

# Samanac

Friday, August 26, 2022

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King Salman orders \$1 billion investment in Pakistan

**Detailed News On Page-01** 

Pakistan-Iran can enhance trade ties

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** 

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'Come out of your office', Abid tells Miftah

**Detailed News On Page-02** 



## **Briefs**

## **Putin orders** increase in **Army troops**

**AGENCIES** 



size of his country's armed forces by 137,000, as the Kremlin's war in Ukraine passed the six-month mark. Putin's decree will increase the number of combat personnel in the Russian armed forces by about 10%, to 1.15 million. That will take the total head count of the military to 2.04 million.

A copy of the order on a Russian government website says it comes into effect Jan. 1, 2023. It was published online and reported on by Russian state media, but no reason for the boost in troop numbers was immediately given.

### Elahi vows to make Punjab 'ideal province'

ABID RAZA



Chaudhry ni on Inurs day said that he will make Punjab

province according to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan's vision.

Taking to Twitter, the Punjab CM penned that "Imran Khan is the most popular leader in Pakistan. He will continue to support him and we believe in tolerance and respect in politics.

#### Miftah lauds ADB's help in development

**DNA** 



Director Yong called on Minister for Finance Miftah Ismail in Is-

lamabad on Thursday. The delegation briefed Finance Minister about various aspects of a special program titled 'Building Resilience with Countercyclical Expenditures' and other initiatives undertaken to mitigate the sufferings of the people affected by

## FM Bilawal lauds initiative

## King Salman orders \$1 bn investment in Pakistan

Saudi Arabian press report says its confirmation of the Kingdom's support for Pakistan and its people

#### News Desk / DNA

RIYADH: King Salman has issued a directive to invest \$1 billion dollars into Pakistan, in confirmation of the Kingdom's support for the country and its people, Saudi Press Agency reported on Thursday. The directive came during a telephone call between Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his Pakistani counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Regional and international issues of common interest were also discussed during the call. Bhutto Zardari said on Twitter that he welcomed the investment in Pakistan and briefed his counterpart "on damages caused by unprecedented floods" in his country.

He added that he highly valued the solidarity expressed by Saudi Arabia and "all possible assistance" provided by the Kingdom. It should be remembered that on Wednesday, Qatar had announced an investment of \$3 billion in Pakistan. Earlier this month, citing sources it was reported that Saudi Arabia has decided to extend the period of its \$3 billion safe deposit in assistance to Pakistan. According to sources in the finance ministry, the Kingdom

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## PM hails Pak-Qatar economic cooperation

**DNA** 

DOHA: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Thursday that Pakistan and Qatar have a clear vision of the future, with new opportunities and greater awareness to upgrade bilateral relations, particularly on the economic front. "Heading back to Pakistan today after the conclusion of my important trip to Qatar. Thank you to the government & people of Qatar, especially my brother HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality," the PM said in a tweet. Speaking of the two "noteworthy" aspects of his visit in another tweet, the premier stated that "Pakistan and Qatar have a clear vision of the future which offered new opportunities and avenues in a swiftly changing world". He added that "there

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## **DOHA:** Transport Minister of Qatar Jasim Saif Al Sulaiti sees off Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at Doha Airport. - DNA **Kyiv: 25** dead after strike on **station**

More than 50 were injured in the blasts

Foreign Desk

KYIV: The death toll has risen after an Independence Day attack on a train station in east Ukraine. Elsewhere, \$1 billion of goods are still being shipped from Russia to the US each month despite sanctions. Follow DW for more. As Ukraine marked its 31st Independence Day from the former Soviet Union under heavy Russian shelling, a missile attack on a rail station killed 25 people, setting a passenger train on fire.

Missiles also struck north of Kyiv, the capital. Ukraine's Independence Day also coincided with the six-month anniversary of Russia's fullscale invasion. In video remarks to the UN Security Council, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said rockets hit a train in the small town of Chaplyne, roughly 145 kilometers (90 miles) west of Russian-occupied Donetsk in the central

Dnipropetrovsk region. His aide Kyrylo Tymoshenko later said Chaplyne had been shelled twice by Russian forces. In the first missile strike, a boy was struck dead in his home and 21 people were later killed as rockets hit the train station where five train cars caught fire. Five of the dead were recovered from one of the railway cars, while search and rescue operations were still taking place, Zelenskyy said in his nightly address. Authorities raised the casualty count by morning as more of the dead were recovered from the blasts' locations.

Int'I organizations announce \$500m for flood affectees

## ATC grants bail to Khan till September 1

Khan also gets interim bail in another case related to Section 144

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court on Thursday approved the bail plea of former prime minister Imran Khan till September 1 in a terrorism case. The Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chairman was nominated in a terrorism case by the incumbent government for hurling threats at a lower court's female judge, Islamabad police chief and his deputies during a jalsa. Meanwhile, a district and sessions court in Islamabad also granted interim bail to PTI Chairman Imran Khan in another case related to the alleged violation of Section 144 in the federal capital.

The Islamabad Police had filed the case against the former prime minister and other PTI leaders for holding a rally in the federal capital on August 20 despite a ban. It is pertinent to note that Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah had made it clear that Imran

Continued on Page 06

Terrorism case registered against Rana Sanaullah

DNA

GUJRAT: The police on Thursday registered a case against Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on the charges of terrorism and interference in government matters. The case was filed by a citizen in the Industrial Area Police Station of Gujrat. According to the first information report (FIR), the interior minister threatened the government officials to kill their children and said that Pakistan's court and its judiciary will not help them. The FIR

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## COAS instructs army to help flood-affectees

## Corps Commanders discuss ongoing relief operations

KHAYAM ABBASI RAWALPINDI: The 250th Corps Commanders' Conference was held on Thursday during which Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa briefed the forum on external and internal curity sit-

particular focus on the flood situation in the country, a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The conference was held at the General Head Quarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi and was presided over by Gen Bajwa. During the conference, ongoing relief operations being undertaken by army formations were discussed. The participants undertook a comprehensive overview of the flood situation and ongoing relief and rescue operations by

the army. Expressing Continued on Page 06

## Taliban say they've not found body of Zawahiri

**News Desk** 

KABUL: The Taliban have not found the body of Ayman al-Zawahiri and are continuing investigations, group spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Thursday, after the United States said they killed the Al Qaeda leader in an airstrike in Kabul last month. The United States killed Zawahiri with a missile fired from a drone while he stood on a balcony at his hideout in July, US officials said, in the biggest blow to Al Qae-

bin Laden more than a decade ago. His death in Kabul raised questions about whether he received sanctuary from the Taliban, who had assured the United States as part of a 2020 agreement on the withdrawal of US-led forces that they would not harbour other militant groups. Zawahiri, an Egyptian doctor, was closely involved in the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US and was one of the world's most wanted men.

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floods in Pakistan.

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PM Shehbaz lifts ban on departmental sports - Page 06

Türkiye to continue with anti-terror

operations Page 07

Taliban implementing own doctrine of Islam - Page 08

## SAIF ULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The international organizations and financial institutions on Thursday announced immediate assistance of more than 500 million dollars for the flood victims on the appeal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

uations

The PM chaired an important meeting with the international donors here for providing relief to the flood victims. The representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, international financial institutions, development partners, and donors attended the meeting. The officials of China, the United States and the European Union, agencies of the United Nations and the World Health Organization also took part in the meeting. The Prime Minister briefed the international partners about the devastation caused by floods in the country, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. He said the country faced an emergency situation because of the historic rains and floods and a large number of peo-

## Marriyum Aurangzeb for showing national spirit being mobilized, she said. The min-

ISLAMABAD: Terming the ongoing flood situation as a national emergency, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Thursday said that at this critical juncture, there was need of showing national spirit to deal with the situation of extraordinary disaster in Sindh and Balochistan. The entire nation, especially overseas Pakistanis, should donate generously to help the flood victims as huge amount of money will be required for rehabilitation of the victims due to the large-scale disaster, she said with the provinces, was making

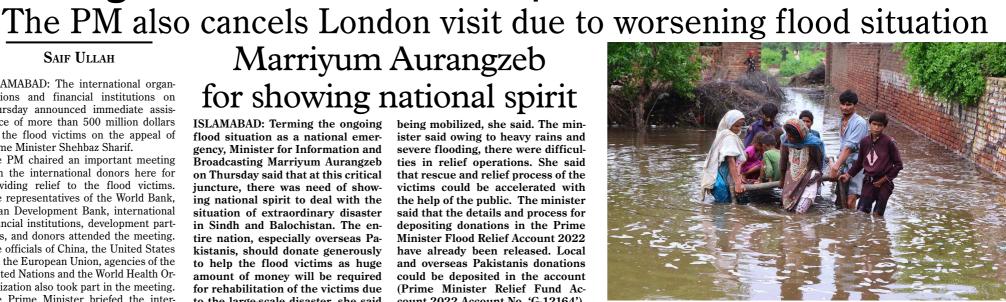
The federal government, along vigorous efforts, all resources were ple including women and children lost

their lives. He told that houses, infra-

severe flooding, there were difficulties in relief operations. She said that rescue and relief process of the victims could be accelerated with the help of the public. The minister said that the details and process for depositing donations in the Prime **Minister Flood Relief Account 2022** have already been released. Local and overseas Pakistanis donations could be deposited in the account (Prime Minister Relief Fund Account 2022 Account No. 'G-12164'). "Compatriots in trouble were waiting for our help, let us all be a support for them".

ister said owing to heavy rains and

structure, crops and orchards were destroved, roads and bridges were washed



away and land routes were cut off which made it difficult to carry out rescue and relief activities. The relief activities were expanded with the help of the Pakistan army and helicopters, he informed. The devastation caused by floods was more

grave than what happened in 2010, he said adding the affectees needed food, medicines, tents, and temporary shelters. He said the federal government

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#### Friday, August 26, 2022

# Collective approach prerequisite against drug addiction

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Lying unconscious near railway track or staggering in dimly-lit alleyways of interior city, drug addicts are considered a constant threat to passerby while their plight and shaggy appearance that is sometimes frightening also reflects apathy of civil society. Uninterested for their future and families, dozens of drugs addicts can be seen laying mostly unconscious near railway track at Faqirabad, under Gul Bahar flyover on GT, bridge at Central Jail Peshawar, Tehkal and Karkhano market after they were apparently abandoned by the society due to social economic imbalances and domestic issues.

Alarmed by the increasing number of drug addicts, the provincial government and various organizations have waged a war against drug addiction to rehabilitate its victims and sensitize people about the perils of social evil. But it is welcoming and promising that provincial authorities and welfare organizations are not oblivious to the situation and relentlessly endeavoring for betterment of addicts and to provide them room to adjust and become a respectable part of the society. "Waging war against drugs is not meant to merely rehabilitate addicts but it should be taken with a broad perspective to provide them hope and ample chances to earn respectable livelihood and become useful part of society", said Syed Ali Naqi, Deputy Manager Dost Welfare Foundation while talking to APP. "A multi-pronged strategy is required to wipe out drug addiction from society and eliminate probabilities that victims may return to addiction after rehabilitation." The rehabilitation of drug addicts mainly comprises four phases including detoxification, primary rehabilitation, skills development and a follow-up counseling program, he said, adding his organization was also working on a family orientation program to provide guidance about causes, rehabilitation and post treatment care of drug addicts.

He said the foundation has a capacity to treat 300-400 drug addicts with separate space for women and children. After witnessing increased drug addiction, he said, the addicts' treatment centers were set up at Shahi Bala, University Town, Tehkal and at Main Building Hayatabad. "Severing drugs supply chain and eliminating free availability of contraband in society is necessary for wining war against drugs addiction and our efforts would be wasted if these factors are not addressed on priority basis," he opined. He underlined the need of developing liaison among the government authorities, law enforcement agencies and stakeholders to win war against drug addiction.

"First, I started smoking cigarettes and later hashish in deep depression after my family abandoned me following my unsuccessful marriage and unemployment," said Sajid Khan, a drug addict and resident of Pabbi while talking to APP. Sajid now living with his married sister was though struggling to bring himself back to normal life but he has lost self-respect and prestige due to indulgence in social evil of drugs addiction. He said that mostly drug addicts

are mocked by youth and sometime by children mainly due to their appearances and begging becomes their habit for purchase of narcotics. "Relapsing' is a major problem that emanates from the indifference and discouraging attitude of society towards rehabilitated addicts, who often faced contempt of people living around them," said Professor Dr. Khalid Mufti, renowned psychiatrist who is running Ibadat hospital for treatment of drug addicts in Nishtarabad Peshawar while talking to the news agency.

"Our efforts to win war against drug addiction would be useless unless psychological assistance was provided to its victims and awareness in society about rights of addicts was created." He said accepting rehabilitated people as a part of society are factors that could provide drug addicts a hope to live and survive with dignity. "Rehabilitation of drug addicts would be an insurmountable task if they were not provided chances, hope, support and respect to overcome their haunting past."

Dr. Khalid Mufti suggested community mobilization and changing the mind-set of people to support drug addicts, saying it would give them confidence of having social support and courage to survive. Riaz Khan Mehsud, Commissioner Peshawar said that 'drug free Peshawar campaign' has been launched to clear the city of drugs and make addicts useful members of the 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.



