



Islamabad POST

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EU Commission Chief rebuffs Polish call to suspend carbon market

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Sherry urges unity to deal with catastrophe

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25 years on: remembering Lady Diana

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Briefs

Last Soviet leader dies aged 91

DNA

MOSCOW: Mikhail Gorbachev, who ended the Cold War and was the last leader of the Soviet Union, has died at the age of 91, Russian news agencies reported, citing medical sources. "Gorbachev died this evening after a serious and long illness," the Central Clinical Hospital in Moscow said late on Tuesday, as quoted by the Interfax, TASS and RIA Novosti news agencies. Gorbachev led the Soviet Union from 1985 until its collapse in 1991.

Maryam wants justice done with Imran Khan

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday reacted over the contempt case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Taking a dig at the PTI chairman Imran Khan, Maryam penned on Twitter that "Actually the punishment for insult should be given to Judge Zeba, who insulted the honor of Imran Khan by doing justice."

Justice must be seen to be done

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb on Wednesday said "justice must be seen to be done" in the contempt of court case being heard by the Islamabad High Court against former prime minister Imran Khan. "The region's most popular leader and three-time prime minister (Nawaz Sharif) was barred from heading the party after his lifetime disqualification on account of not receiving salary from his son with the help of Black's Law Dictionary, and sent to jail along with his daughter," she said in a series of tweets.

Devastating floods kill over 1,191

PM Shehbaz announces Rs10 bn for KPK in flood relief assistance

SHAMIM SHAHID

KANJU: The death toll from the devastating floods soared to 1,191 on Wednesday as flood waters which came from the north began to breach banks and affected more than a million people in Sindh's Dadu district. According to the daily report by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), more than 3,500 people have been injured so far since June 14. Around 87 people were injured while 27 were killed during the past 24 hours. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday announced Rs10 billion grant for the flood-affected populace of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as flood relief assistance. Addressing a gathering of flood-affected people here, the prime minister said that the amount would be spent for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood-hit people of the province. The federal government, National Disaster Management Authority and the provincial government, through close coordination, would ensure transparency and immediate disbursement in the affected areas. The prime minister said earlier, the federal government had already announced Rs15 billion for Sindh province and Rs10 billion for Balochistan province respectively. The

Continued on Page 06

Army postpones Defence Day ceremony

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pak Army Wednesday postponed the central ceremony to be held at GHQ to commemorate Defence and Martyrs Day on September 6 to show solidarity with the flood-hit people in Pakistan. Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Babar Iftikhar announced this in a twitter post. He wrote: "In solidarity with the flood affected people of Pakistan, central ceremony at GHQ to commemorate Defence & Martyrs Day on 6 September has been postponed." He said Pakistan Armed Forces shall continue serving our brothers and sisters struck by unprecedented floods. Pakistan celebrates its Defence Day on September 6 each year with official grand ceremonies. However, at the moment, Pakistan is facing a major flood situation in decades with one-third of the country became submerged. Pak Army is at the forefront of the rescue and relief operations in the country.



KALAM: PM Shehbaz Sharif interacts with flood affectees and tourists stranded in Kalam. - DNA

Shehbaz thanks Indian PM



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz on Wednesday thanked his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi for condolences over the human and material losses caused by floods in Pakistan. The prime minister, in a Twitter post, expressed his confidence that with their characteristic resilience the people of Pakistan would InshaAllah overcome the adverse effects of the natural calamity, and rebuild their lives and communities.

Kazakh govt announces \$400,000 for flood victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Kazakhstan will provide \$400,000 to support the brotherly people of Pakistan. According to details Kazakhstan has decided to stand with the people of Pakistan at this critical juncture. Both countries enjoy excellent relations and help each other whenever there is a need. Kazakh govt has communicated its decision to the government of Pakistan and the amount shall soon be transferred to Pakistan.

Khan gets one more chance in contempt case

IHC found Imran's reply, submitted yesterday, to be 'unsatisfactory'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday gave PTI chairman Imran Khan another chance to submit a "well-considered" response in the contempt proceedings initiated against him for his controversial remarks about district and sessions judge Zeba Chaudhry, who had approved his chief of staff, Shahbaz Gill's physical remand in a sedition case. The former prime minister was summoned by the court in his personal capacity at the last hearing, when the IHC had also issued a show-cause notice to him. A five-member bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice (CJ) Athar Minalah, Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Justice

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'Solution of our problems in real independence'

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan made it clear that solution to the problems of the country lied in the Haqiqi Azadi; hence he would continue his fight for real freedom along with relief and rehabilitation work in the flood-ravaged areas. Speaking at an ISF Convention here on

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Russia shuts major gas pipeline to Europe

CENTRELINE REPORT

MOSCOW: Russia has completely halted gas supplies to Europe via a major pipeline, saying repairs are needed. The Russian state-owned energy giant, Gazprom, said the restrictions on the Nord Stream 1 pipeline would last for the next three days. Russia has already significantly reduced gas exports via the pipeline. It denies accusations it has used energy supplies as a weapon of war against Western countries. The Nord Stream 1 pipeline stretches 1,200km (745 miles) under the Baltic Sea from the Russian coast near St Petersburg to north-eastern Germany. It opened in 2011, and can send a maximum of 170 million cubic metres of gas per day from Russia to Germany. The pipeline was shut down for 10 days in July - again for repairs, according to Russia - and has recently been operating at just 20% capacity because of what Russia describes as faulty equipment. The president of Germany's network regulator has said the country will be able to cope - if Russia

Continued on Page 06

EU to suspend Russia visa deal

NEWS DESK

PRAGUE: The European Union has voted not to impose a blanket ban on Russian visas but has agreed to suspend an agreement that eases visa issuance. That's according to Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto, who said in a post on Facebook that the decision was made at the EU Foreign Ministers' Summit in Prague. Szijarto said Hungary, along with some other member states, opposed a Russian visa ban. "There won't be a general blanket visa ban imposed for Russian citizens," he said. "Several member states have raised their voice against this, including myself." He added that the agreement which eases visa issuance will be suspended with qualified majority support,

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European Union sends largest batch of Pakistani students

This year 3,013 students from 133 countries were selected for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarships

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The European Union Delegation to Pakistan hosted a pre-departure event for the recipients of the EU's flagship Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarships in 2022. This year, the highest ever number of 166 Pakistani students, 86 men and 80 women, have received scholarships to study in universities in the European Union. The event, organized in collaboration with the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Islamabad, not only celebrated the success of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarship holders but also provided an opportunity for networking amongst the peers and Erasmus+ Alumni. In his welcome remarks, EU Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Mr Thomas Seiler said, "Today we congratulate the young men and women who will embark on

an educational and cultural journey through Erasmus+. They will return after some months with strong knowledge and rich experience. This will be of large benefit for them in their future professional lives." The EU Chargé d'Affaires a.i. further added, "The results of the scholarship's selection demonstrate that Pakistani students are well prepared and that the Pakistani universities provide them with necessary skills to compete at global level." He added that he is particularly pleased to see more students from Pakistan have accessed the Erasmus+ programme. This year 3,013 students from 133 countries were selected for the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarships. Pakistan was 1st in the world of scholarships awarded and remained the top country in terms of scholarship applications. This shows the big interest of young Pakistanis in the EU, which

we feel we are obliged to honour. At the programme, Erasmus+ Alumni shared their experiences, followed by a question and answer session. Higher Education Commission Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, representatives from EU Member States and members of the Erasmus+ Alumni Association also attended the event. Erasmus+ is the EU's premier programme to support education, training, youth and sport across the world. The first Erasmus+ Programme was launched in 1987, initially for exchanges within Europe only. It was extended beyond Europe's borders in 2004. It funds programmes, projects, scholarships and fosters cooperation both within the European Union and globally. The current Erasmus+ programme was launched in March 2021 and brings over 23.2 billion Euro worldwide to support mobility and cooperation in the higher educational sector.

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Mushtaq Ghani inaugurates biggest eye hospital in KP

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Acting governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and speaker provincial assembly Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Ghani inaugurated the biggest eye hospital FIO Hospital of khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A number of Doctors, ophthalmologists participated in the ceremony. VC khyber Medical university Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq appreciated the step to bring a modern single speciality hospital to Peshawar. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Daud Khan expressed his views and said we have seen the setup like FIO Hospital in very developed countries. CEO, FIO Hospital Dr. Mushtaq Ahmad presented the whole infra structure of FIO Hospital. He explained the technologies using here under one roof. Dr. Mushtaq briefed about the upcoming plains and new technologies introducing here in KP and he hoped that FIO Hospital will provide diploma courses and trainings to coming optometrists and ophthalmologists. Acting governor KP appreciated the step of bringing such a great idea to KP. He congratulated the CEO Dr. Mushtaq and team of FIO for providing the international level health facilities as well as employment to the youth of KP. He went on said that our government always prior health and education by visiting here I am feeling proud that we have got an international level setup here in KP. He said that FIO will make the name of KP and Pakistan High and lightened. In the end he requested VC KMU Prof. Dr. Zia ul Haq to fully support FIO Hospital in providing Diploma and Training classes in future.

New refugees support unit opened

Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, KP Mr. Muhammad Abbas Khan, Head of Development Corporation, German Embassy Dr. Sebastian Paust, Country Director, GIZ Mr. Tobias Becker, and Mayor, District Mardan, Mr. Himayat Ullah Mayar inaugurated the newly established Urban Refugees Support Unit (URSU) at District Mardan. The Units objective is to provide support and assistance to Urban Refugees and to connect them to service providers. This initiative will improve access of vulnerable groups to education and health services and will operate on the basis of a referral system. It will have separate desks for Health, Education, Livelihood, Protection, and Repatriation where issues related to the Afghan Refugees settled in Urban & Semi-Urban areas will be resolved in an efficient and effective manner. Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, KP thanked the German Government and GIZ along with UNHCR for their continued support to facilitate the Afghan Refugees and Host Community and emphasized the need for continued future partnership. The Head of Development Corporation, German Embassy, and Country Director, GIZ thanked the Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, KP, and appreciated the efforts of the Government of Pakistan in managing the largest protracted refugee situation.



