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President Ihram offers condolences to President Alvi

Detailed News On Page-08

Pakistan slams India's Twitter manipulation

Detailed News On Page-08



Planet needs more 'oil and babies'

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Queen Elizabeth 'deeply saddened'

DNA

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II says she is deeply saddened by the widespread flooding that has claimed more than 1,000 lives in Pakistan this summer. Pakistan has seen exceptionally heavy monsoon rains which have triggered flash floods, affecting 33 million people and damaging nearly one million homes. The death toll is reported to be at least 1,061 people. In a message to President Arif Alvi, Queen Elizabeth said: "I am deeply saddened to hear of the tragic loss of life and destruction caused by the floods across Pakistan."

Japan to send emergency relief goods

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In light of the humanitarian perspective and the close relations between Japan and Pakistan, the Government of Japan has decided to provide emergency relief goods (Tents and Plastic Sheets) through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Pakistan in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster. The emergency relief goods, which will be delivered in two times, are expected to first arrive on August 30th at Jinnah International Airport Karachi.

Floods not due to 'lack of planning'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has said that Pakistan's climate catastrophe has "nothing to do with planning." The statement came during Rehman's conversation with DW, when she responded to a question about allegations that the current situation in Pakistan has more to do with poor planning and corruption, instead of man-made climate change.

Hina Khar says... Pak values ties with ASEAN

Ambassador Phong welcomes FM Bilawal's participation in the Asean Regional Forum

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar has said Pakistan greatly values its relations with the ASEAN countries adding efforts shall be made to further cement and deepen these relations. The Minister made these remarks while speaking as chief guest on the occasion of 55th Anniversary of the ASEAN Day, celebrated at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. Members of the ASEAN countries, dialogue and sectoral partners also attended the reception. Newly-arrived ambassador of the United States of America Donald Blome also attended the event. She said we can use ASEAN example as a beacon of light that how a region can come together with a view to getting goals of peace and prosperity. Over the last 55 years ASEAN has transformed itself into a vibrant and integrated economic platform, she added. Pakistan, she said, shares the ASEAN vision of amity and cooperation and it is in this context that Pakistan has endeavored to develop and lasting and durable partnership with the member states. We believe that an integrated Asia can ensure a prosperous future for all.

Hina Khar further said Pakistan's relations with the ASEAN are time-tested and old. Pakistan became the sectoral partner of ASEAN in 1993 and since then bilateral relations are constantly on the move. In the same spirit Pakistan acceded to the Treaty of Amity during a conference held in Jakarta in 2004 and in the same year Pakistan also became part of ASEAN Regional Forum. She added, ASEAN offered huge business opportunities and it was in the interest of both partners that bilateral and multilateral cooperation is given new dimensions. Chairperson ASEAN Committee Islamabad (ACI) and Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Tien Phong in his address said the 55th anniversary is celebrated with the determination that ASEAN will play its full role for economic prosperity, trade integration to promote peace and harmony with the other regions of the world. He further said, The ASEAN underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN's unity and Centrality in its community-building efforts and engagement with external partners, in promoting peace, security and stability as well as in enhancing

Another picture on Page 2

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IMF okays release of \$1.7 bn to Pak

"We should now be getting the seventh and eighth tranche of \$1.17 billion", says Miftah

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: After months-long hectic efforts, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) executive board Monday approved the seventh and eighth review of the stalled \$6 billion Pakistan programme, announced Finance Minister Miftah Ismail. Finance Minister Miftah Ismail announced the development on his Twitter handle saying: "Alhamdulillah the IMF board has approved the revival of our EFF programme. We should now be getting the seventh and eighth tranche of \$1.17 billion." The finance minister also thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif "for taking so many tough decisions and saving Pakistan from default". "I congratulate the nation," said the finance minister. A few minutes before the finance minister's tweet, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal also announced the development on his Twitter handle. Islamabad reached the staff-level agreement with



Miftah slams PTI

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail castigated the PTI leadership after Shaukat Tarin allegedly asked Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to withdraw from the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) deal. The revelations came to the fore in an audio leak Monday where the ex-finance minister could be heard directing Punjab Finance Minister Mohsin Leghari and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra to cite recent floods as a core reason for withdrawing from the deal. The KP government - which is completely under PTI's control - has already written the letter, but Punjab - which PTI rules in coalition with PML-Q - is yet to write it. In a press conference after the leaked audio surfaced, Mifath said at this time,

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ISLAMABAD: Hina Rabbani Khar, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the ASEAN member states posing for a picture on the occasion of 55th ASEAN Day celebrations. - DNA

Indian PM extends condolences

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday offered heartfelt condolences to the families suffering from the extreme rain-induced flooding in Pakistan, hoping for the situation to get back to normal. Taking to Twitter, the Indian prime minister wrote: "Saddened to see the devastation caused by the floods in Pakistan." "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and all those affected by this natural calamity and hope for an early restoration of normalcy," said Modi. So far, about 1,061 people have died while millions have been directly affected by the abnormally heavy rains in the country.

IHC suspends ban on Khan's speeches

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) suspended the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority's (PEMRA) recent notification which prohibited television channels from airing PTI Chairman Imran Khan's live speeches. IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah suspended the notification till September 5 and observed that the regulatory authority "does not have the authority" to issue such orders. Barristers Ali Zafar represented Khan at the hearing, which was headed by the IHC CJ. In it, the PTI lawyer argued that Khan wanted to do a live telethon later today to raise funds for flood affectees. After hearing the arguments, the IHC chief justice suspended the notification and

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PM for making all-out efforts to help flood victims

PM Shehbaz reviews rescue activities in the flood-ravaged areas of KP

DNA



NEWSHERA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the authorities concerned to utilize all-out resources for immediate rescue and relocation of the flood-hit population. The prime minister, who arrived here to review the rescue and relief activities in the flood-ravaged areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, was briefed about the flood situation in Kabul River. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr Shehzad Bangash, Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, NDMA and PDMA's authorities briefed the prime minister about the ongoing rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in Nowshera district following the devastated floods of

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Death toll reaches 1,136

NEWS DESK

DERA GHAZI KHAN: The overall death toll from floods across the country reached 1,136 on Monday as the threat of more flooding lingered in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Radio Pakistan reported that according to a situation report of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), 1,634 individuals were injured in various rain and flood-related incidents and over 735,375 livestock animals were lost. Additionally, over 3,451 kilometres of roads, 149 bridges, 170 shops, and 949,858 houses were damaged across the country. Meanwhile, the water level in Kabul River still ranged from medium to very high flow. Data available from the flood cell showed that a

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Palestine starts aid campaign for Pakistan

DNA

RAMALLAH: The Palestinian Presidency announced launching a popular donation campaign for the victims of Pakistan's floods, through the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, in support of the Pakistani people in facing this great ordeal, which claimed the lives of large numbers of dead, injured and homeless in all Pakistani provinces. The presidency indicated that President Mahmoud Abbas issued his instructions to send a Palestinian medical mission formed by the Ministry of Health, the Palestinian

Red Crescent and the Civil Defense, to provide all possible assistance to the wounded and affected, and to contribute to rescuing and providing the necessary treatment. The presidency affirms that President Mahmoud Abbas offers condolences to the Pakistani government and the brotherly Pakistani people for this great loss, wishing Pakistan and its people stability and prosperity in the face of this natural disaster. He praised the honorable and unwavering stances of Pakistan and its brotherly people in supporting the Palestinian people and their just cause in international forums at all levels in preserving the Palestinian land and sanctities.

Inside...

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Pakistan over-punished for climate change: Joudat Ayaz - Page 04

I tracked down the house Israel stole from my grandfather - Page 05

Sadr quits politics as country's political stalemate worsens - Page 06

Germany's Scholz eyes 'sovereign, enlarged EU' - Page 07

President Xi Jinping's leadership has transformed China - Page 08

President for co-op to curb climate change effects

The President received credentials from the Ambassadors designate of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Libya, Kenya, and Ethiopia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The Ambassadors designate of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Libya, Kenya, and Ethiopia presented their credentials to President Dr Arif Alvi during the Presentation of Credentials Ceremony, held at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Ambassador of the Republic of Germany, Mr Alfred Grannas, the Ambassador of Spain, Mr Jose Antonia de Ory Peral, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr Charles Delogne, Ambassador of Libya, Mr Moamer Z. O. Abdalmoftab, High Commissioner of Kenya, Ms Mary Nyambura Kamau, and the Ambassador of Ethiopia, Mr Jemal Beker Abdula, made separate calls to the President. Talking to the German Ambassador, the President said that Germany was one of the largest foreign direct investors in Pakistan. He said that German firms with expertise in wind and solar energy as well as in hydel power projects could take advantage of new sets of incentives offered by Pakistan in these sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Newly-arrived Ambassadors of Germany, Spain, Belgium, Libya, Kenya and Ethiopia presenting credentials to the President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi. - DNA

The President encouraged German investors to invest in Pakistan's Special Economic Zones (SEZs) under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). He said that keeping in view the huge po-

tential of business, trade and investment between the two countries, the existing level of bilateral trade needed to be substantially improved. He stressed the need for bilateral cooperation between

the two countries to mitigate the negative fallout of climate change and global warming against the backdrop of devastating floods in Pakistan. While talking to the Ambassador of Spain, the Presi-

dent expressed the need to further expand bilateral relations in the economic, trade, investment and tourism sectors.

