



LAHORE ▾ P3

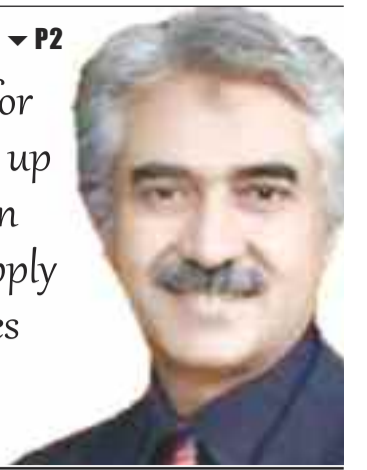
Dream of mother and child block in 1977 now coming true

The Business

An English Daily published simultaneously from Lahore and Faisalabad

LAHORE ▾ P2

Aslam for speeding up work on water supply schemes



PAGES 08 | Rs 15

www.thebusiness.com.pk

Rabi-ul-Awal 23 1444 Thursday, October 20 2022

'Pak troubles justify slump in bond prices'

NEW YORK: Investment bank JPMorgan has called the slump in Pakistan's bonds to just a third of their face value justified, following the country's devastating floods and recent warnings by officials that some debt payments may need to be suspended. Finances were already strained before this month's floods, but the cost of repairing the damage and providing support for those affected have raised fears that the country may now default. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar told Reuters last week that he would ask for payments on some \$27 billion worth of non-Paris Club debt largely owed to China to be pushed back, although he would not pursue actual write-offs. Pakistan is in an IMF programme and set to receive

around \$4 billion in post-flood aid and loans from the likes of the World Bank and United Nations. But as it stands its \$7.9 billion of foreign exchange reserves covers key imports for barely a month. "Pakistan's debt and fiscal dynamics flag rising solvency concerns," JP-Morgan's analysts wrote. "Political/fiscal, flood-related external risks, and possibility of a debt moratorium and their implications on the IMF programme as well as FX liquidity likely justify current sovereign bond prices." Those bonds have plunged to around 33-35 cents on the dollar this month which leaves them at just a third of their face value and broadly in line with other countries seen at risk of default such as El Salvador, Ghana and Ecuador. —DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif with a Chinese delegation of experts on disaster management.

■ Minister optimistic economic growth can surpass by 3pc in FY23

Dar expects positive outcome in talks with IMF, WB

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Wednesday expressed hope of a positive result from meetings with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other multilateral creditors, as Pakistan seeks support after devastating floods exacerbated the South Asian nation's economic crisis. "I held 58 meetings in four days with IMF, World Bank and other multilateral creditors," he said while speaking to media in London. "We expect positive results from the interactions." Responding to a query, he said "everything went well in these meetings" without divulging details. During his meetings with IMF officials, Dar had apprised them of the damages caused by the unprecedented floods in Pakistan. He shared the government of Pakistan's vision for stabilising the economy and carrying out sustainable and resilient recovery. Earlier, IMF Deputy Managing Director Antoinette Sayeh appreciated the government's policies and assured of IMF's continued support to Pakistan. Furthermore, Dar, in his meeting with David Malpass, President World Bank,

thanked the global creditor for its continued support in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Dar lauded the World Bank for its assistance in rescue and relief operations in the aftermath of the unprecedented devastating floods. As per the statement, President Malpass assured that the bank would continue to work with the government to help Pakistan overcome its socio-economic challenges due to the floods. Meanwhile, in a separate meeting, the finance minister thanked Martin Raiser, Vice President of South Asia Region (SAR), World Bank for undertaking a visit to Pakistan amid the devastation caused by the floods. Dar said that the visit helped in projecting the tremendous damages caused by the devastating floods. Raiser assured that his institution would continue to support Pakistan in overcoming its economic difficulties. Earlier, Dar expressed confidence that the country's economy can surpass 3 percent growth in the ongoing fiscal year, higher than the 2 percent growth projected by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). He reiterated that "there's no plan to engage with bondholders across the board" asking them to extend the

maturity date for Pakistan's \$1 billion global bond due in December. However, "there are certain proposals," that the government might consider, including issuing "replacement paper," but the approach is to look at optional, not mandatory, measures, he said. "I'm working to have a solid plan how to deal with all these public debt liabilities" that will be due in the fiscal year to June 2023, he said. Dar confirmed debt liabilities of around \$22 billion in the next 12 months. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif told the Financial Times that Pakistan is not asking for any kind of measure [such as] a rescheduling or a moratorium. "We are asking for additional funds. The country needs "huge sums of money" for "mega undertakings" such as rebuilding roads, bridges and other infrastructure damaged or washed away, the FT quoted PM Shehbaz as saying. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar has expressed confidence that the country's economy can surpass three percent growth in the ongoing fiscal year, higher than the 2 percent growth projected by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX extends gains as tensions with US alleviate