FAISALABAD: Yerzhan Kistafin, ambassador of Kazakhstan meets President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industries. – DNA

'PML-N govt providing relief to flood victims'

FAISALABAD: Former state minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz candidate from NA-108 constituency Chaudhry Abid Sher Ali said on Wednesday that the PML-N was a peaceful political party, but it would not allow anyone to remove its banners and flexes in the constituency. Addressing a press conference here, he said all other candidates had displayed their banners and flexes in the NA-108 constituency in connection with the by-polls, but regretted that the banners of the PML-N candidate were being removed. He said voters of the constituency were sensible enough,

and they would reject those who were indulging in intimidation and vilification of the PML-N candidate. He thanked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for providing relief to the electricity consumers and made a humble appeal that the relief limit should be increased from 200 units to 500 units. He said that the country was in the grip of inflation due to ill-conceived policies of the previous government. "The coalition government in Centre was trying to control inflation and its benefits would start reaching the public in next couple of months," he

added. Former state minister and senior PML-N leader Talal Chaudhry told the news conference that political forces in the country had got united due to the policies of the former rulers. He said the PML-N was not only asking voters for their support to its candidate but also requesting them to help the flood affectees. He said that only the PML-N leaders and workers were reaching out to the flood affected people and trying to mitigate their miseries. Ahmad Shahyari, another leader of the PML-N, also addressed the press conference. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Hamad Obaid Alzaabi, UAE ambassador, received Hatem Bamatraf, President of PTCL, and commended their efforts and 1.75 billion rupees donation to help and relief those affected by torrential rains and floods in Pakistan. – DNA

PBM seeks people's support for flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Baitul-Mal (PBM) Managing Director Amir Fida Paracha on Wednesday urged the people from all walks of life to come forward and cooperate with PBM in its efforts to help rehabilitation of the flood affected people. Paracha said this during a visit to the relief camp set up for the flood victims at the Motorway Toll Plaza. The MD also participated in the campaign to collect donations for flood hit people. Motorway Police also fully supported the donations collecting campaign being continued to help the flood affected families. He said various steps were being taken initially to provide immediate assistance to the affected families. In the next phase, the PBM would ensure the rehabilitation of flood-affected people. – APP

PRC accelerates flood relief operation

KARACHI: The recent heavy monsoon rains and subsequent floods left thousands of people homeless and millions more affected in Sindh province. Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC), Sindh branch started its relief operation in early August, which has now been accelerated. The PRC-Sindh has given relief items in eight districts and was collecting a growing number of relief goods through relief camps; thus, Sindh's flood-affected areas were being resupplied, said a press release issued here on Wednesday. PRC-Sindh will soon set up mobile health units, install water purification plants and distribute cash grants for food to flood-affected families. Chairman PRC-Sindh branch Samar Ali Khan said that PRC's National Chairman Abrar Ul Haq announced the provision of food aid to 2000 flood-affected families and assured the PRC-Sindh branch of its full support to the rehabilitation of flood victims on a humanitarian cause. "Medical camps will be set up soon, along with the distribution of relief items in flood-affected districts of Sindh," said Samar. According to Provincial Secretary of PRC-Sindh Kanwar Waseem, relief items included tents, mosquito nets, stoves, kitchen sets, jerry cans, tar-

paulin sheets, hurricane lamps, shelter tool kits, blankets, jackets, water filters, shawls, buckets, hygiene kits for children and women, and so on, have been distributed in Thatta, Badin, Dadu, Shikarpur, Larkana, Jacobabad, Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas, where the flood affected people were awaiting relief. "Additionally, the PRC-Sindh teams have finished the assessment of 200 of the most vulnerable households in the districts of Thatta and Dadu in order to provide an unconditional cash grant of Rs. 16,000 and non-food items," he said. Kanwar Waseem added that PRC-Sindh has also set up a flood relief camp outside Hilal-e-Ahmer House, Teen Talwar Clifton, where along with the general public, several companies associated with food industries are also donating food items for the flood victims. The PRC management praised the general public's enthusiasm and philanthropists' generosity in assisting flood-affected families. They urged the business tycoons and donors to make maximum donations to the Pakistan Red Crescent for the flood-affected families so that the needy can be helped in time. – APP

Sherry urges unity to deal with this climate catastrophe

DNA

ISLAMABAD: While addressing the media in a press conference, Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman highlighted that "Pakistan has never seen a disaster of such epic proportions in living history. These are moments of extreme fragility for the country." Minister Rehman further stressed, "This is an all-hands on deck crisis, and we cannot rest until the huge needs and relief gap on the ground is met. None of us are sleeping much because we are painfully aware of the anguish millions of our people are in. In such times of distress, we should avoid the politics of polarization and division in a country under severe public stress. "We are entering the 9th week of this flood catastrophe, and it is devastation unlike we have ever seen before. Even despite a huge concerted relief effort, which was delayed because of the hard rain not letting



helicopters take off, the affected population is well over 33 million. They all need shelter, water to drink, hygiene kits and cooked food. We are grateful for civil society activists and philanthropists who are coming forth in big numbers now. We need everyone to help. The rains in Sindh and Balochistan have surpassed 30-year averages and have taken more than 1191 lives, with well over 33 million severely affected. More than 5000 kms of roads and 243 bridges have been destroyed, and nearly a million homes have been fully or partially damaged. The north too is badly affected, with the Indus rising via the Kabul River. The task of rebuilding in

places has already begun, but it will be a mammoth task. If we are to build back better, it will honestly require more than the 10 billion USD that is being talked about. Climate resilient infrastructure is expensive, and requires scientific designing, with fortifications to withstand climate shocks. The same will be the case for crops. Right now Sindh's crop is almost all wiped out. "Next stage will be health management because the flood-hit will be exposed to water-borne diseases. This could soon become a health disaster. We are under-resourced at the moment, but we implore everyone to donate as much as possible to reliable organisations.

METROPOLITAN CORPORATION ISLAMABAD (Directorate of Municipal Administration)

AUCTION NOTICE

Directorate of Municipal Administration Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad intends to open auction the operation/ management/maintenance of Mega Zone Bowling Club (Entertainment Hub) F-9 Park Islamabad on license basis as per detail description mentioned below subject to eligibility criteria of terms & conditions according to PPR Rules. The Open Auction will be held in the office of Director Municipal Administration, Fire Headquarter Building G-7/1 Islamabad on the schedule dates & time mentioned as under:-

S #	Description	Last date of issuance of TORs / Document	Auction Date & Time	Alternative Date & Time
1.	Open Auction for Operation/ Management/ Maintenance of Megazone/ Bowling Club (Entertainment Hub) F-9 Park Islamabad for the Period of 02 years extendable subject to satisfactory performance.	19-09-2022	20-09-2022 at 1100 Hrs	21-09-2022 at 1100 Hrs

Terms & Conditions:-

- Only such intending bidder shall be entitled to take part in the open auction who before the commencement of auction shall obtain the TORs / Tender Documents from the address mentioned below and a token number from the office of DDO/DMA/MCI during office hours through written request on his firm / Company letter Pad along with a non-refundable bank draft amounting to Rs. 5000/- and refundable bank draft as earnest money amounting to Rs.10,000,000/- against the subject site in favor of DDO/DMA/MCI one day prior to the date of auction.
- The duration of the license is as mentioned above which is extendable subject to satisfactory performance along with submission of advance payment of each year before one month with 10% increase per annum of the bid value.
- Before handing over the possession of the site, highest bidder shall deposit 100% of the bid value amount for the period of 1st year in advance along with 10% bid value as security deposit and 10% withholding tax as per prevailing rates within a specific period which will be mentioned in the offer letter. In case of default / failure of the bid offer by the highest bidder stand cancelled and the earnest money shall be forfeited.
- The Earnest Money of the 2nd and 3rd bidder will be retained till the signing of the license / agreement and handing over the site possession to the successful bidder.
- The Authority reserved the rights to cancel the auction proceeding whole or any individual bid without assigning any reason.
- In case of non-occurrence of auction proceeds due to any reason including non-acceptance of bid, the auction process will be rescheduled on alternative date as mentioned above.
- The open auction will be held in the office of Director Municipal Administration, MCI Fire Headquarter Building G/7-1, Islamabad on schedule Date & Time as mentioned above.
- Applications received with incomplete documents or after due date and time shall not be considered.
- Only those participants will be allowed to participate in the open auction whom issued the token number on submission of Earnest Money.
- The companies / firms should not be defaulter of any Government department including MCI / CDA and FBR etc.
- The companies / firms should possess valid NTN.
- The owner of the company / firm or any member of the company / Board of Director has no history of financial default as well as any criminal history of conflict of interest.
- The company / firm should not be black listed from any Government / Semi Government / Authority etc.
- No tender / token will be issued on the date of Auction.

NOTE:
Only registered companies/ firms having relevant experience are eligible in the bidding process. The companies/ firms shall provide their incorporation/ registration certificates along with their registration with tax authorities.

DIRECTOR
Municipal Administration
Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad
Fire Headquarter Building G-7/1
Phone 051-9252838

PID (I) No. 1310/22

'The Unwritten' opens doors for art lovers

ISLAMABAD: Satrang gallery opened its door on Wednesday for visitors to experience the influence of female in mythology and mysticism through the perspective of different colors in a group art show "The Unwritten". Highlighting the importance of arts in society, Natasha Malik said use of colors was the best way to express those feelings which could not be explained through words. "Art is the language of peace and love. The more we promote art in the society, the more it will breed tolerance and harmony," she added. Maira Umer, a visitor at the gallery eulogized the displayed work of art. – APP

Rains, floods kill 264 in KP since June 15: PDMA

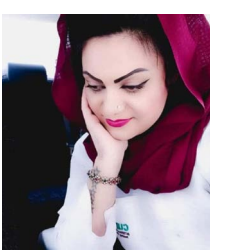
PESHAWAR: At least 264 people including 36 women and 106 children have been killed in rains and floods-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa since 15th June to 29th August, office of the Director General Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) informed on Wednesday. According to statistics issued by the PDMA, 327 people have been injured during the same period and shifted to local hospitals for treatment by the rescue workers. The statistics further showed that 156 schools and other educational institutions were damaged in the result of excessive rains and floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including in merged districts. The calamity also badly hit the livestock sector as 9411 animals reportedly died

in the province. The most affected calamity-hit districts of the province were Dera Ismail Khan, Swat, Karak, Lakki Marwat, Tank and Kohistan where floods and rains inflicted heavy losses on human lives, houses and standing crops. The DG PDMA, Sharif Hussain talking in this connection said the authority has so far released funds amounting to 850 million rupees for the affected districts since July till date. Besides, he said for the most affected districts, the authority provided tents, mattresses, edible and other needed items on emergency basis that were distributed among the affectees through the respective district administrations. Since the first July. – APP

Abducted female physician found dead in Kabul

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The violence and mutilated dead body of female Dr Shulria Alkozai found in Kabul on Wednesday. Dr Shukria was reportedly abducted by armed men-called Talibns three days ago So far the Emirate Islami Afghanistan is silent. The mysterious killing and recovery of Dr Shukria was confirmed on the day when another female student of Kabul Medical Faculty Dr Ayla is hitting headlines on social media throughout the world. Dr Ayla accused Saed Khosti spokesman of Interior Ministry of forcibly making her captive and sexually assaulting her for six months.



National Days and Armed Forces Days**AUGUST**

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

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Marriott.....	051-2862121
Monal.....	0334-5421812

**Airlines**

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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**Emergency**

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Corporation.....	9209224
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Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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Rehabilitation efforts to kick in after assessment

“We will do rescue and relief first then will focus on rehabilitation,” he said lashing out at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership for hurling blatant criticism on government’s donation collections

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), Qamar Zaman Kaira on Wednesday said full fledged rehabilitation efforts would be initiated after complete damage assessment which was underway. In a joint news conference, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique said the unprecedented torrential rains had swept away all the mud houses in Sindh and Balochistan where damage assessment was not possible due to inundation and no access to affected districts.

Kaira said there was unmatched downpour season in Sindh as 1,700 millimeters (mm) rainfall was recorded in Badin and almost 1300-1500mm in its majority areas whereas the weather pattern was similar in other affected districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). He said that monsoon rains in GB’s backward areas increased water flows in rivers across the country which resulted in high flood in Sindh province due to its geographical terrain.

The water from all regions including the neighbouring Balochistan entered into Sindh that wreaked havoc, he said, adding,

“accessing people is difficult in the prevailing situation.” Despite government’s earnest efforts, the damage assessment was not possible due to complete destruction of bridges and road infrastructure damages. “We will do rescue and relief first then will focus on rehabilitation,” he said lashing out at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership for hurling blatant criticism on government’s donation collections.