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Briefs

Civil society calls for speedy efforts for relief

KARACHI: Civil society activists, human rights defenders, journalists, and volunteers at a Webinar organised by The Knowledge Forum on the flood situation in Sindh spoke of extreme chaos as Sindh grapples with one of the worst floods in its history. Speakers were unanimous that current figures quoted in the official data do not represent the accurate picture of devastation on the ground. The activists were speaking at an online Zoom webinar "Assessing Provincial Picture of Flooding in Pakistan - Dispatches from Sindh" on Monday. Dr. Sono Khangharani, a development expert, Ms. Radha Bheel, a Member of Pakistan Dalit Solidarity Network, Mr. Akram Khaskheli, President of Hari Welfare Association, and Mr. Jan Odhano from Community Development Foundation were the speakers at the panel.

Other speakers included Dr. Riaz Shaikh, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST), Ms. Uzma Noorani of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, senior journalist Shahzeb Jilani, Muhammad Yaqoob of Takhliq Foundation, Yasir Hussain from Darya Lab and others. "The situation in most of the areas is very serious as a large number of people have been affected due to prolonged rains and floods," said speakers. Due to the destruction of infrastructure and roads and railway networks access to many affected areas was difficult and a large portion of the affected population is devoid of relief, one of the speakers said.

Dr. Somo Khangharani said that it is premature to determine the extent of the losses due to the flood. Even though in some districts there were fewer showers of rain as compared to rains in 2011, the damages were much more because there were continuous rains in those districts which damaged almost all katcha houses. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors and High Commissioners, DHMs of Malaysia, Brunei, India, Myanmar, USA, Thailand, Korea, Indonesia, Mumtaz Zara Addl Secy MOFA, Ambassadors of Vietnam, Japan, Philippines, Norway, Switzerland and Australia posing for a picture on the occasion of 55th ASEAN Day celebrations in Islamabad. - DNA

Ashrafi urges people to help flood victims without prejudice

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday urged the people to help the flood victims without any prejudice. Addressing the 'Paigham-e-Pakistan Ulema Conference' held at the Rawalpindi Arts Council and organized by the Punjab government in collaboration with International Islamic University Islamabad's Islamic Research Institute, he said people should set aside their religious and ethnic affiliation, and come forward for the assistance of the distressed people. Shedding light on the significance of Paigham-e-Pakistan, the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council said it was a complete doctrine which taught respect of other's sect and faith, while remaining in one's own religious domain. It was signed by more than 15,000 Ulema, Mashaykh and religious scholars of all schools of thought in a bid to bring social, political and religious reforms in all seg-

ments of the society, he added. He said the Paigham-e-Pakistan also delineated the rights of minorities as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan. "Our worship places should be used for mutual love and respect, and not for hatred or bigotry against each other," Ashrafi said. He further said that in near future, another document titled 'Sahibane-Pakistan' would be launched on the rights of women in the light of the divine command and the constitution. He credited the Pakistan Army for rendering their matchless services to save the lives and properties of the flood-ravaged people across the country. Ashrafi said Pakistan's enemy wanted to destabilize the federation by creating division between the nation and the armed forces through the fifth-generation warfare. "It is our national resolve to counter the propaganda being made against our security institutions through all possible means." He also reminded the hoarders and the profiteers about the wrath of Allah Almighty had they not amended

their conduct, and asked them not to take advantage of the people's miseries as they were already in financial crisis due to torrential rains and flash floods in the country. Responding to a question, he expressed dismay over former finance minister Shaukat Tarin's audio leaks, and said it was beyond comprehension that how a man who had been at a responsible position could direct the two federating units to write letters to the International Monetary Fund in a bid to sabotage the federal government's deal with it. He appreciated the Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi who did not pay any heed towards such a move that could bring Pakistan's economy on the brink of destruction. The Paigham-e-Pakistan Conference was attended by a large number of renowned Ulema and Mashaykh renewing their pledge to defend the Pakistan Army from all propaganda, and help the flood-affected people with national and religious spirit. - APP

148 Pakistani students to leave for Hungary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As many as 148 Pakistani students are set to leave for study in Hungarian universities as the Higher Education Commission (HEC) held a send-off ceremony to award certificates to the scholarship winners under the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme. Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain attended the ceremony as chief guest through a video link. Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Executive Director HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail, and Charge d'Affaires Embassy of

serve the country. He assured that government of Pakistan was fully supportive of the programmes like Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarships.

The chairman HEC appreciated the support of Hungarian Government for higher studies of the students. He said a large number of Nobel Laureates were the graduates of Hungarian institutions, and they provided guidance to Pakistan to continue journey of strengthening higher education institutions. He noted that the Hungarian universities welcomed Pakistani students as their education policy was very inclusive and open. He urged the Hungarian government to enhance the number of scholarships for Pakistani



Hungary, Tivadar Takacs were present on the occasion. A large number of Vice Chancellors, faculty members, alumni, and scholarship awardees along with their parents attended the ceremony. Congratulating the scholarship awardees, the minister said that it was an excellent opportunity for the students to enhance their knowledge and skills and get international exposure. He advised the students to fully utilize their potential in their respective areas of study as well as under the cultural diversity to play a role in further improving harmony between Pakistan and Hungary. He maintained that the scholarship opportunity put responsibility upon the students to work hard and learn to better

students. He advised the students to utilize their energies for showing exemplary academic performance and character and play role of Pakistani ambassadors in Hungary. Shedding light on the background of the scholarship programme, Dr. Shaista Sohail said that these scholarships began in 2015 with award of 80 scholarships, which was increased to 200 every year in 2017. She highlighted that government of Hungary had shown interest in continuing the co-operation and renew MoU for 200 scholarships annually for the next three years from 2023-2025. She underlined that a total of 772 scholarships, including 565 Bachelors, 161 Masters, and 46 Ph.D. scholarships, were awarded to the students to study in Hungary from 2016 to 2021.

HEC, universities to support relief activities

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the universities have committed to further mobilize their resources for immediate, mid-term and long-term relief of the flood affected areas of the country. In this regard, an online meeting of the Vice Chancellors of public sector universities was held on Monday. Addressing the meeting, Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the universities who have already taken initiatives for immediate support of people in flood-affected areas. He said that Pakistan's higher education sec-

tor has always responded to challenges of natural calamities, be it 2005 earthquake, 2010 floods, the issue of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) or other similar situations. The Chairman urged the university leadership to categorize their efforts into immediate, mid-term and long-term plans. "I know many universities are doing this already but I would emphasize that provision of food, clothing and shelter to the affected people should be our top priority, with subsequent plans for medical camps by medical universities as well as respective services of agriculture, engineer-

ing and veterinary universities, etc." Dr. Mukhtar urged stronger collaboration amongst universities of similar disciplines for better identification of issues and their solution, and establish university clusters for food security, health and nutrition, livestock (including fisheries and poultry) and infrastructure. The Chairman said that HEC's IT division has been tasked to immediately create a web portal for mutual sharing of information among universities so that all activities of higher education sector for flood-affected areas are executed in a coordinated manner. - APP

Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust; leading from the front



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is going through a catastrophe in the form of unprecedented rains and floods. It is a scene of apocalypse; the plains of Balochistan, the fields of South Punjab, the gardens of Sindh and the hills of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are flooded with heavy torrential rains. Houses, property and crops have been destroyed, and over 1100 people have been killed. There is a row of mourning in all the five provinces and Azad Kashmir. On occasions like this, the political leadership and the rulers are expected to put their hands on the heads of the victims, but the sad fact is that the political leadership is still engaged in politics. However, the armed forces and some welfare organizations are curbing the sufferings of the victims and putting ointment on the wounds in this hour of greatest need. A prominent name among the organizations

busy in facilitating flood victims is Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, which is operating in this difficult time under the leadership and supervision of Chairman Abdul Razzaq Sajid. According to the information available, Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust has distributed dry ration to thousands of families in the affected districts of Balochistan and South Punjab. Meanwhile, the places which are under heavy floods, cooked food is being distributed on a daily basis. While in the vicinity of the destroyed settlements, temporary settlements of tents have been made on the railway lines or high places where the homeless families are being taken care of. According to Al-Mustafa Welfare Trust, this relief work will continue until the water recedes and the communication roads are restored. After that, the work of rehabilitation and resettlement of displaced families will be started. Which includes the construction of shelter homes and all possible compensation for the victims' losses. Chairman Abdul Razzaq Sajid appealed to philanthropists for their



support for this great work. Lessening the suffering of flood victims is the test of those who are safe from this calamity. Therefore, it is the duty of overseas Pa-

kistanis to come forward and send their donations to the sincere workers of Al-Mustafa Welfare, to help end suffering of their brothers and sisters.