ISLAMABAD: Khurshid Barlas Chairman Pakistan Association of Pakistan Exhibition Industry hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing DHM of France Yves Manville. Ambassador of Jordan, Deputy Head of Mission Dutch embassy, Egyptian Defence Attache and others attended the dinner. – DNA

# Govt to utilize all resources for flood victims: Muqam

SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs and National Heritage, Engr Amir Muqam here Thursday said the federal government would utilize all available resources for help and assistance of flood victims of the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said the report of damages done by the recent torrential rains and floods had been sought. Talking to media persons after visiting the flood affected areas and meeting with flood victims there, Amir Muqam said a comprehensive report about damages would be submitted to the Prime Minister today. The federal government would provide every possible support and as-

The federal government would provide every possible support and assistance to flood victims of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and would continue efforts till rehabilitation of the last

affected person. He said full support to flood victims of Swat would be provided. Muqam said the affected people of KP would not be left alone in this hour of need. very possible resource would be utilized for the protection of life and properties of people, he said adding, no politics on rehabilitation of flood victims would be allowed. Amir Muqam who is also the President of Pakistan Muslim League-N Khyber Pakthunkhwa said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had already announced a huge relief package worth Rs37.2 billion for the help and assistance of flood victims of the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He said over nine million people including flood victims of KP would benefit

from the Prime Minister's flood relief

package. Besides Rs. 5 lakh for reconstruction of each destroyed house, Rs one million was being provided to the heirs of each person who died in the floods and torrential rains.

Despite pressing official engagements, he said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had visited flood-hit DI Khan and Tank districts where he inspected relief operations. He reiterated his government's strong resolve and determination to continue efforts till rehabilitation of the last affectee. Rs five billion were immediately released to NDMA for the rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas. Scores of truck load relief goods were provided by NDMA to flood victims of KP including DI Khan and Tank districts. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Princess Sarah Zeid, Special Advisor on Mother and Child Nutrition World Food Program (WFP) called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House. – APP

## Veteran Persian Prof. Dr Akram Shah remembered

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at a condolence reference held here at the Cultural Consulate of the Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday euologised veteran Persian Professor Dr Syed Muhammad Akram Shah for his meritorious services in promoting unmatched literature in Persian language and Iqbal Studies. The reference was presided over by Cultural Councilor of the Embassy of Iran Ahsan Khazai where many students and associated of Late Professor Dr Akram Shah. In his opening remarks. Ahsan Khazai said the later Professor Dr Akram had a powerful that played the role of bridge between the two countries of Pakistan and Iran. He was the teacher of many Iranians and Pakistanis and if he had been in Iran then he would have had the status of a Professor of Tehran University which is the most prestigious varsity of Iran, he added.

of Iran, he added.

The condolence reference, he said was small token of thanks and a tribute to his great contribution towards the service of Persian language. He underlined that Prof. Akram was a great poet and he had elected his few verses to recite during the reference. Cultural Councilor Khazai noted that Prof Shah's poetry was in classic

Persian and also recited his selected verses before the participants. Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Akram Shah was the Chairman of Department of Iqbal Studies, University of the Punjab, Lahore and Professor Emeritus, Department of Persian, University of the Punjab, Lahore and also former Dean Faculty of Oriental Learning, University of the Punjab, Lahore and Chairman, Department of Persian, University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Head of Press, Embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Masoumeh Ghulami who was one of the students of Prof Dr Akram Shah said Akram Shah was a great mentor and an expert of Iqbal studies whose demise was a great loss for all. She mentioned that there were many condolences messages received from Iran after the news of his death spread across Tehran. Ghulami also read out loud the condolence messages the Foreign Office spokesperson of Iran and Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan. Students of late Dr Akram, Khanum Anjum Hameed, Dr Sikander Zaidi student of Dr Akram, Khanum Rizwana expressed their reverence and

sincere regards for their mentor

and were of the view that he was a

versatile personality with a very fit and active mind. He used to admire courage and loud passionate voice of his students and imparted skills to his students through his leadership qualities and expertise.

Former Vice Chancellor University of Karakorum, Dr Aziz Ali Najam also praised the former Head of Persian Department of the University of the Punjab. Dr Abdul Basit Mujahid, Khanum Dr Shakila Rafig, Masooma Batool also shared the grief of the deceased mentor and said that he was their great asset and they would always feel his absence. Syed Muhammad Ramzan Moussavi who was also student of Dr Akram and a mentor of Persian language said that Dr Akram was a very kind, courteous and great teacher and man of letters. He held great command over Iqbal Studies and used to teach the subject with

great passion and love. Former head of NUML Department of Persian, Dr Mohammad Safeer said that without Dr Akram's books on Iqbaliyat no one can understand Iqbal Studies. His personality was dynamic and was the biggest Iqbal Studies expert of this century who possessed a strong memory, he added.

#### Govt taking measures for flood affected neonle

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri has said that government was committed to take effective measures for rescue, relief and rehabilitation of rain and flood effected people. Shazia Marri, who is also Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), vowed that all the eligible families who were affected by the natural calamity would be provided financial assistance through BISP.

She said that recent heavy monsoon rains and flash flooding has caused severe devastation and losses of life across the country while widespread damages were caused in the most of the areas in Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. – APP

## Flood washes away historic Rail Bridge

QUETTA: Continuous downpour and hill torrents on Monday washed away Balochistan's historic Rail Bridge in Hairak area of Bolan district causing suspension of the train service between Balochistan and rest of the country. Historically famous Mach Bridge had been built during British rule in the sub-continent in 1884. Due to the demolition of the ancient bridge, it is feared that Balochistan would remain cut off with rest of the country for an indefinite time. - APP

## Sherani criticises Fazl for 'misusing religion' mailing under the guise of human rights'

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (JUI-P) chief Maulana Mohammed Khan Sherani has criticised Maulana Fazlur Rehman's use of a religious decree against former prime minister Imran Khan for political purposes. Taking to his official Twitter handle, Sherani stated that when he asked the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader to "prove" his fatwa that Imran was Jewish and involved in Israeli propaganda, Fazl said his remarks were a "political statement".

The cleric maintained that an individual who could issue a religious decree against a lover of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) could do "anything". He advised the Pakistani populace to "not trust" Fazl. Sherani's condemnation came after Fazl, in a series of tweets, claimed that the Imran Khan regime was supported and funded by Israel and India and the "evidence" was apparent before the nation. He warned that "Israel, the United Nations and institutions black-

that their scheme would not succeed, and that Imran would be barred from reentering Pakistani politics.

"We want to make it clear to international institutions, Israel and Zionist forces that their tricks will not be allowed to succeed. Every attempt to bring Imran Niazi back to politics will be thwarted," he maintained. Fazl asked the UN the basis on which it sympathised with Imran and alleged that "Israeli channels and the United Nations" were left agitated and protested when the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) clearly revealed Niazi's theft". The JUI-F chief was referring to the electoral watchdog's investigation of prohibited funding received by the PTI. He further questioned why foreign institutions did not pay heed to the "atrocities" committed by Imran's government. Citing examples of ignorance against crimes violating human rights in Guantanamo Bay and the prison of Abu Gharib and the case of Aafia Siddiqui, Fazl questioned why the UN and human rights

forums sympathised only with Imran Khan.

## Over 8.91m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Thursday that 4,774,669 citizens were injected first dose while 4.056.150 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 39,880 health workers were also given first dose while 45,667 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 20,745 first doses and 13,830 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centres and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated.

In order to facilitate the people these centres had been established in various areas of the city

Hospital (DHQs), Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, Sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Headquarters (THQs) Hospital Jaranwala. Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Sammundri, New Building THQ Tandlianwala, Social Security Hospital Madina Town, Wapda Hospital, Rural Health Centres (RHCs) Mureed Wala, Chak 174-JB, Chak 134-JB, Chak 229-RB, Chak 65-GB, RHC Lundianwala Jaranwala, RHC Khurrianwala Jaranwala, Pindi Sheikh Musa, Kanjwani, Mamukanjan, RHC Chak 400-GB, RHC Chak 153-RB, RHC Chak 374-GB and Chak 469-GB, he added.

## 'Come out of your office', Abid tells Miftah

## DNA

FAISALABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail has once again been pushed into a moment where friend and foe alike are gunning him for "tough decisions" that the coalition government took after coming into power in April. Tussles within the party intensified when PML-N leader Abid Sher Ali on Thursday said that today the coalition is fighting against the inflated-electricity bills and not with PTI Chairperson Imran Khan. Addressing a press conference flanked by Talal Chaudhry, Ali said: "We are disappointed by Miftah's statement. In Nawaz Sharif's era, people faced 18 hours of load shedding but the party supremo ended the misery despite pressure from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)."

"Miftah sahab come out of your office," he taunted, urging him not to implement the conditions of the IMF which were signed by the previous PTI government. "New agreement should be negotiated and signed with the IMF," he suggested. Urging him to provide relief to the people, he said that the government is fighting against the electricity bills. "It has become difficult for a leader to visit their constituencies. If relief isn't provided, we would also join the people protesting against the skyrocketing inflation," he warned the finance minister, adding that 200 units of electricity are consumed by people who have one motor.

## Pirzada affirms his support to Child Marriage Bill

man Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada said that child marriage in Pakistan was deeply rooted in poverty and in centuries-old patriarchal traditions with devastating effects on girls. Child brides in Pakistan are at an elevated risk of sexual and physical abuse, reproductive health complications and other adverse physiological and social outcomes, he said and added that it was very necessary to have the awareness in masses on the issue particularly in areas where the ratio of child marriage is high. Addressing the consultation conference on Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill, 2022 here Thursday, he said the people should be educated on the issue that attaining the marriageable age is the basic right for both contracting partners for their better physical and mental health and most importantly for bearing a healthy next generation. He committed for his unwavering support in the parliament for this bill.

This meeting was arranged by the National Commission on the Status of Women with the help of UNFPA on the advice of the minister. Different stakeholders and speakers were invited for their input and boarder discussion on the subject including Ministry of

Human Rights, Ministry of Law and Justice, Women Parliamentary Caucus, Legal Aid and Justice Authority, National Commission for the Rights of Child as well as representatives of Local Government. The minister congratulated and thanked Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women Nilofar Bakhtiar for successfully organizing this session by taking all important stakeholders on board. He observed that this was a very challenging issue and the bill needs afresh energy, support and debate for its passage and enactment in the country.

Speakers at the conference expressed that the bill was the need of the hour that aims to enforce the constitutional rights of our children. Article 25(2) of the Constitution ensures that the State may make special provision for the protection of children. Further, Pakistan has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Children (UNCRC) and is under obligation to enforce the provision of UNCRC. This Bill will also strengthen efforts to implement the UNCRC.

Parliamentary Secretary for Human Rights, Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar also recommended to insert some provisions to this bill regarding pre-marriage thalassemia test of intending spouses for the prevention of thalassemia in the country. She said that the test reports must be annexed with the Nikkah



Nama as there is a rise of 6000-8000 thalassemia patients annually in Pakistan where the number of blood donors is very less as compared to need of present patients. The proposed bill is to introduce some necessary amendments in the prevailing Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. Child Marriage is one of the pressing human rights and in particular women rights issue in Pakistan as the country is currently having the 6th highest number of child brides in the world (1.9 million). Different reports suggest that every year 21percent of girls in Pakistan under the age of 18 become child brides instead of getting quality education and health facilities. – APP

#### **National** Days and Armed Forces Days

## **AUGUST**

Aug 01/ CHINA Armed Forces Day

National Day

Aug 01/ LEBANON Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SYRIA

Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO National Day

Aug 09/ SINGAPORE National Day

Aug 15/ DPR KOREA Independence Day

Aug 15/ INDIA Independence Day

Aug 15/ POLAND Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/ INDONESIA Independence Day

Aug 24/ UKRAINE Independence Day

Aug 25/ URUGUAY Independence Day

Aug 30/ TURKEY Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/ KYRGYZ Independence Day

Aug 31/ MALAYSIA National Day

#### **Hotels &** Restaurants

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



## **Airlines**

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police....9266044 Motorway Police..9270601-20 Women Police Stations Islamabad......9222596 Rawalpindi......9270601-20



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CAA	9281092



## **Hospitals**

•	
CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	mal 4603666



## **Departments**

-	
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Box	ard 9270151-3

#### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

## **Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

## Pakistan going through climate-induced disaster

The Met Office statistics were startling, she said, adding the flash floods caused by massive rains had swept away bridges and communication infrastructure in various areas of the provinces

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday referring to the the havoc wreaked by ongoing unprecedented monsoon rains, said Pakistan was going through a climate-induced humanitarian disaster at the moment. The media should play an effective role in highlighting the plight of flood victims, rescue and relief efforts, and damages to life and property so that the stakeholders could manage a well-coordinated response with the public support, she told a press conference. Sherry said the country had so far received

average 166 millimeters rainfall during the month of August, which was 241% above normal, whereas its southern parts particularly Sindh, got 784% more than normal average rain of the season which was alarming. The Met Office statistics were startling, she said, adding the flash floods caused by massive rains had swept away bridges and communication infrastructure in various areas of the provinces.

The current deluge in the Indus River was even more than the super flood of 2010, Sherry remarked. The minister said a national emergency had been declared in the country as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal had



postponed their official visits abroad. "We are in the eighth spell of monsoon rains with southern Pakistan receiving heavy rains, including 23 districts of Sindh declared as calamity-hit."

