



# Islamabad POST

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**Najib Razak sent to jail after top court upholds sentence**

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**Return of Crimea a requirement of int'l law**

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**Babar features in Watson's T20I World XI**

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**Briefs**

**Zelensky to get US Liberty Medal**

DNA

WASHINGTON: Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelensky will receive America's 2022 Liberty Medal at a ceremony in October for "his heroic defence of liberty in the face of Russian tyranny," according to the National Constitution Center. In a statement, president and CEO Jeffrey Rosen said "President Zelensky has bravely led the Ukrainian people in their defence of freedom against Russian tyranny, and his courage has inspired people around the world to defend liberal democracy and the rule of law".

**Khan's power lust driving him 'crazy'**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari Tuesday came down hard on Imran Khan for criticising army and hurling threats at state officials, stating that Imran Khan's lust for power was driving him crazy with each passing day. During a meeting with the provincial ministers of Sindh, he said that all four provinces of the country were currently faced with an emergency situation due to rains. "All of us should set politics aside at this time and focus only on our flood-hit brothers and sisters."

**US advocates democratic principles**

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The United States, reacting to the charges brought against former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan under anti-terrorism act, has called for peaceful upholding of democratic, constitutional and legal principles. "We're, of course, aware of the reports about the charges," the department Spokesman, Ned Price, said Monday in answer to a question about the case filed against Imran Khan. "This is a matter for the Pakistani legal and judicial system," the spokesman said.

**Relief Package**

## PM puts an end to FCA

Committee formed to review the fixed taxes imposed on the retailers

CENTRELINE REPORT

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced a major relief package for the inflation-burdened nation under which fixed taxes have been abolished for retailers and more than 1.7 million people will now be exempt from fuel charges adjustment on electricity bills. Addressing the nation from Qatar — where he arrived on a two-day trip — the premier said that fixed taxes were imposed on the people in the federal budget for the fiscal year 2022-23, announced on June 10, against the intention of the coalition government. "I have formed a committee to review the fixed taxes imposed on the retailers," he said. The move will translate into a tax gap of Rs42 billion, but PM Shehbaz said that the coalition government "cannot add further pressure on small traders". In a press conference last week, Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail said that the coalition government aimed to collect Rs42 billion through retail taxes, however, after the tax exemption, it would no longer be able to meet the target. Ismail revealed that the revised target is now Rs27 billion.

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**PM seeks Qatar's investment**

DNA

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan's energy, aviation, agriculture, livestock, maritime, tourism and hospitality sectors. The prime minister, in a meeting with the highest officials of Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) — one of the largest sovereign wealth funds of the world, highlighted Pakistan's liberal and business-friendly investment policies in this regard. He also urged the Qatari investors to explore the opportunities presented by the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) aimed at promoting regional connectivity and mutual prosperity. QIA Chief Executive Officer Mansoor Bin Ebrahim Al-Mahmoud and Chief Investment Officer of Africa and Asia-Pacific Regions Sheikh Faisal Thani Al-Thani represented the Qatar Investment Authority. The meeting was attended by federal ministers Syed

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## Crackdown on Opp. condemnable, says Imran Khan

Imran Ismail briefs Chairman PTI on Sindh political situation

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan strongly condemned the arrest of Leader of the Opposition in the Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Sheikh and the ongoing worst crackdown against the opposition in the province. Talking to former Sindh Governor and Pakistan Imran Ismail and newly elected Member of National Assembly from NA-245 Mahmood Moulvi, who met him here on Tuesday, PTI Chairman congratulated Mahmood on his historic success in the by-poll. On the occasion, Imran Khan also felicitated Imran Ismail and PT Karachi organization for the successful election campaign to trounce the joint candidate of the government allied parties in NA-245. During the meeting, they discussed the political situation of the country and especially the devastation caused by the flood and the relief activities in Sindh. Imran Ismail briefed Chairman PTI on the ill-treatment meted to Haleem Adil Sheikh and on the ongoing worst crackdown and retaliatory activities against the opposition

Continued on Page 06

**Khan invites youth to join 'Imran Tigers'**

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: As the journey of true freedom has now entered into a decisive phase, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan invited the youth to join the "Imran Tigers" in order to convey his message of really freedom door to door. "Imran Tigers" will be the passionate youth of my country who will take my message to every nook and corner of the country," Chairman PTI added. Imran Khan further elaborated that his message was the message of true freedom and how they can become an independent and self-respecting nation, as there was a system of ignorance and injustice. However, PTI Chairman stated that for this, he needed his youth to convey the

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DOHA: CEO of Qatar Investment Authority Mansoor Mehmood calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. — DNA

**Pak to get \$1.17b from IMF within six days**

Governor SBP says Executive Board's approval pending

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan is likely to receive a \$1.17 billion loan tranche from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) within six days after the Executive Board's approval, State Bank of Pakistan Acting Governor Murtaza Syed told Bloomberg TV. The executive board of the Washington-based lender is scheduled to meet on August 29 (Monday); accordingly, analysts expect the Fund to give its final approval as Pakistan has met all prior conditions necessary to revive the stalled loan programme. The acting governor said that the country's forex reserves will shore up to \$16 billion by the end of the current fiscal year 2022-23 which dropped to \$8 billion due to delay in the revival of the IMF agreement and external flows. "Pakistan has commitments of \$38 billion so we are over financed," he said, adding that approvals of bilateral help will materialise soon, amounting to \$4 billion, while the current account deficit is expected to clock in at around 3% of the gross domestic product. Pakistan has approached China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE to meet the financing gap on the IMF's demand. The breakdown of commitment of \$4 billion from friendly countries includes \$2 billion from Qatar, \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia (deferred oil facility), and \$1 billion from UAE (investment).

## EU provides Euros 350,000 for flood victims

The EU funding will help get vital assistance to the most vulnerable people to support them during this hard time

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The European Union is providing 350,000 (nearly PKR 76 million) to provide crucial humanitarian assistance to families affected by severe flooding, which has wreaked havoc across many parts of Pakistan. The aid will focus on addressing the urgent needs of those most affected in some of the hardest-hit districts of Jhal Magsi and Lasbella in the southwestern Pakistani province of Balochistan. "The devastating floods have left a trail of destruction in Pakistan, causing many to suffer the loss of their homes, livelihoods and belongings," said Tahseeni Thammannagoda, who oversees EU humanitarian programmes in Pakistan. "The EU funding will help get vital assistance to

Continued on Page 06

**FM appeals to UN to help flood victims**

OUR CORRESPONDENT

SHAHADKOT: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday appealed to the United Nations (UN) to help the flood-hit families. Talking to the media in Shahdadkot, he said that there is a great need for tents in the affected areas of Sindh, adding that we all have to face the difficulties together, too many

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**LALA**

Cultural PATTERNS AND MODERN HUES

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## Hapless Afghans eyeing for Pakistan's support

Comment

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Whatever might be the purpose of Premier Shehbaz Sharif led government and opposition leader Imran Khan, the ongoing confrontation is much more harmful to the very interests of the country and its people. Besides, the floods have already played havoc in Baluchistan, Sindh and several parts of both Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa causing hardships for ordinary people. So much so, the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif who is already being criticized for increasing price hike and aggravating economic disorder in the country, has also come under criticism for what his opponents say lack of any contingency plan to tackle especially the post-floods situation. Amidst aggravating economic disorder, confrontation amongst polit-

ical leaders is now touching its peak as the government intends to arrest Imran Khan after registration of cases on the basis of publically threatening the responsible civil officers, judges and even policemen. Whereas in retaliation, Imran Khan had got a brief relief from a court of law and also called his workers for his security and to foil attempts of his arrest. The increasing confrontation between the two sides is now being discussed by all and sundry. Ironically, despite governing Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his aides are least concerned about the damages caused by flash floods. All of them like past are consuming maximum energies and resources in condemnation and character assassination of. According to reports, over four hundred people have been killed due to flood haves throughout the country. Thousands of houses have washed away by floods. Thousands

of families are now shelterless and living under the open sky. Premier Shehbaz Sharif called upon the global community for help and assistance to overcome the miseries of common men. But deposed Prime Minister Imran Khan and his aides are not only silent but are focusing against political rivals with the only purpose to return to power. On the other hand Shehbaz Sharif govt has already rejected the demands for fresh elections and making its best to handle existing issues especially increasing price hike and economic disorder. In this respect, the government is engaged in hectic efforts to handle serious terms, conditions and instructions of IMF. Likewise government is also making efforts and trying for getting soft loans, and grants from friendly countries like Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and others. So far the

Continued on Page 06

## KP Govt establishes 12 detoxification centres for drug addicts

Directives to concerned authorities were issued to hold meetings with welfare organizations, industrialists and concerned departments to impart vocational training to all rehabilitated drug addicts

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has established 12 detoxification and rehabilitation centres for assistance and treatment of drugs victims. Officials in Social Welfare Department told APP that these centres were setup in 12 districts including Swabi, Peshawar, D.I. Khan, Karak, Kohat, Malakand, Mardan, Charsadda, Swat, Nowshera and Dir Lower. He said Drugs Free Peshawar Program was underway to clear the city of drugs and make addicts useful

members of society. Under the campaign, he said drug addicts including women were being shifted to rehabilitation centers while chronic addicts with health complexities to Islamabad for treatment. He said about 12,000 detoxified drugs addicts being treated in various rehabilitation centres would be handed over to their families on August 25. The official said directives to concerned authorities were issued to hold meetings with welfare organizations,

industrialists and concerned departments to impart vocational training to all rehabilitated drug addicts. He said the business community had announced provision of employment for 314 more rehabilitated drug addicts, adding 700 more drug addicts including ice addicts would soon be shifted to rehabilitation centres under Peshawar's Drugs Free Program. The beggars were being provided free night stay and meals at shelter homes and Darul Kafalas. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Adviser of Gilgit Baltistan and Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira giving autograph to students from Gilgit Baltistan who got positions. - DNA

## FPCCI, Fiji Chamber to form JBC

KARACHI: President FPCCI Irfan Iqbal Sheikh on Tuesday expressed satisfaction on signing of memorandum of understanding to establish Pakistan-Fiji Joint Business Council to promote trade, investments, joint ventures and economic cooperation between the two countries. The Commerce Minister of Fiji, Pakistani High Commissioner to Australia and President of Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry also attended the ceremony, said FPCCI release issues here. FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh apprised the audience that there was an enormous untapped potential to export a number of Pakistani goods and services to Fiji i.e. value-added textiles, IT services, food products, surgical instruments, sports goods and construction materials. Zahid Hafeez Chaudhry, High Commissioner of Pakistan to Australia and Fiji (non-resident), lauded establishment of the joint business council and called it a historic moment in Pakistan and Fiji economic relations as it was the first-ever agreement of its kind between the two countries. Fayaz Siddiq Koya, Fiji's Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport, maintained that people-to-people and business-to-business contacts could play an instrumental role in mutually-beneficial trade and economic cooperation. - APP

## Kaira felicitates GB students for securing top positions

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira Tuesday felicitated the students who secured top positions in Matriculation exams. "Gilgit Baltistan is the land of industrious people who are significantly contributing towards progress of the country," he said in a meeting with the students of GB. Commenting on the girl's education in

the North of Pakistan, he said Gilgit Baltistan had its own unique position in terms of girl's education as the area paid special attention to girl's education that was really commendable. He assured the students of government's full support for higher studies in the GB and prayed that Almighty Allah bless all the students of Pakistan in every walk of the life. - APP

## DC reviews anti-polio campaign

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Deputy Commissioner Rai Muhammad Yasir Bhatti has said that the 5-day anti-polio campaign is going on in full force throughout the district. He further said that during the first phase of the anti-polio campaign, 1 lakh 24 thousand 143 children of the district were administered vaccine done. He said that during the first phase, Lodhran district has achieved the first position in the division by achieving a total of 34.42% of the target during the anti-polio campaign. He expressed these views while presiding over the anti-polio campaign review committee meeting at the end of the first day of the anti-polio campaign. Deputy Commissioner Rai Muhammad Yasir Bhatti said that the district administrative officers are closely monitoring the teams during the anti-polio campaign. He said that the anti-polio campaign will continue till August 26. Deputy Commissioner Rai Muhammad Yasir Bhatti said that 175 area in-charges, 1 thousand 444 mobile teams, 68 fixed teams at designated places and 25 transit teams are participating in the anti-polio campaign. Deputy Commissioner

Rai Muhammad Yasir Bhatti urged the anti-polio teams. He said that special attention should be given to finger marking and door marking during the campaign. He instructed the parents to get their children vaccinated against polio to protect them from lifelong disability. In the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Lodhran Farhan Mujbata, Chief Executive Officer District Health Authority Dr. Shaukat Ali Ijaz, District Health Officer Dr. Muhammad Usman, Deputy District Health Officer Dr. Amir Bashir and other officers were present. Under the direction of Deputy Commissioner Rai Muhammad Yasir Bhatti, the District Price Control Magistrates are continuously active against wholesalers and hoarders. According to the report issued by the district administration, the price control magistrates have imposed fines of 920 thousand rupees on 460 people involved in high selling, hoarding and illegal profiteering during this month. Cases have also been registered against 9 wholesalers for violating the Price Control Act, while 24 people have been arrested. According to the report, the price control magistrates conducted 5 thousand 379 inspections of different markets.