Chief Secretary appeals for donations

PESHAWAR: Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shahzad Bangash on Monday appealed to people, philanthropists to give their donations to only reputed and registered organizations with previous experience of donation collection and distribution, and discouraged unregistered and individual efforts. He also urged the people and the volunteers to give their donations in kind and deposit cash donations to official relief funds only so that it could be distributed among genuine affectees. The chief secretary, in a letter to the district administration, also directed the officials to check the credentials of unregistered organizations and individuals collecting the flood donations, and dismantle all such camps. He also directed to conduct need based assessment to determine the required goods and the quantity to avoid duplication of efforts, and also emphasized on collection of clothing, beddings, hygiene kits, mosquito repellants, general use medicines and dry ration for the flood victims. - APP

KP Health Deptt warns outbreak of dengue

PESHAWAR: The Health department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday warned of possible outbreak of dengue, Malaria, leishmaniasis, diarrhea and skin diseases in the flood affected areas and directed holding of medical camps there. In its Flood Emergency Surveillance and Response report released here, the health department said that so far screening of 100,000 flood affectees were conducted at different medical camps where 4,000 were given treatment of skin diseases and vaccines were administered to 21 persons bitten by snakes. - APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

- AUGUST
Aug 01/ CHINA Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND National Day
Aug 01/ LEBANON Armed Forces Day
Aug 01/ SYRIA Armed Forces Day
Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO National Day
Aug 09/ SINGAPORE National Day
Aug 15/ DPR KOREA Independence Day
Aug 15/ INDIA Independence Day
Aug 15/ POLAND Armed Forces Day
Aug 17/ INDONESIA Independence Day
Aug 24/ UKRAINE Independence Day
Aug 25/ URUGUAY Independence Day
Aug 30/ TURKEY Armed Forces Day
Aug 31/ KYRGYZ Independence Day
Aug 31/ MALAYSIA National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
Marriott.....051- 2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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
PIAFlightInfo.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Adviser on Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira received relief goods from UAE at the Nur Khan Air Base. - DNA

37 NADRA facilitation centres in 7 merged districts

ISLAMABAD: As many as 37 National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) registration and citizen facilitation centres are operation in the newly merged districts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa besides seven mobile registration vans each in all seven districts. Sharing details of the said centres, official sources told that these centres were working in Bajaur, Khyber, Kurram, Mohmand, Orakzai, North Waziristan and South Waziristan. A total of 268 employees were working in the said facilitation centres. Out of total, 44 were female employees to facilitate the women. - APP

IRSA releases 658,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 658,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 687,600 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum conversation level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 264,700 cusecs each. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1184.30 feet, which was 134.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 39,400 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 406,600, 567,100 and 530,800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 318,500 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 37,600 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. - APP

IWMB: Action against tourists bathing in Margalla's springs

Hills National Park homes rich biodiversity and ecology spreading over an area of 17,000 hectares facing serious risks due to wild fires, arson, poaching, hunting and tree cutting

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) on Monday decided to launch strict action against the tourists and visitors for bathing in freshwater springs that got filled after massive monsoon rains and helped replenish the depleting ecology. The IWMB forest guards during their routine patrolling spotted many families including men, women and children bathing in springs of Trail-5 that had attained maximum water level in its dried and abandoned springs after a prolonged dry spell. An IWMB official told APP that the tourists and seasonal trekkers were showing irresponsible and disrespectful attitude towards the mother nature and pristine ecology of the Margalla Hills National Park (MHNP) that was protected after many preservation efforts. The tourists believed to be at the trails to beat the heat by bathing in freshwater springs that were a source of pure water for humans

and wildlife alike and the practice of polluting it was equally detrimental for all. The recent abnormal torrential rains that had lashed out almost all of the country had also showered record rainfall in the national park that overflow its dry freshwater springs, he added. Hills National Park homes rich biodiversity and ecology spreading over an area of 17,000 hectares facing serious risks due to wild fires, arson, poaching, hunting and tree cutting. The threat of deforestation, poaching, hunting have been controlled through the preservation and protection measures by the IWMB through public and community mobilisation and it also assisted in increasing green cover in the protected area. The official added that the conservation efforts had also improved vegetation on the hiking trails and across the national park that replenished the aquifer of the Margalla Hills. "Water level has improved spe-

cially at Trail-6 where all water springs are filled with water stretching over some three kilometers area. Trail-6 is also a leopard preserve zone which is not open for public and hence has unprecedented green cover and plants in the area." The IWMB official underlined that the IWMB staff patrolling was improved in the National Park to control tree cutting, pollution, littering in the protected area and bathing in the freshwater springs. "The water in springs to remain till the months of November and December this year as the experts claim. The aquifer of Margalla Hills National Park has also filled to its maximum which is almost 30 feet deep," she mentioned. According to Professor Dr. Zahid Baig Mirza, Senior Board Member IWMB, she said the overflowing water springs indicated replenished aquifer which had attained its maximum level after rains. Rina mentioned that the wildlife species had

dispersed in the National Park due to ample availability of water throughout the protected area and might not be spotted frequently inside the wild area of the trails. Margalla Hills National Park, she said, was the most well staffed national park of the country with a regular strength of 70 personnel with efficient management. The Board was also waiting federal cabinet's approval for the Islamabad Wildlife Management Act which was pending at the forum as the new legislation would help IWMB to penalize violators, charge fee for entering the national park and generate revenue. He added that the details of a recent order of Islamabad High Court also needed implementation by the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration and Capital Development Authority (CDA). The Board also intended to create fence around the villages to prevent further encroachment by villages like Saidpur village. - APP

BISP launches Emergency Helpline numbers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) in coordination with district administration, banks and police officials deputated at the special payment campsites is fully mobilized and ensuring speedy disbursements of Rs. 25000 per family to the flood affectees of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. As of Monday evening a total of Rs. 8882068536

have been disbursed among 353119 flood affected families all across Pakistan under the Flood Relief Cash Assistance program. So far, 42862 affected families of Balochistan have received Rs. 1,085,312,744; 211235 families have received Rs. 5,307,078,670 in Sindh; 35053 families of KP have received Rs. 881,137,000 and 63,969 flood affected families have received Rs. 1,608,540,122 in Punjab. The payment process is likely to see a boom in the coming days as flood affect-

ees in huge numbers are visiting special payment campsites which have been established to ensure fair and transparent payment of financial assistance worth Rs. 25000 per affected family. The management of BISP has deputated its staff at these campsites so as to facilitate the payment process. On special Instructions of Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/ Chairperson BISP Ms. Shazia Marri, Benazir Income Support Programme has also launched emer-

PAF Disaster Relief Campaign ramped up

ISLAMABAD: As the flood calamity is affecting all across the country, Chief of the Air Staff while taking stock of the deteriorating condition of the flood affected areas has given instructions to enhance PAF efforts into an aggressive flood relief campaign. CAS has also directed all bases to generate intrinsic support to flood affectees in coordination with local civil authorities for directed efforts. Additionally, PAF Flood Relief Donation Account is being established to assist flood victims. Chief of the Air Staff's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief campaign is aimed to be a targeted effort, in order to make it more effective and efficient by reaching out to affected people in far flung areas stranded due to severed land routes. All branches of PAF have been directed to provide whole hearted efforts and support for this campaign. A focal point has been established at Air Headquarters, Islamabad to monitor the efficiency of the relief operations. For effective management, 03 relief zones have been established under Regional Air Commands whereas more than 25 helicopters and 08 C-130 aircraft of PAF Air Mobility Command are to be utilised for a swift reach out to inaccessible areas. - DNA

PTCL Group helps flood affected people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) Group has opened the doors of its medical centers for flood affected people in Swat, Dera Ismail Khan, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Larkana, Hyderabad, Malir-Karachi and Quetta. The centers will operate to facilitate and treat people injured in flood related accidents or fallen ill due to water-borne diseases. Heavy rains and flooding have caused irreparable losses to life and property across the length and breadth of the country, laying waste to large swathes of settlements, bazaars, standing crops and urban centers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh. The government of Pakistan has declared an emergency across dozens of districts in all four provinces, prompting emergency response to the floods. Responding to the emergency, PTCL Group in an endeavor to support the disaster-stricken communities is extending its medical facilities to the communities affected. Speaking on the initiative, Shoaib Baig, Group Chief People Officer, PTCL & Ufone said: "Being Pakistani companies, PTCL and Ufone feel great responsibility to stand by our people during this hour of great anguish caused by the recent floods. We are taking all possible measures within our reach to bring some comfort and solace to our distressed brethren." Besides, working tirelessly to maintain uninterrupted connectivity for continuation of rescue and relief activities, PTCL Group's decision to leverage its physical infrastructure will facilitate the people in the affected areas and share some burden of the stressed public health infrastructure of the country.

IESCO issues power suspension schedules

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 30th August, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Mandi Bhalwal, Frash Town, I-14/3, Mushtaq Shaheed, Jalala, Nawababad, PMC Colony, Nadtopa, Visa, Shakrela, Samot, Kangar, Islampura, Union Council Road, Masrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Milatabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, Dharabi, Akwal, Bilalabad, Mugla Feeders, From 06:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Birut Gala, Darbar Mai Toti, Churahi, Dana Bhal, Charohi Dongi, Surrey, City, Kariala, Jandrot Dabsi, Ditot, Majajan Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, NDC, I & II, I-10/3, PHA-II, I-11/3, Metro, Islamic University, Bahria University, Dr. AQ Khan, I-10/2, Nust University, New Exchange, U Phone, PTCL, SES, Fazal Ghi, TB Hospital, Dhok Najo, Raja Sultan, Eid Gah, Bagh Sardaran, Mohammadi Chowk, Khayaban Sir Syed, Ali Market feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time. - DNA

Zong gives free services in flood affected areas

ISLAMABAD: In the wake of the unprecedented floods which has affected millions of people across the country, Zong 4G has announced free of cost services for all impacted areas. Zong 4G is going above and beyond by providing free services to all impacted customers. This includes free of charges calls to any Zong Number in Pakistan for people in affected areas. - DNA

PRCS, IFRC to Raise 35 million CHF (Swiss Franc)

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Abrar ul Haq had a telephonic conversation with Secretary General International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) Jagan Chapagain today and discussed need for immediate relief for flood-hit areas in the country. Both the partners agreed to launch appeal for funds worth CHF (Swiss Franc) 35 million. In the telephonic accord, both representatives decided to urge international bodies and humanitarian organizations to participate and join hands in the time of need to serve humanity and provide quick relief to rescue the flood affected people in Pakistan. During the conversation PRCS and IFRC reassured cooperation for relief and rehabilitation of the affected in coming weeks. - APP

Sanjrani urges developed countries to support Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner in Pakistan, Wendy Gilmour today called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at Parliament House and discussed ways to explore new avenues for further broadening the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Canada. The meeting discussed a host of issues, including matters of Kashmir, Palestine and the current devastating flash flood situation in Pakistan. The two sides also discussed ways for further cementing bilateral, trade and social linkages. Pakistan seeks bilateral, long-term and multilateral sustainable relations with Canada, the Chairman said. They also examined the future roadmap for bringing close together the people of the two countries. Trade cooperation between the two countries could improve the quality of life in the entire region, he added.