He accused the PTI leadership of tainting the minds of donors to by spreading misinformation about misappropriations in the disbursement procedures. “There have been

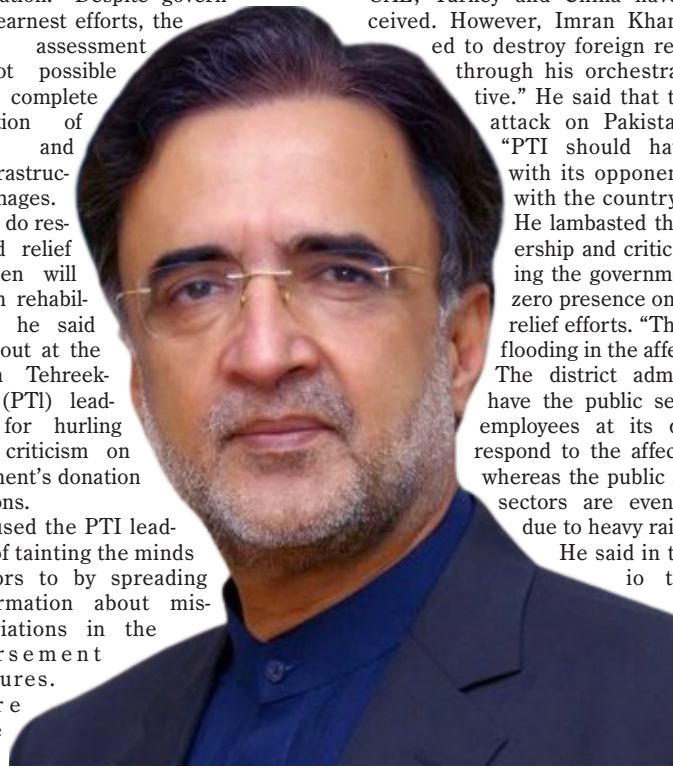
no major donations rather only few from UAE, Turkey and China have been received. However, Imran Khan preempted to destroy foreign relief efforts through his orchestrated narrative.” He said that this was an attack on Pakistan, adding, “PTI should have enmity with its opponents but not with the country.”

He lambasted the PTI leadership and critics for accusing the government to have zero presence on ground for relief efforts. “There is huge flooding in the affected areas. The district administrations have the public servants and employees at its disposal to respond to the affected people whereas the public and private sectors are evenly affected due to heavy rains.”

He said in this scenario the armed forces were the public departments and national institutions that responded and acted in coordination with the federal government. “This is inaccurate to say that there is no government in the flood affected areas. The armed forces are doing their job with an unmatched dedication and commitment in calamities all around. They have always rendered huge services and sacrifices as from soldiers to generals embraced martyrdom in flood relief efforts.”

He underscored that the crisis was huge and the damages were unprecedented as there were almost two million houses damaged across the country in flashfloods and torrential rains. Kaira informed that all the available tents were dispatched and more orders were placed to local and foreign manufacturers. “We are making emergency measures but it will take time. It was continuously raining in the affected areas and there was no access to those areas.” He regretted that the media continued highlighting Imran Khan and Shahbaz Gill stories despite the government’s exhortations to pay heed to floods in Sindh and Balochistan during the first spell.

He thanked all donors and non-governmental organisations Akhuwat, Salani, Al-Khidmat and others international NGOs for doing great job in flood impacted areas. “We will leave no one alone in this crisis,” he reiterated.



Girls remain on top in HSSC results 2022

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) on Wednesday announced the results of Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Part-II Annual Examinations 2022.

The girls were hailed for being dominant and clinching top slots in 2022 HSSC exams, in a ceremony held at the FBISE, which was attended by the Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Ahmad as chief guest, Chairman Federal Board Qaisar Alam, position holders, parents and teachers.

According to details, 75,368 regular, private and ex-students enrolled in the HSSC Part II examinations, out of which 61,741 passed with a percentage of 83.35.

In Humanities Group, the first position was secured by Faiza Younis from Islamabad Model College for Girls

F-7/2 Islamabad, with 1018 marks, while the second position was clinched by Emaan from Mashal Degree College for Women Wah Cantt. with 991 marks.

However, the third position was shared among Maheen Gul from Jamia Tul Mohsanat H-13 Islamabad and Unsa BiBi from Wise School & College for Girls, Wah Model Town Wah Cantt with 989 marks.

In Pre-Medical Group, the first position was achieved by Tooba Abdul Basit from Punjab College Attock Refinery Road Rawalpindi with 1081 marks. The second position was taken by Minahil Rashid from Army Public School and College (Girls) Humayun Road Rawalpindi Cantt. with 1077 marks.

The third position was secured by Emaan Safdar from Army Public School and College Gujranwala

Cantt. with 1076 marks.

In Pre-Engineering Group, the first position was secured by Huda Noor Ahmad from Sir Syed College Wah Cantt with 1071 marks.

The second position was shared between two students including Abdul Rehman Memon and Amal Kashif both from Hamza Army Public School and College (Girls) Stadium Road Rawalpindi with 1070 marks.

The third position was clinched by Saaim Ahmed from F.G Sir Syed College, The Mall Rawalpindi with 1068 marks.

In General Science Group, the first position was taken by Iqra Mehmood Punjab College Attock Refinery Road Rawalpindi securing 1061 marks. The second position was clinched by Aysha Hussain from Askaria College Girls Wing Rawalpindi with 1056 marks, while third position was taken

China Mobile offers free calling minutes in flood-hit areas

ISLAMABAD: Zong 4G (CMPak), the subsidiary of China Mobile Communications Corporation, has started offering free calling minutes to its users in flood-affected areas of Pakistan. “Zong understands the difficult times that the nation is going through and we are here to make sure that you remain connected with your loved ones; We are offering free Zong minutes daily, for flood-affected citizens,” reads a statement of Zong 4G. According to a Gwadar Pro’s report, users can avail free minutes by dialing *9090# from their mobile sets. The Chinese cellular company announced the package when monsoon rains and floods damaged over one million houses in Pakistan, affecting 33,046,329 people. At least 1162 people were killed and 3554 others injured during this year’s monsoon season. CMPak envisions enabling a fully connected environment for Pakistanis by leveraging the technological edge in 4G LTE, whilst providing the most reliable and affordable products in the market. – DNA

IESCO announces power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: According to IESCO’s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 1st September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Zaraj, Dk Awan, New Rawat, Wanhara, Mial, Akwal, Bilabad, Waheedabad, Burma, Misrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Milatabad, Peshawar road, Range Road Feeders, From 06:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Darbar Mai Toti, Churahi, Dana Bhal, Charohi Dongi, Surrey, City, Kariala, Jandrot Dabsi, Majajan Feeders and surroundings will be closed. – DNA

‘Is Pakistan ready to catch up with the growing AI world?’

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: ‘Where does Pakistan stand in the AI world?’, an astounding question set the stage for a one-day conference, titled: ‘4th Industrial Revolution and the Role of Artificial Intelligence’, arranged by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), here on Wednesday.

AI authority for Pakistan and MOITT National AI strategy had been a requirement for Pakistan to juxtapose with the growing AI world, said Mr Faisal Imtiaz, from the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT). Though AI had been misused many times, it would prove to be helpful for Pakistan to tackle its various departments, ranging from, economics, agriculture, health, skilled workers’ training and education to disaster and cyber threat management, he reckoned.

Dr. Zunera Jalil, Chair Cyber Security Department, Air University, highlighted the exigency of security of country’s data. AI had been an extraordinary technological advancement that merged the physical, digital and biological worlds. She pointed out that in its neighbourhood, vaccines had been provided via drones during the COVID-19, yet Pakistan had been far from utilising AI for disaster management and establishing a stabilised interrelatedness among its industrial, academic and governmental networks.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee General Nadeem Raza exchanging views with Ambassador of Türkiye Mehmet Pacaci. – DNA

HEC urges varsities to help flood-hit Pakistanis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) held a meeting of the heads of private sector universities to seek suggestions and for providing immediate, short-term and long-term support to the flood victims.

“Being a beacon for the society, the universities have a great role to play in presenting viable solutions to the problem of floods and other natural challenges being triggered in Pakistan by climate change,” emphasised Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed while addressing the session.

Over 90 Vice Chancellors, Rectors and senior officials of private sector universities attended the meeting and shared their ex-

periences and views on how they are responding to the prevailing catastrophic situation to help the flood-affected people, by supplying edibles and necessary items, providing medical aid, and extending voluntary services of students and staff.

Highlighting their respective contributions for the flood-hit areas, they said that the Association of Private Sector Universities (APSU) of Pakistan and the Pakistan Association of Private Medical & Dental Institution have jointly launched the Mission ESAR Flood Relief Fund 2022 in collaboration with the Superior Foundation for Research & Development (SFRD) to reach out to academic institutions, industry and general public to come forward for providing relief to the

flood-stricken areas. They said that the private universities are individually and collectively involved in relief efforts, while APSU has been providing food, medicines, drinking water, tents, and packets for women needs, etc.

The heads of private universities vowed to stand by the nation in this hour of need and cooperate with the public sector universities in line with the HEC National Floods 2022 response. A number of private universities pledged to offer scholarships and stressed the need to conduct research and develop a long-term strategy for rainwater harvesting, prevention of floods, and against deforestation.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed appreciated the efforts of private sector institutions for their efforts in the time of need. He underlined

that the higher education sector needs to collectively respond to the calamity and help the flood victims across Pakistan without any discrimination. He pointed out that the challenge of floods and the resultant damages needs immediate, short-term and long-term solutions.

He explained that the people of affected areas need food, water, shelter and clothing to be provided immediately. He urged the medical universities to manage for psychological counselling of people suffering post-flood traumas. He also stressed the need for a long-term strategy to combat the issue and prevent, as much as possible, any damages in future by taking effective measures. He warned of multiple challenges like food security in the aftermath of

AIOU announces 2nd phase admissions of Autumn

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University has announced the schedule of admissions for the autumn semester 2022. Admission for the second phase will start from September 1 (today). Academic programs offered in this phase include BA (Associate Degree), BBA, Postgraduate diploma, BS (ODL programs), Teacher Training Programs (B.Ed), certificate courses and Associate degree programs. All the admissions will take place online. Admission forms and prospectuses are available on the university’s website www.aiou.edu.pk.

It is pertinent to mention here that overseas Pakistani and international students can also enroll in the programs offered in second phase of the autumn semester 2022 including matric, FA, and I.Com programs. AIOU is offering these programs through an online management system and all academic activities ranging from submission of admission application to the issuance of certificates/degrees will be managed online. International students can download the prospectus and admission form from http://online.aiou.edu.pk. In the last semester, students from many countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Malaysia, Italy, Canada, Africa, and the United States, took admission to various educational programs.

Miftah lauds growth, tax revenue of Coca-Cola Icecek

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Miftah Ismail held a meeting with a delegation of Coca-Cola Icecek Pakistan led by its General Manager Ahmet Kursad Ertin in Islamabad on Wednesday.

The delegation extended warm sentiments to the Finance Minister on successfully securing the IMF deal and appreciated business friendly policies of the government. They briefed about the operational nature of the Coca-Cola Icecek Pakistan and shared about their significant contribution in the overall GDP of the country.

The delegation extended warm sentiments to the Finance Minister on successfully securing the IMF deal and appreciated business friendly policies of the government. They briefed about the operational nature of the Coca-Cola Icecek Pakistan and shared about their significant contribution in the overall GDP of the country.