## Lumpy skin disease, vaccination ordered by CM

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government has decided to launch a large-scale special vaccination campaign on emergency footings to effectively control the lumpy skin disease (LSD) of cattle. During the campaign seven million cattle will be vaccinated against the lumpy skin disease. The decision was made in a meeting held regarding Lumpy Skin disease here on Thursday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair. Besides, Provincial Ministers Taimur Saleem Jhagra and Mohib Ullah Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, Secretary Agriculture and Livestock Israr Khan and other concerned senior officials attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed latest situation of the disease across the prov-

ince and important decisions were made regarding the future course of action to prevent the spread of LSD. It was decided in the meeting to ensure availability of trained manpower to vaccinate maximum cattle in the shortest possible time. During the campaign, 7 million cattle will be vaccinated against Lumpy Skin Disease for which it has been decided to purchase vaccine on an emergency basis. The chief minister, on the occasion, directed the finance department to provide the required funds for the purchase of vaccines on priority basis and said that timely prevention of Lumpy Skin Disease is the first priority of the government at this time. He further directed that orders for the purchase of vaccines should be placed immediately. The Chief Minister said that livestock is the only source of income for most of the people in the province and incase of further spread of LSD,

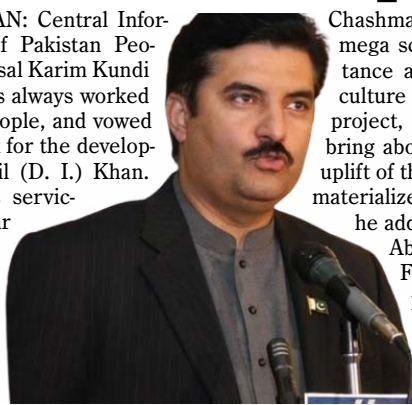
huge damage would be inflicted so timely and effective measures need to be taken to protect the people from this possible damage. He also directed the Livestock department, District Administration and other relevant authorities to immediately prepare a workable plan to effectively control LSD and said that the provincial government will provide all the financial resources needed to prevent the disease. While briefing the meeting regarding the measures taken by the livestock department to prevent lumpy skin disease, it was told that more than 46 thousand cases of the disease have been reported so far. More than eight and a half lac cattle have been vaccinated while more than 2000 cattle have fully recovered from the disease and more than 13 thousand cattle are under treatment. Similarly, more than 31 lakh cattle have been sprayed against Lumpy Skin Disease.

## Power shutdown notice

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) has issued a shutdown notice for Wednesday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the notice issued by the company, power supply from Mangona, Bhowana, Khannuana and Anayat Ali Shah feeders emanating from 132-KV Bhowana grid station will remain suspended from 6 am to 9 am while Ideal Mill, FESCO-5, FESCO-6, Faisal Spinning Mill and Khurshed Mill feeders originating from 132-KV Bandala grid station will observe shutdown from 6am to 10am on Wednesday (August 24). Similarly, electricity supply from FSM, Barnala, Parco, Canal Road, Sadaqat Kamal, Noorwal, ZTM, Jhumra City, Sandal, Sadaqat Kamal VAC, Scarp-1, Pakka Dalla, Sultan Nagar, Darul Ehsan, Rasool Pur and Scarp-2 feeders emanating from 132-KV Chak Jhumra grid station will remain suspended from 6am to 11am. - APP

## Faisal Kundi vows to continue efforts for D I Khan's development

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Central Information Secretary of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Faisal Karim Kundi has said the PPP has always worked for the welfare of people, and vowed to continue his work for the development of Dera Ismail (D. I.) Khan. "PPP has countless services to its credit as far as development of D. I. Khan is concerned, whereas the district was left bereft of several public serving entities during the PTI government," the PPP leader said while talking to local media persons. He said regional offices of several key organizations such as Pakistan Television (PTV), Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), Press Information Department (PID) and Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) were wound up. But as a result of his hectic efforts, all those offices were shifted back to D. I. Khan, he claimed. Faisal said that presence of a functional airport in the district was a long-standing demand of the residents. Efforts had been made, and by the grace of Allah Almighty the facility would be made operational soon, he said. Referring to another key project of



Chashma Lift Canal, he said it was a mega scheme of paramount importance as far as the district's agriculture sector was concerned. The project, on its completion, would bring about an era of socioeconomic uplift of the entire region. It would be materialized during an era of the PPP, he added.

About the flood situation, Faisal said that his party was playing a leading role in the tough time being experienced by flood affected people in the district. He had already visited the flood-ravaged areas and extended relief to the flood victims on behalf of the party, he mentioned. He said the flood had caused devastation in Tehsil Prova, Ramak, Daraban, Naivela and added that all possible help was being provided to the people of those areas. "We have given away rations to the flood victims and provided them accommodation and other facilities," he said. The PPP, he said, would fulfill all its promises to the people, and new development schemes would be launched in his constituency. He said that the PPP believed in development and it would continue to struggle for the development of the district, he vowed. - APP



LAHORE: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, Ambassador of UAE, during his official visit to Lahore, meets Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, Chief Minister of Punjab. - DNA

## UAE envoy meets CM Punjab

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi on Tuesday called on Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi at Punjab House in Islamabad and discussed issues related to mutual interest, promotion of relations and increasing cooperation in various fields. It was mutually agreed to start work on the Mubarak Center at Ferozepur Road in Lahore while agreeing to enhance close contact in future to promote economic ties. Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi thanked UAE's Minister Sheikh Nahyan-bin-Mubarak Al Nahyan as the Dhabi Group would invest billions of rupees, said a

handout issued here. The Punjab government would provide full support for the construction of Mubarak Center, he added and noted that Mubarak Center would be the tallest building in Lahore. State-of-the-art Mubarak Center would have business centers and a 7 Star Hotel which would be linked to the Gaddafi Stadium by a flyover, he added. This plan would greatly facilitate the international players' access to Gaddafi Stadium while relieving the torment of traffic jams on the busy roads of Lahore during the tournaments, he mentioned. The CM said that the provincial government would advance the work on this project as it would boost commercial activities while creating employment opportunities.

## Ten feeders completed in FDA City

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Development Authority (FDA) Director General Dr Zahid Ikram said on Tuesday that 10 feeders had been completed to provide electricity in FDA City. Reviewing development projects in FDA City during a meeting, he said the development pace was in full swing to facilitate the residents of FDA City as early as possible. He said that installation of 10 feeders including 8 residential feeders and 2 commercial was completed, whereas, 8 other feeders would also be installed in the city very soon. He said that installation of 4 feeders would be completed up to January, whereas remaining feeders would be made functional till June 2023. He said the FDA City had invited tenders for the installation of electrification material including electricity poles, wires, etc. and the project would be completed on war-footing. He directed the management of FDA City to update him about progress report of development projects in the city so that unnecessary delay could be averted in the larger interest of the general public. Director Planning & Development Asim Mehmood, Directors Estate Management Sohail Maqsood Pannu, Junaid Hasan Manj, Deputy Director Asad Majeed, Deputy Director Engineering Sanwal Malik and others were also present in the meeting. - APP

## Sherry stresses need for urgent rescue efforts

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman, during her remarks in the briefing on current flood emergency in Pakistan by NDMA, stressed the need for immediate humanitarian and rescue efforts to rehabilitate the aggrieved and flood-hit populations throughout the country. This was an urgent meeting called to reassess damage done by recurring and unprecedented floods and to apprise development partners and donors of the criticality of the crisis. Calling attention to the current climate crisis in the country, Minister Rehman said, "Right now we are in 7th spell of a torrential monsoon that has left thousands homeless, 830 dead and 1348 injured. From Balochistan, the monsoon system has moved to Sindh where 30 districts are under water. The magnitude of it can be assessed from the fact that it has rained more than 395% in Sindh and 379% in Balochistan above the average rainfall. It is a climate catastrophe of epic scale, bringing in its wake the humanitarian crisis that could well match the magnitude of the big flood that was witnessed in 2010. At this point both sides of the Indus are flooded in Sindh which is the current epicentre of the calamity. Shelter is dangerously impacted in the 30 districts of Sindh, and even in Balochistan, and now the same kind of speed and velocity of water is being experienced in South Punjab. People are adrift, livestock and crops are damaged. It is a humanitarian disaster of unprecedented monsoon proportions." Further apprising on the situation in Sindh, she highlighted, "The torrential rains have been unprecedented

in Sindh right now, Balochistan, DG Khan too are at risk. Given the scale of the disaster there is no question of the provinces or even Islamabad being able to cope with this magnitude of climate catastrophe on their own. Lives are at risk, thousands homeless. It is important that international partners mobilise assistance. The Indus is in high floods where flow of over 600,000 cusecs is expected to cross Guddu and then Sukkur Barrages on 23rd and 24th of August, 2022 which will bring all the Katcha area along Indus under water, displacing thousands of families. This is in addition to the current displacement. In terms of precious human lives, 216 lives have been lost to the floods in Sindh. An estimated 1,500,000 katcha houses have been damaged and crops cultivated on 1,989,868 acres have been completely destroyed in Sindh. And with the new monsoon spell setting in, other areas in the country, especially DG Khan will remain vulnerable to hill torrents." Stressing the need for urgent and immediate relief measures, Minister Rehman said, "The current climate catastrophe needs immediate International and national mobilization of humanitarian efforts, not just in the form of food, shelter and basic survival amenities but we need to amplify our rescue efforts. The NDMA, Pakistan Army, along with the provincial governments are tirelessly involved in dealing with this climate crisis. But lack of resources is a huge challenge. It is important to coordinate needs of calamity hit areas and triangulate with development partners and donors. A concerted and well-coordinated effort is required to deal with this climate emergency that our country faces at present."