Pakistan and Canada can benefit from each other's experiences. He expressed best wishes to the leadership and people of Canada. "Free from ethnic discrimination, justice

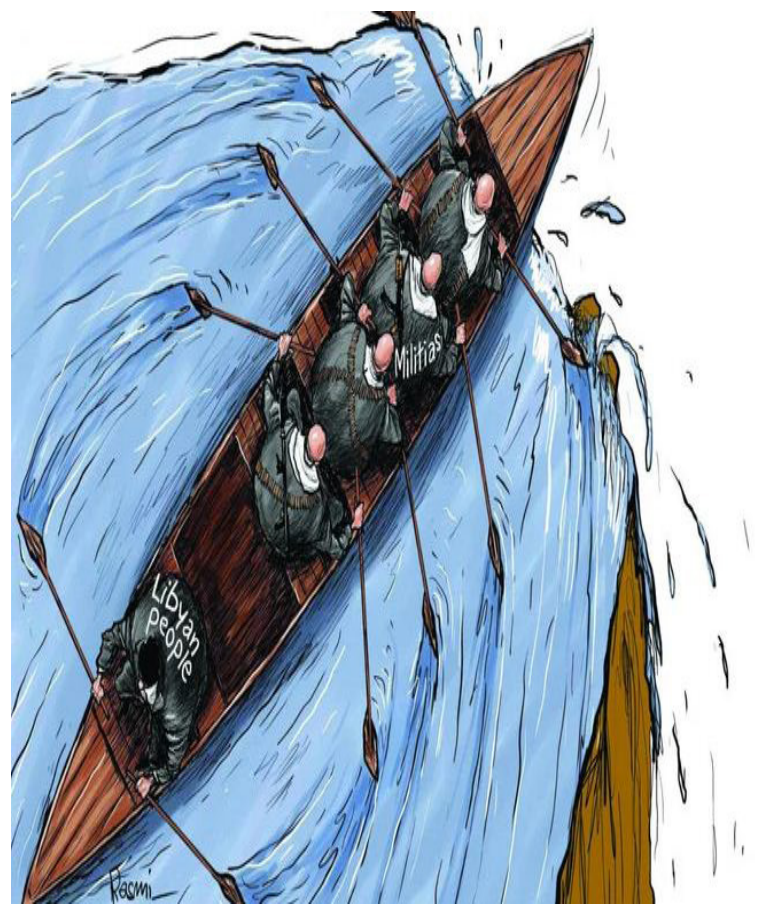
and equality-based attitudes are indispensable for the promotion of world peace. Developed countries can play an important role in ensuring respect for basic human rights in Occupied

Palestine and Occupied Jammu and Kashmir", Sanjrani stressed. The Chairman Senate enlightened the visiting dignitary about the current flood situation in Pakistan and said that devastating flash flood in the country has left millions of people homeless, scores dead and many injured, adding that Natural disasters are a big challenge for any country or society. He stated that no one alone can face such emergencies and calamities. Sanjrani urged developed countries to come forward and support Pakistan in this hour of need on humanitarian grounds. He also acknowledged the support and assistance provided by global community specially Canada. The meeting agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse fields and frame ways to enhance parliamentary cooperation, increase trade, visa issues and people-to-people contacts between the two sides.



Adventure in Taiwan strait

TWO United States warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, the American navy said, the first such transit since China staged unprecedented military drills around the island. In a statement, the US Navy said the transit "demonstrates the United States' commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific." Tensions in the Taiwan Strait soared to their highest level in years this month after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taipei. Beijing reacted furiously, staging days of air and sea exercises around Taiwan. Taipei condemned the drills and missile tests as preparation for an invasion. Taiwan lives under constant threat of an invasion by China, which claims the self-ruled, democratic island as part of its territory to be seized one day – by force if necessary. Washington diplomatically recognizes Beijing over Taipei, but maintains de facto relations with Taiwan and supports the island's right to decide its own future. The US Seventh Fleet said the pair of Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruisers – the USS Antietam and the USS Chancellorsville – conducted the "routine" transit on Sunday "through waters where high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law." Taiwan's defense ministry confirmed a pair of warships sailed from north to south through the channel. The Seventh Fleet is based in Japan and is a core part of Washington's navy presence in the Pacific. The US and Western allies have increased "freedom of navigation" crossings by naval vessels of both the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea to reinforce the concept that those seas are international waterways, sparking anger from Beijing. Washington has said its position on Taiwan remains unchanged and has accused China of threatening peace in the Taiwan Strait and using the visit by Pelosi as a pretext for military exercises. China's drills included firing multiple ballistic missiles into waters off Taiwan – some of the world's busiest shipping routes – which was the first time Beijing has taken such a step since the mid-1990s. The Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command said it monitored the two ships, maintained a high alert and was "ready to thwart any provocation." Even the state-run Global Times tabloid, known for its often jingoistic and staunchly nationalist editorials, said the presence of the two cruisers brought "no actual threat to China's security." Past transits have elicited a stronger response. After the destroyer USS Benfold went through the strait in July, Col. Shi Yi, spokesman for the PLA's Eastern Theater Command, described the US as the "destroyer of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait." While earlier this month, the Chinese ambassador to Washington, Qin Gang, called on the US to halt naval transits, saying they intensify tensions and embolden "Taiwan independence separatist forces." "If there's any move damaging China's territorial integrity and sovereignty, China will respond," Qin told reporters in Washington in response to a question on possible upcoming transits.



India's border provocations continue

INDIA and the United States have announced that they will stage a large military exercise lasting more than two weeks near the China-India border in October. Given that the special forces of the two countries just concluded a three-week joint military exercise over the weekend, also close to the border, the high frequency as well as the timing of the war games in the highly sensitive area cannot but prompt China to raise its eyebrows. Although thanks to diplomatic efforts and high-level military talks, disengagement has already been carried out in several areas, Chinese and Indian troops are still locked in a standoff in some of the disputed border areas that began in May 2020. Rather than treasuring the progress that has been made so far so as to create more favorable conditions to end the face-off in the remaining points of friction along the border, India risks jeopardizing it. By inviting external forces to conduct joint military drills in Auli, which is less than 100 kilometers from a disputed part of the Sino-Indian border, India is unwisely complicating the volatile situation, and unnecessarily making it more difficult to restore peace and tranquility along the border. A spokesman for China's Ministry of National Defense expressed firm opposition to "any third party meddling in the China-India border issue in any form" when commenting on the India-US joint military drills, as they are in gross violation of the relevant agreements signed by China and India in 1993 and 1996, according to which neither side is allowed to conduct a military exercise targeted against the other in areas near the Line of Actual Control. Such activities are provocative, and run counter to the common understanding reached by the two countries' top leaders that China and India should see each other as cooperation partners and development opportunities rather than threats. The joint military drills, along with other dubious moves by India such as joining the Quad, a strategic security mechanism that groups India with the US, Japan and Australia, which was revamped in 2017 to target China, obviously do not serve that purpose. Indian External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was right when he said recently that an "Asian Century" cannot happen if India and China don't join hands, stressing that the two neighboring countries have "far more common interests than differences". Yet for that to happen, India must meet China halfway so the two countries can seek a mutually acceptable solution to the long-standing border issue through dialogue.

Diversity for growth

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

This perception trickles down to their respective followers thus hinders their participation in the Islamic banking sector. On the other hand this perception of exclusion also results in strategic loss for the IBF that religious scholars of other schools of thoughts remain away from the conceptual and practical developments taking place in the sector thus impedes their learning to better understand IBF...