She said as half of the country in the south was inundated, the armed forces and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

along with provincial governments were actively engaged in rescue and relief activities. "Almost 30 million people are without shelter, thousands of them displaced and have no food. As needs assessment is underway and will be completed soon, which will help in approaching donor agencies for relief and rescue as the crisis has surpassed

She reiterated that it was not possible for a government or a province to solely handle such massive flooding and heavy rains. "The Prime Minister's Relief Fund account is active to accept donations for disaster-hit masses whereas tents have been ordered by the NDMA and PDMAs (Provincial Disaster Management Authorities). The prime minister has also opened a war room at the NDMA to spearhead and monitor rescue and relief efforts." The minister underlined that there was forecast of extended monsoon activity in September, which was again alarming one. She said the Sukkur and Taunsa barrages had high water flow and all available machinery and other resources were being utilized in the affected region. At present all the departments were focused on flood-hit areas to cope with any evolving situation. Sherry said some 913 people had perished in rain-related incidents, with more number of deaths of the children in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, the number of the injured was also reported high, she added. She said it was now time for donors and the world to support Pakistan, which had always volunteered to assist nations, including its neighbours during natural disasters. - APP

## NA body asks to ensure vehicles on control prices

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly, Standing Committee on Industries and Production on Thursday asked for taking measures to ensure the timely availability of vehicles on controlled prices. The committee directed that ministry may take stringent measures to stop the monopoly of Manufacturing Companies and middlemen to eliminate the extra payment of "Own" in order to ensure the timely availability of vehicles on controlled prices. The committee met under the chairmanship of Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, MNA to discuss the various issues pertaining to ministry and its attached departments, said a press release issued here. The committee also expressed concern over the price hike of vehicles in Pakistan despite the fact that dollar rate had been decreased incredibly during the recent past. The committee warmly welcomed the newly elected chairman, Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, and assured to extend full cooperation for smooth functioning of the committee. The committee expressed grave concern over the theft of valuable items of Rs. 10 Billions (aprx) from Pakistan Steel Mills (PSM) and directed that ministry may pursue the case effectively and develop proper liaison with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for early completion of Inquiry Report so that culprits could be penalized accordingly. The committee also decided to discuss the privatization of Pakistan Steel Mills with Privatization Commission in its next meeting. The committee also expressed concern over the shortage of "Urea" in the country despite the fact the Urea were not being used in the country due to heavy floods across the country. The committee therefore, directed that Ministry may ensure the availability of Urea on affordable prices and also take concrete measures to stop its smuggling across the borders as its prices are higher in international markets, Earlier, Federal Minister and Secretary for Industries and Production briefly apprised the committee about the efforts made by them to provide subsidy to formers on harvesting equipments and to control the prices of vehicles in Pakistan. They informed that PM would announce a special subsidy package for formers soon which would help the growers to increase per acre yield and would help to enhance the economy of the country as well. - APP

## Afridi **'Brand Ambassador**

ISLAMABAD: AAA Associates, one of Pakistan's most leading and prominent companies has announced that it has signed Shahid Khan Afridi, one of Pakistan's most prolific cricketers from the former national team, as its brand ambassador.

According to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Shahid Khan Afridi will be the exclusive brand ambassador of AAA Associates' Grand project AAA Octa Karachi in the sought-after location in Bahria Town Karachi. Shahid Afridi popularly known as "Boom Boom" or "Lala", because of his explosive batting style and magical spinner, is a former Pakistani cricketer. He is the youngest cricketer holding the fastest century in just 37 balls. - APP

### AIOU to help flood victims

#### IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: A special meeting of General Body of the Academic Staff Association (ASA) of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) was held the other day. The meeting was presided over by the President, ASA, Prof. Dr. Moinuddin Hashmi.

The body unanimously decided to provide financial assistance, tents, and basic medical facilities to victims in flooded areas. According to President ASA, Prof. Dr. Moinuddin Hashmi, 1.7 million rupees have been collected so far, from which 8 lac rupees are donated from the fund of the ASA and we are aiming to collect 2 million rupees at least.

Two separate committees have been set up to identify and distribute aid. Furthermore, AIOU's Employees Welfare Association (EWA) and Officers Welfare Association (OWA) are also collecting donations to help the flood victims.

#### Rawalpindi's Corona tally reaches 47,539 cases

RAWALPINDI: Seven more corona cases had been reported during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 47,539. According to the District Health Authority data on Thursday, the total infected cases included 43,932 from Rawalpindi and 3,607 from other districts. Among the new cases, three arrived from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Potohar Town and one from Rawal Town and Gujjar Khan. - APP

## Exhibition being held to enhance Pak-Iran trade

ISLAMABAD: A three-day long exhibition to enhance cooperation for mutual trade and investment between Iran and Pakistan being held here in Islamabad will conclude tomorrow.

'Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition', organized under the auspices of the Embassy of Iran in Islamabad with the support of Iran National Innovation Fund and Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare Iran, began on August 24 at Pak-China Friendship Centre. The Iranian business groups worth \$ 800 million including traders and 33 companies arrived in Pakistan from Iran to participate in the 'Pak-Iran Trade Exhibition'.

These companies and business groups are related to various commercial sectors. Around 33 Iranian companies including 22 traditional businesses and 11 knowledge based companies specializing in science and technology and innovation, telecoms, dairy and food industry, kitchen wares, carpet, iron industry and textile industry, participated in the exhibition.

The owners of Iranian companies participating in the exhibition were of the view that the 'Pakistan-Iran Trade Exhibition' would

**IESCO** officials urged to take

part in flood

relief work

DNA

the instructions of the Gov-

agement to all field offices

According to the details. those consumers with domestic tariff (single phase) whose units used every

are 200 or less than 200

fuel price adjustment in the bill of August 2022. Apart from this, those con-

6 months but have used 200

in terms of fuel price adjust-

All private agricultural con-

sumers have also been giv-

2022. IESCO Chief Dr.

Office or Customer Servic-

es Center of IESCO.

August 2022.

price adjustment.

help in bringing the business community of both countries closer and promoting mutual investment. They said that Pakistan and Iran both were located at geo-strategic positions and this could facilitate the development of regional trade and the achievement of geo-economic goals by the countries of the region.

Talking to APP, Mohsen Barekatin, Managing Director of Mongolia Flavor and Fragrance, a knowledge based business group from Iran, said that "Our company is working on new tastes and flavors in food,' He said that his company

was worth \$ 300 million dollar, which was considered the largest company in the Middle East working in this sector. He said that their company was introducing new innovations and techniques in this sector.

The organizer of the exhibition, Chairman and Board CEO of Milad- E- Noor Group, Ali Mohtasham Amiri said that the purpose of this trade exhibition was to bring the business community of the two countries closer and increase opportunities for mutual trade. He said that the exhibition offered an opportunity to develop communication and coordination between the businessmen of the two countries.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Seyed Mohammad Ali Hossein said that it was important for the business communities of both countries to come closer to promote mutual trade between Iran and Pakistan. The Ambassador said that

the purpose of the Pakistan-Iran trade exhibition was to increase cooperation in the fields of trade. industry and investment in both countries. Ambassador Mohammad Ali

Hosseini said that recently Pakistan Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) talks were held in Pakistan and Iran to promote mutual trade between the two countries. Its aim was to increase the volume of trade between the two countries. He said that after these negotiations, agreements were also signed between the two countries in four different fields.

Iran's Minister for Corporate, Labor and Social Welfare Mehdi Maskani said that this was the first event held after the Pakistan Iran Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting. - APP

www.moib.gov.pk

## **PAF's relief** operations continue in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) was actively participating in rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas of Balochistan, Sindh and South Punjab.

During the operations, 12,375 pounds of relief goods have been distributed amongst the flood affectees who have been badly hit by recent torrential rains spell and flash floods, a PAF news release said. The PAF emergency

response teams were continuously busy in evacuating flood victims to safe areas. Additionally, in the last 24 hours 346 patients have been attended by teams of PAF doctors and para-medical staff at the field hospitals established by Pakistan Air Force.

Despite inclement weather conditions throughout the country especially in the flood stricken areas, PAF personnel were working hard to provide humanitarian assistance to flood affectees. - APP



## Briefs

## Nigerian HC calls on **Rector IIUI**

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner (HC) of Nigeria to Pakistan Mohammad Abello Abioye Thursday called on Rector International Islamic University (IIU), Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai , here at his office. On the occasion, issues pertaining to promotion of education through Asian African institutions' mutual cooperation were while impordiscussed. tance of IIUI in the African countries for disseminating true teachings of Islam also came under discussion.

It was agreed that IIUI could help through its faculties of Islamic Studies, Shariah and Law and Arabic in Nigeria as there was a dire need of high standard education on the subjects in the region. Both the sides agreed that there must be a direct air link between Abuja and Islamabad that would help in welcoming more international students and business community from an important African nation.

The two sides called upon the Muslim countries to launch joint efforts to counter challenges being faced by Islam including Islamophobia and stereotyping.

Dr. Masoom said that the university was keen to expand its bilateral ties be it Africa or any other subcontinent. While apprising about the role of scholars of IIUI in Dawah, the Rector said the university would be eager to accommodate recommended students from Nigeria for the courses and degrees relevant to Islam. The Rector said that students of Nigeria, at IIUI, were being provided an ideal milieu to learn.

Mohammad Bello praised the university's role in disseminating peace. He said the high commission of Nigeria would start work on bringing more students to IIUI so that they could get quality education. - APP

#### 'Tamasha' attracts massive praise

ISLAMABAD: Famed Pakistani actor, producer and model Adnan Siddiqui, who is better known for his phenomenal acting skills and blockbuster projects, once again came up with an unconventional reality show 'Tamasha'. Siddiqui has proven himself as one of the most versatile actors in Pakistani entertainment industry with his portrayal of an array of characters over the past decade and won millions of hearts not only in Pakistan but also across the borders. Ever since the first teaser of Pakistan's biggest reality show went on air, the show garnered major attention and grabbed some eyeballs. After the release of 5 thrilling episodes, 'Tamasha' became a talk of the town. The reality show amassed millions of viewers, and earned a lot of support from showbiz bigwigs.

Turning to the Instagram, the Lollywood superstar, Humayun Saeed was full of praise for his 'Mere Paas Tum Ho' costar as he showered Siddiqui with warm wishes "Wishing entire team and Adnan best of luck for this new show".

The 'Quaid-e-Azam Zindsensation, Fahad Mustafa also jumped on the bandwagon and lauded the all-rounder for his muchtalked-about project "All the best Adnan Siddiqui bhai and entire team, this really looks awesome". - APP

#### Three street criminals arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three members of a gang involved in street crimes and motorcycle lifting cases and recovered Rs 40,000, six stolen motorbikes and weapons from their possession, the police spokesman said here on Thursday.

He informed that Wah Cantt Police conducted a raid and held Adnan alias Dabla, Naeem and Siraj Ali, three street criminals and bike lifters. The accused had been sent to jail for identification parade, he added.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations appreciated the performance of Wah Cantt police, adding that whoever deprives citizens of their valuable assets cannot escape the grip of law. - APP

## President for innovation in agri and industrial sectors

The President appreciated the leadership role played by LCCI for promoting business trade and investment and encouraging women to enter into businesses and their alleviation to the decision-making levels

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has said that Pakistan has immense potential to emerge as an economically strong country by adopting critical IT-based innovative technologies to substantially increase agriculture yields, investing in research and development (R&D) to indigenously invent new products, adding value to its industrial production, and bringing youth bulge, especially female population, into the economic mainstream by imparting them market-oriented skills and knowledge. This, he said, could help Pakistan prevent future economic shocks and ensure fast-paced economic growth.

He was addressing the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Achievement Awards ceremony, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. President LCCI Mian Nauman Kabir, senior office holders of LCCI, and members of the business community attended the event.

The President appreciated the leadership role played by LCCI for promoting business trade and investment and encouraging



women to enter into businesses and their alleviation to the decision-making levels. He said that continuation of pro-trade, business and investment policies, the consultative decision-making process at all levels in business-related issues and matters, ensuring ease of doing business, adopting innovative business approaches, and passion of businesspersons to achieve optimal growth and development were the essential ingredients

for attaining financial and economic stability of the country.

He called upon the business community to create a women-friendly environment in business and industrial sectors where their own female family members and other female workers should feel safe and secure to play their roles in the business and economic sector of the country. He also advised LCCI to create online business and employ-

ment opportunities for those qualified women who for certain reasons would prefer to work from home. He called upon the women to follow the example of Hazrat Khadija (RA) who was an independent entrepreneur, trader and businesswoman and urged women to endeavour to get their space in the business and economic sectors of the country as active and productive players. The President said that the business and industrial sector would grow faster when we would provide them corruption free, safe and secure and morality-based business environment, settlement of business trade and investment issues in accordance with law and by bringing greater transparency to the economy through documentation and simplifying the systems and processes.

Earlier, the representatives of Lahore Chamber and Commerce thanked the President for his continuous patronage to the Chambers of Commerce and Industries and said that under the advice of the President, the Chamber was taking proactive steps for recruiting women in the business and industrial sector at all levels. They said that those business persons who are regular taxpayers should be acknowledged and rewarded.