## 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



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- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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- Motorway Police.....9270601-20
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- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International.4603666



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- 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

# PM appeals nation to donate for flood-stricken countrymen

“All this requires Rs 80 billion. It also requires hundreds of billions of rupees to overcome the losses as well as for rehabilitation of the victims,” he added

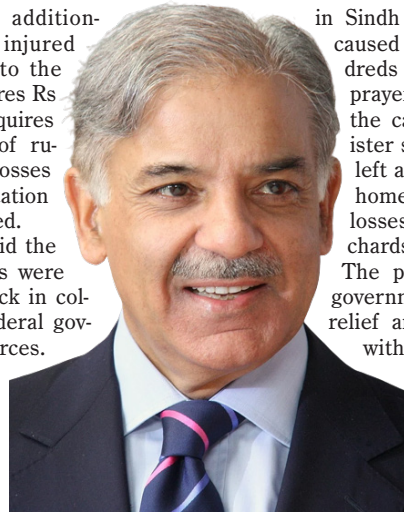
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday appealed to the nation to donate for supporting the relief and rehabilitation of the people and infrastructure in flood-hit areas where hundreds have been killed and thousands rendered homeless.

He said the government was distributing Rs 37.2 billion as cash relief among the flood-stricken people. Rs 5 billion have immediately been released to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to accelerate the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts. He said Rs 25,000 cash assistance was being paid to the flood victims in addition to the compensation of Rs1 million for the family

of the deceased, and additional support for the injured people and damages to the houses. “All this requires Rs 80 billion. It also requires hundreds of billions of rupees to overcome the losses as well as for rehabilitation of the victims,” he added.

The prime minister said the provincial governments were working round the clock in collaboration with the federal government and armed forces. He said the country had received unprecedented rains this year breaking the 30-year average rainfall record, particularly



in Sindh and Balochistan which caused flash floods to kill hundreds of people. Conveying his prayers for those injured in the calamity, the prime minister said the flash floods had left a huge number of people homeless besides causing losses to livestock, crops, orchards and other properties.

The prime minister said the government was carrying out relief and rehabilitation works with utmost responsibility and honesty. The helicopters had been provided for relief operations in the areas where roads and bridges had been destroyed.

The prime minister also paid tribute to the Pakistan Army officers who were martyred in a helicopter crash in Balochistan during the flood relief operation.

He recalled that the Pakistani people and the institutions had set an example by showing the passion to sacrifice following the deadly earthquake of 2005 and disastrous flash floods in 2010. He said the rehabilitation of the flood-stricken people could be expedited if the whole nation showed the same spirit to support their countrymen.

“Our nation is ahead of all in the world when it comes to the passion to sacrifice. I appeal to you all to support,” the prime minister said. He urged the people to donate to the flood relief fund wholeheartedly, reviving the spirit of the sacrifice shown by the Ansar-e-Madina out of the love for the Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him).

## PBM, PATHWEL pledge supporting bone marrow transplants

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) and Pakistan Thalassaemia and Welfare Society (PATHWEL) on Tuesday inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) pledging to joining hands in supporting bone marrow transplants of poor patients suffering from various blood disorders.

PBM Managing Director, Amir Fida Paracha and PATHWEL President Maj. Gen. (R) Suhaib Ahmed inked the MoU in the presence of Vice President PATHWEL, Dr. Jamal Nasir at PBM's head office.

The MoU explains the PBM's support for Bone Marrow Transplant of poor and deserving patients referred by PATHWEL.

Addressing the ceremony, PBM Managing Director Amir Fida Paracha said a poor family cannot afford the costly treatment of Bone Marrow Transplant. As well as supporting the poor patients of cancer, cardiac, kidney, hepatitis and other diseases, PBM is also facilitating thalassaemia patients for their treatment, blood transfusion and medicines.

On the occasion, Maj. Gen (r) Suhaib Ahmed highlighted that PATHWEL has established a centre of Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant which is providing indoor and outdoor hospital facilities exclusively for the patients suffering from various blood diseases like thalassaemia, aplastic anemia and blood cancers. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Japan WADA Mitsuhiro hosted dinner for the former IG Islamabad Police Sultan Azam Temuri and his wife at the Japanese residence. - DNA

## Pakistanis jailed for minor crimes to be released: Iranian envoy

ISLAMABAD: Iranian Ambassador Syed Mohammad Ali Hussaini has assured said that Pakistani prisoners arrested for minor crimes would be released soon.

The ambassador gave the assurance during a meeting with Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi on Monday. Both the dignitaries also discussed issues of Pakistani pilgrims visiting Iran and Iraq, a press release said. The minister said every year millions of pilgrims from Pakistan visited Iran and Iraq.

He emphasized that Pakistani visitors should be granted double entry visa for Iran. Ambassador Hussaini said inns with all facilities had been established on land routes in Iran to serve the pilgrims. Pak-Iran bilateral trade and cultural relations also came under discussion in the meeting. Minister Turi said Iran and Pakistan had eternal historical, spiritual, fraternal and cultural ties. - APP

## Telenor Pak partners with Roche

ISLAMABAD: Telenor Pakistan has partnered with Roche Diagnostics Pakistan to raise health awareness across the rural and urban areas of the country. Under the partnership agreement, Telenor Pakistan will educate its Khushaal Watan app users via interactive voice response (IVR), SMS and live shows to create awareness about hepatitis and other diseases with high prevalence and burden in Pakistan, a news release on Tuesday said.

“Telenor Pakistan continues to find avenues to connect its customers to what matters most to them. We are glad to make a meaningful impact towards sustainable, accessible, and affordable healthcare information for millions of Pakistanis, together with Roche Diagnostics,” Khurram Ashfaq, Chief Operating Officer, Telenor Pakistan said.

Abdul Qayyum, Country Manager, Roche Diagnostics Pakistan & Afghanistan said, “For 125 years, Roche has been at the forefront in redefining the standard of care to improve health outcomes. At Roche Diagnostics Pakistan, our goal is to help increase public health awareness to support the prevention, early detection, and monitoring of diseases. - APP

## IESCO issues power suspension notice

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 24th August, 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Katarian, Holy Family, F Block, Bani, Miani, Manara, PAF Color Kahar, Istiqlal Camp, Color Kahar Feeders, Boi Gher, Salar Gah, Haru, Ghori, Frash Town, I-14/3, Bhara Kaho, NIH, T&T, Golf City, Tarit, Westridge, Rajahabad, Golra, Dhok Chowdhury, New Race Course, Charing Cross, Modern Flour Mill, Makkah Chowk, Gulistan Colony, F. SF, Topi Pump, Murree Brewery, Bostan Road, Jhanda, State Bank, Chipboard, Industrial, Sacks, Feeders, From 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Patriata Feeder, From 06:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Beirut Gala, Darbar Mai Thothi, Khoi Ratta City, Chachoi, Sri, City, Kariala, Jandrot Dabsi, Darut, Majan, City 2, Angori, T&T, Shahpur, Bahria Golf City, Dis-to, Teret, Mangyal, Shahdara Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Muslhabad, Gulzar Shaheed, Qaidabad, Ahsanabad, Pir Wadhai, Dhok Hasu feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for power outage. - DNA

## PTA renews CMPak license in AJK & GB

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has renewed the cellular mobile license of CMPak (Zong) for Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) to continue/expand its next generation mobile services (NGMS) in the region. PTA has received 50% of the total prescribed license renewal fee of USD 17.5 million i.e Rs 1.87 Billion (equivalent to USD 8.76 Million) from CMPak (Zong), a news release on Tuesday said. The remaining amount will be paid in 10 equal annual installments. The license renewal event, held at PTA Headquarters, was attended by senior management of PTA, Frequency Allocation Board (FAB) & CMPak. - APP

## CDA opens new hiking trail 7 in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Environment Wing of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) opened a new hiking trail in Islamabad's Margalla Hills for hikers and tourists earlier today. The civic authority inaugurated the five-kilometer-long Trail 7, which runs from C-12 to Kainthia, Alexander Well, with CDA Chairman, Captain Usman, and DC Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon, present at the occasion. CDA also reopened "Trail 1" and "Trail 2" in the Margalla Hills to hikers and visitors earlier this month after completing necessary restoration work such as the installation of maps, milestones, and benches along the route. The Asian Leopard Preservation Zone was established earlier this year by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) to protect and preserve a number of Asian leopards that have recently been spotted along Trail 6 of the Margalla Hills. In March of this year, Amir Ali Ahmed, Chairman of the Capital Development Authority, inaugurated a new park named the Hill Park on Third Road in Sector G-10/4, Islamabad. - DNA



## Pak needs to explore vast trade potentials in CARs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan must fully explore untapped vast trade and investment avenues in Golden Ring countries and Central Asian Republics to strengthen economic integration besides promoting bilateral cooperation for quick economic growth and development in the region. Addressing a seminar titled “Regional Connectivity-Economic and Trade Opportunities for Pakistan with Golden Ring Countries (GRCs) and Central Asian Republics (CARs)”, through zoom here Tuesday the Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis said Paki-

stan apart from Europe, Far East and Gulf should also mainly focus on promotion of bilateral trade with regional states especially with neighbouring countries. He said Pakistan is situated at significant location of South Asia providing shortest route to landlocked CARs to reach Indian Ocean and the rest of the world. He said Central Asia is historically and closely tied to Silk Road trade routes acting as a crossroads for the movement of people, goods between Europe and the Far East and Pakistan must act as it's bridge. He said Paki-

stan can attract million of dollars through these connectivities. And Afghanistan will also get big slice of profit as well provided durability peace, security and political stability is allowed to stay. He said now connectivity has become a substantial trend for modern economies. He said mega projects of inter-regional connectivity has been crucial in economic development and regional integration. Meher Kashif said the Built and Road Initiatives (BRI) has phenomenal importance in this regard. The Golden Ring has the potential to become the most

lucrative economic centre of the world after CPEC. The successful connectivity will enable energy trade through pipelines, land and sea routes among these countries, he said adding that in the prevailing scenario, the importance of Pakistan is increasingly becoming reality in the light of integration waded launched by China and patronised by Russia. He said Pakistan should also work closely with Russia, China, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan to reap colossal economic benefits from available abundant trade prospects. Although Pakistan is an econom-

ically fragile country yet China needs it more than anything else, he said adding that it will not only increase regional connectivity but also help in minimising the trade deficit. He said Pakistan a land of opportunity enriched with natural resources green gold, deep warm water (Gwadar) with more than 60% of its total population comprises of youth and above all its geo strategic location which tremendously increases its importance especially in the last two decades with the emergence of China as a one of world economic superpower. - APP

## Six drug peddlers, bootleggers arrested

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers on Tuesday arrested six accused besides recovering over two kg narcotics and 21 liters liquor from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Naseerabad police held a drug peddler namely Ri- asat and recovered 1625 grams heroin. New Town police arrested Abdul Rehman for having 520 grams charas while Sadiqabad, Airport and Morgah police rounded up Umar Nawaz, Umar, Tanveer Gul and Imran and seized 21.5 liters liquor. He said that separate cases have been registered against all suspects while further investigations are underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate on-going operations and drug peddlers and bootleggers, he added. - APP

## Briefs

## 9 arrested for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi district police, on the directives of City Police Officer, Rawalpindi conducted raids in different areas and netted nine accused for possessing illegal weapons. According to a police spokesman, City police held Amirullah and Waseem for having two 30 bore pistols and ammunition. Wah Cantt police netted three accused namely Adnan, Siraj and Amir and recovered three 30 bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. Civil Lines police also rounded up an accused namely Subhan with a 30 bore pistol and ammunition. Similarly, Saddar Wah, Mandra and Rawat police arrested Muhammad Ahsan, Abdul Ghaffar and Bilal Saeed and recovered two 30 bore pistols, ammunition and an iron punch from their possession. Separate cases have been arrested against all the accused while further investigations are under process, he added. Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Rawalpindi Waseem Riaz Khan said that strict action in accordance with the law was being taken against lawbreakers. - APP