IT is quite a natural phenomenon in human society that people venerate group norms & values and remain committed & loyal to their respective cluster. People consider group norms and values as a protection because this relates them with an identity thus they abide with collective preferences. Group affiliations promote harmony among members sometimes at the cost of serious compromises and even sacrifices. Rob Wengrzn argues, "Individuals being part of a group conform to the norms, or rules, specific to that group. In groups there are forces that shape how we behave while in that group. These forces influence how we act as individuals without us knowing if there are 'things going on behind the curtain' that consciously or subconsciously impact how we act." Studies in organizational behaviour appreciate recognizing group dynamics yet advocate

inculcating culture of diversity while keeping group norms & values intact. Diversity and group identification collectively have the potential to bring value to organizational operations. People always try to guard group reputation while diversity brings strength, innovation, expansion and competitive advantage for the group, the organization and the society. Today we can't deny the significance of diversity and inclusion for the success of any organization. Rose Velazquez from Louisiana State University suggests, "Diversity in the workplace means that an organization should employ a diverse team of people that's reflective of the society in which it exists and operates. Inclusion is always an achievement of any work environment where all individuals are treated fairly and respectfully, have equal access to opportunities and resources, and can contribute fully to the organization's success. Inclusion is the practice of providing everyone with equal access to opportunities and resources. Workplaces that prioritize diversity and inclusion efforts have been statistically proven to be safer, happier and more productive work environments." In the context of diversity utilizing group dynamics wisely can certainly bring significant benefits for the organization. When it comes to religious orientations it is quite hard to imagine escape from given group, faction or sect. According to the estimates almost 55% population of Pakistan follows Bareilvi school of thought, 25% Deobandi, 15% Shia and 5% Ahl-i Hadith school of thought. When we look at the composition of Shariah boards of Islamic banks in Pakistan, it reflects dominance of one specific madrasa and its affiliates from a Deobandi school of thought, except a few exceptions, which results in several challenges for Islamic banking sector. Somemadaris within Deobandi school of thought, Bareilvi school of thought and other religious factions feel excluded from the Islamic banking sector and opportunities it offers. This perception trickles down to their respective followers thus hinders their participation in the Islamic banking sector. On the other hand this perception of exclusion also results in strategic loss for the Islamic Banking and finance (IBF) that religious scholars of other schools of thoughts remain away from the conceptual and practical developments taking place in the sector thus impedes their learning to better understand IBF and extending that knowledge to their followers. Equal opportunity is the hallmark of modern business environment. The regulator has to make sure that the perception of exclusion or discrimination in Shariah governance bodies of IBF sector is eliminated and inclusion of every religious school of thought is ensured. According to Jawad Syed from University of Kent UK,

"Affirmative action (AA) is an effort to undo the unfair practices of the past in the organizations. AA is a means to level the playing field for females, excluded groups, individuals with disabilities, underprivileged classes and minorities as a logical step towards equal employment. Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) prohibits discrimination against anyone on any pretext. Pakistani law makes it obligatory for employers to follow EEO principles. Affirmative Action however is expected to be implemented as a voluntary component of EEO Policy. EEO does not, in any circumstance, mean that the managers should hire unqualified candidates in breach of merit. This is only a mechanism to avoid unfair practices and biases during employment process." There might be several excuses such as religious scholars from other schools of thoughts are not developed enough in terms of relevant education and experience, in this case it is again the responsibility of the regulator to develop them, give them exposure to the banking operations, evolve policies for the diversity of Shariah boards ensuring representation of all schools of thoughts for the satisfaction of their respective religious segments that IBF maintains considerations of their sects. There is another perception in the IBF sector that religious scholars from other schools of thoughts are not really interested to join IBF sector, which isn't accurate assessment. We executed a training program sponsored by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) specifically designed to ensure participation of religious scholars from all schools of thoughts of Islam. The program got overwhelming response from all schools of religious thoughts in terms of participation and interest in IBF. We were surprised by the depth of their awareness about IBF and the eagerness to join the sector. Most of the participants from excluded schools of thoughts were complaining of glass ceiling effect to limit their participation in the IBF sector. Therefore SBP should ensure diversity and inclusion in the Shariah boards of IBF institutions in Pakistan for the expansion and swift growth of the sector. SBP can enact a regulation ensuring participation of all school of thoughts in the Shariah governing boards of IBF institutions. Financial burden of this inclusion can be addressed through different initiatives such as job-sharing or part-time arrangements. If we can overcome this challenge and transform Shariah boards of IBF institutions, I think, we can turnaround the whole IBF sector with exceptional growth and market share. – The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance - COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cui.edu.pk

US, China and the Taiwan theatre: Will there be a winner?

Amin Bagheri

The US, in the framework of its policy towards China, especially since the Trump era, had put most of its efforts into the trade war and curbing China in the economic field

WASHINGTON'S ambiguous policy on Taiwan has often caused heartburn for Beijing. But in the great game in the Asia Pacific region, none would dare to go for a direct confrontation. China's angry response to US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's recent visit to Taiwan was on expected lines. And Washington's repeated attempts to pacify Beijing, saying that there has been no change in the US's stated "one-China policy", also followed the usual diplomatic sweet talk that follows every instance of friction between the two political and economic powerhouses. In 1949, when the communists led by Mao Zedong assumed power in mainland China—the People's Republic of China—the nationalists led by Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan and formed a government-in-exile, the Republic of China, in the breakaway region. China did not take it lightly. For years now, China has scoffed at any attempt by any country to officially engage with Taiwan, which Beijing claims is part of the communist nation. These developments coincided with the beginning of the Cold War between the former Soviet Union and the US. Ever since, the US has used Taiwan to exert pressure on the eastern or the communist world. Washington has also used Taiwan to leverage its China policy. **US position and policy:** Although the US officially maintains a one-China policy, Washington's actions over the years have been contradictory and, at times, even provocative from China's point of view. This means that when the Republican Party is in power, it often rattles the sabre of Taiwan's independence to exert pressure on China. This position is often adjusted during the rule of the Democrats. Regarding the US's dual policy towards Taiwan, it is worth noting that even the Democratic Party does not approve China's attempts to annex Taiwan, like Hong Kong. **Strategic ambiguity** The US's ambiguous strategy can be seen as a sword constantly raised over China's head. Whenever China's policies are not in line with the US, it uses Taiwan as a pressure lever. Pelosi's recent trip to Taiwan is a clear example. But Beijing, as usual, has refused to bow down to Washington's arm-twisting methods. And it said so in a spectacular show of its naval might during a military exercise coinciding with Pelosi's Taiwan trip. A group of US defence experts and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, who simulated a hypothetical Chinese attack, believe that though Taiwan will be able to repel the assault, Beijing's military will sink a huge part of the American and Japanese naval fleets. **US' goals from Pelosi's visit:** But there could be more to Pelosi's recent visit than just the usual American great game of one-upmanship. With the Democrats predicted to lose control of the Senate in the US congressional elections in the coming fall, the Biden government is trying to showcase its foreign policy 'achievements' to its domestic audience. After all, China is seen as the US's biggest enemy by the American public and the US government just wanted to create social capital for itself in light of what Washington considers to be China's humiliation. Therefore, since the Biden era, the transfer of confrontation from the geo-economic field to the geo-political field has been on the agenda. And that's the reason for the creation of geo-political challenges for China, especially in Taiwan. **China's reaction:** Although China has come out of the cocoon of conservatism during the Xi Jinping era and is using its power as a tool, it has still maintained a cautious approach to entering into conflicts. Overall, the prestige war between the US and China in Taiwan has not had a winner so far. Although some believe that the US was able to humiliate China by realising Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, this is not the end of the story, and it is expected that the issue of Taiwan will be the main subject of confrontation between the US and China for many years. Testing China's tolerance point on the Taiwan issue is a dangerous game that may one day involve the US in unforeseen and costly consequences. On the flip side, any attempt to occupy Taiwan by China will likely be met with military, political and economic actions of the West, which will affect the Chinese economy. – Courtesy: TRT World

I tracked down the house Israel stole from my grandfather

Jalal Abukhater

The population of the neighbourhood was mainly Muslim and Christian, along with a few foreign families who lived there during the time of the British Mandate. Growing up, Palestinian writer and doctor Ghada Karmi brought al-Qatamon alive for me through her 2002 memoir

LAST month, and coinciding with United States President Joe Biden's visit to Jerusalem, the Haifa-based Adalah Legal Center released a report detailing how land designated for a planned US embassy was actually owned by Palestinians before it was stolen by Israel following the Nakba of 1948. The descendants of the original owners include Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem, as well as Palestinian Americans. Adalah, along with these descendants, shared in their report original documents serving as proof of ownership of the property in Jerusalem. The parties have demanded that the Biden administration cancels the plan to build a diplomatic mission on stolen land. The revelations and the struggle of Palestinians to reclaim their land feel personal to me. They echo a similar battle for our past that my grandfather – and many others – waged. After 1948, Israel legalised the systematic theft of Palestin-

ian homes and properties in West Jerusalem, in particular through the Absentee Property Law. That 1950 legislation declared Nakba refugees "absentees" even if they were in the eastern part of Jerusalem and allowed the Israeli government's Custodian of Absentee Property to take over their property. Back then, the Americans themselves recognised this fact in a cable sent by the US consul general in Jerusalem in December 1948. The consul general wrote to the US secretary of state, stating that Israel was trying to "eliminate" the possibility of Palestinian refugees returning home, in defiance of a United Nations resolution passed earlier that month and supported by the US. My family was one of the many Palestinian families that were denied the right to our homes in Jerusalem's west side. Before Israel, my grandfather owned a house in al-Qatamon, a modern and affluent neighbourhood of Jerusalem, located 2km (1.2 miles) south of the Old City. Established in 1860, Al-Qatamon included 204 Palestinian homes on land that spanned 20 hectares (49 acres). It was established to accommodate middle to upper-class Jerusalemite families who found life within the walls of the Old City too crowded. The population of the neighbourhood was mainly Muslim and Christian, along with a few foreign families who lived there during the time of the British Mandate. Growing up, Palestinian writer and doctor Ghada Karmi brought al-Qatamon alive for me through her 2002 memoir, In Search of Fatima. In her book, Karmi described her family's stone house and its garden full of citrus and olive trees. Karmi and her family were forced out of the neighbourhood when she was eight years old, during the Nakba. Later, I came to hold documents that my grandfather and father had carefully kept, proving the ownership of our house in al-Qatamon. The papers showed that my grandfather had registered the property on April 21, 1939. He had bought it from another Palestinian Jerusalemite family, the Zmouroods. Everything changed in 1948, following my family's expulsion to East Jerusalem. My grandfather, though just 1km (0.6 miles) away from al-Qatamon, was suddenly an "absentee" under Israeli law. The land registry deeds in my hands showed how on July 28, 1957, the Custodian for Absentee Property sold my family's house to Israel's Development Authority, so it could be taken over by new Jewish tenants. The same land registry