## **Ahmed Faraz** remembered on death anniversary

ISLAMABAD: The 14th death anniversary of renowned Urdu poet, Ahmed Faraz was observed on Thursday. Ahmad Faraz was born on January 12, 1931 in Kohat. The real name of Ahmad Faraz was Syed Ahmad Shah. He studied at Edwardes College, Peshawar and received his Master's degree in Urdu and Persian from Peshawar University. During his college life, the two poets Faiz Ahmad Faiz and Ali Sardar Jafri influenced him and became Faraz's role models.

He started his career as a script writer from Radio Pakistan, Peshawar and later joined Urdu Department of Peshawar University as a lecturer. 'Tanha Tanha'. 'Be-awaz gali kuchon main', 'Sab awazain meri hain' and 'Shab-e-khoon' are among his literary works.

The great Urdu poet was decorated with a number of national and international awards including the Nagar Award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz and Hilal-e-Imtiaz. Faraz died on August 25, 2008, because of kidney failure and was buried in Islamabad. - APP

## Federal Ombudsman recovers Rs 3 million

ISLAMABAD: Due to the intervention of Federal Ombudsman, the Jubilee Insurance Company has refunded rupees three million to a lady complainant, Dr. Nighat Gillani. As per details, Dr. Nighat Gillani filed a complaint before the Federal Ombudsman under Informal Resolution of Disputes (IRD) system for redressal of her grievance against Jubilee Insurance Company. She stated that she had invested Rs. 3 million in the HBL against which HBL has to pay her profit @11 percent. Next year when she contacted the bank authorities for profit, she was informed that her amount has been invested into Jubilee Life Insurance Company.

She stated that a lady bank officer got some signatures on some forms telling her to get profit. Later, it transpired that her amount was invested fraudulently by the lady bank officer into Jubilee Insurance Company against which she had received Rs. 4 lacks as commission. She agitated and asked to refund her amount, but HBL informed that she may get back her amount only after deduction of 85 percent of the total amount.

After failing to get her money back, she filed a complaint before Insurance Mohtasib but did not get relief. Resultantly, she approached Registrar Federal Ombudsman Secretariat Muhammad Saqib Khan and Dy. Registrar Ms. Zariab Mussarat for registration of her case under IRD system for redressal of her grievance. HBL, FIA, Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan(SECP) and State Bank of Pakistan were engaged in the matter.

Under the direction of Federal Ombudsman, the SECP intervened as per its official mandate and asked Jubilee Insurance Company to refund her amount, as the latter had violated basic insurance rules. - APP

### IRSA releases 355,400 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Thursday released 355, 400 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 377, 300 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum conversation level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 203,000 cusecs each. The water level in River

Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1179.30 feet, which was 129.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 31,900 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 254,200, 467,100 and 559, 800 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 71,390 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 54,000 cusecs released from River Chen-

ab at Marala. – APP

## Jammu Bar Association takes out torch rally

The procession was led by President of the Bar Association, M.K. Bhardwaj along with the entire team of the bar association

ISLAMABAD: The agitation of the High Court Bar Association, Jammu, has entered a new phase with the broader involvement of the Jammu people, in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), According to Kashmir media service, the Bar Association in furtherance of its decision for Jammu Bandh on 29th of August, 2022 took out a torch and candle procession in the Gandhi Nagar Gole market and Apsara Bazaar with massive participation of lawyers, including women lawyers. They were appealing to the people, particularly the business community, to make the 29th August, 2022 Bandh call a grand success.

The procession was led by President of the Bar Association, M.K. Bhardwaj along with the entire team of the bar association. Earlier, a delegation of the Bar Association visited the office of Traders Federation at Warehouse to participate in the meeting of the Federation where Presidents and other office bearers of the various Bazaar Associations and Retailer Association of Jammu were present. President of the Traders Federation, Deepak Gupta along with General Secretary Sham Langer and President of Retailer Association, Yash Pal Gupta were prominent leaders of the business community in this meeting who extended full support to the Bar Association. Meanwhile, work remained suspended in the High Court, Subordinate Courts, all Revenue Courts, Commissions and Tribunals in support of the demand of the Jammu Bar Association for construction of a multi-storey complex inside the Janipur Court Complex. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner, Wendy Gilmour meets famous Pakistani singer Abida Parveen. - DNA

## Pakistan's national consensus for cohesion, unity vital: Pasha

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for State for Finance and Revenue. Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha said on Thursday that the country needed a broad based national consensus to ensure cohesion and unity among the ranks and files of the nation to overcome pressing challenges.

Addressing the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) Grand National Dialogue seminar on National Identity and Cohesion: Unity In Diversity, the Minister underlined the key areas demanding focus of the stakeholders to improve the country's social and economic conditions. Dr Pasha said there were 11 key areas of focus that needed to have national consensus so as a nation to decide to take painful reforms for progress and prosperity of the country. She added that improving governance, resource



mobilisation, accelerating growth, balanced regional development and other priority areas with focus on human development, provision of employment opportunities would demand a unified response for building a strong nation.

"It is high time that everyone in Pakistan including our youth should sit together to create that country that was achieved after many sacrifices in 1947. We need to foster patriotism and national cohesion by upholding the principles of diversity. The youth is our asset and the stakeholders have to forget their past and sit together to reform, reExpressing her optimism, the Minister of State said the country could achieve its mission of a self reliant state with unity.

She mentioned that the crises of our identity was persistent throughout the creation of the country, adding that the vested interests of the disgruntled politicians impeded the journey of democracy, and national cohesion. "We lost our vision of human development to the personal interests and ambitions of the politicians. Despite being the sixth most populated country, we are the lowest in human development index." She added that the countries were secure with human security amid fifth generation warfare phenomenon prevailing in the present age. "It is territorial security, food, economic security, good and quality employment, shelter, no regional disparity and others that

safeguard national security."

of excellence for NUMS Prof RAWALPINDI: Prof Dilshad Ahmed Khan of National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) was awarded American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC) Award of Excellence in "molecular pathology 2022" in recognition of his outstanding research in the field by a global scientific and medical professional organization. AACC is a global scientific and medical professional organization dedicated to the promotion of better health through laboratory medicine. It recognizes individu-

als from around the world in its annual conference for

outstanding research contribution in different fields of

AACC award

the clinical chemistry. Prof. Dilshad was given "2022 Abstract Award for Outstanding Research in Molecular Pathology or Pharmacogenomics" for his meritorious research contributions for better patients care during its Annual Scientific Meeting held in Chicago recently. Prof. Dilshad who is working as Director Academics in NUMS has developed "micro RNA panel for early diagnosis of coronary artery disease in patients with angina." "The panel of miRNA (miRNA-33a, miRNA-133a, and miRNA-146a) has a diagnostic role in early detection of coronary artery disease in patients with angina. It can be used as non-invasive biochemical marker to discriminate healthy individuals from coronary artery disease patients before undergoing angiography," said Prof. Dilshad. These miRNAs can also be used for the diagnosis of coronary artery disease in medical set ups where cath facilities are not available, he added. - APP

## Mushaal lauds SWI for highlighting abuses in IIOJK

Mashaal termed India as the devil of the times and said that India's human rights violations in occupied Kashmir have been documented

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Mullick Chairper-

son Peace and Culture Organization appreciated London-based Stoke White Investigations (SWI) for highlighting systemic abuse that journalists and activists face in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Speaking at the launch of the report, she said that India silencing journalism and human rights in IIOJK 2000 testimonies of war crimes of torture, pellets, enforced disappearances and sexual violence by Indian Occupation forces, said a press release here. She said that the new report painted a disturbing picture of systemic abuse. Mashaal termed India as the devil of the times and said that India's human rights violations in occupied Kashmir have been documented. She said that they must be brought to jus-

ists and human rights defenders are being

intimidated and arbitrarily detained under black colonial laws, she added. The chairperson stated that Kashmir freedom movement entered a defining moment, hence nothing could dampen the courage of brave Kashmiris. They would take the freedom struggle to its logical end, she added. She lashed out at the criminal silence over the world's worst human rights violations in the occupied valley, as not only the valley was cut from the world but senior Kashmiri leaders were in detention. She said that the Indian government has deployed a range of tactics to ensure no reporting critical of its actions comes out of the India-administered Jammu and Kashmir region which is a total

tice and the guilty must be held account-

able. She requested the Pakistani media

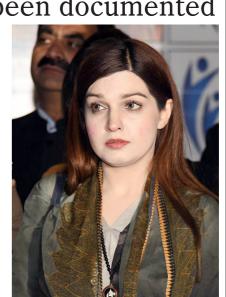
to focus on research and evidence-based

documentation of human rights violations

in Occupied Kashmir. Kashmiri journal-

contrast to its democratic ideals. It has compiled at least 2000 testimonies of Kashmiris between 2020 and 2021.

The individual accounts accuse New Delhi of various crimes, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, kidnapping, torture and sexual violence. On August 5, 2019, the BJP-led government in the centre revoked the nominal autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir amidst a military curfew, internet shutdown and media gag in the territory that has been a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947. For New Delhi, the move was necessary as it claimed the special status hindered economic development and had become a "root-cause of terrorism" in the region. It has documented more than 2,000 cases - all of serious nature of the most glaring ones included 450 cases of torture, 1500 victims of pellet gun shootings, 100 enforced disappearances and 30 accounts of sexual violence.



## Floods wreak havoc in Pakistan

akistan has urged the international community to help with relief efforts as it struggles to cope with the aftermath of torrential rains that triggered massive floods last month, killing more than 800 people, officials said. Funding and reconstruction efforts will be a challenge for cash-strapped Pakistan, which is having to cut spending to ensure the International Monetary Fund approves the release of much-needed bailout money. "No question of the provinces or Islamabad being able to cope with this magnitude of climate catastrophe on their own. Lives r at risk, thousands homeless. Int'l partners need to mobilise assistance," said Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change in a tweet.

According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), heavy monsoon rainfall and floods have affected some 2.3 million people in Pakistan since mid-June, destroying at least 95,350 houses and damaging a further 224,100. Sindh in the country's south east and Balochistan in the south west are the two most affected provinces. More than 504,000 livestock have been killed, nearly all of them in Balochistan, while damage to nearly 3,000 km of roads and 129 bridges has impeded

movement around flood-affected areas.

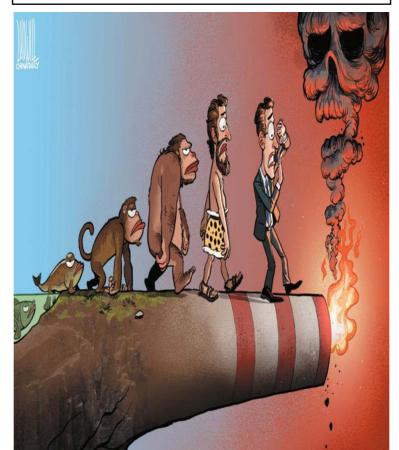
The main supply route from the port city of Karachi has been cut for more than a week after a bridge linking it to Balochistan was swept away, while dozens of small dams in the province were overwhelmed. "Federal government has also appealed to the international development partners for assistance, so reconstruction of infrastructure destroyed by the flooding can be started once the water recedes," Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives said in a twitter post. China said Wednesday that it would be providing emergency humanitarian aid to Pakistan, according to a tweet from the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. The supplies would include 25,000 tents along with \$300,000 in emergency cash to aid the flood-hit regions in Pakistan, according to the statement. The effects of climate change have so far been drastic. It's high time that the relevant authorities take concrete measures to lessen the impact of such disasters by well management and pre-planning.

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## Macron looks to 'future' on Algeria trip to mend ties

resident Emmanuel Macron started a three-day visit Thursday to Algeria to help mend ties with the former French colony, which this year marks its 60th anniversary of independence. The first French president to be born after Algerian independence, Macron is hoping "to lay a foundation to rebuild and develop" a sometimes difficult relationship with the North African nation, his office said. The two heads of state visited a monument to martyrs of the country's war for independence. which ended more than 130 years of French colonial rule with Algeria's independence in 1962. Franco-Algerian relations have seen repeated crises since then. The French leader, on his second visit to Algeria since he took power in 2017, "has chosen to direct this visit towards the future, (focusing on) start-ups, innovation, youth, new sectors. Macron, alongside a 90-strong delegation, met entrepreneurs in Algiers as well as young people in the second city Oran. Ties between Paris and Algiers have been particularly stormy since last year, when Macron questioned Algeria's existence as a nation before the French occupation and accused the government of fomenting "hatred towards France". Tebboune withdrew his country's ambassador in response and banned French military aircraft from its airspace. But Macron's office issued a statement saying he "regretted" the misunderstandings caused by his comments, and his aides believe that both sides have moved on. They note the resumption of normal diplomatic relations and overflights to French army bases further south in Africa.

Analyst Mansour Kedidir said that "given instability in the Maghreb region, conflicts in the Sahel and the war in Ukraine, improving ties between France and Algeria is a political necessity". France's latest efforts to mend ties comes as Algeria moves to fill a vast shortfall in gas supplies to Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. European nations are seeking to end their dependence on Russian hydrocarbons, giving Algeria - Africa's biggest gas exporter with direct pipelines to Spain and Italy - renewed clout."The French president will certainly ask Algeria to make an effort to try to increase its gas production," said Algerian economist Abderrahmane Mebtoul. But Macron's office has said that gas is not a major feature of the visit, and an advisor said the trip is "about being oriented towards the future".

