desk

KARACHI: Pakistan Test squad will train in the Sindh metropolis from July 4 to July 7 ahead of their departure for Sri Lanka for the two-match series on July 8.

According to a Pakistan Cricket Board spokesman, it would be Pakistan's first assignment in the third cycle of the ICC World Test Championship.

All training activities would be held here at the Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre, the spokesman said.

## Sports Board Punjab (SBP) Summer Camps resumed



### Tahir Amin Malik

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab (SBP) Summer Camps have been resumed at different venues of Nishtar Park Sports Complex after Eid-ul Azha holidays.

On Monday, hundreds of young boys and girls took part in wushu, karate, taekwondo, self-defence and badminton summer camp training under the supervision of qualified coaches.

It may be mentioned here that the summer camps of 14 games such as Athletics, Archery, Badminton, Cricket, Football, Hockey, Table Tennis, Lawn Tennis, Self-Defense, Taekwondo, Wushu and Karate, Gymnastics and Swimming are being conducted on the directions of Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail in a statement said that this healthy activity will play a key role in the promotion of sports culture among the younger generation. "Such a large scale summer camp is being organized for the first time in the history of Punjab. The basic objective of Summer Camp is to engage thousands of young boys and girls in healthy sports activities during the summer vacations," he added.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail informed that the mega summer camp activity will help a lot in tracing fresh sports talent from all divisions. "A large number of girls are also participating in summer camp which is an encouraging sign for promotion of sports among women," he explained.

## Sports Board Punjab will host two-match Asia Rugby Men's Division 1 series

### Sports Desk

LAHORE: Sports Board Punjab will host two-match Asia Rugby Men's Division 1 series between Pakistan and UAE under the auspices of Pakistan Rugby Union from July 4 to 8, 2023.

In this regard, Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail and Additional Secretary Sports Ms Nabeela visited Punjab Stadium to review all arrangements on Monday. Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail has directed the ground staff to make top level arrangements for mega rugby series.

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail said that the holding of Asia Rugby Men's Division 1 at Punjab Stadium is a good omen for the future of this game in our country. "The two-match Asia Rugby Men's Division 1 series will play a key role in the promotion of rugby among young generation".

Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail welcomed the guest UAE rugby team in Lahore. "We are quite upbeat that the rugby fans will enjoy the exciting game of rugby during the Asia Rugby Men's Division 1 series," he added.

Pakistan will take on United Arab Emirates (UAE) in first encounter of two-match Asia Rugby Men's Division 1 series at Punjab Stadium on Tuesday (July 4) while the second match will be played at the same venue on July 8.