deeds that listed my grandfather as the owner of this property now had another party selling it away. In 1970, the Israeli Knesset passed the Legal and Administrative Matters Law, which effectively meant that Jewish owners who had to flee their property in East Jerusalem in 1948 would not be considered "absentees" in the then-newly occupied part of the city. They could return to claim their homes. That same law, however, did not extend similar benefits to East Jerusalem residents who once owned property in West Jerusalem. Those Palestinians, like my grandfather, remained "absentees". Still, my grandfather decided he wanted to claim his home. On March 28, 1972, as a resident of a Jerusalem "unified" under Israeli authority, he wrote a letter to the Custodian of Absentee Property. He requested that his house be returned to him since he was now a resident of Jerusalem and no longer "absent". He finished his letter with these emphatic words: "This house is my private property and no one else has any connection with it." Nearly a month later, the Custodian of Absentee Property in Jerusalem wrote back, citing the Absentee Property Law as cause to turn down my grandfather's plea. With the documents in my hand, and relying on what my father knew, I pinpointed the exact location of the house and took my dad for a visit in the summer of 2021. We were not surprised to find it was still there, and that it was occupied by a Jewish Israeli family. The building had two extra stories added on top of the original one-storey house. Everywhere I looked in the neighbourhood, I saw evidence of our Palestinian existence, and I felt the heartache of our erasure. The 1970 law enabled Jewish groups to claim ownership of property in East Jerusalem, most prominently in the areas of Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan. To date, Palestinians displaced by Israel do not enjoy that right in West Jerusalem. As Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah, Silwan, and other neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem face eviction orders in favour of Jewish settlement, I cannot stop thinking about the sheer injustice of it all. They claim Jerusalem is an undivided city, yet there are two laws governing two peoples in the most unequal manner. They claim we have rights, yet I believe they merely tolerate our existence. We lack the right to vote, the right to housing, the right to property – and with our ancestral homes stolen, the right to our history. – Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Russia isn't
winning
energy battle

NEWS DESK

STAVANGER: Russia is not winning the energy battle, and it has lost one of its strategic energy partners, said Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA). Birol, who spoke Monday during the ONS 2022 International Energy Conference held in Stavanger, Norway, said that Russia's goals of bringing 30 billion cubic meters (bcm) of LNG capacity by 2030 will have to go back to the drawing board. There is a misconception when it comes to incomes, said Birol, a Turkish economist and energy expert. "Russia is not winning the energy war," he said. "I think that's a myopic view of the situation. Russia has lost one of its strategic energy partners. Moscow has lost great trust among customers around the world."

He also pointed out that many people complain that it is late to clean energy after the negative developments in the energy market. "There is a drought. Half of the nuclear power plants in France are not operational. This crisis has nothing to do with being late for clean energy options," Birol said.

NASA scrubs
Artemis I
lunar launch

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: NASA scrubbed its new moon rocket launch Monday morning after fuel leaks were discovered just an hour before the scheduled launch of the Artemis 1 mission. The launch was frozen at T-40 minutes at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida as NASA officials discussed how to address leaks that were discovered during fueling. NASA said it cancelled the launch due to the "engine bleed" after the rocket was largely fueled. Engineers are now collecting data "about this particular engine and the bleed that didn't work out," NASA said in its official broadcast. The rocket has yet to be drained of the hydrogen fuel to allow engineers to gather as much data as possible. The earliest date that the launch could proceed would be 12:48 pm local time (1648 GMT) on Sept. 2, but NASA first needs to develop a plan to address the "engine bleed." The planned launch was slated to include an uncrewed flight test ahead of human lunar exploration planned under the Artemis program. The launch is expected to send an uncrewed Orion crew capsule into orbit around the moon. The capsule is set to fly as close as 60 miles (97 kilometers) to the moon's surface before taking a wider orbit. Mannequins with high-tech monitors are riding in place of humans and will send critical data back to NASA, including on radiation levels, one of the most significant threats to astronauts in deep space. The SLS rocket is the most powerful developed by the US, and has been the cause of major cost overruns, upping the pressure on NASA to carry out a successful launch.

Britain's
biggest
warship
halted after
leaving port

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Britain's biggest warship, HMS Prince of Wales, has suffered a mechanical issue shortly after leaving southern England for what the Royal Navy described as a "landmark mission" off the coast of North America and in the Caribbean. "HMS Prince of Wales remains in the South Coast Exercise Area while conducting investigations into an emerging mechanical issue," a Royal Navy spokesperson said in a statement. The UK Defence Journal website reported the ship was anchored off the Isle of Wight and divers had been sent down to determine what was wrong, with concerns about damage to a propeller.

Germany's Scholz eyes
'sovereign, enlarged EU'

The German leader also cracked open the door of Europe's borderless Schengen group to Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria, saying he will "work to see them become full members" - something welcomed immediately by Romanian President Klaus Iohannis

FOREIGN DESK

PRAGUE: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Monday pledged emphatic backing for Ukraine and other hopefuls to join the European Union, underlining however that enlarging the bloc to "30 or 36" would require reforms. In a speech laying out his vision for the EU during a visit to the Czech Republic, Scholz said Russia's invasion of Ukraine requires a "European answer to this watershed". The bloc needs to reduce its "one-sided dependencies", be it on the economic, energy or defence fronts, he urged, calling for a "geopolitical, sovereign and enlarged EU". The German leader also underlined that he was "committed" to having the six nations of the western Balkans, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine accede to the bloc. "Their EU accession is in our interest," said Scholz. But as the bloc widened, each member's veto right would have to go, he said, with a transition to a "majority voting" system so as not to slow EU decision-making down. The Ukraine war is already putting the system of unanimity to the test, at a time when swift action is all the more necessary, Scholz said. "Let's seek compromises together," he added, suggesting that majority voting could be applied to sanctions policy for a start. Member states are also not faced with only two options of voting 'yes' or 'no', but can adopt "constructive abstention", he said. The EU agreed candidacy status



for Ukraine and Moldova in June, while Albania and North Macedonia in July joined Balkan neighbours Serbia and Montenegro in formal negotiations for membership with Brussels. But the road to accession was expected to be long, and in the meantime, Scholz said the European hopefuls should be included in a new political forum, as suggested by French President Emmanuel Macron "to discuss key issues that affect our continent as a whole". The grouping would not however take the place of EU accession, said Scholz, stressing that promises to candidates "must be followed by deeds". The German leader also cracked open the door of Europe's borderless Schengen group to Croatia, Romania

and Bulgaria, saying he will "work to see them become full members" - something welcomed immediately by Romanian President Klaus Iohannis. Scholz noted that the Ukraine war had also exposed the "uncoordinated shrinkage of European armed forces and defence budgets" over the last years, which had to be rectified with "coordinated growth". This meant greater cooperation between European businesses on armaments projects, joint manufacturing and procurement, he said. Germany, he said, will be ramping up "very significantly" on its air defence system, and will design it in a way that it could also be a shield for European neighbours from the Baltics to Scandinavia. Scholz did not give

details about the system but in March revealed plans to purchase an Israeli anti-missile shield system that could also offer protective cover for neighbouring EU states. Berlin is meanwhile already coordinating with the Netherlands on a "division of labour" on arming Ukraine, said the German chancellor, as he urged other allies to join in the coordination. "I can, for example, imagine that Germany will assume special responsibility in terms of building up Ukraine's artillery and air defence capacities," he said, vowing support for Kyiv for "as long as it takes". Beyond defence, Scholz also eyed shedding "one-sided" reliance on energy imports but also that of other vital supplies like lithium or cobalt, for which demand from high-tech industries has boomed. While the EU should not seek to shut others out, it should work towards greater internal coordination, be it on energy supplies or simply vehicle charging points. It should also hold fast to its founding principles for human rights and rule of law, he said. In reference to ongoing legal rows between the EU and Poland or Hungary over a slew of issues, Scholz said that in these countries, too, most people "want the EU to do more to stand up for freedom and democracy". For Scholz, the EU commission could be given a "new way to launch infringement proceedings" on issues that breach core values of freedom, democracy or human rights. "Especially at this time, with autocracy challenging our democracies, it is more important than ever," he said.