## China's foreign policy towards Pakistan and India

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Pakistan was seeking active support on the issues of Kashmir and Kargil but the Chinese position was unchanged. During the visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister to China in 1999, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told the international community that he has great concerns about the South Asian situation and Pakistan should remain cool and exercise self-control

ince the late 20th century, China has shifted its policy from isolation and separation to the international community. Today it is on the way of becoming the major economic power of the world. The Chinese leadership has formulated a more attractive, pragmatic, and flexible foreign policy for the global affairs and issues. Along with economic growth. China is also expanding political influence through investment as well as the installation of industry, which has given a new impetus to its quest for energy resources. Moreover, it is projecting its soft power vigorously and peacefully by promoting culture, sports, education, tourism, and other exchanging. Chinese believe they are

Yan Xuetong said, "China is the second most powerful state of the world". A rapid change in the dynamics of security and economy at the local, regional, and

becoming a peaceful

great power. Once

Professor of Inter-

national Relations

international levels changed perceptions, priorities, national interest, and foreign policies of states. That's why there is a pragmatic shift being observed in modern diplomacy to inflate influence in the world and the spreading their economic and strategic activities on the other spheres of the globe by all the countries. achieve their national interests, countries are effectively following their geopolitical potential and geostrategic environment. China is following this pattern of foreign policy to establish relationships with its neighbors and regional and international powers to achieve its national interests.

In the past, Chinese diplomacy was often employed to pursue goals of unbalanced interests. China was allied with the USSR and viewed the United States as its principal enemy during 1950s. On the other hand, Washington sought an anti-communist alliance with Pakistan as well as close relations with India. After the Indo-Pak War of 1965, the American-Indian relations became weaker due to Washington's limited supply of weapons to India. In the 1970s, India moved closer to the Soviet Union and China become closer to Islamabad because of the complicated strategic position of India. Then China wisely inclined towards the United States in search

of export markets and to counterbalance the Soviet Union.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the peaceful environment of Central Asian region was favorable to China and a shift also came in its foreign policy towards South Asia. Now, Beijing was seeking political and economic bilateral ties with the regional countries, which was a particularly positive development in the process of the Sino-India rapprochement. This shift was not favoring Pakistan and posed negative consequences for the Pak-China traditional relationship. This shift in the foreign policy of China put the dint during the Pak-India crisis over Kashmir in 1989-90 when Beijing did not support it on a resolution on Kashmir in the United Nations. It remained neutral and calm and gave emphasis on both parties to solve the issue by dialogue. Contrary, during the Cold War, Chinese policy towards Pakistan was supportive against India.

During the 1990s, China has been advising both Pakistan and India to solve their problems through dialogue. In 1996, President Jiang Zemin visited Pakistan and in his 45 minute speech to the Senate, he urged Pakistan to develop cooperative relations with India and put thorny issues aside. Pakistan should make trade and economic relations to lessen the hostility with India. At the time of the Kargil crisis, China-India rapprochement had entered a mature phase. This time again, China adopted neutral policy and stressed to hold talks and solve the issue through negotiations.

Pakistan was seeking active support on the issues of Kashmir and Kargil but the Chinese position was unchanged. During the visit of Pakistani Foreign Minister to China in 1999. Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan told the international community that he has great concerns about the South Asian situation and Pakistan should remain cool and exercise self-control. It was a warning to Pakistan that China would not support it by military means. and Pakistan should get out from Kargil and settle the crisis by dialogues.

Post-Cold War, the Soviet model was ended and India was looking for economic reforms. Therefore, Delhi no longer remained allied to Moscow and became less of a danger to Beijing. Now the need of Islamabad for Beijing was lessened to counterbalance Delhi and Moscow but the Delhi-Washington closeness was a concern to Beijing because it wanted to prevent India from allying with the United States. This situation was very tough for China to sustain ity in the region of nuclear powers.

The incident of 9/11 brought regional and international development and new adjustment in the foreign policy for China. This event led to a diplomatic standoff between Pakistan and India. Almost for a year, military forces of both the sides stood eyeball-to-eyeball and came dangerously close to war. The terrorist attack on the Indian parliament and the Srinagar incident flamed insecurity and instability in the region. Beijing has concerns about Pak-India tension and it played a proactive role at the diplomatic level to diffuse tension. China also activated the SCO and other forums to lessen the tension between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Soon after 9/11, the United States declared a global war against terrorism and China was discomforted and had many internal and external concerns. It warned the US that counterterrorism should not be used for hegemonic privileges. Although the war against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was a serious threat to regional security, China also managed its own domestic situation (the troubled province Xinjiang) and was unsettled by the presence of United States forces near its border. China believed that Washington would create instability in the region and might have new political designs. The region, particularly Central Asia, was more attractive to China due to its energy resources and Washington's political and military involvement in the region might have caused worries for China.

Washington was increasing pressure on Islamabad to get Pakistani support for the war on terror in Afghanistan after 9/11. On the other hand, China had concerns of Delhi-Washington expanding strategic cooperation. India and the United States were considering China as a common rival of both countries and were thinking to limit the rise of China as well. Washington made efforts to the diffuse crisis between Pakistan and India by its balancing posture during this period. China also maintained a balanced position towards Pakistan and India during post-9/11 period. Another worry for China was the Indian move towards Japan and Vietnam with whom Chinese relations remained tense. In this circumstance. China revisited its policy towards Pakistan and enhanced bilateral relations in all the fields related to the national interest of both the countries.

The cooperation in political, economic, security, and diplomatic issues and bilateral ties produced a \$62 billion Chinese investment in Pakistan through CPEC. China has

regularly provided support to Pakistan in the United Nations Security Council. China has assisted Pakistan to improve its security and defense capability via the joint venture of the JF-17 Thunder in 2003. The deteriorating relationship between Islamabad and Washington also provided them motivation and impetus to improve their bilateral relations.

On the other hand, China and India are two natural strategic rivals with great numbers of the population in the region. The sense of competition between the two countries is very high. China has engaged Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Maldives, which is considered the area of Indian influence. China has tried to build a road in the area of Doklam in Bhutan, which is a source of tension for India. It seems that China is occupying the strategic territory, which is very necessary for Indian security. In addition, India thinks that Pakistan is serving Chinese interests by forcing it to fight wars, deterring the Indian ability to counter the Chinese rise. Nowadays, China itself has engaged India in the Galwan Valley in Eastern Ladakh. Since the confrontation between China and India, Pakistan is trying to cash in on this situation. From the diplomatic maneuvering behind the scenes, Pakistan is bashing India for the overall development in Ladakh and Kashmir but standing on the side of China. However, the leadership of both China and India has recognized the need of peace and cooperation to ease the tension. China also seems to be the major beneficiary of the China-India economic and trade relations. Hence, both countries have recognized that the expansion of cooperation on multiple levels to ensure peace on their borders

As to its rise of economic power, China has its own paradigm of development and new ways of interaction to regional and global powers on a win-win basis, and it has earned the respect and credibility of other nations. Being the neighbor of China, Pakistan has the privilege to achieve investment and trade. The frequent exchange visits by the leadership of both countries have reinforced mutual trust and cooperation. However, India and Pakistan are challenging each other on the issue of Kashmir and both the countries had fought four wars in the past. On the issue of Kashmir, Beijing put the shoulder behind Islamabad and forced a discussion in the United Nations Security Council on India's reordering of Kashmir. Chinese policy will have significant implications for the China-India-Pakistan relationship and will be a test of China's foreign policy towards Pakistan and India.

is in their interests.

## Creating resilience and cohesion in the Tribal districts!

and maintain balance and demonstrate its abil-

Rashad Bukhari



UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working through its Community Resilience Activity North (CRA-N) project towards building community resilience through workshops and other interventions to support the transition and rehabilitation efforts in these Newly Merged Districts

violence killings continued unabated in the newly merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province amid the ongoing negotiations with the Tehreek -e- Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for a truce facilitated by the Afghan Taliban. It was hoped that through these negotiations, TTP would be willing to lay down its arms and mainstream in the society to create peace and stability in the region and the country. TTP, however, is adamant in its demand for the reversal of the merger of the tribal districts, something unacceptable for the government. The instability and uncertainty of the region require immediate attention and

engagement. In 2018, Pakistan's Assembly National the Federpassed Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) Reforms Bill, which merged FATA with the

tunkhwa province. This led to the creation of district-based administration bodies within the respective NMDs (Newly Merged Districts). This was followed by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Sustainable Development Strategy (2019-2023) focused on making the newly merged KP Province into a secure, economically vibrant, and prosperous society. Despite these efforts, these districts have continued to witness acts of violent extremism that have taken the lives of both civilians and security forces.

Government can't alone do all the work to develop the region after the merger without ensuring support from the local communities, different stakeholders, and other non-government organizations. Support from neutral and internationally recognized bodies with their technical resources must be welcome. It is very challenging for any organization, local or international, to work freely and effectively in that region due to acute poverty, underdevelopment, illiteracy, continued militancy, and state prohibitions nonetheless. Despite these challenges, a few courageous and resourceful organizations contribute their bit for stability through awareness raising, capacity building, and development projects with some laudable impact.

UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) is working through its Community Resilience Activity North (CRA-N) project towards building community resilience through workshops and other interventions to support the transition and rehabilitation efforts in these Newly Merged Districts.

The project focuses on reducing marginalization and exclusion amongst remote border communities most vulnerable to violent extremist (VE) influence where resilience is lacking. CRA-N promotes cohesion within and between communities that adjacent Khyber Pakhare at risk, particularly those with ethnic or sectarian identities which have previously been exploited by violent extremist organizations (VEOs). CRA-N promotes engagement between segments of society, increasing social bonds, strengthening a sense of belonging and purpose, and increasing civic engagement, particularly amongst the youth.

Local government and community leadership systems struggle with violence, inter-communal conflict, and religious intolerance. CRA-N is aware of how inequalities in access to information, public services, economic opportunities, and resources may lead communities to embrace extreme ideologies based on their grievances of systemic inequities.

CRA-N works with government and local partners in an inclusive, participatory approach to address identified drivers of extremism and instability in these remote NMDs. Interventions are demand-driven, adaptive, and multi-sectorial. Activities include civic awareness and engagement, youth and women empowerment, community cohesion and cultural development, skills training, livelihood development, and small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation. The activities are implemented in close coordination with the Provincial Government's Planning & Development Department, Deputy Commissioners, and District Government Authorities to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to GOP priority efforts.

These workshops were designed to enable diverse local stakeholders to identify and pilot innovative approaches to improve community resilience to instability and other stressors like violence, intolerance, and conflicts. Three overarching objectives of the project include: 1) increasing civic engagement of the community

members, 2) enhancing inter and intra-community cohesion efforts, and 3) addressing the current challenges faced by formerly Temporarily Displaced Populations in their efforts to reintegrate within their communities.

To quote only one example of the kind of impact made through capacity building of local leaders, CRA-N is also providing training in Alternative Dispute Resolution to local ADR committee members to help resolve disputes locally. After the training, these members find themselves in a better position to promote peace and play an active role in supporting Government efforts to mobilize resources to address tensions and disputes between communities and tribes. Some of these members are also involved in conflict resolution regarding ongoing communal issues. After the training, Peace Committee members resolved a land settlement issue between the Makhazia tribe of Lower Kurram and the Lalamai tribe of Center Kurram. They convinced both communities to avoid violence and submit their case to a court of law, to which both parties agreed. The importance of engaging youth in productive activities like skill training, sports, and arts in the tribal areas can never be over-emphasized. Activities that bring people of different tribes and sects together and increase inter-tribal and inter-sectarian interaction are required. They needed to strengthen the positive characteristics of their community and weaken the negative things so that the society could become more resilient and would not fall prey to the culprits' propaganda again. Society should be able to adapt to new situations, strengthening its strong points, and addressing its weaknesses, while keeping its identity intact. The writer is a consultant and researcher working on social issues, including building resilience and cohesion in stressed communities.



## **Briefs**

## **King Salman...**

From Page 01

of Saudi Arabia will extend its \$3 billion safe deposit for one more year adding that three percent interest will be paid for it. "The safe deposit amount will be liable to be paid back immediately in case of Pakistan's default," sources shared. The amount will not be liable to be utilized, sources said. The period of \$3 billion safe deposit will likely to be extended upto December 2023, according to sources.

#### PM hails...

#### From Page 01

is greater awareness between the two countries of the need for upgrading the bilateral relations by making economic cooperation the pivot of bilateral ties". During his visit, the PM assured the Qatari investors about the government's full support in deepening their footprints in Pakistan, and urged them to explore the opportunities presented by the China-Pakistan Eco nomic Corridor (CPEC). He interacted with prominent Qatari and Pakistani business leaders at the 'Pakistan-Qatar Trade and Investment Roundtable 2022', which was also attended by Finance Minister Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari, CEO, Qatar Financial Canter Chief Executive Officer Yousaf Al Khater Jaida and others. At the QIA - one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world - PM Shehbaz invited investors from Qatar to invest in Pakistan's energy, aviation, agriculture, livestock, maritime, tourism and hospitality sectors.