It was also shared that Coca-Cola Icecek Pakistan is planning to undertake new investment expansion plans due to greater potential offered by the Pakistani market.

The Finance Minister appreciated the growth and tax revenue generation of the company for the economy of Pakistan. The Finance Minister also stated that due to prevalent flood crisis causing huge life losses and financial drainage, Pakistan is currently trying to maintain an optimum level of foreign exchange reserves for ensuring the exchange rate stability and for controlling inflation.

PTDC holds photo competition on World Tourism Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has announced to hold a photographic competition on the World Tourism Day to be observed across the globe on September 22. The participants are being encouraged to submit photographs on different themes by September 15, an official of PTDC told APP. According to him, the country’s tourist attractions, landscapes, culture and life, adventure sports and flora & fauna were the major themes of competition. The winners would be awarded cash prizes, he added. – APP

Briefs

Japan to provide relief goods to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Upon the request of Government of Pakistan, the Government of Japan has decided to provide emergency relief goods, containing tents and plastic sheets, through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in response to the damages caused by the flood disaster.

"In light of the humanitarian perspective and the close relations between Japan and Pakistan, Japan has decided to provide emergency assistance to Pakistan to support the people affected by the flood disaster," Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan said in a press release on Wednesday. - APP

Shutdown, march to pay tributes to Gilani

ISLAMABAD: Complete shutdown will be observed and a massive march will be conducted towards Hyderabad in Srinagar on Thursday in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), to pay tributes to the icon of Kashmiri resistance movement, Syed Ali Gilani, on his first martyrdom anniversary.

Syed Ali Gilani embraced martyrdom in the custody of Indian police on September 01, last year, at his Hyderabad residence in Srinagar where he was kept under continued house arrest for over a decade, Kashmir Media Service reported.

Call for the shutdown and the march has been given by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference and supported by other organizations. The APHC has urged the Imams and Ulemas to pay tributes and offer special prayers in mosques for Syed Ali Gilani.

It called upon the Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control and across the world to hold protest demonstrations to draw attention of the international community towards the Indian brutalities in IIOJK.

The APHC leadership paying homage to the veteran leader has said that Syed Ali Gilani was an epitome of honesty and integrity who devoted his entire life for the Kashmir cause.

It said that Syed Ali Gilani would be remembered forever in the history of Kashmir as a hero who championed the Kashmiris' legitimate cause with utmost courage and fearlessness. The leadership maintained that the mission of Syed Ali Gilani will be taken to its logical conclusion at all costs.

Expert warns against 'water-borne disease'

ISLAMABAD: Expert on Wednesday said that the record flood waters contaminated with sewage, dead animals, and human waste were causing waterborne, skin, eye, and stomach infections among people living in affected areas.

Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Syed Faisal Mahmood talking to PTV news channel appealed to the public to send medical equipment and medicines to flood-stricken areas "immediately," adding, that the diseases may kill more people than done by rains and floods. Dr Faisal said that with the flood waters receding, there was a possibility of an epidemic, adding, to the outbreak of waterborne diseases if clean water was not ensured soon.

Government and NGOs must ensure the availability of clean drinking water and vaccination facilities in affected areas, he stressed. He explained that an over 4 percent increase was reported in Malaria, dengue, and diarrhoea cases in flood-affected areas.

Replying to a query, he stressed 'telehealth' support services for rural communities impacted by floods, adding, that it will provide virtual care to people wherever they were using information and communication technology. - APP

Sanjrani commends support of Qatar and other countries

Sanjrani commended the support of the developed countries and especially Qatar extended to Pakistan during these testing time

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In a meeting with the Ambassador of Qatar, H.E. Sheikh Saoud Abdul Rahman Al-Thani, who called on the Chairman Senate here at Parliament House on Wednesday, Sadiq Sanjrani called for enhancing trade, diplomatic and institutional cooperation. Matters of mutual interest, bilateral relations and the prevailing flood situation in Pakistan were discussed during the meeting.

The visiting dignitary expressed solidarity and regretted the loss of precious lives due to the devastating flash flood in Pakistan. During the meeting, Sanjrani called upon the international community to step forward and support Pakistan in this hour of need as no country alone can tackle and cope with such natural disasters and emergencies. Sanjrani commended the support of the developed countries and especially Qatar extended to Pakistan during these testing time.

Chairman Senate under-



lined that Pakistan and Qatar have a common vision for the development and prosperity of the region, adding that trade, diplomatic, parliamentary and institutional cooperation needs to be enhanced further. Pakistani diaspora living in

Qatar are playing an important role in the economic development of Qatar and cementing ties between the two countries. The meeting also discussed and agreed on speeding up exchanges of high-level delegations and taking eco-

nomics ties to new heights. While discussing the current flood situation in Pakistan, Chairman Senate stressed the need for speeding up the relief efforts as scores of people, particularly in Balochistan and Sindh have

suffered due to the large-scale defacement caused by the flash floods.

Hailing the efforts of the Emir of Qatar, Sanjrani said that the Emir of Qatar has played a key role in the overall economic development and prosper-

ity of Qatar. The efforts of the Emir of Qatar are praise-worthy and inspirational, he added.

Both sides reiterated their resolve for supporting each other during hard times and further enhancing cooperation in diverse fields.

President underlines need for long term planning

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi here Wednesday said the recent flood have made colossal losses to public lives and properties and underlined the need for long term planning to control devastation of floods in future.

Talking to flood victims at relief camp established at government high school Amangarh here, the President said the floods have badly affected Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat, Dir, DI Khan, Tank and others districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where a large number of people were displaced and looking for our help. He said hotels, roads, bridges, houses, livestock, standing crops and gardens were also affected by the devastating floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The President directed the provincial government to further expedite relief and rehabilitation operations besides accelerating efforts for reconstruction of houses in the flood hit areas. The President said that all government organizations including armed forces of Pakistan were working in coordination to provide relief to the flood victims.

While highly appreciating Pakistan's armed forces' role in evacuation of flood victims in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

and others provinces, the President said that their role in distribution of food and non food items among the affected population was also praised worthy. Dr Arif Alvi said flood victims were looking for our help and assistance in this hour of need and urged the entire nation including philanthropists to come forward and generously contribute for their assistance and help.

The President also appreciated performance of local and International NGOs including Red Crescent during floods relief operations. The President expressed satisfaction over the provision of assistance facilities including food and non food items to flood survivors inside the camp and inquired about their problems and demands. The President also expressed sympathies with flood victims.

Later, the President inspected flood situation in River Kabul from Mardan bridge. Earlier, the President was giving detailed briefing by Deputy Commissioner Nowshera Mir Raza Ozgan about rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in Nowshera district. The President was informed that about 25,000 flood victims were accommodated in 100 relief camps in Nowshera district. - APP

China dispatches Y-20 aircraft to deliver humanitarian relief

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's Air Force dispatched Y-20 aircraft to deliver humanitarian supplies to Pakistan, including 3,000 tents, to the government of Pakistan in a bid to help Pakistan manage rescue and relief operation in all flood-stricken areas in the country. After Pakistan has been grappling with heavy rains and flash flood calamities causing humanitarian crisis including infrastructure destruction, victims' displacement, homelessness and deaths, China has come

up with aid deliveries as a fulfillment of its brotherhood commitment with Pakistan and obligations as a responsible global power, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Tuesday. People from different spheres of life have heaped praise for the gesture of China when it announced to provide relief and cash assistance to Pakistan affected by flash floods and property destruction, which have left thousands marooned since mid-June.

Zameer Khudabukh, social worker in Sindh said that the idiom "a friend in need is a friend indeed" sits well with China as it always demonstrates its humanitarian donorship whenever Pakistan plunges into natural catastrophe. "China's friendship needs no bounds," he added. Zulekha Bibi, a flood victim in Balochistan said, "my husband works in a Chinese company and since the day the company knew that fact that our home collapsed due to torrential rain, we have been given another house to live with provision of daily home essentials."



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail in a group photo with delegation of All Pakistan Akhbar Farosh Federation (APAFF) at Finance Division. - DNA

PM to roll out detailed rehabilitation plan soon: Saad

"India and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had tried to sabotage IMF relief programme and the recent audio leaks of Shaukat Tarin and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Minister are evident to the nation"

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique on Wednesday said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would roll out a detailed rehabilitation and reconstruction plan for the flood-hit areas after consultation with the coalition partners soon.

Addressing a press conference along with Adviser to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, he said the armed forces, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Provincial Disaster Management Authorities, philanthropists and civil administration have played a crucial role for the relief activities. Saad Rafique said that all these institutions should continue their role till the rehabilitation and restoration of all the flood impacted areas.

The minister said the catastrophic floods have broken the record of 2010 super floods that most impacted the areas of Balochistan and Sindh while the situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab was also worrisome.

He said the country was already passing through a pressing economic crisis, and on such occasion the floods destroyed the economy and all the government institutions were engaged in rescue operations. Saad Rafique said the recovery phase would be even more difficult, and the prices of vegetables were skyrocketing but the government would leave no stone unturned for the rehabilitation of flood victims.

He said the whole nation was actively participating to help the flood victims whereas the international community had also joined hands to help Pakistan in the need of hour. "On the other hand the evil mind (PTI) Chief Imran Khan was stopping the chief ministers of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and Prime Minister AJK to attend the Flood Relief Conference which was held at PM House."

"We held a flood relief plan meeting which was participated by Chief Ministers of all provinces, Chairman NDMA and military

leadership while Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit Baltistan and AJK Prime Minister abstained from participating in the meeting," he said.

Saad Rafique asked the PTI that the country could not run with lies and deceptions. The minister said he did not want to talk about politics in the current situation but everyone knew that Pakistan had bid farewell to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) but it halted because the previous government took the IMF programme and did not make reforms.

"India and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had tried to sabotage IMF relief programme and the recent audio leaks of Shaukat Tarin and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Minister are evident to the nation," he added. Saad Rafique said that IMF programme was a temporary relief but "Our prime target is self-dependence of Pakistan for which government is committed and reforms to be made," he said.

The minister said the assistance is not sufficient and the government would have to rely on its own resources.

He said that Pakistan was being saved from becoming Sri Lanka, from bankruptcy, at that time India and Shaukat Tarin hatched out conspiracy against the country. The minister said that Pakistan Railway would continue its operations despite the damage of rail track for transportation of essential commodities and medicines to flood-affected areas. He said that four trains were functional for supplying relief goods that would be distributed to the flood affectees with help of NDMA and PDMA whereas one of the cargo train had reached the affected area. To a query, he said that no government used to conduct telethon rather utilized its own resources to assist the flood relief activities and in case of mega disaster and insufficient resources the international community was called for help. - APP

NEPRA concludes hearings into FCA

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Wednesday concluded public hearings in two separate fuel cost adjustment (FCA) proceedings for XWDISCOs and K-Electric for July under monthly fuel adjustment mechanism. The hearings were presided over by NEPRA Chairman Tauseef H Farooqi while member Sindh Rafique Ahmed Sheikh and member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maqsood Anwar Khan were also present on the occasion.

The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPA) in the petition on behalf of X-Wapda DISCOs requested an increase of Rs4.69 per unit in tariff under FCA for the said period. However, the NEPRA calculated an increase of Rs 4.34 per unit in the tariff. Earlier, the regulator had allowed the DISCOs to charge Rs 9.90 per unit FCA for June which was applicable for only one month. The FCA for July would be Rs 5.55 less than FCA of June.