## PNCA to hold exhibition on Aug 24

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) is organizing "Scenic Pakistan" a landscape exhibition by the Modern Masters of Pakistan on August 24 (tomorrow) in connection with the diamond jubilee celebrations of Pakistan. "The exhibition is a blend of incredible art pieces by masters and modern masters from National Art Gallery's permanent collection," an official told APP. The exhibition which would commence at 12:00 p.m. would continue till 4:00 p.m. at gallery 2 of PNCA, he added. He said more such exhibitions would be arranged in future to promote arts and facilitate the young artists of Pakistan. - APP

## IRSA releases 436,921 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 436,921 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 454,931 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1550 feet, which was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow in the dam was recorded 256,300 cusecs and outflow 256,300 cusecs. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1177.85 feet, which was 127.85 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 28,010 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 256,097,435, 669 and 474,377 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 100,800 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 43,646 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. - APP

## 15 more dengue cases reported

RAWALPINDI: As many as 15 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 194. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Tuesday said that, among the new cases, seven patients had arrived from Dhama Syeda and four from Chak Jalalain in the Potohar town area while two cases were reported each from Kahuta and Islamabad. During the last 24 hours, he added, around 128 dengue fever suspects were brought to the city's hospitals, out of which 15 tested positive, 22 probable and four non-dengue. He added that six dengue patients with positive symptoms were admitted to the Holy Family Hospital and five to the Benazir Bhutto Hospital. - APP

## MoFEPT, GB government ink LoU to promote STEAM

As a first step, MoFEPT, through its STEAM Pakistan initiative, extended support to GB Career Festival by arranging career talks, speed counseling sessions, and mentoring circles led by STEAM Mentors – inspiring women leaders in STEAM from different cities of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "We want our students, especially our girls to aspire for and excel in 21st-century careers," expressed Mohyuddin Ahmad Wani, Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) during the concluding ceremony of the maiden GB Career Festival 2022. This first-of-its-kind four-day national-level career festival was organized by the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan to create awareness among school, college, and university students regarding the most relevant career paths available to them. "Through this effort, we wanted to allow our students to interact with thought leaders and experts from different walks of life, learn from their experiences, and aspire to follow in their footsteps," added Mr. Wani. More than 16,000 students, with a healthy participation from both girls' and boys' schools, from across the GB province participated in the event. On the sidelines of the Gilgit-Baltistan Career Festival 2022, a Letter of Understanding (LoU) was also inked between the Education & Special Education Department, GB and the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training (MoFEPT) to promote STEAM (i.e., science, technology, engineer-



ing, arts, and maths) education at the school level. Secretary of Education, Gilgit-Baltistan, Rana Muhammad Saleem Afzal signed the LoU on behalf of the Department. In April 2022, with financial assistance from the Malala Fund, MoFEPT initiated a five-year project, STEAM Pakistan to advance secondary school-aged girls' access to STEAM education. The signing of this LoU is in line with the project's mandate to take the modern STEAM learning model to all the 13,000 high schools across Pakistan.

Award-winning filmmaker and Professor at Habib University; Rishm Saifullah, principal architect and visiting faculty member at BNU Lahore; and Shamim Rajani, tech entrepreneur and Founder of Genetech and CodeGirlsPk. "The sheer presence of the STEAM Mentors at the festival opened new vistas for the young people who got an opportunity to interact with them. I am grateful to my colleagues from the STEAM Pakistan project and we welcome their contribution for the benefit of the students of Gilgit-Baltistan," commented Mr. Wani. "Our objective was to provide young people, especially young girls with access to Pakistani role models from the STEAM fields who could both guide the students on exploring the most relevant career options as well as broaden their worldviews to make them more ambitious for their futures," shared Sana Kazmi, Head of Partnerships with the STEAM Pakistan project. Under the LoU the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training's STEAM Policy Unit will provide technical support to the staff of the Elementary and Secondary Education Department of Gilgit-Baltistan based in the Headquarter, the Regional Offices, and high schools for the development of policies, systems, and practices for the implementation of the STEAM Pakistan Project.

## SMEDA to organize training on Thursday

ISLAMABAD: Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will organize a one-day training programme on "Small Business management for Women Entrepreneurs" for profitable business growth on August 25 (Thursday). The session will be organized by SMEDA under NBDP for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses, according to a source in the authority. The training programme will provide information about entrepreneurial opportunities, idea generation and scanning of the best suitable ideas, determination of business objective, product analysis and market research, and determination of form of ownership/organization. The workshop also provides information of completion of promotional formalities, raising necessary funds, processing machine and material, marketing and recruitment of HR. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, Adam Mulawarman Tugio is watering a sapling at the Faisal Masjid Campus of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI). - APP

## Gilani foresaw years before what Modi doing in IIOJK today: Study

ISLAMABAD: What India under Modi is doing in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) has attracted the unchallenging capability of towering Kashmiri personality, Syed Ali Gilani, to foresee anti-Kashmiri measures years before they are now unfolding in the territory. According to a study conducted by Kashmir Media Service, the report said that sagacity of Syed Ali Gilani, was once again proven when the incumbent Bharatiya Janata Party-led Indian government announced to include the Indian citizens ordinarily residing in IIOJK in voter lists three years after its unilateral moves to annex IIOJK on August 5, 2019 in complete disregard

to the United Nations Security Council Resolutions and bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan. The moves are aimed at diluting the disputed status of the territory and to change its Muslim majority character. Syed Ali Gilani had rightly pointed out, before hand, the Indian measures for demographic engineering including land grab and setting up of colonies for Indian soldiers and Kashmiri Pandits, issuing new domicile rules, delimitation of Assembly constituencies and voting rights to non-resident Kashmiris in elections. Some of the following anti-Kashmiri measures taken by the Modi regime speak volumes for the abil-

## Beautification along major avenues in full swing

ISLAMABAD: Capital Development Authority (CDA) has started beautifying major avenues, busy intersections and green belts of the Federal capital with colourful and blooming flower arrangements and fascinating landscaping. Beds of seasonal flowers and evergreen plants were being laid on both sides of Islamabad Expressway from Zero Point to Faizabad, Srinagar Highway, Faisal Avenue and Margalla Road to boost the beauty of the city, an official of environment wing told APP on Tuesday. He said green belts, median strips were being decorated with different patterns of flowers including Marva, Toranta, Melaluca. Small and large size plants were also being planted at the area under plantation drive, the official added. - APP

## Chinese power plants brought down electricity prices

ISLAMABAD: As per the monthly electricity generation data released by NEPRA, Pakistan, three power plants built by Chinese corporations have brought down the average cost of energy in the country to Rs10.98 per unit in July from Rs15.84 per unit in June 2022. According to Gwadar Pro, this will result in a big relief for consumers, as Central Power Purchasing Authority (CPPA) has sought Rs4.70 per unit in monthly Fuel Price Adjustment (FPA) for the month of July as compared with Rs9.91 per unit FPA for June 2022. It translates into an Rs5.21 per unit reduction in electricity prices for the month of July. Ismail Iqbal Securities, a stock brokerage firm, in their research report has attributed the reduction in electricity prices to a 48% increase in generation of hydropower and 59% increase in nuclear power generation during July as compared with June. According to the data, the 720 megawatts Karot hydropower plant contributed 393.5 million units of electricity in July as compared with 298 million units in June. The power plant not only provided additional electricity but also mitigated the negative impacts of the 969 MWs Neelum Jhelum hydropower plant's closure after encountering a fault on July 6. Neelum Jhelum generated 107 million units in July as compared with 619 million units in June. Karot, which started full-scale commercial operations on June 29, is built by China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) at a cost of nearly \$2 billion as the first hydropower project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). - DNA

## President phones families of martyred soldiers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday telephoned the families of the Pakistan Army's soldiers who were martyred in Harnai area of Balochistan on August 14, to express condolence. The president interacted with the families of Naik Muhammad Atif and Sepoy Qayyum Javed. He paid tribute to the martyred soldiers for sacrificing their lives in the line of their duty. He prayed to Allah Almighty to elevate the ranks of the martyrs in paradise and grant strength to the bereaved families to bear the loss with fortitude.

## Thought leaders dialogue on Aug 25

ISLAMABAD: The Corporate Pakistan Group and Nutshell Group are going to organize a dialogue titled 'Thought Leaders Dialogue-Pakistan: The Next Great Infrastructure Connector' will be held on August 25 here. Former Ambassador of Pakistan to USA Ali Jahangir Siddiqui would present the keynote address on the theme of the session and the other speakers included Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik, Chairperson of Pakistan Stock Exchange Dr. Shamsad Akhtar, said a news release issued by the Nutshell Group. Founder of Nutshell Group Muhammad Azfar Ahsan said "Pakistan's location is its core strength and will determine its rise as the most influential of energy corridors for regional prosperity. It will also directly impact and improve Pakistan's prosperity, stability, and security." The Dialogue would be a significant step towards an understanding of working with and formulating the best policies to benefit from this conduit. With Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) and changing political dynamics, Pakistan's position can and would be an important element in regional commerce. Nutshell Group and Corporate Pakistan Group through the dialogue would bring the audience's and stakeholders' focus on the significance of Pakistan as a regional energy, infrastructure, and digital connector and corridor. The focus of the dialogue would be on geophysical, political, and digital infrastructure and policies for the next decade. An interactive discussion session at the end of the dialogue would be arranged for creating a better understanding of placing Pakistan's strategic location and infrastructure's importance at the core of the regional development progress. - APP

## Fans' export increases 16.19%

ISLAMABAD: The export of fans witnessed an increase of 16.19 percent during the first month of current fiscal year, against the exports of the corresponding period of last year. The country exported fans worth US\$2.684 million during July 2022 against the exports of US\$2.310 million during July 2021, showing a growth of 16.19 percent, according to a report issued by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the export of fans, however, decreased by 29.41 percent during July 2022 as compared to the exports of US\$3.802 million in June 2022, the PBS data revealed. It is pertinent to mention here that the country's overall merchandise export declined by 5.17 percent in July 2022 as compared to the export of July 2021. The export during the month were recorded at US\$2.219 million against the exports of US\$2.340 million in last July. The imports also declined by 12.81 percent to US\$4.861 million in July 2022 compared to the exports of US\$5.575 million in July 2021. Based on the figures, the merchandise trade deficit declined by 18.33 percent by going down from the deficit of US\$3.235 million last July to US\$2.642 million in July 2022, according to PBS data. - APP

## KCP going to unleash a green revolution: Report

Project is being financed by the federal government through its PSDP. The work of project is being executed by WAPDA in collaboration with the Kachhi Canal Consultants. So far, an expenditure of around Rs100 billion has been incurred on project since its start in 2002

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Kachhi Canal Project (KCP) in Balochistan is going to unleash a "Green Revolution" by irrigating 713,000 acres of barren land in most areas of the province. The project is carried out in the same vein as CPEC, which pays special attention to agricultural development and people's livelihood, according to Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. Though it does not fall in the ambit of CPEC, it is among those initiatives that receive positive vibes from many agro-based development projects under CPEC. Balochistan has no canal system for irrigation. After the completion of Kachhi Canal, the cropping intensity of sorghum, oilseeds, pulses and wheat will be increased up to 88.5 percent approximately with Rs19.66 billion (Rs3.82 billion for phase-I) added to the national economy annually. The project would create hundreds of thousands of jobs as well. Areas including