#### COAS...

#### From Page 01

deep sorrow over the loss of precious lives and exten sive damage to infrastructure due to unprecedented rains and floods, the forum resolved to spare no efforts for mitigating the sufferings of flood affectees. Gen Bajwa appreciated the ongoing relief efforts and directed Army Formations to render all possible support to the people affected by floods. "Every single affected individual must be reached to bring comfort in this hour of distress," he stressed. The army chief also directed the formations to maintain operational readiness and underscored the need for efforts to counter terrorism, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to continue.

## ATC grants...

## From Page 01

would be arrested if the ATC rejected his bail plea. During the hearing, Imran's lawyer Babar Awan contended before the court that the PTI chief had stated that he will lodge cases against the Islamabad police IG and his deputies. "Imran Khan did not say that he will kill someone," Awan added. Security was tightened around the judicial complex. Frontier Corps and Islamabad police personnel were seen deployed with batons and wearing anti-rioting gears. However, PTI workers were able to break the walk through gate leading inside.

## PM Shehbaz lifts ban on departmental sports

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sha rif on Thursday announced lifting of ban on departmental sports in the country. The ban was imposed by the previous government asking all public departments, corporations and autonomous bodies to stop their funding to sports teams in 30 different disciplines. The decision had led thousands jobless from the positions of departmental sports.

PM Shehbaz Sharif after assuming the office had pledged to restore the departmental sports with an aim to promote healthy games among the youth. He said Pakistani sportsmen, who bagged top positions in the Commonwealth Games and Islamic Solidarity Games, had made the country proud and were an inspiration for the country's youth. The prime minister was speaking at a cash prize distribution ceremony for the winning sportsmen of the international sport events recently held in Birmingham, UK and Turkiye. The prime minister said the entire nation was proud of the outstanding performance of the players who had proved their mettle with hard work and dedication.

He expressed confidence that the talented sportsmen would bring more laurels to the country and would continue to achieve success in their respective games. PM Sharif said steps would be taken to hold sporting events at college and university levels to encourage the students get indulged in healthy activities. The prime minister mentioned that Pakistan was passing through challenging times due to flash floods across the country. He expressed grief over the



death of around 800 people in last few months due to floods and said the government would leave no stone unturned to pro-

vide relief and rehabilitation to the victims. Earlier, the prime minister gave away cash prizes to the players including Nooh Dasta-

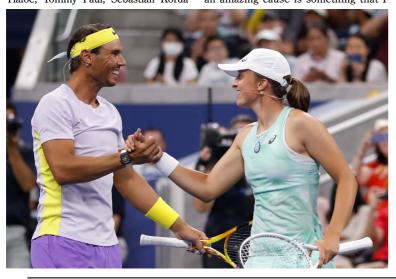
gir Butt, Shah Hussain, Sharif Tahir, Arshad Nadeem and several others at the special ceremony held here at the PM House.

## Nadal, Swiatek lead Ukraine support at US Open

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: The US Open held its 'Tennis Plays for Peace' event for Ukraine relief ahead of the start of the year's final grand slam event, raising \$1.2 million, according to the United States Tennis Association (USTA). Participating in the event held in New York were Rafael Nadal, Iga Swiatek, John McEnroe, Coco Gauff, Carlos Alcaraz, Leylah Fernandez, Felix Auger-Aliassime, Jessica Pegula, Matteo Berrettini, Maria Sakkari, Stefanos Tsitsipas, Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe, Tommy Paul, Sebastian Korda

Nadal and Swiatek took on McEnroe and Gauff in one of the highlights of the evening. Women's world No. 1 Swiatek said: "For me, especially because Ukraine is right next to my country and because we as Poles are really united and helping, and I want to use every opportunity to show people that we all can be united." US star Coco Gauff added: "For me to speak out is something that I always cherish. I always said you can change the world with your racket. "So being here today on Armstrong and playing for such an amazing cause is something that I



won't take for granted, and I'm grateful to do it amongst legends of the sport." Ukrainian players Dayana Yastremska. Katarina Zavatska and Daria Snigur - as well as former players Sergiy Stakhovsky and Olga Savchuk - were also at the Louis Armstrong Stadium, while 12-year-old Ustyn Chornyy, from the Ukrainian Chorus Dumka of New York, sang the Ukrainian national anthem. The USTA said that all ticket revenue from the event went to the GlobalGiving's Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund, which supports humanitarian assistance in impacted communities in Ukraine and surrounding regions where Ukrainian refugees have fled. Several hours ahead of the event, the

USTA announced that Victoria Azarenka of Belarus would not participate, saving: "In the last 24 hours, after careful consideration and dialogue with all parties involved, Victoria Azarenka will not be participating in our 'Tennis Plays for Peace Exhibition' this evening. "Vika is a strong player leader and we appreciate her willingness to participate. Given the sensitivities to Ukrainian players, and the on-going conflict, we believe this is the right course of action for us." The event comes after the Ukraine Ministry of Youth and Sports announced in a statement on Tuesday that 133 Ukrainian athletes and coaches have died to date in the six months of the Russian invasion of the country.

## Tunisian Jabeur on death threats after playing tenis

TUNIS: As she savoured the adulation from the Tunisian public following her historic run to the Wimbledon final, Ons Jabeur may have afforded herself a wry smile given her change in popularity in her home nation. For just two years earlier, Jabeur - who became the first African and Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam final in the Open era last month - had been branded a traitor by some Tunisians, to the point where she even received death threats. "It was a very tough period for me," the 27-year-old told British news channel.

"People threatened me to death because I played [a tennis match]." Next week, the world number five repeats her bid for a first Grand Slam title at the US Open, following on from her defeat by Kazakh opponent Elena Rybakina in south west London. Her run to the final earned her a reception with Tunisia's president, where incumbent Kais Saied declared her a "champion who had honoured Tunisia" and bestowed upon her the Order of Merit in recognition of her achievements.

"You're an idol for young Tunisian men and women," Saied told her.It was a remarkable contrast to February 2020, when Tunisia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced Jabeur had acted contrary to "the official position of the Tunisian state". To have represented her country against a scheduled opponent, as set out by the International Tennis Federation (ITF), at what is now known as the Billie Jean King Cup. The problem was that the opponent in question was from Israel, a country which the north African nation - in solidarity with fellow Arab land Palestine does not recognise. "Any form of relations with the Zionist entity, even when it comes to sports matches, is refused," the ministry said in a statement.

"The women's national tennis team's participation in a match with the Israeli occupation entity is considered a violation of Tunisia's commitments towards the just Palestinian cause." - Agencies

## Bryant's widow awarded \$16m over crash photos

WEB DESK

LOS ANGELES: Kobe Bryant's widow has been awarded \$16m (£13.5m) after first responders took and shared graphic photos from the site of the helicopter crash that killed the basketball star, their teenage daughter and seven others. A federal jury has found that Los Angeles County must pay damages over photos of the NBA star's body at the site of the 2020 helicopter crash that killed him. The jurors agreed with Vanessa Bryant and her lawyers that her privacy was invaded when deputies and firefighters took and shared photos of the remains of Bryant and their daughter Gianna. Ms Bryant tearfully testified during the 11-day trial that news of the photos compounded her grief after losing her husband and daughter. Speaking in the witness stand on Friday for more than three hours, Ms Bryant said she wanted to begin to grieve the loss of her husband and daughter, but was faced with "fresh horror' after learning of the leaked photos a month after the crash. "I felt like I wanted to run, run down the block and scream," she said. "It was like the feeling of wanting to run down a



#### Terrorism...

From Page 01

added that Sanaullah said they [government] will surround those judges who are going to promote PTI's agenda. "Rana Sanaullah's statement was to terrorise the judiciary, chief secretary and other government officials and to not let them do their job so that they are unable to fulfil their judicial commitments," stated the report citing an old video of the PML-N leader. The FIR mentioned that the minister's statement has caused fear and terror among the judiciary, authorities, police, bureaucracy and the nation. Soon after the news came out, PML-Q senior leader Moonis Elahi said that the interior minister will be arrested soon. "You make false cases against Imran Khan, now Pakistani nation has registered a true case against you," he wrote on Twitter.

## Taliban sav...

#### From Page 01

US officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, had said the United States carried out a drone strike in the Afghan capital Kabul on the morning of July 31. "Now justice has been delivered, and this terrorist leader is no more," Biden had said in remarks from the White House. "We never back down."

#### Int'l...

#### From Page 01

undertook relief activities in coordination with the provinces and the federal and provincial departments were working together. The government released Rs five billion for relief and family of every deceased was given the financial assistance of Rs one million. Each flood victim family was immediately given Rs 25,000 and Rs 80 billion were allocated for this purpose, he added. He said the extent of the destruction of floods was so huge that the federal and provincial governments could not complete the rehabilitation of the flood affectees on their own. He urged international organizations, financial institutions and countries to cooperate with the Pakistan government on an emergency basis, adding a large area of Sindh and Balochistan was already declared disaster hit.

Shehbaz said, "I am personally overseeing the rescue, relief, and rehabilitation activities from day one." The government had set up a Prime Minister Relief Fund 2022 to speed up the efforts for assistance and restoration of the flood affectees, he said adding the assistance of the international financial institutions and organizations was crucial in the rehabilitation of the affectees. He said the army, government institutions, public service departments, doctors, nurses and volunteers were working with passion in a difficult situation. He lauded all those who were helping out the flood affectees and said he was grieved at the difficult conditions faced by the people stranded in floods. "We want to reach out to every affected Pakistani and we want help of the international partners. We need essential items and medical staff to overcome the difficult situation." He invited international partners to visit the flood-affected areas. The government would make arrangements for the visit of the international partners.

#### from his compatriot Khaled Labib 11-7, 11-8, 11-5 in 28 minpier and jump into the water. "The problem is I can't esutes to advance to quarterfinals. The quarterfinals will be cape. I can't escape my body." Djokovic to miss US Open

Six Pak players move

to quarterfinals of PSF-

Combaxx Tournament

ISLAMABAD: Six Pakistan players managed to book berths

in the quarterfinals of the PSF-Combaxx Men International

Squash Tournament after registering emphatic wins in the

second round fixtures at Mushaf Squash Complex, Islama-

bad on Thursday. Pakistan's Noor Zaman, Farhan Zaman,

Muhammad Ashab Irfan, Nasir Iqbal, Hamaz Khan and Ah-

Noor Zaman defeated compatriot Farhan Mehboob 11-4,

11-8 (Retd) in 19 minutes, while Farhan Zaman trounced

compatriot Muhammad Ammad in a well-fought contest

11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4 in 39 minutes. Similarly, Muhammad

Ashab Irfan edged passed compatriot Naveed Rehman 10-

12, 11-6, 11-6, 11-9 in a 45-minute interesting competition.

Hafiz Zhafri of Malaysia overcame Ireland's Alireza Shamee-

li 12-10, 11-6, 11-8 in 32 minutes. Nasir Iqbal beat compa-

triot Salman Saleem 11-4, 12-10, 11-6 in 29 minutes, while

Hamaz Khan outwitted Sepehr Etemadpoor of Ireland 5-11,

11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8 in a 42 minutes' seesaw battle. Ahsan

Ayaz saw off compatriot Zahir Shah 11-8, 11-4, 11-3 in 24

minutes. Egypt's Abdallah Elmasry warded off challenge

san Ayazm pulled off the wins.

Djokovic, who has chosen not to have a Covid-19 vaccine, will miss out on the tournament due to current US rules

## SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Novak Djokovic says he will not be able to travel to New York to compete at the US Open, the last Grand Slam of the year that begins next week. Djokovic, who has chosen not to have a Covid-19 vaccine, will miss out on the tournament due to current US rules requiring travellers to show proof of full vaccination to board flights to and enter the country. "Sadly, I will not be able to travel to NY this time for US Open," Djokovic wrote on Twitter. "Good luck to my fellow players! I'll keep in good shape and positive spirit and wait for an opportunity to compete again.'

He was also unable to defend his Australian Open crown this year after being deported from the country over his vaccination status in January. The Serb previously said he was prepared

to miss Grand Slam tournaments that require participating players to be vaccinated against Covid-19. Djokovic was on the entry list for the

tournament in New York before his social media post and the US Open's statement on Thursday mid-afternoon.

The US Open organisers said Diokovic's withdrawal had taken place ahead of the draw and they clarified the official seeding list is not determined until the draw is made. Due to the qualifying tournament having already commenced, Djokovic's withdrawal resulted in a lucky loser being included in the draw. Stacev Allaster, the US Open tourdirector, said: "Novak is a great champion and it is very unfortunate that he will be unable to compete at the 2022 US Open, as he is unable to enter the country due to the federal government's vaccination policy for non-US citizens.

We look forward to welcoming Novak back at the 2023 US Open." "I would have had the vaccine and gone and played but he's got very strong beliefs and you have to

respect that. "At this point, in the pandemic, we're twoand-a-half years in, I think people in all parts of the world know more about it, and the idea that he can't travel here to play, to me is a joke.'