EU plans to suspend deal
easing Russian visa requests

PRAGUE: The European Union plans to make it harder for Russians to travel to the bloc by suspending a deal that eases their visa applications, an EU diplomat said Monday. "We cannot continue the visa policy as it has been up to now," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Prague to discuss Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "Tourism is not a human right," he added, underlining the symbolic importance of the 2007 visa facilitation agreement, which marked an attempt to build more positive engagement with Moscow. The measure, which could come into force in October if approved by member states, does not amount to a formal ban on tourism visas demanded by some of Russia's EU neighbours. But it would complicate the process of obtaining travel permis-

sion and could slow the flow of Russians travelling to Europe, increasing Moscow's international isolation. The EU had already suspended visa facilitation for Russian official delegations and business leaders, but now plans to extend this to other short stay visits. Russian forces invaded Ukraine in February, launching the most intense war in Europe for decades and triggering waves of sanctions from Kyiv's Western allies. Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland have urged Brussels to ban Russian tourists from obtaining visas for the EU's Schengen common travel area. But some countries, notably Germany, oppose a complete ban. Flights to and from Russia are banned, so many Russian tourists who are issued Schengen visas by western European countries cross overland into

the bloc via Finland and the Baltic states. Lithuania has warned that Russia's EU neighbours may close their borders to tourists if the other EU capitals do not agree to a visa ban. The issue will be debated at a two-day meeting of EU foreign ministers in Prague, starting Tuesday, but it is not expected to be resolved. The diplomatic source said he expected a "robust debate" at the meeting, but a full visa ban would have to be part of a new sanctions package and receive the unanimous backing of member states. An eventual ban could have exemptions for humanitarian cases and for students and civil society. The 26 countries in the Schengen travel zone - 22 EU member states plus Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein - handled 536,000 Russian short stay visa requests last year. -Agencies

Irish public
split on NATO
membership

AGENCIES

DUBLIN: There is a 52-48 divide amongst the Irish public over whether the country should join NATO or an EU army if one was created, though most said they back upping military spending, a survey published this weekend revealed. Ireland is not currently a NATO member and has a long-standing policy of military neutrality. However, discussions about whether this approach should be maintained have increased since Russia invaded Ukraine. The survey, carried out by Irish consultancy Behaviour-Wise as part of a study of attitudes towards defence policy, was largely conducted before the government's announcement last month that it would enact a record increase in defence spending. The researchers also tested the impact of presenting people with a narrative about military conflict in determining their support for certain policies.

Sweden pledges
more military
aid to Ukraine

NEWS DESK

STOCKHOLM: The Swedish premier promised a new support package to Kyiv after meeting the Ukrainian foreign minister in Stockholm on Monday. Magdalena Andersson addressed a press conference with Dmytro Kuleba, condemned Russia's war on Ukraine, and announced a further one billion Swedish krona (approximately \$100 million) in military support and recovery. "My government will go forward with a new support package for Ukraine ... new military support package of 500 million Swedish krona ... [and] to support Ukraine's economy, resilience and recovery with another 500 million Swedish krona," she said. Andersson said "we cannot let Russia win this unjust war," adding that "it is our duty and honor" to support Ukraine. Kuleba thanked Sweden for the support, saying "when you fight a war what you need the most is weapons." He asked Stockholm for weapons such as self-propelled howitzers and shells. "As weird as it may sound, it is the best way to save human lives, including the lives of civilians." Foreign Minister Ann Linde, also present on the occasion, said Sweden will stand by Ukraine's side "as long as it takes." She stressed the importance of Ukraine joining the EU and that Sweden will continue to give "full support to this process."



JAKARTA: Pakistan ambassador to Indonesia, Muhammad Hassan visits 2022 Indonesia World Stamp Championship & met renowned Pakistani philatelist Arif Balgamwala. - DNA

Israel failed to prevent its nuclear program

NEWS DESK

TEHRAN: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said Monday the country's nuclear program has become indigenous and arch-foe Israel has been unable to prevent its progress through sabotage, assassinations, and threats. Raisi was addressing a news conference in Tehran, attended by local and foreign media, and coinciding with the first anniversary of his government that took over in August last year. Referring to the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists, which Tehran has blamed on Israel, the Iranian president said it was unsuccessfully aimed at impeding Iran's nuclear progress. He said nuclear activities and nuclear technology are Iran's "right" while stressing that nuclear weapons have no place in the country's "defense doctrine", invoking the decree of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Raisi stressed that "nobody could deprive" his country of what he termed its "inalienable right to peaceful nuclear technology." The remarks come as Tehran and Washington have entered the last stretch to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal, with both sides currently exchanging comments on a draft proposal tabled by the EU.

Iran is expected to submit its response to US comments on the EU draft by Friday, which could pave the way for the revival of the deal after marathon negotiations in Vienna. On a question of whether he would be willing to meet or shake hands with US President Joe Biden during the upcoming UN General Assembly summit in New York,

Raisi answered "no", calling the meeting or talks with his American counterpart "useless". Raisi said Iran seeks the removal and nullification of US sanctions, describing them as "illegal and brutal," adding that sanctions will not stop Iran's exports to other countries. On what Tehran is seeking from the talks in Vienna, he said sanctions

removal must be guaranteed and safeguard issues related to the UN nuclear watchdog must be resolved.

He also spoke about his government's "neighbors-first" policy, reiterating that Tehran seeks "good-neighborly" ties with countries in the region, adding that the "presence of outsiders" foment insecurity. Raisi also reiterated the importance of Iran's presence in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and its relations with China, expressing commitment to broaden that cooperation in various fields. On relations with Russia, he said the two countries have exchanged documents and have started joint work in the development of energy fields, adding that his government is committed to implementing the long-term cooperation pact with Moscow in line with the agreement reached with China. On the ongoing tension-easing talks with Saudi Arabia mediated by Iraq, which have been put on hold due to a political crisis in Baghdad, Raisi said the negotiations depend on the other side fulfilling its obligations. He also denounced Israel's violations in Palestine and said the oppression "won't last" and that the Palestinians will get justice in the end, "even if it takes time."

10 Yemen
soldiers
killed in
'dangerous
escalation'

DUBAI: Ten Yemeni soldiers were killed in an overnight rebel attack near the blockaded city of Taz, Yemen's government said on Monday, calling it a "dangerous escalation" after a months-long ceasefire. The assault, which also left several soldiers wounded, was aimed at cutting off a key route to the southwestern city of about two million, the government said. The Iran-backed Huthi rebels have blocked main roads into Taz since 2015, the same year that a Saudi-led coalition intervened in the conflict. Yemen's warring parties have been observing a ceasefire since April, bringing a drastic reduction in hostilities although small-scale fighting has continued. The Taz attack was a "blatant challenge to all initiatives and efforts seeking to end the war and achieve peace", Yemen's internationally recognised government said in a statement. It was "an attempt to undermine efforts to expand and extend the humanitarian truce", it added. Military sources said the rebels, who hold much of Yemen including the capital Sanaa, were trying to cut off the road linking Taz with government-controlled Lahj. The rebels infiltrated army sites and clashed with government soldiers in a battle fought on multiple fronts, they said. No detail was available on rebel casualties. - Agencies

Skeleton
of huge
dinosaur
unearthed

LISBON: Palaeontologists in Portugal have unearthed the fossilised skeleton of what could be the largest dinosaur ever found in Europe. The remains are thought to be those of a sauropod, a herbivorous dinosaur 12 metres (39 feet) tall and 25 metres long that roamed the Earth around 150 million years ago. "It's one of the biggest specimens discovered in Europe, perhaps in the world," palaeontologist Elisabete Malafaia, from the Faculty of Sciences at Lisbon University, told AFP on Monday. The bones were uncovered by Portuguese and Spanish scientists in the garden of a house near Pombal in central Portugal at the beginning of August. Among the bones collected, they found the remains of a rib about three metres long, Malafaia said. Fossil fragments were first noticed at the site in 2017, when the owner was digging up his garden to make way for an extension. He contacted palaeontologists, who unearthed part of the dinosaur skeleton earlier this month and have been examining it ever since. Sauropods have characteristically long necks and tails and are among the largest animals to have ever lived. - Agencies

Planet needs
more oil and
babies: Musk

OSLO: Billionaire tech entrepreneur Elon Musk, who has fathered 10 children, said on Monday the world needs to "make more babies" - and keep digging for oil. The richest man on the planet, who has repeatedly warned that low birth rates posed a "danger" to civilization, said ahead of an energy conference in Norway that the world is facing a "baby crisis". Asked about the greatest challenges facing the world, Musk cited the transition to renewable energies but also said the birth rate was "one of my favourite... things to be concerned about." "We don't want the population to drop so low that we'll just eventually die," Musk, founder of American electric car manufacturer Tesla and SpaceX, told reporters in Stavanger, southwest Norway. "At least make enough babies to sustain the population," he added. Many Western societies and populated countries such as China are facing declining birth rates and ageing societies. "They say civilization might die with a bang or with a whimper," added Musk. "If we don't have enough kids, then we will die with a whimper in adult diapers. And that will be depressing." - Agencies

Briefs

Russia putting world at risk of nuclear accident

NEWS DESK

STOCKHOLM: Ukraine's foreign minister on Monday warned of a nuclear accident calling on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to conclude that Russia is violating nuclear protocols. "We expect from the mission a clear statement of facts of violation of nuclear safety protocols. We know that Russia is putting not only Ukraine but also [the] entire world at threat, at risk of nuclear accident," Dmytro Kuleba told a news conference in Stockholm. He also added that the only way to ensure security is if Russia withdraws from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine, which has been under Russian control since the start of the war. "We should all be united in demanding one thing: the withdrawal of Russia from the power plant," said Kuleba. He said he spoke with the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Sunday regarding the nuclear watchdog's mission to Zaporizhzhia. Kuleba said Ukraine has been requesting IAEA access to the nuclear facility for some time and that "without exaggeration, this mission will be the hardest in the history of IAEA given the active combat activities undertaken by the Russian Federation." The UN nuclear watchdog confirmed Monday that the mission "is now on its way" to the Zaporizhzhia just as a Ukrainian official confirmed 10 casualties from Russian shelling near the plant.