The increase would be applicable to all consumers except lifeline and K-Electric. Similarly, K-Electric has sought Rs 3.48 per unit decrease in FCA for June. However, as per the regulator calculation, the decrease could be Rs.3.63 to Rs4.10 per unit in the tariff for the said period. The KE had charged Rs 11.10 per unit from the consumers under head of FCA for June. The authority would announce its decisions after reviewing the statistics. - APP

Capital's air quality healthy

ISLAMABAD: The air quality of the federal capital on Wednesday was clean as air pollutants ratio recorded were below permissible limits and the air quality was recorded healthy due to reduced vehicular traffic on roads. The air quality data has been collected by Pak-EPA which monitors air pollutants ratio for 24 hours based on three intervals of eight hours of data collection from different locations.

The Pak-EPA data revealed that the air quality throughout the three intervals of data monitoring remained high as the pollutants were below the permissible limits of national environmental quality standards (NEQS). The hazardous air pollutant particulate matter of 2.5 microns (PM2.5), which was a lethal atmospheric contaminant, remained 20.27 micro grammes per cubic meter on average which is lower than the NEQS of 35 micro-grammes per cubic meter and denotes the air quality unhealthy.

The PM2.5 is generated through combustion of an engine, industrial emissions, burning garbage or inflammable material and dust blown up by fast moving cars plying on non-cemented patches of the roads. Moreover, the frequent forest fires in the federal capital also created high suspended particles, dust and particulate matter in the atmosphere.

The particulate matter had exceeded the permissible limits beyond 40 microns prior to the onset of rainfall which was mainly due to persistent hot and dry weather. The nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and sulphur dioxide (SO2) were recorded below permissible ratio as it were recorded 5.2 and 9.5 micro-grammes per cubic meter in past 24 hours in the atmosphere against the NEQS of 80 and 120 micro-grammes per cubic meter respectively. - APP

IRSA releases 431,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 431,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 455,000 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 202,300 cusecs each. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1186.15 feet, which was 136.15 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet. The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 33,800 cusecs and 10,000 cusecs respectively. - APP

PTI doing politics for their personal gains: Wasay

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Housing and Works Maulana Abdul Wasay on Wednesday said that the people of the country were facing severe flashfloods and passing through a difficult time while the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was doing politics for their personal gains.

During a meeting with the delegation of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam-Fazl and others, the minister said that the nation had totally rejected the narrative of PTI chief Imran Khan.

e said the government would utilize all out resources for the rehabilitation of flood affectees but unfortunately PTI chief Imran wanted to plunge the country into default.

Abdul Wasay said that former ministers and members of PTI were openly speaking against the state institutions which was highly condemnable at a moment when the whole nation was busy supporting the flood affectees.

The minister said the agriculture and livestock sector was badly affected, adding that JULF members parliament and workers were helping the flood victims in every possible way. Regarding the audio leak of Shaukat Tarin and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Minister, he said that there was a clear attempt to sabotage the deal with IMF that was strongly condemnable. - APP

Kherson: the cost of war in Ukraine

Russia took the city of Kherson, in southern Ukraine, little more than a week after launching its invasion on 24 February. It was the first major city to fall to Vladimir Putin's forces, and remains the only regional capital to have done so. With the failure of the Russian plan for a lightning victory increasingly evident, and humiliating, the city's capture was important for Moscow for symbolic as well as strategic reasons. Many of its 280,000 inhabitants remained not only angry but defiant, mounting protests in its centre. But the gruelling impact of Russian occupation has taken its toll. The protests were suppressed by troops. The crackdown on dissent has been ruthless and thorough. A Russian curriculum has been imposed in schools. So Monday's declaration by a Ukrainian military official that a long-anticipated southern counterattack had begun was a striking moment six months into this war. Ukraine's southern command declared that Russia had suffered heavy losses of personnel and equipment (while Russia's defence ministry claimed that it had inflicted severe losses on the Ukrainians). Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, claimed that troops had broken through Russian defences in several areas near Kherson – yet was also keen to manage expectations, portraying a "slow operation to grind the enemy". The extent of the pushback is far from clear. One Ukrainian official described "normal operations", and some fighters have suggested that the attacks fall short of a full counteroffensive. Partisan attacks were already occurring. Despite the flow of arms from the US especially, Ukraine remains very short of weapons and personnel to attempt a major assault. Some wondered if trailing a counteroffensive so heavily in advance was designed to try to distract Russia from the east, where it has been advancing, albeit slowly. The US military said on Monday that there was an uptick in fighting around Kherson, but could not confirm whether an offensive had begun. The former head of MI6 Sir Alex Younger spoke not in military terms but of a "key psychological moment" when interviewed by the BBC, and talked not about place but time. Russian occupation is having an incremental effect not only on the wellbeing of civilians, but also on the city's status. The Kremlin plans a referendum to create the pretext for bringing the region into Russia, despite minimal enthusiasm; Ukraine may hope to postpone the vote. In logistical terms, bitter winter conditions are also likely to entrench the military stalemate. Meanwhile, the humanitarian crisis is growing. Unable to make swift military progress, Russia may have shifted focus towards formalising annexation and to economic punishment. Kyiv fears Russia could target its energy grid and turn off the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station. Some think that as many as 2 million Ukrainians could cross into Poland this winter. As hazy as the military situation remains, its brutal impact on civilians could not be clearer.

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Afghanistan needs help

One year after the withdrawal of US-led coalition forces from Afghanistan, the country is facing a deepening humanitarian and economic crisis. More than half of the Afghan population – some 24 million people – need assistance and close to 19 million are facing acute levels of food insecurity, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths told a UN Security Council meeting on Monday. The situation will soon become worse as the onset of winter will send already high fuel and food prices skyrocketing. "The consequences of inaction on both the humanitarian and development fronts will be catastrophic and difficult to reverse," Griffiths warned. The United States, which waged a 20-year "war on terror" in Afghanistan only to make a hasty and humiliating withdrawal after its failure to establish a viable, US-friendly regime, bears full responsibility for the dire situation Afghanistan finds itself in, given that the war has devastated its economy and upended people's livelihoods. While Washington's vindictive decision to freeze Afghanistan's overseas assets worth more than \$9 billion as part of its sanctions against the new Taliban government has pushed the country's economy to the brink of collapse. Yet rather than learning a lesson from the longest war in its history – which 50 percent of the US people believe was a mistake, according to a new Gallup poll – and contributing to the rebuilding of the destroyed country, the US has tried to shift blame by pointing an accusing finger at China for not doing enough to help its neighbor, with US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield claiming at the United Nations that China's contributions to reconstruction have been as similarly "underwhelming" as Russia's. Which is completely false, given the fact that China has always firmly supported Afghanistan's peace, stability and development, and has been making efforts to the best of its ability in this regard. The "pine nuts air corridor", which was re-opened shortly after the war, has contributed greatly to China's importing of Afghan products and thus the recovery of the country's war-torn economy, and become a symbol of Chinese assistance to the Afghan people. The US should put up and shut up. Political bickering on the Afghanistan issue will do little to alleviate the pains of the Afghan people. The international community, especially those countries responsible for Afghanistan's plight, must take concrete actions by providing humanitarian and development aid to and ending sanctions against the country as soon as possible. This is because a peaceful and stable Afghanistan will serve the interests of all nations.

A Game of Thrones!

Shujaat Hamza



It is a good probability that the PDM parties along with the PPP and ANP decide to run the horses together, with PML-N fielding candidates in Punjab, Islamabad and some KP districts, while JUI-F, ANP and Balouch political parties covering Balouchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, the most likely deadlock should arise between PPP and MQM-Pakistan chapter in Sindh

Pakistan is arguably going through one of its worst political instability phase and interestingly, almost all the major political parties are in power in some capacity, somewhere. The Pakistan Muslim League (N) and its Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) allies, which include a handsome amount of foes-cum-friends political

Zardari camp gets the blame of misusing Center and Sindh's powers to target their political opponents. In the meantime, the federal government and its dozens of allies are attending luncheons, making official tours abroad and the 'victimized' PTI is busy in slamming national institutions and organizing Jalsas across Punjab and Khyber Pakh-

parties, enjoy power in center along with Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Awami National Party (ANP). Meanwhile, the remaining political powers under the leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf are sitting on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab thrones. Nevertheless, everyone is ranting about being the victim of others' misuse of power. The PDM allies in center are accusing the PTI and PML-Q of using Punjab and KP governmental assets and departments for their own protection, while the Sharif and

tunkhwa amid unprecedented and horrific floods. It's just a game for them, isn't it?

Last week, the social media was left horrifying and stunned with a viral video of a father mourning the loss of his children to floods, however, all we could see on mainstream media were Shahbaz Gill and Rana Sanaulah. On one hand, the ex-Premier just can't digest the fact that he has been de-throned, in a 'technically' democratic way. On the other hand, call it their incompetence or Imran Khan's pressure, the allied government has failed miserably in handling the economic and overall situation of the country. The party leadership is furious at the finance minister, allies in Karachi are at the brink of collision, people have been massively voting for Imran Khan in recent by-polls; looks like things are really messed up for Chotay Mian Sahab. Even the party elders do not own the decision of formation of government post Imran Khan departure and have been putting all the blame on the incumbent Prime Minister. Was it not wiser to go for general elections? Many in the federal government coalition think so.

However, things seem to get calm for Shehbaz Sharif for now, as even the general elections are not likely to be held during the ongoing year, the government may actually be able to complete its term. And with economy getting back on foot and IMF bailout programme announced, PML-N may even dare to think they can get majority in the upcoming general elections.

Meanwhile, the things seem to be getting real nasty for Imran Khan. It is highly possible that he might be disqualified for at least the next elections. So it is safe to say that the upcoming elections could be for PTI what the 2018 polls were for PML-N, a leaderless campaign! However, nothing can be said for certain in Pakistani political landscape. Perhaps the picture will become clearer to see after the change of command in top Army brass come November. The top two slots in Army command are to be changed; the Chief of Army Staff and the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. The traditional procedure of the Army Chief's selection is not very complicated; the Prime Minister receives a list of candidates from Ministry of Defense, which is given the senior most names by the General Headquarters. After the consultation with the incumbent Army Chief, the Prime Minister finalizes the candidate for the powerful position. However, PML-N's experience with selecting the Army Chief based on their own favoritism rather than departmental seniority has not historically gone well for the party itself. It will be interesting to see what the political scenario will be after November.

It will also be interesting to see how the PDM leadership decides to contest elections. As things stand, no political party can singularly threaten PTI's dominance in public popularity. However, nothing can be accurately said about Pakistani public's mood swings.

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and ANP decide to run the horses together, with PML-N fielding candidates in Punjab, Islamabad and some KP districts, while JUI-F, ANP and Balouch political parties covering Balouchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, the most likely deadlock should arise between PPP and MQM-Pakistan chapter in Sindh. Both the parties will not be willing to compromise. Thus Pakistan Peoples Party will go for a lone journey. Earlier this year, PTI was seemingly losing out on its votes because of its unpopular policies, however, in April, the tide turned. Now all the other parties face tough time in tackling the masses' support for Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. Should Imran Khan gets disqualified, or worse; faces imprisonment, could the party survive and keep the momentum without direct participation of its leader? For PML-N, there were Shehbaz and Maryam Nawaz to keep the supporters active and party under control when Nawaz Sharif faced indictment. The question is, who can the PTI count in such capacity? Is there anyone who can lead in Khan's likely absence?, or is there anyone who will be followed by all major factions within PTI? Unlikely.