## **AUGUST 2022**

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## Business / World



Thousands

throng

to Iran

museum TEHRAN: More than 20,000 people have flocked to an Iranian museum show-

casing renowned Western artists' works, some for the

first time - part of a treas-

ure trove amassed before

The museum's collection

is reputed to be the great-

est line-up of modern mas-

terpieces outside Europe

and the United States, and

includes multi-million-dol-

lar pieces, much of which

has been kept under wraps

The Tehran Museum of Con-

temporary Art "surprises me

every time," said visitor Sha-

hin Rajabi, 35. "The current

show is no exception." The

current "Minimalism and Con-

ceptual Art" exhibition fea-

tures 132 works by 34 world-fa-

mous contemporary artists,

museum director Ebadreza

Eslami said, including Marcel

Duchamp, Sol LeWitt, Donald

Judd and the duo Christo and

Jeanne-Claude. "The recep-

tion has been marvellous,"

Eslami said, particularly after

long closures in recent years

due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said one of the main fac-

tors for the footfall of this

exhibit was that "38 mas-

terpieces" were being dis-

AFP saw visitors at the mu-

seum this week, some stop-

played "for the first time".

since the 1979 revolution.

the Islamic Revolution.

## Briefs

## Youngest pilot to fly around world solo

DNA

LONDON: A British-Belgian teenage pilot has become the youngest person to fly around the world solo. Mack Rutherford, 17, took off from Sofia in Bulgaria on 23 March this year and flew to Italy and Greece, before navigating Asia, Africa, the US and two oceans. The aviator landed again in the Bulgarian capital on Wednesday - five months after setting out on his odyssey.

He broke the Guinness World Record set by 18-yearold Travis Ludlow in 2021, who completed the feat aged 18 and 150 days.

Mack was encouraged by his sister Zara, who in January became the youngest woman to fly around the world, aged 19. He flew a fast ultralight Shark, which has a cruising speed reaching 300km/h (186mph). Speaking in Bulgaria, he told reporters: "Just follow your dreams, no matter how old vou are. "Work hard and move forward to achieve your goals."

His journey began on 23 March and has involved facing sandstorms in Sudan extreme heat in Dubai and airport closures in India.

Speaking ahead of his trip, he said flying is a "dream' that has always been a part of his and his sister's lives, following in the footsteps of their mother and father, who are both talented pilots.

#### Finland launches energy saving campaign

DNA

HELSINKI: Finland's government unveiled the details of a nationwide energy saving campaign at an event in Turku on Thursday afternoon. The campaign was reported last month, and urges households to save energy in the face of a crisis brought on by Russia's war in Ukraine. The last time a similar campaign was implemented in Finland was during the oil crisis of the 1970s.

Behind the campaign are the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, state-owned sustainable development firm Motiva, the Finnish Energy Authority, the Ministry of the Environment and the Prime Minister's office. Kati Laakso. Motiva's communications director, was one of the presenters at the Turku event, and said that the government plans to appeal to people's sense of patriotism and national identity.

"Perhaps the emotional side is important here. Even if this doesn't bother you, it's good to take care of your neighbour so that there's enough electricity for all of us in the coming heating season," Laakso said. The campaign aims to get three out of four people living in FInland to reduce their own energy consumption during the coming winter months and hope that the adopted habits will be permanent.

### Google to fight misinfo on Ukrainian refugees

DNA

NEW YORK: Google said that it was basing its campaign on research by British psychologists, where viewers were exposed to "inoculating" clips. The campaign is centered on Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, according to news agency Reuters. Google's Jigsaw subsidiary will launch a campaign aimed at tackling disinformation about Ukrainian refugeesnext week.

The campaign is based on research by psychologists at two British universities.

Jigsaw will start a "pre-bunking" ad campaign based on the research on social media platforms YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Tik-Tok at the end of August. The campaign will be directed towards users in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, The New

York Times reported. Poland has experienced the largest intake of refugees from Ukraine of any country. The Czech Republic and Slovakia have also been major destinations for fleeing Ukrainians.

## Türkiye to continue with anti-terror operations

The celebrations of the fateful battle between the Seljuks and Byzantine forces began earlier this week and on Friday, Erdogan is expected to attend further events in Malazgirt

Foreign Desk

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan tapped into history as he envisioned Türkiye's future in a fervent speech on Thursday, on the anniversary of a landmark battle 951 years ago.

Erdogan was in Ahlat, where Seljuk Sultan Alparslan camped out with his army before charging against a Byzantine army outnumbering them, to attend an event in this eastern Turkish town to remember the fallen soldiers and celebrate the victory.

"Ahlat and Malazgirt represent all of Türkiye, with its past, presence and future. They are the keys to make Anatolia our eternal homeland," Erdogan said, referring to neighboring Malazgirt where the Battle of Manzikert was fought in 1071. The victory cemented the ongoing Turkish rule in the country where small Turkic tribes made inroads before Seljuks expanded



their rule and finally, Ottomans entirely conquered it. "These places are symbols of our rise which instilled trust in our friends and struck fear in our enemies. They are symbols that will remind next generations of values they have and the price (the nation) pays for their homeland," he said. The celebrations of the fateful battle between the Seliuks and Byzantine forces began earlier this week

and on Friday, Erdogan is

expected to attend further events in Malazgirt. Events are no longer lowkey celebrations in Türkiye, which seeks to embrace its past of victories, from the Seljuk to the Ottoman, with

more spectacular celebra-

tions. In the past decade, Malazgirt, now a town in the province of Muş, and Ahlat, a district of Bitlis province, have been at the heart of the events. Erdogan said a branch of

the Turkish Presidency was

ity in cases of torture will

only be possible if parlia-

ment passes the torture

bill and the government

ly inherit the legacy of our ancestors who made Anatolia home for our nation." Erdogan also praised the young crowd attending the events, saying their embrace of Malazgirt and Ahlat "boosted our confidence in the future of a great, strong

"We are developing a vision where every individual in this country can feel safe about their future," he said. Erdogan also remembered the anniversary of Operation Euphrates Shield in Syria in which the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) helped liberate terror-infested parts of Türkiye's southern neighbor. "I wish success to our soldiers who are still on duty and I want to tell the world that our struggle will not be over until those places are made secure," he said, referring to northern Syria where Türkive is reportedly planning a military operation against YPG/PKK, a terrorist group

and 4, Pakistan is obligat-

ed to bring domestic law in

line with the treaty. The UN

Committee against Torture

and the Human Rights Com-

mittee, in each of their Con-

cluding Observations follow-

ing Pakistan's 2017 treaty

reviews, urged Pakistan to

make torture a criminal of-

"By passing the torture

bill, Pakistan will start a

long-overdue process of re-

form to ensure that future

allegations of torture are

transparently investigated

and that those responsible

held accountable," Sifton,

fence under Pakistani law.

#### ping to study details while others were busy taking photos as they made their way intently through the museum. "I loved the last room of the exhibit in particular, where the artist had worked with the fluorescent light," said visitor Rajabi, referring to American artist Dan Flavin's "Untitled" work. – APP

#### Presidential caravan attacked in Colombia

DNA

BOGOTA: A security delegation of Colombian President Gustavo Petro was attacked with gunfire in the Catatumbo region on the border with Venezuela, where the president plans to travel this Friday. The advance security team was to verify the route to avoid setbacks. The presidency issued a statement providing more details.

The incident took place in the San Pablo sector, when at least six individuals were said to have installed an illegal checkpoint. The caravan ignored the stop, which is why they were hit by firearms," it said. One of the vehicles did not make it past the illegal checkpoint and another got a flat tire, according to the statement. The driver was detained but was later released.

The government stated that there are no injuries or fatalities and that the trip to Catatumbo is still scheduled for Friday. Guerrillas of the leftist National Liberation Army (ELN), former FARC fighters who rejected a 2016 peace deal with the government, and armed criminal groups involved in drug trafficking are active in the coca-producing convulsed region of Catatumbo.

A helicopter carrying former President Ivan Duque was struck by multiple bullets in an attack in June 2021 while it was flying through the Catatumbo region toward the city of Cucuta in the Norte de Santander province.

### Ukraine nuclear plant disconnected from grid

KYIV: Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant under occupation by Russian troops was disconnected from the national power supply on Thursday, the state energy operator said.

'The actions of the invaders caused a complete disconnection of the (Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant) from the power grid - the first in the history of the plant," Energoatom said on Telegram. The Zaporizhzhia plant -Europe's largest nuclear facility - has been occupied by Moscow's troops since the opening weeks of the war. It has remained on the frontlines ever since, and in recent weeks Moscow and Kviv have traded blame over shelling around the complex in southern Ukraine. Energoatom said the plant was disconnected from Ukraine's national supply system after a power line was twice disconnected by fires at ash pits in an adjacent thermal power plant. - APP

## Rohingya must be part of Myanmar crisis solution

NEW YORK: United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on Myanmar's military-installed government to include ethnic Rohingya in a solution to the country's political crisis. He commented on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the start of a mass exodus by the Muslim minority to Bangladesh to escape a military crackdown in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state. UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said Guterres noted "the unflagging aspirations for an inclusive future" for the Rohingya, who face widespread discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar. Most are denied citizenship and many other rights. Guterres' spokesperson said that "perpetrators of all international crimes committed in Myanmar should be held accountable," adding that "justice for victims will contribute to a sustainable and inclusive political future for the country and its people."

The long-simmering conflict with the Rohingya exploded on August 25, 2017, when Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine in response to attacks on police and border guards by a Rohingya militant group. More than 700,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh as troops allegedly committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

In January 2020, the International Court of Justice, the UN's top court, ordered Myanmar to do all it could to prevent genocide against the Rohingya. Two days earlier, an independent commission set up by Myanmar's government concluded there were reasons to believe security forces committed war crimes against the Rohingya - but not genocide. In March 2022, the United States said the oppression of the Rohingya amounts to genocide after authorities confirmed accounts of mass atrocities against civilians by Myanmar's military. Earlier this month, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet that some 1 million Rohingya refugees living in overcrowded camps in Bangladesh must return home to Myanmar. "The Rohingya are nationals of Myanmar and they have to be taken back," Hasina was quoted as saying by Bachelet's press secretary, Ihsanul Karim. - DNA

## Human Rights Watch urges Pakistan to outlaw torture

Rights Watch (HRW), a prominent international watchdog body, has urged Pakistan's Senate to speed up the adoption of a bill that criminalizes the use of torture.

Although Pakistan's constitution prohibits the use of torture "for extracting evidence" and the country is a party to international treaties that prohibit it, HRW said, the country still lacks legislation that criminalizes the practice. After the National Assembly

approved the Torture and Custodial Death (Preven- on August 1, the bill was sent to a Senate committee. The Senate can now vote on the legislation at the earliest during its next session later this month, it said. "Pakistan's Senate should urgently pass a bill that would make torture a crim-

tion and Punishment) Act

inal offense," the New Yorkbased watchdog said in a statement on August 24. "The first step to ending Pakistan's endemic torture problem is to criminalize it," John Sifton, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, said. "Justice and accountabil-

enforces the law by carrying out transparent and impartial investigations into torture allegations," he added. HRW also urged for an immediate, independent, and transparent investigation into the alleged torture of a

PTI leader. Pakistan ratified the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment

in 2010. Under articles 2

HRW's director, said. - APP Society, Gwadar Pro reported it, quoting a spokesperson of Chinese Foreign Ministry. The spokesperson issued a statement when his attention

have killed more than 700 people and displaced more than 300,000 in Baluchistan and Sindh provinces. China will continue to promote bilateral cooperation in dis-

was drawn towards the reports that heavy monsoon rains

aster prevention and mitigation and climate change. It is believed that under the leadership of the Pakistani government and with the joint help of the international community, the people in the disaster-hit areas will overcome the difficulties and resume normal work and life at an early date, the spokesperson added.

He commented, "China has noted the recent severe floods in many parts of Pakistan, which have caused heavy casualties and property losses. We express deep condolences to the victims and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families, the injured and the people in the disaster-hit areas. – DNA

## China provides emergency aid for flood-effected people in Pakistan Islamabad: Considering the current situation in Pakistan, China has decided to provide an additional batch of emergency humanitarian assistance, including 25,000 tents and other relief materials urgently needed by Pakistan, and

strive to deliver them as soon as possible.

The Red Cross Society of China will provide US \$300,000 in emergency cash assistance to the Pakistan Red Crescent

## Indonesia, Eswatini ink MoU to bolster relationships

Antara

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo (Jokowi) and King Mswati III of Eswatini witnessed the inking of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries at the Merdeka Palace here on Thursday. The MoU signed by Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi and her counterparts from the Kingdom of Eswatini, Thulisile Dladla, is the enabler for economic cooperation between the two nations, as quoted from the statement of the Presidential Secretariat. Marsudi noted that several cooperation sectors come under the MoU that will be the priority of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Eswatini. The sectors include trade, investment, mining, energy, green economy, agriculture, infrastructure and development, tourism, as well as health.

"Later, we will hold meetings from time to time to follow up on the progress in the implementation of the cooper ation," the minister affirmed. President Jokowi was also accompanied by State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) Minister Erick Thohir and Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung during the inking of the agreement. After the signing of the MoU, King Mswati III will receive Chairperson of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin) Arsjad Rasjid along with two other Kadin officials, Garibaldi Thohir and Hilmi Panigoro, as well as several representatives from the Indonesian private sector.