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: The PSX extended the upward trend for a second session on Wednesday and the KSE-100 index rose 0.92 percent as alleviation of tensions between Pakistan and US following President Joe Biden's remarks helped steer buying at the equity market. Last week, Biden said that Pakistan may be one of the most dangerous nations in the world as it has "nuclear weapons without any cohesion." However, the US controlled the situation and said on Tuesday that Washington sought a strong partnership with Pakistan to counter global and regional terrorism and also has confidence in its ability to defend its nuclear assets. By

the end of the session, the KSE-100 Index rose 386.78 points or 0.92 percent to close at 42,226.05. Trading began with a spike and the KSE-100 Index rose throughout the day. The trend turned flat in the final hour however, the market closed with gain. All index heavy sectors recorded modest gains and closed in the green. A report from Arif Habib Limited stated that a positive session was witnessed at the PSX. The market traded in the green zone throughout the day as the trade deficit of Pakistan witnessed a sharp decline of 30.16 percent on a year-on-year basis. "Investors' participation remained active in the mainboard as third tier stocks continued to remain as volume board leaders," the statement said.

Sana asks ICT police to improve law and order

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah visited police line headquarters to award medals to various cops and officials for their courage on Wednesday. Minister has awarded 14 Quaid-e-Azam police medals and 14 Pakistan police medals to Police officers and officials. These police officers and officials were nominated for these awards on diamond jubilee of Pakistan. Government of Pakistan awarded Tamgha-e-Shujaat to the IGP Akbar Nasir Khan and DIG operations Sohail Zafar Chatha. Interior Minister congratulated all the police officers and officials. The medals were not being awarded to the Police for long time and Police officers and officials

who never hesitate to sacrifice their life for the security of people. Interior minister instructed the police to facilitate the people and maintain the law and order situation. Police department also briefed Sana on the reforms made in department. The investigation process is also brought to the new and better standards. Rearrangements are being made on police station level and two more officers of incharge operations and incharge administration are deployed along with each SHO. SHO will lead the investigation department. Peace and community policing will be the responsibility of Incharge Operations, and administration incharge will be take responsibility of human

Industrial boom nears as CPEC set to enter B2B phase: Shehbaz

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was set to enter the next business-to-business (B2B) mode after the productive government-level phase. Chairing a review meeting on CPEC, the prime minister said the government had rejuvenated the multi-billion dollar project that faced hiatus during the tenure of the previous government. The meeting focused on infrastructure projects particularly Main Line-1 (ML-1), Karachi Circular Railway, and Karakoram Highway. The project related to the production of 10,000-megawatt electricity with solar and wind sources also came under discussion. Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan was about to witness an industrial boom with the restoration of CPEC projects. He welcomed the interest of Chinese

companies to invest in Pakistan's solar projects. The prime minister said the ML-1 rail project would play an important role in the strengthening of the national economy by connecting the country's ports with China and Central Asia. He termed the ML-1 project as the "backbone" of the country with high prospects of progress. Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah joined the meeting through video link. **PM for plan on construction of houses, infrastructure** Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who made history by chairing the first meeting of Pakistan Climate Change Council (PCCC), in a major decision regarding the rehabilitation of flood affected people and to avoid environmental dangers in future, has directed to devise a national plan for the construction of houses and infrastructure that could withstand climate change effects.