The President of United States Franklin D Roosevelt once said, "In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it does, you can bet it was planned that way". Or simply put, there are no accidents in politics!

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Iraq's political dysfunction just got worse

Kamaran Palani

His political strength against his rivals within the Shia community comes from two main cards: his seats in parliament and the loyalty of his strong and disciplined base. His withdrawal from the legislature diminished his ability to influence the next government

On August 29, the influential Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr went on Twitter to announce that he would retire from politics. It wasn't the first time he has declared his intention to quit politics, but this announcement came at a particularly tense moment for Iraq. Grand Ayatollah Kadhim al-Haeri, another cleric whose followers include a large number of Sadrists, had just announced his resignation, asking the country's Shia population to obey Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. To supporters of al-Sadr, who has pitched himself as a pillar of resistance against Iran's influence in Iraq, al-Haeri's resignation was evidence of Tehran's attempts to weaken their

between al-Sadr's supporters and a variety of armed groups loyal to different factions within the Shia Coordination Framework, a pro-Iran set of parties. Since al-Sadr's tweet announcing his resignation, more than 30 people have been killed and hundreds injured. Then, amid the threat of an internal war among Iraq's Shia, al-Sadr picked television over Twitter to address his supporters, ordering them to end the protests. They did, further confirming al-Sadr's influence. Yet the entire episode does not represent a win for him. For Iraq, sadly,

the news is worse, with the further erosion in the country's ability to find any meeting ground between its battling political factions. In Iraq's October 2021 parliamentary elections, al-Sadr emerged with the single largest number of seats. He allied with two other major winners of the election: the Sunni "Sovereignty Alliance" and the Kurdistan Democratic Party. Al-Sadr's attempt at government formation faced strong resistance from the Coordination Framework, a broader amalgamation of mainly Shia parties that includes influential Shia political figures. This bloc has been calling for the continuation of the classical post-2003 consensus model of governance, under which an administration effectively needs to enjoy a two-thirds majority, and not just a simple one, to rule. While this grouping didn't win anywhere close to the numbers itself, it had enough seats in parliament to block the Sadrists from claiming the support of two-thirds of the legislature. Then, in February this year, the Iraqi Supreme Court, swayed by Iranian influence, interpreted the Iraqi constitution in a way that turned the need for a two-thirds majority into a decree. Ef-

fectively, this means that any Iraqi government must be an administration of consensus – a failed approach that laid the grounds for the current violence in the country. As al-Sadr failed to form his majority government, he shocked everyone by ordering his 73 lawmakers to resign from the parliament in June. That was a mistake. His political strength against his rivals within the Shia community comes from two main cards: his seats in parliament and the loyalty of his strong and disciplined base. His withdrawal from the legislature diminished his ability to influence the next government. The Coordination Framework, which a few months ago wanted to block government formation, now has enough seats to rule without al-Sadr. As he lost his parliamentary clout, he began to demonstrate his influence through the street mobilisation of his supporters against the Coordination Framework's efforts to form a government. Sadrists took over key government institutions, including the parliament. They began calling for a dissolution of the parliament and snap elections.

While the Coordination Framework has so far refused to budge, and here's the bitter truth – new elections won't, by themselves, solve

Iraq's political dysfunction, just as the halt to this week's violence won't break the country's longest political deadlock since 2003. The Coordination Framework has been clear that the grouping intends to move ahead with government formation. Stability of any kind is now dependent on whether the bloc proposes a consensus figure for prime minister with the blessing of al-Sadr or further provokes him by pushing through its own preferred candidate. The odds don't favour consensus at the moment. Following al-Sadr's resignation and the death of many of his supporters in the recent violence, there seems to be no common ground for a dialogue between his movement and the Coordination Framework. Al-Sadr no longer has parliamentary influence but his hold over the Iraqi street means he can potentially bring down any government in Baghdad. He will likely return to politics, as he has done before, and his group will prepare itself for the next elections – whenever they are held. Iraq's tortured political journey will continue, with no clear winners but definite losers: the country's people.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Devastating...

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prime minister opined that it was a collective responsibility of all the governments to work for the provision of relief to the flood-hit public and ensure that the allocated grants should be spent in a transparent manner and upon the deserving people. "I will continue visiting the affected areas till the last affected person is rehabilitated," he added. He said that the federal government had allocated an amount of Rs 28 billion which was being disbursed among the affected through NDMA and Benazir Income Support Programme. He said every affected family was given a cash amount of Rs 25,000 whereas per family was entitled to Rs1 million that had lost its near or dear one. The prime minister while expressing his grief and pain over the large-scale tragedy said that more than 1,000 lives had been lost including 300 children. He said the cash support extended by the federal government was no substitute for the loss of lives as the bereaved families would continue to mourn the death of their relatives for long, but it was the responsibility of the government to provide maximum comfort in this hour of grief.

The prime minister said that the latest reports were showing further damages caused by widespread flash floods across the country, adding about 5000 kms roads were damaged. He also appreciated the relevant authorities, provincial governments, NDMA, PDMA and armed forces for their rescue and relief activities. All authorities concerned had been doing whatever was possible, in a coordinated manner, to alleviate the sufferings of the flood-affected people, he added.

Russia shuts...

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resumes delivery in the coming days. "I assume that we will be able to cope with it," Klaus Mueller told Reuters. "I trust that Russia will return to 20% on Saturday, but no one can really say." European leaders fear Russia could extend the outage in an attempt to drive up gas prices, which have already risen sharply in the past year. However, today's announcement was not expected to impact prices immediately. The UK's main natural gas price was in fact down by more than 15% on Wednesday. The steep rise threatens to create a cost of living crisis over the winter months, potentially forcing governments to spend billions to ease the burden. On Tuesday, French Energy Transition Minister Agnes Pannier-Runacher accused Russia of "using gas as a weapon of war". She was speaking after Gazprom said it would suspend gas deliveries to the French energy company Engie. But Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman has rejected the accusations and insisted that Western sanctions have caused the interruptions by damaging Russian infrastructure.

India qualify for Super 4

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: India qualified for the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup after beating Hong Kong by 40 runs in a Group A match at the Dubai International Stadium. Chasing a target of 193, Hong Kong were restricted to a total of 142 for five in 20 overs. Babar Hayat top-scored with a knock of 41 while Kinchit Shah and Zeeshan Ali played cameos of 30 and 26 not out, respectively. Earlier, Virat Kohli and Suryakumar Yadav starred with the bat as India managed to post a total of 192 for two against Hong Kong in an Asia Cup Group A match against Hong Kong. Kohli (59 not out off 44) and Suryakumar (68 not out off 26) added an unbeaten 98 runs to rescue India, who were at one stage 94 for two after 13 overs of play. KL Rahul got off after a slugging 36 off 39 while skipper Rohit Sharma (21) too failed to leave his mark. For Hong Kong, Ayush Shukla and Mohammad Ghazanfar picked a wicket each. India made one change to their playing XI from the last game as Rishabh Pant replaced Hardik Pandya, who has been rested.

Iran delivers European 'peace initiative' on Ukraine to Russia

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Iran has delivered a so-called "peace initiative" for ending the Ukraine war, proposed by a European leader, to Russia. Standing next to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov during a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian confirmed that he had handed over the European proposal that he said was given to Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi. "There are ideas to help establish peace and stop the fighting in Ukraine, and I shared these ideas with Mr Lavrov," Amirabdollahian said. He did not name the European leader behind the initiative or reveal any further details but said the proposal includes points on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant and prisoners of war. Recent shelling around the plant in southeastern Ukraine has spurred fears of a possible nuclear disaster and prompted the International Atomic Energy Agency to deploy experts to visit the site. Russia and Ukraine have traded blame over the firefights, accusing each other of risking citizens' safety. Iran's semi-official ISNA news website reported earlier on Wednesday that French President Emmanuel Macron was the leader who relayed the message to Tehran, but no officials have commented on the issue. Mohammad Jamshidi, the political deputy to the Iranian president, tweeted on Wednesday that Amirabdollahian had "a peace initiative and an important message" from "a top western European leader". Since Russia's invasion



of Ukraine began on February 24 this year, Iran has relayed messages between Moscow and Kyiv several times, but this is the first publicised instance of Tehran delivering a message from Europe. The Islamic republic has repeatedly stated that fighting must stop through dialogue and refuses to condemn Moscow. Tehran says NATO expansion is the root of the problem. Meanwhile, as Western sanctions pile on Russia, Moscow is growing closer to Iran by, among other things, expanding trade, an issue that was stressed by Amirabdollahian and Lavrov on Wednesday. Russian President Vladimir Putin visited

Tehran in July, meeting Raisi and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who told him NATO would have eventually started the Ukraine war had the 69-year-old "not taken the initiative". Meanwhile, the United States has for months claimed that Moscow is interested in purchasing Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the "hundreds" to use in Ukraine, which Tehran has denied. The two nations did, however, participate in a military drones tournament hosted by Iran in the central city of Kashan earlier this month. And while Amir Ali Hajizadeh, the aerospace chief of the Islamic

Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), said Iran is exporting drones, he has not named the destination countries.

Earlier this week, US media outlets cited unnamed American officials as saying Russia has already taken delivery of the first shipment of Iranian drones but has been having technical problems with them. Tehran and Moscow have not reacted to the latest US claims. Amirabdollahian and Lavrov also discussed Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers on Wednesday. The Iranian foreign minister said Tehran continues to review the latest US comments on a "final" European text proposed earlier this month, and still wants guarantees that it will enjoy the economic benefits promised under the deal. "Russia supports reviving the nuclear deal and lifting the sanctions imposed against Iran," Lavrov said. Known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the deal put curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for lifting multilateral sanctions. But the US unilaterally withdrew from the deal in 2018 and imposed sanctions, which prompted Iran to ramp up its nuclear activities while maintaining they are strictly for peaceful purposes. Raisi had emphasised earlier this week that an International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards probe into traces of man-made nuclear material found years ago on several Iranian nuclear sites must be closed before an agreement to restore the JCPOA can be agreed on. In addition to bilateral relations, Amirabdollahian and Lavrov said they discussed Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

EU to...

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Reuters reports. Eastern and Nordic countries strongly back a tourism ban, while Germany and France have warned their peers it would be counterproductive, saying ordinary Russians should still be allowed access to the West. Szijarto also announced that Hungary has signed a deal with Russia's Gazprom on additional gas shipments from 1 September.

Khan gets...

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Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri and Justice Babar Sattar, heard the case today. In its written order, a copy of which is available with Dawn.com, the IHC found Imran's reply, submitted yesterday, to be "unsatisfactory". "The learned counsel for the respondent sought further time to file a supplementary reply to the show-cause notice as pleaded in the provisional reply," it stated and gave the PTI chief's lawyers a time of seven days to file the supplementary reply. "With consent of the parties we hereby appoint Pakistan Bar Council, Munir A Malik and Makhdoom Ali Khan as amicus curiae in the case to assist us," the court added. The IHC has summoned Imran and his lawyers on September 8 at 2:30pm. Prior to the hearing, Islamabad police said a "special security plan" had been devised for the court ahead of the hearing. "Only individuals with permission from the IHC will be allowed on the court's premises and alternative routes have been arranged for residents of the area," a tweet by the capital police said on Tuesday.

'Solution of...