OTTAWA: Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf met Secretary-General of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Stephen Twigg. - DNA

## **HBL** to access int'l funding, including issuing green bond

The meeting was also attended by the heads of leading development institutions of the SCO member states, representatives of the SCO Secretariat and the partner banks of SCO IBC

ISLAMABAD: Habib Bank Limited (HBL) will access international funding, including perhaps being able to issue a green bond in China's capital market, China Economic Net (CEN) reported it on Thursday quoting Chairman (HBL) Sultan Ali Allana.

Habib Bank Limited participated in the 18th Council Meeting of the SCO Interbank Consortium (SCO-IBC) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Speaking at the annual meeting, Sultan Ali Allana termed it "imperative to prioritise sustainable development goals," As part of its commitment to the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), HBL has worked with China to develop green lending activities and loan management framework by adopting the China – EU Green Taxonomy, the chairman revealed.

He noted that the initiative, which will be completed this year, is to "position HBL to access international funding, including perhaps being able to issue a green bond in China's capital market."

As per Allana, amid great changes in regional trade, logistics and food security, it is of "utmost urgency" to develop a regional clearing system to facilitate trade among SCO member countries. "Perhaps we can start with using one of two of the regional currencies for trade amongst the member countries and in the long term we can work towards developing a regional currency," he said. Allana also called for a financial

inclusion agenda which can cover a wider population mix and provide access to the underprivileged. Drawing on China's use of technology to lift millions of people out of poverty, he shared that HBL has also taken "revolutionary" steps "to double our customer base through innovative digital solutions.'

Joining SCO-IBC as a partner bank in August 2014, HBL was elevated as a member bank during the 14th annual council meeting of SCO-IBC in 2018, a year after Pakistan became a member state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Over the years, HBL has played a unique role in the region, facilitating trade, investment. and finance between SCO member countries, not the least in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Since the inception of CPEC in 2013. HBL established a dedicated China coverage team in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad consisting of Chinese and Pakistani bankers to provide financial services exclusively to Chinese companies. In 2016, the bank set up a branch in the Gwadar Free Zone (GFZ) for Chinese investors and individuals building factories in the zone.

Driven by the high-quality devel-

opment of the second phase of CPEC, HBL has made forays into innovative and diversified financial services. In 2019, for example, HBL became one of the first institutions to sign the Green Investment Principles (GIP) for the Belt and Road along with other 27 global institutions, promoting green finance and investment in CPEC projects.

The meeting was also attended by the heads of leading development institutions of the SCO member states, representatives of the SCO Secretariat and the partner banks of SCO IBC. Established in 2005, SCO-IBC currently has eight member banks including HBL, and two partner banks, the CEN added. - APP



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## Briefs

## **Court** adjourns Gill's bail petition

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A lower court of Islamabad on Thursday served notices to respondents on a petition seeking post-arrest bail of PTI leader Shahbaz Gill in a sedition case registered against him by capital police.

Additional District and Session Judge Tahir Abbas Sapra heard the bail petition of Shahbaz Gill filed through his lawyers including Faisal Chaudhry and others.

The petitioner adopted the stance that the FIR registered by the Kohsar Police station was based on dishonesty and political rivalry. It added that some parts of his statement were added in the FIR and it was presented against the context.

The petitioner said that he was a highly educated person and had been studying in institutions of US and Europe. He said that the case didn't meet the sections applied in FIR, adding that he was trapped in the matter. He prayed the court to grant him a post-arrest bail. After listening arguments, the court adjourned hearing of the case till Friday.

#### Israel's premier urges West to reject Iran deal

DNA

JERUSALEM: Israel's prime minister called on President Joe Biden and Western powers to call off an emerging nuclear deal with Iran, saying that negotiators are letting Tehran manipulate the talks and that an agreement would reward Israel's enemies. Yair Lapid called the emerging agreement a "bad deal" and suggested that Riden has failed to honor red lines he had previously promised to set.

"The countries of the West draw a red line, the Iranians ignore it, and the red line moves," Lapid told reporters at a press conference in Jerusalem. An emerging deal, Lapid said, "does not meet the standards set by President Biden himself: preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear state."

Biden has been eager to revive the 2015 deal, which offered sanctions relief to Iran in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear program The original deal unraveled after then-President Donald Trump withdrew from it in 2018 and reimposed sanctions, with strong encour-

agement from Israel. It remains unclear whether the United States and Iran will be able to reach a new agreement. But the Biden administration is expected to weigh in on Iran's latest offer in the coming days. With an agreement appearing close, Israel has stepped up its efforts to block it.

#### US warns Turkey of sanctions

DNA

ISTANBUL: Turkey's top business association has confirmed receiving a letter from the US Treasury warning of possible sanctions if it continues doing business with Russia. Washington is growing in-

creasingly alarmed that the Russian government and businesses are using Turkey to evade Western financial and trading restrictions imposed in response to the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine six months ago. Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin agreed to step up economic cooperation at a summit in the Black Sea resort of Sochi earlier this month.

Official data show the value of Turkish exports to Russia between May and July growing by nearly 50 percent from last year's figure.

Turkey's imports of Russian oil are ballooning and the two sides have agreed to transition to ruble payments for the natural gas exported by the Kremlin-tied giant Gazprom.

## Taliban implementing own doctrine of Islam

The UN report further states that from mid-Aug 2021 to mid-June 2022 UNAMA has documented 2,106 civilian casualties, including 700 people killed. Most of these casualties were caused by so-called Daesh forces

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Since return to power with help of Doha truce with US, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has broken away all previous records of victimization and state aggression in the name of religion and political grudges. Though the UN Watchdog on Human Rights, Amnesty International and others are raising voices against Taliban Human Rights policies from last one year but now the US has also joined the row of critics. However, common Afghans are still reluctant to trust the US, "the Americans are following dual standard in its policies towards Afghanistan", Afghans are holding the US policy makers responsible not only for derailing the smooth political process but gross violations of human rights, even extra judicial killings in Afghanistan.

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom in its latest communiqué, has expressed concerns over Afghanistan. saying: "Religious freedom conditions in Afghanistan have drastically deteriorated." Most recently, following the killing and wounding of 120 in recent attacks in Kabul, Amnesty International urged the Taliban to immediately step-up measures to protect Hazaras. The systematic attacks on the minority Hazara Shiite community in Afghanistan may amount to crimes against humanity and should be unequivocally condemned. AI said in a statement.

Earlier, the UN new report on the Human rights situation in Afghanistan showcased human rights violations against women, ex- Afghan security personnel, media workers and civil society, including arbitrary arrests, torture and ill-treatment, threats and harassment. The report says on 17 August 2021, the de facto authorities announced an amnesty for former government officials and Afghan National Security and Defense Force members. This amnesty does not, however, appear to have been consistently upheld, with UNAMA recording at least 160 extrajudicial killings of former government and security officials by members of the de facto authorities between 15 August 2021 and 15 June 2022. The UN report further states that from mid-Aug 2021 to mid-June 2022 UNAMA has documented 2,106 civilian casualties, including 700 people killed. Most of these casualties

were caused by so-called Daesh forces. With regards to places of detention: encouragingly, the de facto authorities do appear to be seeking to fulfill their obligations in relation to the treatment of detainees, with the Taliban leader having issued guidance on this issue in January 2022. Progress is hindered by financial constraints, resulting at times, in inadequate food, medical care and hygiene supplies for detainees and the cessation of vocational education and training programs for prisoners that were previously funded by

the international community. Similarly, the global HR activists report, that "the education and participation of women and girls in public life is fundamental to any modern society. The relegation of women and girls to the home denies Afghanistan the benefit of the significant contributions they have to offer. Officials of de facto Istikhbarat have been identified for their particularly severe treatment of people deprived of their liberty. The UNAMA's report details instances where the de facto Istikhbarat was involved in perpetrating human rights violations against individuals in their custody, including extrajudicial killings, torture and ill-treatment, as well as arbitrary arrests and detentions.

However, the Taliban assert that inmates "are satisfied" with prison food, but UNA-MA reports that prisoners have been denied food and water as punishment. A new report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) makes for very grim reading, confirming many of the concerns Afghan human rights advocates have raised since last August, when the Taliban took control of Afghanistan. The UNAMA catalogues serious human rights abuses that Taliban forces have committed, including summary executions and enforced disappearances of former members of the Afghan National Security Forces, which have continued months after the Taliban takeover. Quoting an Afghan journalists support organization AFC, the US commission on HR states, "beside limitation of access to information intimidation and detentions of Afghan journalists and media workers increased after the takeover of Taliban in Afghanistan." The AFC in its report published late Monday said that self-censorship practices increased in the past 12 months because to avoid arrests by the Taliban regime.

## **Control** room for flash floods established at BISP HQs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the directions of Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety / Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Ms. Shazia Marri, a "Control Room for Flash

Floods 2022" has been established at BISP headquarters for coordination and disbursement of Government Emergency Cash Assistance to the affectees of flash floods 2022 across the country.

The said Control Room will be fully operational from tomorrow, 26th August 2022. People can visit BISP headquarters or contact at 051-9246312 from 08:00 AM to 07:00 PM for the assistance and other related information. Mr. Muhammad Khalifa, Director (Field Operations) BISP will monitor and oversee the whole activities of the control room. He may also be contacted at 051-9246352.

Moreover 97 campsites have also been established for the disbursement of financial aid to the flood affectees of Balochistan. In order to get registered in the Emergency Cash Assistance programme, the affected families would need to SMS CNIC number on 8171. Once the eligibility SMS is received from 8171 the emergency cash can be collected from the nearest payment center.

The staff of Benazir Income Support Programme is present at the campsites established in flood affected areas and is monitoring to ensure the transparent disbursement of financial aid. The administration of BISP has canceled the holidays of BISP staff with the instructions to fully coordinate and facilitate the flood affectees in their respective regions.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail and the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, Suh Sangpyo exchanging views during a meeting. - DNA

## **Calls for restraint** after fighting returns to Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA: The international community appealed for restraint on Thursday after fighting resumed in northern Ethiopia between government forces and Tigray rebels, scuppering a truce and casting a shadow over hopes for peace. The situation on the ground was unclear a day after fresh fighting erupted on the border of Tigray, where the warring sides accused each other of igniting the first major clashes in five months.

Rebel authorities in Tigray said on Wednesday that government forces failed to breach their defensive lines, but offered little detail on the status of combat or casualties

The government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has also not provided an update on the fighting, or whether combat has spread beyond the scenes of Wednesday's battles on Tigray's southern border. Spokespeople for Abiy's government and the rebel Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) did not respond to AFP's requests for comment about the situation on the ground.

The return to combat has alarmed the international community, which has been pushing both sides to peacefully resolve the brutal 21-month war in Africa's second most populous nation. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the truce reached between the warring parties in March had "reduced violence and saved lives". - APP

ISLAMABAD: Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed, SI(M),

has been appointed as Director General Public Relations (Air

Force). Air Vice Marshal Aurangzeb Ahmed was commissioned

in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in December, 1992. Dur-

ing his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron and an

Operational Air Base. He has served as Assistant Chief of the Air

Staff (Operational Requirements & Development) at Air Head-

quarters, Islamabad. He holds Master's degrees in Military Arts

from China and National Security & War Studies from National

Defence University, Islamabad. The Air Officer has served as Directing Staff and faculty member at National Defence Universi-

ty, Islamabad. He has also performed his duties in Saudi Arabia as Contingent Commander of Pakistan Aeronautical Complex

team. He is a recipient of Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military). - DNA

## DINOVALLEY

tries especially in trade and investment. - APP

Miftah apprises Korean envoy of investment areas

10 minutes Drive from The Monal Islamabad

## Pakistan's First Ever **Dinosaur Themed Park**



## 17 KM, Pir Sohawa Road, Haripur, KP. (\$\) 03005221018/ 03455357094 (\$\) 03001769377 (\$\)(6)(6)(6) dinovalleypk (\$\)Monalofficial

## Pakistan, Iran can enhance trade ties

AVM Aurangzeb appointed new PAF spokesperson

**News Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Iran have great potential to enhance the trade in various fields such as energy, gas, electricity, agriculture, textile and leather. This was expressed by Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, Seyed Mohammad Ali Hosseini during a meeting with new President of ECOSF, Prof. Seyed Komail Tayebi held here. Prof. Tayebi briefed the Ambassador about

his joining as new President ECOSF and dis-



cussed his future plans pertaining to the promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in the ECO region. He emphasized that STI is very important for socio-economic development of the ECO region. Speaking on the occasion, Seyed Hosseini said that joining of Prof. Tayebi as President ECOSF will strengthen the ties between the member countries, especially Pakistan and Iran. He said that there is great potential be-

tween Pakistan and Iran to enhance the trade in various fields such as energy, gas, electricity, agriculture, textile, leather, etc. He also shared that a knowledge based exhibition launched in Islamabad from today will boost economic ties between the two countries. As many as 30 companies from Iran are participating in the exhibition. The Ambassador also appreciated the role of ECOSF in promoting STI activities in the ECO region.

The Ambassador said that Iran is the founding and key member of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) who also hosts the headquarters of ECO, thus, ECO and its allied organizations and institutes are very much supported/cooperated by Iran. He also assured his maximum possible support to ECOSF specially to resolve the issue of transfer of funds from Iran; which is mainly due to the international embargo on Iran.