He also directed to propose measures for adopting the housing and construction styles as per climate changes and formulating a strategy in coordination with the federal and provincial governments to tackle the environmental issues timely and on permanent basis. Pakistan Climate Change Council was established on the pattern of the CCI with all the federal and provincial stakeholders on board. **China helped Pakistan in every difficult time: PM** Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has said China helped Pakistan in every difficult time and this is a good example of long-standing relationship between the two countries. He was talking to a delegation of Chinese disaster management experts led by Emergency Commanding Officer, Xu Xianbiao which called on him in Islamabad. He said Pakistan is grateful to the Chinese leadership and the people of

US Congress has no objection to Pak F-16 package

WASHINGTON: The US Congress has no objection to the Pakistan's F-16 aircraft maintenance package. As per details, the US administration approved the aircraft repair package last month. After approval by the US administration, Congressional ratification was required. The Indian Defense Minister had raised objections to the repair package received by Pakistan, on which the US Secretary of State rejected the objections saying that Pakistan's defense program strengthens the country's ability to counter terrorist threats emanating from the country or the region. On the other hand, Democratic Party Senior Senator Chris Hollen has said that President Joe Biden's administration wants strong US relations with Pakistan. Biden's statement was spontaneous; there is no change in US policy. The US State Department's explanation seems to be that the presidential statement was not made deliberately. —DNA

'We will have to step forward fearlessly'

ISLAMABAD: Energy minister Khuram Dastgir has said we will have to go ahead fearlessly. "Pakistan is rich with natural resources. There are mountains and the best canal system in Pakistan. There is no shortage of skilled people in the country", he said this while addressing a ceremony here Wednesday. He held the real face of Pakistan are its people. I had met with Turkish Prime Minister a few years back and I asked him how the economy of Turkey improved, he underlined. Turkish PM said, "We decided we should show power from within inside. We decided to move ahead undeterred. Energy minister said we have grown weak mentally and economically and no one will come from out of the country to help us. He underlined we expect from the youths to ponder over history that problems took birth from where today. —Online

Rupee loses 0.53pc against US dollar

From Our Staff Correspondent

KARACHI: Pakistan's rupee posted a decline for the sixth consecutive session against the US dollar, and depreciated 0.53 percent in the inter-bank market on Wednesday. As per the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the rupee closed at 220.88 after depreciating Rs1.17 or 0.53 percent. The rupee has cumulatively depreciated Rs3.09 or 1.4 percent in the last six trading sessions. On Tuesday, rupee had registered a decline for the fifth straight session against the US dollar, and closed at 219.71 after depreciating Re0.82 or 0.37 percent. As per market experts, weakness in the local currency is attributable to dwindling reserves and absence of confirmations of foreign inflows.

Govt slaps up to 500pc taxes on imported cars

From Our Staff Correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The government, pursuing an extreme protectionist approach, has slapped up to 500% more taxes on imported cars to cushion the local car industry from overseas competition. The plan was revealed by Commerce Additional Secretary during a meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). The committee, chaired by MNA Noor Alam Khan, strongly recommended revising the undue protection that's helping the local carmakers in skinning the buyers. Protectionism refers to the govt's economic policies that limit international trade to facilitate domestic industries from getting thrown out of business because of cheap imports.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi launches the first Punjab dementia plan at a function. Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid presents the Punjab dementia plan book to him.

Parvez inaugurates first Punjab Dementia Plan

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Ch Parvez Elahi launched the first Punjab dementia plan at a function held at his office where Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid presented the Punjab dementia plan book to him. The Chief Minister noted that international data about this disease is alarming. Dementia disease is also spreading in the country but elderly persons could not feel it. With increasing age, memory goes away due to dementia. Society should fulfill the responsibility to treat elderly people suffering from this disease and

Punjab is the first province where a dementia plan has been introduced with the support of WHO, he said. He said that, currently, there are about four lac dementia patients in Pakistan and the number is increasing day-by-day. The worrying thing is that 90 percent of dementia patients are not diagnosed, he added. A dementia patient becomes a liability, not only for the family but also for society. The Punjab government has become a part of this plan and it's an example for other provinces to follow; the CM maintained and added that dementia has not only become a global issue but it is also a concern

for us at the national level. Parvez Elahi observed that adequate measures are needed to treat dementia so that the patient and his family could be supported, he said. Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, President of Alzheimer Pakistan Zia H. Rizvi, secretary general Dr Husain Jafri and others were also present. While talking to the media afterwards, the CM said that people would be fully sensitized about dementia. Unfortunately, the N-League government has also suffered from dementia disease.

● Continued on Back Page