Dera Bugti, Naseerabad, Kachhi (Bolan) and Jhal Magsi will benefit. Kachhi Canal is also known as the 'Green Revolution' project of Balochistan. Apart from irrigating barren lands, it would also mitigate drinking water stress for about two million people. KCP is located in a typical arid zone climate, characterised by high temperature and low rainfall, where economically sound agriculture is only possible under irrigated conditions. Now, things are being changed for the poor people of Balochistan, the most underdeveloped part of the country. The project is being financed by the federal government through its Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP). The work of the project is being executed by WAPDA in collaboration with the Kachhi Canal Consultants. So far, an expenditure of around Rs100 billion has been incurred on the project since its start in 2002. According to a senior WAPDA official, the authority has already constructed a 363-km main canal and 81-km long allied water

distribution system to irrigate 72,000 acres of land in Phase-I. "Kachhi Canal is a vital project to alleviate poverty and eradicate extremism in remote and backward areas of Balochistan by developing irrigated agriculture and an agro-based economy in the province", the official said. Terming the land being cultivated in Sui and adjacent areas of Dera Bugti district through Kachhi Canal as a good omen for Balochistan, the official said the project has brought phenomenal changes to the locals as crop cultivation is gaining momentum due to availability of water. He also said now green fields can be seen in the areas of Dera Bugti. According to the official, phase-I of the project has been almost completed as work only on 40-km is remaining which is under progress. To a question, he said PC-I for the phase-II (58-km) and phase-III (39-km) is being prepared by the consultants, under which command areas of 267,000 acres in District Nasirabad & Bolan and 344,000 acres in Nasirabad, Bolan & Jhal Magsi districts would become culti-

vated. "The main incremental benefits of the project for irrigation of 611,000 acres of land lies in Phase-II & III." Moreover, the WAPDA official said, as per approved timeline of Consultancy Contract Agreement, the Consultants will submit the detailed engineering design, tender documents and the PC-I of Phase-II & III by September 2022. The actual construction of the Phase-II & III works will commence after the approval of the PC-I by the competent forum. Furthermore, the WAPDA official said the provincial irrigation department had taken over the completed portion of the main canal and allied distribution system (Balochistan portion) in March 2021. However, the remaining portion of the main canal (Punjab Portion) shall be taken over from the authority concerned after sanction/arrangement of staff & other administrative issues. So far the command area of 52,000 acres has been developed under Phase-I by the provincial agriculture department whereas the remaining is under progress.

## Regional countries refuse to take sides

In a bid to slow, if not stall, China's rise, the US has tried to depict China as an aggressor that is disrupting the rules-based international order and as a bully that is coercing and intimidating its regional neighbors. Yet to Washington's dismay, many regional countries have refused to toe its anti-China line and resisted Washington's attempts to pressure them to distance themselves from Beijing. The first summit between the US and the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, held in May, which the Joe Biden administration had hoped to use to win over some countries to side with it in its confrontation with China, obviously failed to achieve that purpose, ending only with a vague agreement to "appropriately cooperate in international and regional fora". The US-orchestrated efforts aimed at containing China are already posing unprecedented challenges to peace and stability in the region. The creation of AUKUS, which groups the US, the United Kingdom and Australia against China, for instance, is enabling Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarine technology in violation of the global non-proliferation treaty. Not to mention the countless military drills targeted at China the US has conducted with its allies in the South China Sea, which have drastically stoked tensions in the region. China and ASEAN have long been economically interdependent and are each other's largest trading partner. China has also promised to get along with its neighbors peacefully and never seek hegemony in the region. Their mutually beneficial relationship has withstood the test of times and will not be led astray by any external force prodding them to take sides. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is sober-minded about how rising geopolitical tensions are affecting countries, especially in the Asia-Pacific. The rivalry between China and the United States, for example, is making it "almost impossible" to deal with pressing global issues such as climate change, pandemics, and nuclear proliferation. "We can expect more geopolitical contestation in the Asia-Pacific," he said in a National Day speech on Sunday. "Some countries will choose a side. Others, like Singapore, will try our best to avoid being caught up in the major power rivalry". Former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, in a recent interview with CNN, criticized the US administration's current China policy. The choice that Washington faces is whether to deal with China "by confrontation or whether we could attempt to deal with this absolutely unique situation initially, well, primarily by dialogue". It is obviously up to Washington to answer that question.

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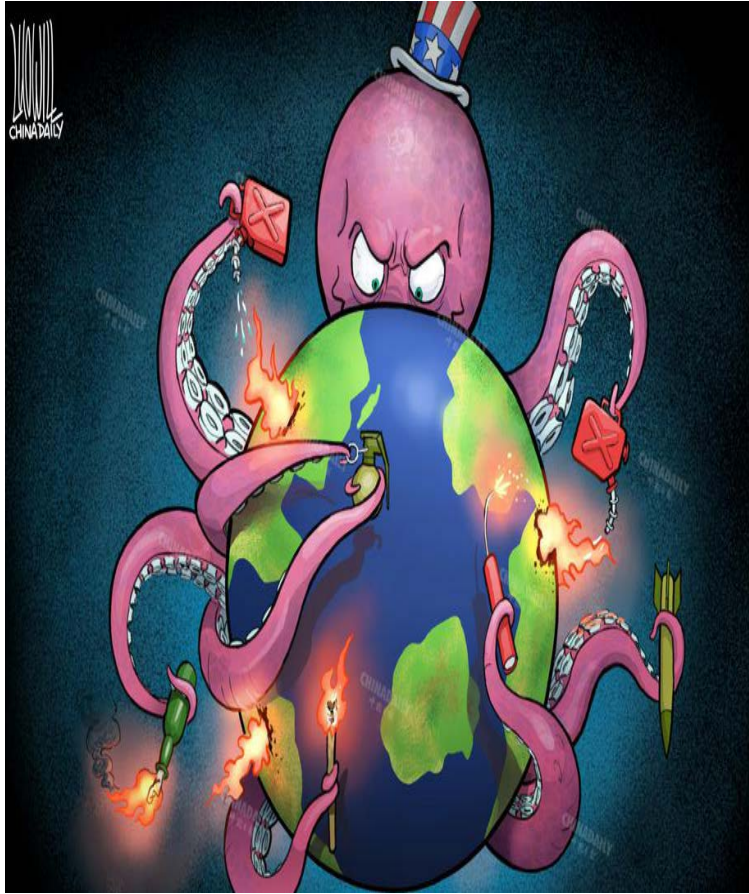
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## Flood disaster

More than 700 people have been killed in the recent floods and federal and provincial governments remain hopelessly overwhelmed. The loss of life and property, despite billions having been poured into national and provincial disaster management authorities over decades, also speaks volumes of how inefficiently taxpayer money is being spent. There is no doubt that the scale and extent of the floods is massive – over one million people affected in over 100 districts, with at least 30,000 households still at risk – but we would not have expected the situation to get out of hand this much given the experience of the government and disaster management authorities in dealing with the massive floods in 2010 and similar events since then. Unfortunately, few lessons appear to have been learnt. The 'response' in Balochistan is perhaps the most telling. While Chief Minister Abdul Qudus Bizenjo is going around asking Islamabad and international donors for money to fund relief efforts, former chief minister Jam Kamal, whose Lasbela constituency is among the worst-affected areas, noted that there had been no preemptive efforts to deal with flooding despite Met Office warnings that had been issued several days in advance. He also admitted that while these are record floods, the government's post-disaster response has also been weak as he noted that it is citizen volunteers, not the state, who have been supporting most of the victims. Meanwhile, protests by flood victims in Punjab have largely been ignored by the provincial government there as well, with reports suggesting that local police officials have been redeployed to assist in relief efforts but no outside reinforcements have been sent in. And while Karachi is a notorious basket case when it comes to drainage, local authorities there have also outdone themselves with their incompetence with the death toll crossing 40 and many neighbourhoods remaining inundated with sewer-mixed rainwater. Government officials may repeat the facts about how Pakistan is the eighth-most climate change-vulnerable country despite its low carbon footprint, but that does not change the fact that we still need to do our best to cope with the hand we have been dealt. Unfortunately, it appears that while policymakers will happily absorb the billions in foreign aid and local tax money being dedicated to climate change adaption and disaster mitigation, they are unwilling to let it be put to use, lest effectively preempting massive disasters leads to those funds drying up.

## What if the Iran nuclear deal falls through?

Giorgio Cafiero



“Iran has even announced that if Israel threatens Iran through Arab countries, it will target that Arab country as well. On the other hand, Israel has emphasised pre-emptive attacks on Iran, which will create a dangerous situation. As we know, on this basis, even potential threats are a licence for Israel to attack the internal positions of Iran or its allies in the region

for Iran, which has suffered under financial and trade sanctions for years. The JCPOA seemed to be working after the landmark deal was signed in July 2015 as it capped Iran's nuclear activities. But Tehran's "strategic patience" ran out one year after the US unilaterally withdrew from the deal in May 2018. Irrespective of the JCPOA's fate, there are other sources of instability in the Middle East that no serious analyst believes will go away in the short-to-medium-term. Hostility between Israel and Iran is one of them. Whether or not the accord is restored, Israel can be counted on to continue its sabotage

nuclear facilities and increased confrontation between Iran and Israel throughout the region," Hamidreza Azizi, a fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs in Berlin, tells TRT World. "Without a deal, Iran is just more likely going to go down the path of enrichment and getting closer to a bomb, which means it will make it eventually more pressing for Israel to take action above the threshold of war," explains Krieg. "At the moment, we have this below threshold situation where both sides continue in the shadows. All this can do is ever prolong the process of Iran reaching this threshold and developing a nuclear device, but it is not something that will ever really stop Iran from getting there." What about GCC actors? Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) joined Israel in welcoming the Trump administration's decision to pull out of the JCPOA in 2018 and subsequently lobbied the White House to subject Tehran to "maximum pressure". Yet, these two Gulf Arab states are unlikely to act in lockstep with Israel vis-à-vis Iran in a post-JCPOA period. In contrast to Israel, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have been cautiously making diplomatic overtures to Tehran while signalling their desires for removing some tension between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members and Iran. The leadership in Saudi Arabia and the UAE have essentially come to terms with the extent to which their countries are exposed to grave economic and security threats posed by an angry Iran. The September 2019 Aramco attacks which followed acts of sabotage after the UAE's east coast did much to inform their assessments. Realising that Washington's "maximum pressure" on Tehran could spiral beyond the control of any one actor, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pragmatically taken steps to try to keep GCC members out of harm's way if such a catastrophic scenario would unfold. Such efforts to cool tensions between these Gulf Arab states and Tehran might soon result in diplomatic relations being restored to what they were prior to the GCC-Iran crisis of January 2016. From Iran's perspective, such rapprochements would be extremely beneficial to its interests irrespective of the outcome of the nuclear talks. "The Iranian government in general, particularly the Raisi administration, has been insisting that the diplomatic engagement with regional countries is a separate path from the JCPOA," says Azizi. "Regardless of the fate of the JCPOA, Iran is eager to go ahead with its outreach to the neighbours within

the framework of the so-called 'Neighbours First' policy." But the picture gets complicated due to a host of factors, including the Abraham Accords and Washington's desire to see stronger Arab-Israeli coordination against Iran if the JCPOA negotiations collapse. This brings us to questions surrounding Israel's role in the Gulf security architecture and implications for Tehran. If some GCC states and Tel Aviv continue strengthening military cooperation and intelligence sharing, Iran will find itself in a weaker position. Under such circumstances, Iranian retaliation can be expected. "With the unveiling of the drone-carrying ships, Iran has given a nod to combined operations in order to deal with new threats [stemming from the Israeli entry into the Gulf]," Javad Heiran-Nia, the director of the Persian Gulf Studies Group at the Center for Scientific Research and Middle East Strategic Studies in Iran, tells TRT World. "Iran has even announced that if Israel threatens Iran through Arab countries, it will target that Arab country as well. On the other hand, Israel has emphasised pre-emptive attacks on Iran, which will create a dangerous situation. As we know, on this basis, even potential threats are a licence for Israel to attack the internal positions of Iran or its allies in the region. In this case, Iran's regional proxies will be more active in the region," adds Heiran-Nia. Creating new economic interdependence As Azizi argues, the only way for Tehran to achieve a lasting rapprochement with Riyadh and an expansion of normalised relations with Abu Dhabi is through an "element of economic interdependence" between these countries. If the JCPOA is restored with sanctions on Iran being lifted, this is possible. Yet, if sanctions remain in place, that would be the "greatest barrier in the way of any kind of economic cooperation between not only Iran and its neighbours but also Iran and most of the countries in the world," according to Azizi. Ultimately, if Iran remains heavily sanctioned with the JCPOA finding its way to the graveyard, the country will intensify its "maximum resistance" to Washington's "maximum pressure". To grow a stronger "resistance economy," Tehran will work to develop its economic relations with alternative powers - chiefly China, Russia, India, Central Asian countries, and GCC members. The extent to which the Iranians could succeed on this front is the basis of much debate. In any event, the Middle East will be subjected to greater instability if diplomats in the P5+1 and Iran fail to find a middle ground that can restore the nuclear deal. Such consequences would likely plague the region for decades.