President Xi Jinping's leadership has transformed China: speakers

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-China Institute organized a special event on the upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China under its flagship 'Friends of Silk Road' initiative. The dialogue featured speeches by the Chief Guest, Ms Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Committee on Defence & Pakistan-China Institute, Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, Senator Farhat Ullah Babar, Secretary General Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Parliamentary Leader of Balochistan Awami Party, and Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur. The dialogue was moderated by Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute. The panelists discussed the prospects of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which will be held later in 2022. This congress is held every five years, where China watchers look for clues to the country's future. President Xi Jinping is expected to be re-elected for his third term as Secretary General of CPC and President of China. Moreover, the Party Congress will set key priorities for the next five years, in particular, as well as China's two-stage development plan for the middle of the twenty-first century. A special documentary titled 'China's Governance under President Xi Jinping in the New Era (2012-2022)' was also screened, depicting China's achievements under President Xi Jinping. The content of the documentary reflected the on-ground realities in China & aspirations of Chinese people who regard President Xi Jinping as the 'core leader' of the Communist Party of China, who, through his people-centered approach to governance and development has proven to be the worthy successor to Chairman Mao and Deng Xiaoping. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director Pakistan-China Institute, introduced the Friends of Silk Road Initiative which has become the premier platform to understand China, bridge people-to-people connectivity between Pakistan and China, serving as a platform to gather political leaders, students, media professionals, and think tanks to brainstorm new ideas of thought which both countries can further cement their relationship in various fields. In his opening remarks, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman of Senate Committee on Defence & Pakistan-China Institute, thanked China for donating 25000 tents and cash for flood victims. He said that the core message emanating from President Xi Jinping's leadership is people-centric development and human security. He said that the Global Development Initiative (GDI), introduced by Pres-



ident Xi Jinping on September 21, 2021, promotes inclusive and open collaboration & is a crucial platform for international cooperation and the public good that China offers. Similarly, this year, President Xi Jinping announced the Global Security Initiative (GSI), which, as President Xi Jinping, said is meant to 'uphold the principle of indivisible security, build a balanced, effective and sustainable security architecture, and oppose the building of national security based on insecurity in other countries'. Commenting on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) launched by President Xi Jinping in 2013, he termed it the most important developmental and diplomatic initiative of the 21st century, terming China as a leader in Climate Change and Globalization. He also dismissed the notion of a 'New Cold War,' advocated implicitly by some hawkish quarters, and said the region could not afford another cold war since it would destabilize the whole region needlessly. He also lauded President Xi Jinping for achieving the goal of making China a moderately prosperous society by eradicating absolute poverty in China in 2021. Commenting on the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of China, he hoped this would be a landmark conference that would set policy directions for China, Asia, and the whole region. Lastly, he wished the 20th CPC Congress great success. Nong Rong, Ambassador of China to Pakistan, expressed China's sympathies to Pakistan in lieu of ongoing flooding in the country and said China wouldn't leave Pakistan in such testing times. Pakistan, he said, has always supported China in such

situations. He recalled how Pakistan donated all the available stock of tents to China in the 2008 earthquake. Commenting on NPC, he said it is the most important political agenda of this year-end. CPEC, he said, has transformed Pakistan's socio-economic landscape by overhauling infrastructure and alleviating the energy crisis. Ambassador Nong Rong termed Pakistan-China relations as 'rock-solid'. Senator Farhat Ullah Babar, Secretary General Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said that the 20th party Congress would be a game changer for China and the region since it will decide the future course of policy for China. It is also expected to provide an opportunity for President Xi Jinping to secure a third term as president of China. Moreover, he hoped to learn from China's experience fighting terrorism and alleviating poverty. He was also concerned about 'resurgence of militancy in Afghanistan and Pakistan' and expressed his fears that 'US may use these militants for terrorism against Pakistan and China'. Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said that the whole process of people's democracy goes far beyond the rhetoric by political parties in the model of western democracy for getting votes and subsequently leaving their voters in a lurch in facing unresolved problems. The whole-process democracy, he said, entails incorporating crucial components of genuine inclusion and participation, such as elections, decision-making, management, and supervision, into a structure that truly empowers people and puts them in control. The success of this novel

kind of democratic system has been demonstrated by Chinese experience. Moreover, he said that the whole-process people's democracy in China serves the people and democracy can't be defined by geographical boundaries. Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwardy Taimur talked about the dividends brought by the CPEC for Pakistan. She said that twenty-seven (27) CPEC projects totaling about \$19 billion in investment had been finished as of June 2022, and another twenty-seven (27) CPEC projects totaling about \$7.7 billion in investment are now in the construction phase. She said that CPEC contributed one to two percentage points to Pakistan's annual economic growth. CPEC projects, she said, have created over 80,000 job opportunities for Pakistanis plus Pakistani 28,000 students are studying in China. In her closing remarks, Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said that China is the country that unites Pakistan, 'that brings all of Pakistan together'. No government has ever tried to change China's position as the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. She said China is a pillar of peace and stability in the region and a preserver, promoter, and protector of principles of peaceful coexistence in the region. The initiatives launched by President Xi Jinping, whether it is Global Development Initiative or Global Security Initiative, are a testament to the fact that China prioritizes human security and stability over confrontation. Ms Khar termed China as 'pillar of peace and stability in the region, as promoter of peaceful coexistence'.

Pakistan gravely concerned over India's manipulation of Twitter

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expressed serious concern on Monday over reports on the Indian government's attempt to infiltrate the security system of the social media platform, Twitter, by forcing it to employ an Indian 'agent/representative', a statement issued by the Foreign Office said Monday. On August 23, a former Twitter security chief alleged that the Indian government forced the social media firm to put a government agent on the payroll, according to a whistleblower disclosure with US regulators. Peiter 'Mudge' Zatkoff said the government agent would have had access to sensitive user data due to Twitter's weak security infrastructure. According to the statement, reports revealed that the matter came up during Twitter's briefing to India's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology where legal depositions made in the US by a former Twitter employee were also discussed.

The statement said that a large number of Twitter handles particularly those belonging to Kashmiri political leaders and media persons, continue to remain blocked due to India's frivolous legal objections. Last month, Pakistan also registered its strong protest with the Indian government over the blocking of access to the content of several Twitter handles of Pakistan's diplomatic missions as well as the national broadcaster Radio Pakistan. "Pakistan deplors India's brazen abuse of state power and strong-arm tactics to manipulate and force-regulate the Internet sphere," said the statement, adding that "these actions are not only against international standards, obligations, norms, and framework of the flow of information but also reflect the alarming pace of shrinking space for pluralistic voices and curbing of fundamental freedoms in India." Pakistan called upon India to immediately reverse the blockage of Twitter accounts of Pakistan's diplomatic missions and Radio Pakistan.

Flood-hit Sindh in dire need of assistance

Concerned MNA, MPA and newly elected chairman did not bother to visit or help flood & rain victims

DNA

KARACHI: Sindh is in a dire need of help, people are living under the open sky, as 90 percent houses are destroyed, with people seeking help in affected areas. It is surprising that on a 10-minute drive, the concerned MNA, MPA and the newly elected Chairman yet did not bother to look/visit various tribes, villages and areas alongside of Indus River, told the villagers on the occasion. Whereas, from Karachi MQM leader Farooq Sattar and PTI Karachi Leader Dr. Mas-

roor Sial reached Sami and other areas Khairpur, Sobhodoro, Gambat, Kandiyo parts to help the victims. According to Farhad Liaqat Sial, a key member of youth team, JDC along with relief convoy came from Karachi. He told 90 percent of the houses have been destroyed, while food and drink items including grain and livestock have been submerged in water. He further told that the people are starving and thirsty under the bare sky without help. Hundreds of families have been settled in the UN aided school and food and medicine camps are being organized for them, meanwhile, there

is also an appeal for more assistance. On the other hand, hundreds of villages in the constituencies of Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and Faryal Talpur have also been flooded, but people are helpless and waiting for assistance. According to Karachi senior journalist Nazir Siyal, PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto and Faryal Talpur, elected from the said constituencies, have not even paid a single visit. According to journalist, his own native Village Nihal Khan Siyal, voting for PPP from Zulfikar Bhutto and Benazir Bhutto, however, not even a single scheme has been given in his native village.

President Ilham, PM Ali Asadov offer condolences to Pak



DNA

BAKU: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has sent a letter of condolences to President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Arif Alvi over the heavy casualties and large-scale destruction caused by heavy rains and floods in his country. "On the occasion of this tragedy, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Azerbaijan, I offer my profound condolences to you, families and loved ones of those who were killed, and the brotherly people of Pakistan, and wish speedy recovery to the injured and earliest elimination of the natural disaster's consequences. Azerbaijan Government to provide aid to Pakistan under President Ilham Aliyev's instructions

In accordance with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev's instruction, the Azerbaijani Government will provide \$2 million in aid to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan aimed at eliminating the consequences of the heavy rains and floods that resulted in significant loss of life and large-scale destruction in the country. Meanwhile, Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ali Asadov has sent a letter of condolences to Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif over significant loss of life and large-scale destruction caused by heavy floods in the country. Azerbaijani Premier Asadov extended his deep condolences to his Pakistani counterpart, families and loved ones of those who were killed, as well as wished a speedy recovery to the injured.



Monal Foundation
Current Progress: 22 to 29 Aug 2022
Total Donation Received: Rs. 23 Million
Tents 650 (Donated)
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