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Wednesday, he said that providing relief to flood victims was his responsibility too and he would help and work for them more than anyone else. However, he said that the struggle for true freedom would also be continued because the cabal of crooks enslaved the country to the US. Imran Khan said that the coming month was very important for the youth of the ISF, adding that in September, you have to go to colleges and universities to convey his message. He said that preaching the message of true freedom in universities and colleges was also a worship to rid the country of these thieves. "I was told not to do politics because of flood but I want to tell the critics that I will work hard for the flood victims, and will fight for their rehabilitation along with my fight for the real freedom of my country," he added. PTI Chairman asked the youth that they all had to help him in his fight for real independence, as slave minded people can't do anything and only free people always lead a better life. Imran Khan stated that he wanted the decisions of Pakistan to be made in the country, as no one should sit outside and take the decisions of their country. "We will control the back-breaking inflation to ease the burden on the people, and we will make Pakistan a country where we take our decisions independently and would take decisions to refuse our country's airspace for drone attacks," he added. PTI Chairman went on to say that they were with the world in peace and not in wars; however all these would happen only when they achieved real independence.

2022 US Open
Past champs Raducanu, Osaka ousted in first round

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: It was a night to forget for two of tennis' biggest names as Naomi Osaka and Emma Raducanu both crashed out of the US Open first round on Tuesday. On a rainy night in New York, Osaka was beaten by American Danielle Collins in straight sets - 7-6(5) 6-3 - while defending champion Emma Raducanu fell to Alize Cornet. Raducanu, 19, stunned the world by winning her first and slam at Flushing Meadows last year, but she struggled to find similar form ever since. The experience and intensity of the experienced net proved too much for as she was defeated in straight sets - 6-3 6-3. "This viciously hurts a bit because it's my favorite tournament and there are a lot of emotions in the past year," she told reporters after the defeat. "I'm proud for putting myself out there every match, every day, knowing I'm pushing myself to be the best I can."

Raducanu will fall down the rankings after a frustrating year which has been plagued by injuries and changes in her coaching staff. The youngster has struggled to come to terms with life on the full WTA Tour but did show flashes of quality that secured her maiden grand slam title just 12 months ago. Cornet was simply in better form and is now no stranger to big results at the slams, having previously beaten the likes of Iga Swiatek at Wimbledon. The Frenchwoman now holds the Open-era record for the most consecutive grand slam appearances, having appeared in the previous 63. "I think I'm handling my emotions better," Cornet told reporters after the match. "I guess I'm getting old - more mature. It shows in my results. I'm 32 - better late than never." "She definitely whooped me the last time" Osaka suffered a similar experience as Raducanu but this time at the hands of the talented Collins. The world No. 19 had never even won a set against Osaka in all of their previous three meetings but powered past the four-time grand slam champion this time. "When you lose to someone three times, you get a lot of information on what you can do better," Collins told reporters. "With Naomi being the player that she is, she definitely whooped me the last time. I just had to learn from that and make adjustments and I think I did that." Osaka, a two-time US Open champion,

was unseeded in this year's event and is currently ranked 44th in the world. Struggling with momentum and form, she was probably dog coming into the first round impressive performance despite the defeat. She will now play a tough qualifier in the next round while Cornet faces Bucina in the first round.

Second seed Rafael Nadal faced a surprise test in his first U.S. Open appearance since winning the 2019 title, 21-year-old wildcard Rinky Hijikata 4-6 6-2 6-3 in the opening round. Playing in only his second match after pulling out of Wimbledon with an abdominal injury, the Spaniard was ready to take on those who have struggled to return to the first round. Hijikata, 22, broke through the 22-times major winner with a crisp overhead shot in the seventh game of his Grand Slam debut, bringing



Nadal downs wildcard Hijikata

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the crowd to a roar. "I started not that bad the first couple of games, but then I had some opportunities that I was not able to make," Nadal, 36, said after the match. "I didn't play a good game with my serve. Then he had the break. Then I was a little bit nervous." But it was Goliath who got the momentum over David under the bright lights of Arthur Ashe Stadium, as a steadfast Nadal charged through the first three games of the second set, improving in virtually every respect as his opponent's form deteriorated. He dropped just one of his first-serve points with few mistakes, as Hijikata racked up a dozen unforced errors and dropped his serve in the final game of the frame.

Wimbledon Champ Rybakina loses

Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina suffered a shock defeat by qualifier Clara Burel in the US Open first round. Rybakina had complained about

lead-on women's say-fee-ble because were ed at the All Club, Seed-New York, 23-year-beaten 64 by number Burel. Earlier on number one Iga Swiatek won in straight sets. Two-time US Open champion Naomi Osaka is out after losing 7-6 (7-5) 6-3 to American 19th seed Danielle Collins. Poland's Swiatek, 21, needed just one hour and six minutes to beat Italian Jasmine Paolini 6-3 6-0 in New York and faces 2017 winner Sloane Stephens next. American Stephens came back from 6-1 3-1 down to beat Belgium's Greet Minnen 1-6 6-3 6-3. Two-time French Open winner Swiatek is one of several female players to complain about the "horrible" balls being used at Flushing Meadows. The US Open is the only major where men and women use different balls. Moscow-born Rybakina, who now represents Kazakhstan, would have moved into the world's top eight if ranking points - which were stripped.

Giggs Jury discharged with no verdicts

LONDON: The jury in the trial of former Manchester United player Ryan Giggs has been discharged after failing to reach verdicts on any of the charges. The 48-year-old denied headbutting ex-partner Kate Greville, 38, during a row at his home in November 2020. He also denied controlling behaviour, as well as assaulting Ms Greville's sister Emma, 26, at Manchester Crown Court. Any retrial will not take place until at least 5 June 2023, the judge said. The jury had failed to reach a verdict on any of three charges against Mr Giggs after deliberating for 22 hours and 59 minutes. The jury was made up of 11 people - seven women and four men - after one of the original 12 jurors had fallen ill.

Judge Hilary Manley asked jurors if they had reached a verdict on any counts on which a majority of 10 to one had agreed. The foreman of the jury answered: "No." The former Wales manager had denied all charges. Asked if there was any "realistic prospect" of them reaching verdicts if given more time, the foreman again answered: "No." She then thanked the jurors and discharged them, warning them not to discuss the case as there may be another trial of the case in the future. Judge Manley said "it was clear they had striven hard to reach verdicts" and should not feel "dispirited". The former Manchester United footballer had been on trial for four weeks. At the start of the trial, Peter Wright QC, prosecuting, called it a story of "control and coercion" of a woman who thought she was "loved and respected". He said the former player's relationship with Ms Greville was "punctuated by acts of violence and volatility". Mr Giggs admitted to being unfaithful in relationships but, when asked if he had ever physically assaulted a woman, he said "no", adding that he had never set out to control or coerce a woman. - Agencies

Golovkin not carrying past results against Alvarez

NEWS DESK

LONDON: The only two bouts Genady Golovkin has not won during his glittering career have been against Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez yet the Kazakh boxer said he was not using that as motivation ahead of their long-awaited trilogy fight. The bitter rivals first met in the ring in 2017 and fought to a disputed draw. In their 2018 rematch, Mexico's Alvarez won an even more controversial points decision that many observers thought could have gone the other way. While 40-year-old Golovkin (42-1-1) now has a chance to exact revenge on undisputed world super middleweight champion Alvarez (57-2-2) in their Sept 17 showdown in Las Vegas, he claims past results are not

fuelling his motivation. "I'm totally looking at the third fight as a brand new fight from scratch," Golovkin told Reuters through an interpreter. "I don't draw any motivation from previous fights." Golovkin is perhaps the most dominant middleweight of his era and the Alvarez bout will mark the first time the Kazakh has moved up to super middleweight to fight above 160 pounds. The switch to a heavier weight class has not made training much different for Golovkin, who said the focus is ensuring he does not lose speed and power, but he does expect a different strategy from Alvarez, 32, compared to their previous meetings. "He's going to change a lot of things because this fight is taking place in a different weight division and his attitude will definitely change, so there will be a

lot of surprises during this fight," said Golovkin. While his best years in the ring may be behind him, the powerful Kazakh, who once made 20 successful title defences, still poses a threat given his potent mix of patience, technique and bone-crushing power. There have been suggestions that a decisive loss in his next fight could send Golovkin into retirement sooner rather than later but the Kazakh fighter said the outcome alone would likely not affect any decision. "It's very difficult to point at just one particular factor that might influence my decision to end my career, unless something bad happens," he said. "But there are a lot of nuances and they might play a role in making a decision to continue, but I am not going to spend a lot of time on those. We'll see how it goes."

Sindh, KP register victories in National T20 Cup

ISLAMABAD: Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa registered victories in the matches of Kingdom Valley National T20 Cup 2022-23 at the Pindi Stadium, Rawalpindi on Wednesday. In the first match, Sindh registered their second consecutive win in the National T20 Cup when they defeated Southern Punjab by 10 runs, thanks to Saim Ayub's brilliant 92. Saim scored the innings at a staggering strike rate of 177 and smashed seven sixes and six fours to set a demanding 191-run target for Northern. The left-handed opener added 39 and an innings-defining 85 with Omair Bin Yousuf (18 off 15) and Saud Shakeel (20 off 18) respectively, playing the lead role in both stands, after his opening partner Sharjeel Khan was cleaned up in the first over. Experienced all-rounder Sohail Tanvir was Northern's pick of the bowlers with three for 28. Left-arm pacer Mir Hamza provided Sindh a solid start by removing both Northern openers - Hasan Nawaz and Ali Imran - in back-to-back overs. As Nasir Nawaz (39 off 21) and Zeeshan Malik (29 off 31) were

on course to stage a recovery, leg-spinner Zahid Mehmood bowled the former. Young all-rounder Mubasir Khan and Sohail gave Northern fans a glimpse of hope. They added 45 runs at a run rate of 11 but fell in the 18th and 19th overs. Mubasir scored 33 off 25 (four fours and a six) and Sohail made 21 off 14 (two sixes) before he became Hamza's third wicket. Hamza returned three for 33 and Sohail Khan picked up two wickets for 38. Meanwhile, in the second match of the day, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa began their title defence with an 18-run win over Central Punjab. This was Central Punjab's second close defeat in as many days. Central Punjab's Tayyab Tahir's second consecutive fifty went in vain as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa began their title defence with an 18-run win in the second match of the day. Right-handed Tayyab scored a breezy 72 off 45 (five fours and three sixes) in his side's unsuccessful pursuit of 166. It was the 57-run stand for the third wicket with Qasim Akram that gave Central Punjab a chance at the target, but it ended in the 12th over. - APP

Briefs

Diana remembered on 25th death anniversary

LONDON: Flowers and other tributes were laid on Wednesday at princess Diana's former London home and above the Paris road tunnel where she lost her life, to mark the 25th anniversary of her death. The former Lady Diana Spencer, whose fairytale marriage to Prince Charles captivated the world until it publicly unravelled with infidelity and divorce, died in a car crash in the French capital on August 31, 1997. A trickle of well-wishers left flowers, flags and photographs for the self-styled "queen of people's hearts" at the gates of Kensington Palace, and at the Place Diana, above the Pont de l'Alma tunnel. At the Spencer family home, Althorp House, where Diana is buried in a lead-lined coffin on a secluded island on the estate, her brother Charles Spencer lowered the Union Jack to half mast. "She was a global celebrity," retired camera operator Claude Gautier, 79, who came to pay his respects at the makeshift memorial in Paris, told AFP. "She was classy, sporty, elegant. Everyone's sad today. My flowers for her are on the inside," he said, touching the badge of his England football shirt. "The flowers here will wilt but mine will never die." - APP

Finland: Ukrainians' right to free travel ends in Nov

DNA
HELSINKI: The Helsinki Regional Transport Authority (Helsingin seudun liikenne - HSL) will discontinue the right to free travel for holders of Ukrainian passports on November 1, said the City of Helsinki in a press release on Tuesday, quoting HSL. Ukrainians have been able to travel free of charge in HSL's public transports by showing their passports. From the beginning of November, they will need to follow regular practices and have a ticket in order to travel. People who apply for temporary protection in Finland are entitled to benefits provided by society, and their basic subsistence will be secured in all situations. People who apply for protection are also entitled to ticket discounts under certain conditions. For example, students residing in Finland may receive school transport subsidy. In March, HSL wanted to provide aid to Ukrainians during an unprecedented and exceptional situation, as a war had just begun in Europe and thousands of people fled to Finland on a very short notice. At the time, several other public transport operators in Europe and Finland also decided to make a similar decision.