Courtesy: TRT World

## Youth bulge in Pakistan: bane or boon?

Mansoor Qaisar

Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with a population of more than 22 million, and youth constitute a large part of the population. According to UNDP, 64 percent of the total population in the country consists of youth under the age of 30, while 29 percent of the population consists of youth between 15 and 29 years of age

The development and future of any country and society is the youth of this country. But unfortunately, Pakistan is one of the countries where many youths face many problems, including unemployment, equal opportunities for education, and a lack of adequate medical resources. Pakistan is the sixth most populous country in the world, with a population of more than 22 million, and youth constitute a large part of the population. According to UNDP, 64 percent of the total population in the country consists of youth under the age of 30, while 29 percent of the population consists of youth between 15 and 29 years of age. In a country with such a large youth population, 29 percent of the youth are uneducated, while only six percent of the youth receive education beyond the 12th grade. With the lowest female labor force participation rates (LFPR) in South Asia across all age groups, Pakistan is presented with the daunting task of generating additional 1.3 million jobs each year for the next five years to fill this gap. The biggest problems of the youth in Pakistan are education and unemployment. According to experts, the Corona epidemic has further increased youth problems. This is also confirmed by the report issued by the country's statistical agency, which states that the unemployment rate in the country has increased by 22 percent. Before the Corona epidemic, the number of employed people in the country was around 55.7 million, but due to the epidemic, the number of unemployed people has reduced to around 35.5 million. Not only this, but during the lockdown, 37 percent became unemployed, i.e., about 26 million people. The study, "Pakistan's opportunity to excel: now and the future," by Dr. Nadeem ul Haq, vice chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, and Dr. Durre Nayab, Director, PIDE, conducted an in-depth examination of the labor force survey, which revealed that the unemployment rate among university graduates is 31.2 percent. The sudden increase in the demand for education in the past decade, combined with a lack of job opportunities, has significantly contributed to this high unemployment rate. However, the high unemployment rate also indicates the inadequacy of educational institutions to connect their students to the labor market—the misalignment of university-industry linkages. In addition to severe social unrest, rapid economic and social changes occur. Due to the lack of financial resources, the youth are deeply disappointed and feel deprived. Most youths do not have opportunities to pursue higher education, and those who have are worried about the lack of suitable jobs and business opportunities. According to Pakistani experts, in an era when the world is benefiting from scientific development, education, and health advancement, the Pakistani people still do not understand the basic concept of using contraceptive methods. However, one positive thing is that people now want to have Birth Spacing and fewer children. According to a study by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), 31 percent of the educated youth in the country are unemployed. This alarming situation can be reversed by imparting the required skills to the youth. Pakistan produces many engineers and university graduates in various fields. However, according to the Pakistan Engineering Council report 2021, more than 10 million engineers are unemployed in Pakistan. Pakistan needs to focus on improving the level of human capital in the economy to ensure that the existing and future workforce is skilled enough to meet the increasing technological demands of the evolving nature of work. In this phase, it is necessary for the authorities concerned to equip the young unemployed graduates with skills.

The Author is an FP Award Winner from the Gates Institute of Population Studies Gates Institute of Population and Reproductive Health, Washington, and associated with the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) as a Media & Communication Expert; and he tweets @MansoorQaisar

## Grief and generosity in Giza

Rabbi Marc Schneier

His swift action also holds a more personal lesson for all of us on a moral level. Being a voice for national togetherness is critical when the fabric of society frays, and charitable giving is central to Coptic Christianity, Islam, Judaism and, I daresay, all faiths. As a rabbi, I preach it as "tzedakah."

Forty-one innocent souls, including 15 children, died when fire devoured a Coptic Orthodox church in Giza on Aug. 14 – an unspeakable loss that shocked Egypt to its core. As fear levels rose, the tragedy threatened to become another point of division in a country beset by so many challenges in recent years. Religious rhetoric sharpened. But as partisans plotted, and most

prolific scorers over years, is also a devout Muslim. His heartfelt generosity toward his Christian countrymen in their time of need should strike a chord with everyone as the exemplification of an interfaith solidarity that Egypt sorely needs in order to recover from this tragedy, and emerge more stable and united. Salah's actions demonstrate Egypt

still can tap into a wellspring of interfaith togetherness to take the nation forward. Salah's resources were critical, but his timing even more so. As the ashes at the Abu Sefein church cooled, voices of division rose, seizing on what seemed to be an accident from faulty electrical wiring to advance dubious agendas. Coptic leaders, crushed by the loss of life around them, are understandably sensitive at this moment. With some merit, they have argued that not enough has been done to integrate their minority voices at the national level and shield their congregants from discrimination. It takes leaders at the government, religious and civil society levels, such as Salah, to ease tensions and re-establish the sense of togetherness that is so critical in any multicultural society. Egyptians have faced enough hardship, from rising food prices and high unemployment to the collapse of one of the world's greatest tourism industries. The divisions that came to the surface during the country's previous Muslim Brotherhood-run government still seem to scar the country today, affecting Coptic Christians as well as mainstream Muslims, not to mention jittery foreign investors. So much rests on Egypt, a pillar of Middle East stability since the 1980s. As the Arab world's most populous country, it has

always had an impact well beyond its borders and still wields tremendous clout throughout the region as a cultural bellwether. It is in everyone's interest that it use this platform to be a loud voice for peace and intercommunitarian harmony, both at home and among its neighbors. There must be no space for extremism here. After a decade of instability, we all have a stake in seeing a strong and positive Egypt re-emerge in the region. Actions such as Salah's play a bigger role than most people realize. It will take manifestations of interfaith solidarity, large and small, to prevent another devastating detour for the Egyptian people and the region. His swift action also holds a more personal lesson for all of us on a moral level. Being a voice for national togetherness is critical when the fabric of society frays, and charitable giving is central to Coptic Christianity, Islam, Judaism and, I daresay, all faiths. As a rabbi, I preach it as "tzedakah." It is embedded in the very core of the Torah, our holiest scripture. For Mohamed Salah, it is zakat, or alms giving, a fundamental pillar of Islam. It is the same thing. And in this case, Salah's example should inspire all of us to be our most generous selves, even as we grieve and recover.

Courtesy: Arab news



## Briefs

## Covid cases declining across Indonesia

ANTARA

JAKARTA: The number of COVID-19 cases has declined in all islands in Indonesia, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Airlangga Hartarto, has informed. On a national scale, cases have dropped 1.12 percent. "COVID-19 cases in Sumatra, Java, Bali, Nusa Tenggara, Sulawesi, Maluku, and Papua have shown a declining number," Hartarto noted while delivering a press statement on the community activity restrictions (PPKM) evaluation meeting here on Tuesday. Hartarto, who is also chair of the COVID-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery Committee (KPCPEN), said that the number of COVID-19 cases in the country has continued to decline, with the weekly average pegged at 1.94 percent and the weekly positivity rate recorded at 9 percent, with the number of active cases touching around 48 thousand. "Cases in Java-Bali were recorded around 3 thousand or 89 percent, and outside Java-Bali with around 300 or 10 percent," he informed. Although COVID-19 cases have continued to decline, the government has determined that all 386 districts and cities must implement Level 1 PPKM.

## JWST captures stunning images of Jupiter

WASHINGTON: NASA's James Webb Space Telescope has captured stunning images of the planet Jupiter showing two tiny moons, faint rings and auroras at the northern and southern poles. "We hadn't really expected it to be this good, to be honest," said planetary astronomer Imke de Pater of the University of California, Berkeley. "It's really remarkable that we can see details on Jupiter together with its rings, tiny satellites, and even galaxies in one image," she said. De Pater headed the observations of Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, with Thierry Fouchet of the Paris Observatory. The composite images were taken with the observatory's Near-Infrared Camera (NIRCam) and were artificially colored because infrared light is not visible to the human eye. The auroras above the northern and southern poles of Jupiter have been mapped in redder colors while the Great Red Spot, a storm bigger than Earth, appears white. One image shows Jupiter's faint rings and its moons Amalthea and Adrastea. - APP

## Hungary sacks weather chiefs

DNA

BUDAPEST: The Hungarian government sacked the head of the country's weather forecasting service and her deputy on Monday, two days after a major holiday fireworks display planned for Budapest was postponed due to fears of bad weather that never materialised. Kornelia Radics and Gyula Horvath of the National Meteorological Agency (NMS) were dismissed from their posts by the technology and industry minister Laszlo Palkovics. The ministry gave no explanation. Contacted by AFP, the government did not react immediately. The announcement came a day after pro-government media criticised the weather agency, whose forecast of thunderstorms and gusts of wind led to the cancellation of the fireworks on Saturday. "They gave misleading information about the extent of the bad weather, which misled the operational team responsible for safety," wrote the online newspaper Origo. In 2006, the festivities were plunged into mourning by a violent storm that killed five people and injured several hundred, spreading panic among more than a million people massed to watch the show on the Danube. "They couldn't produce the desired weather, they were fired. No, this is not a dictatorship in Central Asia; this is the Hungary of Fidesz," said the Hungary-Győr of the opposition Momentum Movement said ironically on Facebook, referring to the ruling party.

## Turkiye wants to increase trade with Pakistan up to USD 5bln

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that Pakistan and Turkiye were enjoying exemplary cordial relations that should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations between the two countries

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Turkiye would be happy to increase bilateral trade with Pakistan up to USD 5 billion as both countries have good potential to increase two-way trade volume in many items. This was said by Nurettin Demir, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of Turkiye while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He said that MUSIAD Expo would be held in Istanbul from November 2-5, 2022 and the Pakistani business community should take active participation in it to promote business linkages with counterparts of Turkiye and explore new avenues of promoting bilateral trade between the two countries. He said that Turkiye and Pakistan can enhance bilateral cooperation in



many fields including machinery & parts, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, tourism and agriculture. He said that he can help the Pakistani business community in customs affairs for doing trade with Turkiye. He was hopeful that a free trade agreement between Turkiye and Pakistan would

be finalized soon after its ratification from the parliament of Turkiye that would help in increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan

and Turkiye were enjoying exemplary cordial relations that should be transformed into growing trade and economic relations between the two countries. He stressed that the frequency of Pakistan-Tehran-Istanbul railway service should be increased for trade promotion as

currently goods from Turkiye via third countries were reaching Pakistan in 45 days due to which the importers and exporters were facing problems. He said that Pakistan has a lot of reserves of marble & granite and other natural resources and said that Turkiye should explore JVs

in Pakistan in these sectors to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Mian Shaukat Masud former President ICCI, Muhammad Azharul Islam Zafar, Sheikh Muhammad Ejaz, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Akhtar Hussain, Muhammad Shabbir, Ch. Ashraf Farzand, Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, Ms. Fauzia Naureen, Ms. Nasira Ali and others also spoke at the occasion and gave useful suggestions to promote trade ties between Pakistan and Turkiye. They said that language barrier was an issue for trade promotion between the two countries that should be addressed. They said that Pakistan can export software products to Turkiye as it was already exporting these products to many other countries. They also highlighted IT, construction and furniture as potential areas of joint ventures between the two countries.

## Nearly 9,000 Ukrainians killed in war

KIEV: Ukraine's Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces said on Monday that nearly 9,000 Ukrainian troops had been killed since the start of the war. "Not only servicemen and not only those who took up arms take part in this war, but our little children, who are not to blame for anything at all, except for the fact that they were born here and at this particular time," said Valerii Zaluzhnyi during "Defenders. Roll Call Forum" event. He said about children: "They do not understand what is happening, but they definitely need protection both near Soledar, Bakhmut, Velyka Novosilka, and here, because their father went to the frontline and, perhaps, is one of those almost 9,000 heroes who died." Zaluzhnyi, however, did not specify whether the figure refers only to the service members of the armed forces or also to other formations and what period it covers. Ukraine's President also addressed the participants during the event. "My address today is, of course, primarily about veterans. But it is not only for veterans. Not only for our warriors and all those who dedicate their lives to serving Ukraine with weapons in their hands. This appeal of mine is for all our people. And it is about the fact that the veterans' cause has truly become national. - DNA

## Promoting RMB/PKR direct settlement to reinforce CEPE

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "It is the best time to promote direct conversion between RMB and PKR to enhance bilateral Pak-China economic and trade cooperation. Such a direct exchange will reduce the cost and exchange rate risk and make funds more secure, which will facilitate a more stable and widespread use of the Pakistani Rupee internationally." This was stated Sun Hui, Head of Wholesale Banking & Treasury Dept, Bank of China (BoC) Pakistan Operations told China Economic Net (CEN) in an interview. Against the background of pay-

ments crisis in Pakistan, the Pakistani government, enterprises and financial institutions have repeatedly called for expanding scale of direct settlement between RMB and PKR in the economic and trade cooperation between China and Pakistan. Sun Hui told CEN that BoC Pakistan Operations has proposed two policy suggestions to the Pakistani government, that is, RMB facilitation Policy and direct exchange between RMB and PKR, which are being investigated by the Pakistani government and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). Pakistan is one of the leading countries to use RMB for international trade settlement. SBP has put in place a regulatory

framework and loan mechanism to ensure RMB to be freely used in the imports and exports and financing transactions, including the opening of L/Cs. As financial market risk is increasing, RMB is becoming a more competitive hedging instrument. Wind Data shows that China's cross-border RMB settlement is growing rapidly, with cross-border trade settlement business rising 33.84% year-on-year to RMB 806 billion in May. There are approximately 240 countries and regions engaging with RMB cross-border settlements and about 2,300 financial institutions using RMB for international settlements. More than 60 central banks

and monetary authorities across the world have maintained RMB as part of their foreign exchange reserves. The use of RMB for cross-border settlement effectively avoids the risk of exchange rate fluctuations and increases the predictability of financial costs. East and Southeast Asian countries account for about 40% of Pakistan's total imports and exports. In these regions, RMB is highly acceptable and widely used. Sun Hui said, "When dealing with cross-border transactions with Asian countries in the region, denomination and settlement in RMB provide Pakistani enterprises with more options in various market environments."



KABUL: Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan, Mansoor Ahmad Khan made a farewell call on Amir Khan Muttaqi, Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. - DNA

## French people uneasy about rising costs

PARIS: French people are concerned about the declining living standards due to the soaring cost of living, especially energy. While food, energy and fuel prices in France - which are already affected by the COVID-19 crisis - increased rapidly after the Ukraine-Russia war, it is expected that the heat wave and drought in the summer months will push the prices even higher. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Saisabil Dafraine, an engineering student living in Versailles, said:

"As a student, I think my living standard has fallen because our income is the same. Especially as students. I can't even imagine minimum wage earners." Dafraine pointed out that the price of each product increased by at least 1 or 2 in grocery shopping. The number of products in a shopping cart varied between 20 and 50, which shows on the bill as an extra 50. Dafraine further stated that while she was charged 50-60 for a tank of petrol a few years ago, now this has reached 90-100. Another French Alhassan Binat, a resident of Goussainville, a suburb of the capital Paris, also stated that he does not pay electricity bills below 40 per month and that the prices are increasing daily. "Life in France is really expensive today," Linda, a Saint-Denis resident, stated there had been a serious increase in energy and food prices in recent months, adding, "There is an increase in everything. I am a little lucky because my children are adults. They are financially independent; they work. I feel sorry for those who have children. - DNA

## UK to 'never recognize' illegal annexation of Crimea

DNA

LONDON: Britain on Tuesday said it will "never recognize" Russia's annexation of Crimea or any other Ukrainian territory "in the face of (Russian President) Putin's assault." Speaking at the Crimea Platform summit via video link, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the military, humanitarian, economic and diplomatic support to Ukraine must continue to Ukraine "until Russia ends this hideous war and withdraws its forces from the entirety of Ukraine." The outgoing prime minister said the "land grab in 2014 was the direct precursor of today's war," referring to the annexation to Crimea. "And we should have the humility to acknowledge that not everybody realized the sheer enormity of what was happening at the time," he added. "All of our countries forever reconnected with strength and unity, after Putin escalated his onslaught against Ukraine on the 24th of February this year." Johnson added that with the illegal annexation of Crimea, Putin had breached Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and the Russia-Ukraine Treaty of Friendship. "And ever since the annexation, the peo-



ple of Crimea have endured a brutal and systematic campaign of human rights abuses," he said. The abuses included "the persecution of the Tartars, arbitrary arrests with a tenfold increase in detentions last year and the restriction of land ownership to Russian citizens." Johnson said: "Putin deployed more and more Russian forces in the peninsula, turning the territory into an armed camp from which to threaten the rest of Ukraine, and so Crimea, duly became the launch pad for the invasion of the 24th of February." He underlined that the Russian president is planning to do the same thing to the rest of Ukraine and "more sham referendums." "So, it has never been more important for us all to stand together in defense of the foundational principle of international law, which is that no territory, no country can acquire territory, or change borders, by force of arms." In 2014, Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, a move widely viewed as illegal by the international community, including Turkiye and UN General Assembly.

## Return of Crimea a requirement of int'l law



of which it is an inseparable part, is essentially a requirement of international law," Erdogan said in a video message to the Second Crimea Platform Summit. The Crimea Platform is an international coordination mechanism of Ukraine to draw more global attention to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014. Erdogan said Ankara will continue to support the Crimea Platform that was established to resolve the Crimean issue

through peaceful means. "Turkiye does not recognize the annexation of Crimea and has been openly stating since the first day that this step is illegitimate and illegal. This is a principled stance that has not only legal but also moral foundations," he said. The president added that protecting Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and political unity is "critical" not only for regional but also for global security and stability. "Ensuring the safety and well-being of our Crimean Tatar compatriots is also among Turkiye's priorities," he said. Erdogan also reiterated his expectation for the release of Nariman Dzheylal, the deputy chairman of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis, and at least 45 other Crimean Tatars who were detained by Russia in 2021. "The Crimean Tatars, who have suffered great pains throughout history, are fighting for a peaceful life in their homeland. - DNA

## British Airways to cut thousands of flights

DNA

LONDON: British Airways announced plans Monday to cancel thousands of flights at Heathrow Airport after continued staffing shortages and logistical problems. The airline will axe up to 10,000 flights to and from the UK's largest and busiest airport until the end of March next year as it grapples with staff shortages that hit the aviation industry following the coronavirus pandemic. "While the vast majority of our customers will travel as planned and we're protecting key holiday destinations over half-term, we will need to make some further cancellations up to the end of October," said a statement from British Airways. "In addition, we're giving customers travelling with us this winter notice of some adjustments to our schedule, which will include consolidating some of our short-haul flights to destinations with multiple services," the statement added. More than 600 return flights from the summer schedule will be cancelled up until Oct. 29, while the winter schedule, which will run until the end of March next year, will be cut by 8%. The announcement of the cancellations was made after Heathrow Airport extended the daily cap of 100,000 passenger numbers by a further six weeks and requested the airline to sell less tickets to customers in order to clear passenger backlog at the terminal.

## Sadr's supporters launch sit-in outside top judicial body

DNA

BAGHDAD: Several hundred supporters of Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr launched a sit-in outside Iraq's top judicial body on Tuesday, ratcheting up tensions in a showdown with a rival Shiite alliance. Caretaker Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi cut short a visit to Egypt, where he had been due to take part in a five-nation summit, to return home to monitor developments. Kadhemi "called on all political parties to calm down and to take advantage of the opportunity for national dialogue to get the country out of its current crisis", a statement from his office said. The standoff between rival Shiite factions has triggered an intensifying war of words, but so far no violence. The Sadrists, who have already been camped outside parliament for the past three weeks, pitched tents outside the gates of the judicial body's Baghdad headquarters, AFP correspondents reported. They carried placards demanding the dissolution of parliament and new elections, 10 months after an inconclusive poll failed to deliver a majority government.

## Migrants crossing in English Channel hit new record

DNA

LONDON: The number of people crossing the Channel to the UK from northern France in small boats has hit a new high, the government in London said on Tuesday. Some 1,295 people were detected on Monday, beating the previous single-day record of 1,185 on November 11, 2021, the Ministry of Defence said. So far this year there have been some 22,670 crossings. At the same point in 2021, nearly 12,500 were intercepted making the journey. Last year, the UK authorities brought ashore a total of 28,526 people as they tried to cross the busy shipping lane. The issue has caused a major political headache for the UK government, which promised tighter border controls after leaving the European Union. Tensions have risen between London and Paris, with the UK gong accusing France of not doing enough to stop the crossings. To try to address the issue, immigration laws have been tightened to target people-smuggling gangs behind the crossings. Rights groups have said legislation also runs the risk of criminalising migrants seeking asylum from violence and persecution in their homelands.

**Briefs**

**Germany records almost a million refugees**

DNA

BERLIN: Germany has registered almost a million refugees from Ukraine since Russia invaded its neighbour in February, the interior ministry said on Tuesday. A total of 967,546 people fleeing the war have entered Germany at least temporarily, 36 percent of them children, the ministry said in a statement. Around 97 percent are Ukrainian nationals. Among the adults, three in four are women and around eight percent are over the age of 64. "Many in our society have gone above and beyond to help refugees," said Interior Minister Nancy Faeser, calling the influx "the largest movement of refugees (in Europe) since World War II". There were almost 155,000 Ukrainian pupils enrolled at German schools by the end of last week, according to the conference of state education ministers in Berlin. The UN refugee agency UNHCR says more than 6.6 million Ukrainians have been registered as refugees across Europe since the Russian invasion. Countries including the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania and Slovakia have opened their borders, homes and wallets to help those fleeing the war.

**Govt raises duty to 100% on vehicles import**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet has approved the imposition of regulatory duty up to 100 percent on the import of motor vehicles into the country. According to a notification issued by the Federal Board of Revenue, SRO 1571(I)/2022, regulatory duty has been increased from 90 percent to 100 percent on the import of motor vehicles. The regulatory duty at the rate of 100 percent has been imposed on imported vehicles included: minivans (CBU), 4X4 vehicles CBU; vehicles of a cylinder capacity exceeding 1000CC but not exceeding 1300CC; sports utility vehicles. The duty on minivans has been increased from 15% to 100% while tax on sports vehicles and car-jeep has been increased from 70% to 100%. Besides the vehicles, the government has raised regulatory duties ranging from 5 to 100 percent on nearly 800 items. Regulatory duty on dry fruits, walnuts, and cherries has been increased from 20% to 49% while duty on imported apples is increased from 45 to 49 percent. The duty on pasta and jams is reduced from 20 to 50 percent. The regulatory duty on imported cigars has been increased from 20 to 50 percent.

**Polish President in Kyiv to discuss support**

DNA

KYIV: Polish President Andrzej Duda arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday for a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky to reaffirm Poland's support in the war against Russia and urge fresh sanctions on Moscow. Ukraine's border guard agency shared footage of Duda arriving by train in Kyiv on Tuesday morning with the caption: "We welcome our friend to the capital". After meeting with Zelensky, Duda is scheduled to attend the Crimea Platform, a forum for nations backing Ukraine, which existed before Russia launched its invasion on 24 February. "The presidents will discuss what other assistance Poland can provide, but also how Poland can politically help to persuade other countries to help," the head of the Polish president's office Pawel Szrot said at a press conference in Warsaw on Tuesday.

**Najib sent to jail after top court upholds sentence**

The final ruling on the jail sentence also came four years after his long-ruling party's shock election defeat in 2018, during which allegations he and his friends embezzled billions of dollars from state fund 1MDB were key campaign issues

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia's highest court Tuesday upheld former prime minister Najib Razak's 12-year jail sentence for corruption in the 1MDB financial scandal, a decision analysts said could slam the door to a political comeback. Najib's daughter-in-law Nur Sharmila Shaheen said the family was told he was sent to Kajang Prison, located south of the capital Kuala Lumpur. "My father-in-law asked us to take care of the family. He remained strong and calm," she said. Federal Court chief justice Maimun Tuan Mat, speaking on behalf of a five-judge panel, said the tribunal found Najib's "complaints as contained in the petition of appeal devoid of any merit". "On the totality of the evidence, we find the conviction of the appellant on all seven charges safe. We also find that the sentence imposed is not manifestly excessive," she added. The appeals are "unanimously dismissed and the conviction and sentence are affirmed", Maimun said. The 69-year-old former prime minister looked somber and dejected, seated by his wife Rosmah and two children as the verdict was read. Journalists who were in an adjacent room watching the proceedings through video link saw Najib surrounded by family members, friends and party mates before the connection was cut off. Outside the court, teary-eyed family members and supporters hugged each other.



Earlier in the day when Najib arrived in court, around 300 supporters mobbed his car chanting "bossku" - "my boss" in Malay - a rallying cry among his defenders. Just before the verdict was read, Najib, who had said he received an unfair trial, made an impassioned plea asking for a two-month adjournment so he can adequately prepare for a defence. During a break in the proceedings, he spoke to supporters, telling them "if I am guilty, please forgive me". Najib is the UK-educated son of one of Malaysia's founding fathers who had been

groomed for the prime minister's post from a young age. The final ruling on the jail sentence also came four years after his long-ruling party's shock election defeat in 2018, during which allegations he and his friends embezzled billions of dollars from state fund 1MDB were key campaign issues. A lower court in July 2020 found Najib guilty of abuse of power, money laundering and criminal breach of trust over the transfer of 42 million ringgit (\$10 million) from SRC International, a former unit of state fund 1MDB, to his personal bank account.

An appellate court in December denied his appeal, prompting him to go to the Federal Court for a final recourse. Some analysts said the decision will likely derail any plans by Najib for a political comeback. "Under Malaysian law, Najib cannot stand for this election and the next election (if found guilty)," James Chin, a professor of Asian studies at the University of Tasmania, told AFP before the verdict was announced. "Obviously, his political career is gone." There has been speculation that polls may be held this year, though elections are not due until September 2023. But Oh Ei Sun, principal adviser for think-tank Pacific Research Center of Malaysia, said one way out for Najib is to get the king's pardon. "He could still apply for clemency (from the king)," he told AFP. "And if pardoned, as many expect, he could easily mount a comeback as his feudalistically minded supporters are numerous in number." Oh said, however, that the current Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob - who belongs to the same United Malays National Organisation party - must recommend a pardon. Najib and his ruling party were voted out in 2018 following allegations of their involvement in a multibillion-dollar financial scandal at 1MDB. He and his associates were accused of stealing billions of dollars from the country's investment vehicle and spending it on everything from high-end real estate to pricey art. - APP

**India fires 3 officers over missile incident**

DNA

NEW DELHI: The Indian Air Force said on Tuesday the government had sacked three officers for "accidentally" firing a missile into Pakistan in March, an incident that the two nuclear-armed rivals handled calmly as there were no casualties. The BrahMos missile - a nuclear-capable, land-attack cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India - was fired on March 9, prompting Pakistan to seek answers from New Delhi on the safety mechanisms in place to prevent accidental launches. "A Court of Inquiry, set up to establish the facts of the case, including fixing responsibility for the incident, found that deviation from the Standard Operating Procedures by three officers led to the accidental firing of the missile," the air force said in a statement. It said the government had dismissed the three officers with immediate effect on Tuesday. According to the US-based Arms Control Association, the BrahMos missile's range is between 300 km (186 miles) and 500 km (310 miles), making it capable of hitting Pakistan's capital Islamabad from a northern Indian launch pad. Pakistan had summoned Indian Charge d'Affaires (Cd'A) to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs days after the incident to record the nation's protest over the incident.

**Ambassador of Nepal meets former FM Khursid Kasuri**



DNA

LAHORE: Ambassador of Nepal to Pakistan Tapas Adhikari met with Former Foreign Minister and Senior Politician of Pakistan Mian Khursid Mahmood Kasuri in Lahore. During the meeting we discussed Nepal-Pakistan

bilateral relations, SAARC and South Asia region. The ambassador thanked him for his contribution to strengthen Nepal-Pakistan relations during his tenure as Foreign Minister of Pakistan. Former Minister Kasuri is from well known political family of Pakistan and is also well versed on political history of South Asia. His family is also deeply engaged in education development of Pakistan.

**PTI leaders hit out at govt over economic crises**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former finance minister and PTI leader Shaukat Tarin has lashed out at government for bringing five mini-budgets and unleashing a storm of inflation in the country while stating that the economy is not out of woods as the country is still facing a threat of default. Tarin was addressing a presser along with former energy minister Hammad Azhar in Lahore on Tuesday. Hitting out at the government over its economic claims, the PTI leader said that all economic indicators were suggesting that country's economy was in a shambles. Spelling out the stats of economic pointers, Tarin rejected the government's claim that the previous PTI regime was responsible for the downfall of the economy. He said the PTI government provided a subsidy of Rs557 billion during its tenure while the current government was pro-

viding a subsidy of Rs954 billion. The former finance minister took the government to task on the budget deficit saying the total deficit financing done in the PTI's full term was Rs2.6 trillion but the present government took it to Rs2.7 trillion in just three months. He was of the view that the PTI did not lay landmines rather it's the coalition government which was lying the landmines. He further claimed that in the last fiscal year, the PTI primary deficit was Rs447 billion in nine months but the same rose to Rs1.6 trillion in just three months of the PMLN-led government. He said why the IMF was not questioning the present government over it as it used to grill the previous government over it. Who is stopping the IMF to press the present government on this matter, he wondered saying maybe it's Washington. He further refuted the coalition government's claim that the PTI increased the borrowing. "Borrowing has become double during the present government's tenure," he added. He said that during four-year PTI term, the total debt was Rs18.4 trillion which ballooned to Rs9.7 trillion in just three months of the coalition government. Tarin censured the government for bringing five mini-budgets while claiming that another was also on the cards. He mocked at government's claim that inflation would be around 11.5% saying that the State Bank of Pakistan on the contrary stated that inflation would be more than 20%.

**US warns of Russian strikes on Ukraine govt targets**

KYIV: Washington warned on Tuesday that Russia could attack Ukrainian government facilities in the coming days as Moscow said it would show "no mercy" over an assassination it has blamed on Ukraine. World leaders also reassessed their support for the country on the eve of its independence day celebrations and the six-month anniversary of the beginning of Russia's invasion on February 24. Leaders including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz warned Russia against further attempts to annex Ukrainian territory in the same way it did with Crimea. "It has never been more important for us all to stand together," Johnson said in a video address to the Crimea Platform conference in Kyiv. Polish President Andrzej Duda attended in person, warning against any "appeasement" of Russia.

"There is no return to business as usual in relations with Russia," he said. In his address, French President Emmanuel Macron vowed that the EU's support for Ukraine would continue "for the long term". "There can be no weakness, no spirit of compromise, because it's a matter of our freedom, for everyone, and of peace everywhere around the world," he said. Ukraine's Western allies have supplied Kyiv with billions of dollars of military equipment and imposed ever more stringent sanctions on Russia. Moscow has accused Western powers of escalating the war with its support for Ukraine. As tensions grew in the capital, the US embassy in Kyiv issued a security alert and reiterated its appeal for US nationals to leave Ukraine. "The Department of State has information that Russia is stepping up efforts to launch strikes against Ukraine's ci-

vilian infrastructure and government facilities in the coming days," it said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and other officials also warned that Russia could step up attacks around the Independence Day holiday. The celebrations will be muted this year and large gatherings have been banned in the capital Kyiv. There is also mounting concern after Russia accused Ukrainian intelligence of being behind the assassination of the daughter of a prominent ultranationalist intellectual in Moscow on Saturday. "The investigation will hopefully be completed soon," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a press conference in Moscow. "According to the results of this investigation, there can be no mercy for those who organised, ordered and carried out (the car bombing)," he said. Ukraine has denied any involvement. - APP

**UN concerned Russia preparing 'unlawful' PoW trials**

GENEVA: The United Nations voiced alarm Tuesday at reports that Russia is preparing to prosecute Ukrainian prisoners of war under conditions that could amount to war crimes. The UN human rights office said it was concerned by images and footage appearing to show metal cages being built in the philharmonic hall in the shattered Ukrainian city of Mariupol, apparently to hold POWs during proceedings. "Under international law, individuals entitled to prisoner of war status have combatant immunity and cannot be prosecuted for having participated in hostilities, or for lawful acts of war committed in the course of the armed conflict, even if such acts would otherwise constitute an offence under domestic law," spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told reporters in Geneva. "If prisoners of war are charged with crimes, they are entitled to due process and fair trial guarantees. No sentence or punishment may be passed on them unless it is delivered by an impartial and regularly constituted court," she said. International humanitarian law prohibits the establishment of courts solely to judge POWs, and willfully depriving a POW of the right to a fair and regular trial "amounts to a war crime", she added. "It would be the Russian Federation that would be responsible if this goes ahead," she said. The UN rights office is concerned that POWs have generally been held without access to independent monitors, exposing them to the risk of being tortured to extract a confession, Shamdasani added. "We have had reports that have led to our concern that torture may be used in these circumstances," she said. "There have also been worrying public statements by Russian officials and members of affiliated armed groups labelling Ukrainian prisoners of war as 'war criminals', 'Nazis', and 'terrorists', thereby undermining the presumption of innocence," she added. - APP

**Funding case: Show-cause hearing adjourned**

ISLAMABAD: Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday adjourned the hearing pertaining to the show cause notice against former Prime Minister Imran Khan in prohibited funding case, until September 6 on the request of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI's) counsel. A four member bench headed by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the case. PTI's Assistant counsel Naveed Anjum pleaded the case in the Election Commission and sought two week time for submitting a detailed response. He said, he required some time as a lot of documents have to be collected for onward annexation with the reply before the ECP. - APP

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