UK food prices highest in 14 years

DNA
LONDON: Food prices across the UK have hit an all-time high, the British Retail Consortium (BRC) said Wednesday. According to the consortium, food inflation increased rapidly in August reaching 9.3%, up from 7% last month. This figure represents the highest inflation since August 2008. "Mounting cost pressures up and down supply chains meant shop price inflation hit a new high in August. The war in Ukraine, and consequent rise in the price of animal feed, fertiliser, wheat and vegetable oils continued to push up food prices," Helen Dickinson, CEO of the consortium, said in a statement. "Fresh food inflation in particular, surged to its highest level since 2008, and products such as milk, margarine and crisps saw the biggest rises. The rise in shop prices is playing into wider UK inflation, which some analysts are predicting could top 18% in 2023," she added. In the same period, shop price annual inflation rose to 5.1%, up from 4.4% in July 2022 and is above the 3-month average rate of 4.1%. As such, this is the highest shop price inflation rate recorded since the index was created in 2005.

ICCI donates Rs.5mln to Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund

Muhammad Shakeel Munir lauded the efforts of the government to provide relief to the flood affectees and said that the business community was ready to provide all possible cooperation to the government in reducing sufferings of flood victims

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) has donated an amount of Rs.5 million to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund in order to provide relief to the flood affectees. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry presented a cheque of Rs.5 million to the Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif during a visit to PM Office. Hanif Abbasi former MNA, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, Mian Akram Farid, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Mian Shaikat Masud, Sheikh Amir Waheed former Presidents ICCI, Sheikh Waheed, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ch. Javed Iqbal, Rana Qaisar, Akhtar Hussain and were also present at the occasion.



Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif thanked Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI for donating Rs.5 million to provide relief to the flood affectees and said that the business community always cooperated with the government in catastrophic situations, which was laudable. He said that this flood has caused massive destruction

and the government needed maximum resources to rehabilitate the flood victims. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry informed the Prime Minister that ICCI was also setting up a relief camp in its premises to collect donations in cash and kind in order to provide relief to the flood affectees. He ap

pealed to the business community to come forward and make maximum donations to ICCI Relief Camp in cash and kind including tents, blankets, dry food items that would be provided to the flood affectees. Muhammad Shakeel Munir lauded the efforts of the government to provide relief to the flood affectees and said that the business community was ready to provide

all possible cooperation to the government in reducing the sufferings of flood victims. He also paid tributes to the relief efforts of Pakistan's armed forces for flood affectees and said that armed forces were always at the forefront in helping the affectees of every catastrophe, which was laudable. He stressed that the first priority of the government should be to provide shelter

to those families who have lost their houses in the massive floods. ICCI President said that floods have caused extensive loss of human lives, livelihood, houses, livestock, crops and infrastructure and emphasized that we have to play our role as a nation to provide maximum relief to the flood victims in order to help them restore their lives and properties.

SCO scientific and expert forum on information security

Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan (ISRS) Bobur Usmanov spoke about timeliness and importance of this forum

DNA

TASHKENT: A press conference was held at the Agency for Information and Mass Communications under the Administration of the President of Uzbekistan on the upcoming scientific and expert forum of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on information security in Tashkent on September 6. Speaking at a press conference, Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan (ISRS) Bobur Usmanov spoke about the timeliness and importance of this forum. According to him, the event is being organized as part of the practical implementation of the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, put forward on September 17, 2021 at the Dushanbe Summit of the Council of



Heads of State of the SCO Member States. At the meeting, the President of Uzbekistan, emphasizing the key priorities of intensifying efforts to ensure peace and stability in the SCO space, noted the importance of ensuring regular discussion of the current situation, agreeing on joint

measures to counter challenges and threats, including in the information field. "In this regard, the head of our state proposed to hold an SCO expert forum on information security. This would make it possible to develop coordinated measures to adequately respond to modern threats and chal

enges in cyberspace," the expert emphasized. Speaking about the potential of the SCO member states in ensuring information security, Bobur Usmanov cited some facts. According to the 2021 Global Cybersecurity Index, Russia and India are in the top ten, while China and Kazakhstan are among the 40 countries. The index takes into account legal, technical and organizational measures, as well as development potential and cooperation with other states. It was noted that today information security is becoming increasingly important in overall system of national security of Uzbekistan and regional stability. At the same time, the cross-border nature of the challenges and threats in this area requires the constant development of joint actions at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Preparation of China-Pakistan Integration Alliance started

DNA

BEIJING: The preparatory work of China-Pakistan International Industrial Academic Integration Alliance has started, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Tuesday. "In the next 3 to 5 years, we will cultivate 30,000-50,000 skilful youth in Pakistan", Muhammad Ammar, Secretary General, China-Pakistan International Industrial Academic Integration Alliance (Preparatory) said at a discussion panel. The discussion focused on the Exploration of China-Pakistan International Industrial-Education Integration Cooperation in Vocational Education, which is part of the China-Pakistan TVET Cooperation and Development Seminar organized by Tang International Education Group and hosted by the Pakistani Embassy in China. "These youth will serve the needs of CPEC construction", he added. In addition, China-Pakistan Vocational Education and Employment Research Center will be established under the Alliance, and international vocational skill contests will be organized for skilful youth in Pakistan, as well as in SCO countries in the future. According to Sajid Baloch, Executive Director, National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), in the future, a million manpower with high skills will be required in Pakistan, especially in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and CPEC projects. "Vocational and technical training is crucial for us to realize the national goals of enhanced productivity and export. It is high time that we invest in the workforce in Pakistan", he said. It is learned that via the alliance, Pakistan and China will join efforts in building advanced international professional standards, curriculum standards and digital curriculum resources, training teachers for vocational colleges in Pakistan, providing language and skills training for Pakistani youth, building China-Pakistan International College in Pakistan and China-Pakistan Center of Excellence for Vocational Education.

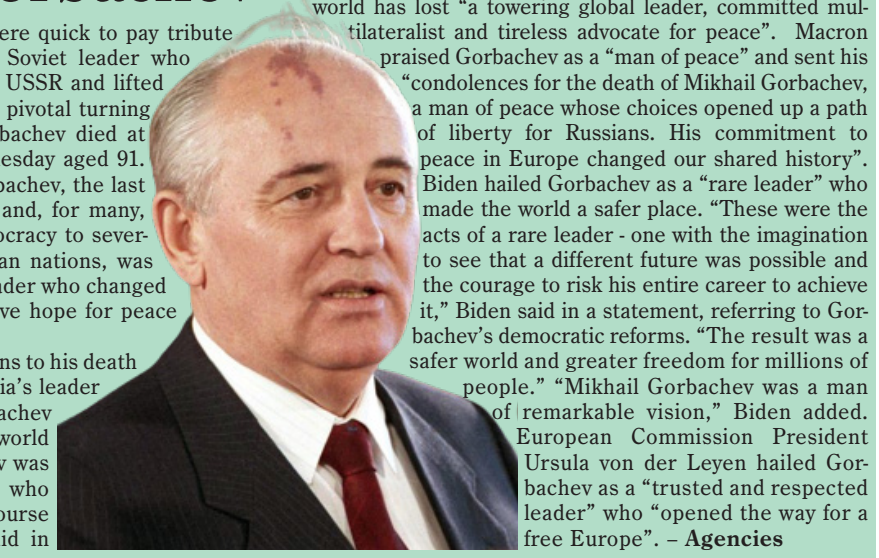
UN rights chief to publish Xinjiang report on Wednesday

GENEVA: The UN rights chief will release a long-awaited report on alleged violations in China's Xinjiang region before leaving office later Wednesday, despite strong pressure from Beijing not to publish. "The report on Xinjiang will go out by the end of the day," said Jeremy Laurence, a spokesman for outgoing High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who promised to publish the report before leaving office at the end of the month. The announcement means the report will come out in the final 12 hours of her four-year term. Amid the allegations swirling around abuses in Xinjiang, Bachelet came under increasing pressure to investigate and speak out about the far-western region of China. Beijing stands accused of detaining more than one million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities there. Nearly a year ago, the former Chilean president told the UN HR Council an independent evaluation of the situation in Xinjiang was needed, and indicated that her office was finalising a report on the matter. But report was repeatedly delayed amid growing impatience from rights groups and some countries. Speaking earlier Wednesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian branded the report a "farce" and hoped that Bachelet would not publish it in her final hours in office. - APP

World leaders pay tribute to ex-Soviet leader Gorbachev

MOSCOW: World leaders were quick to pay tribute to Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader who oversaw the collapse of the USSR and lifted the Iron Curtain, marking a pivotal turning point in world history. Gorbachev died at a hospital in Moscow on Tuesday aged 91. The passing of Mikhail Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union and, for many, the man who restored democracy to several communist-ruled European nations, was mourned Wednesday as a leader who changed the world and for a time gave hope for peace among the superpowers. Here are some of the reactions to his death from across the world. Russia's leader Vladimir Putin said Gorbachev made a "huge impact" on world history. "Mikhail Gorbachev was a politician and statesman who had a huge impact on the course of world history," Putin said in

a statement from the Kremlin, adding that he led the country "during a period of complex, dramatic changes". Guterres in a statement praised Gorbachev as "a one-of-a-kind statesman who changed the course of history" and "did more than any other individual to bring about the peaceful end of the Cold War". The statement, which was posted on Twitter, said the world has lost "a towering global leader, committed multilateralist and tireless advocate for peace". Macron praised Gorbachev as a "man of peace" and sent his "condolences for the death of Mikhail Gorbachev, a man of peace whose choices opened up a path of liberty for Russians. His commitment to peace in Europe changed our shared history". Biden hailed Gorbachev as a "rare leader" who made the world a safer place. "These were the acts of a rare leader - one with the imagination to see that a different future was possible and the courage to risk his entire career to achieve it," Biden said in a statement, referring to Gorbachev's democratic reforms. "The result was a safer world and greater freedom for millions of people." "Mikhail Gorbachev was a man of remarkable vision," Biden added. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen hailed Gorbachev as a "trusted and respected leader" who "opened the way for a free Europe". - Agencies



Canadian Minister assures support for flood victims

DNA

OTTAWA: The Canadian government has pledged "the right support, at the right time" for the people affected by rains and floods in Pakistan. "We will work closely together to ensure that we support the people of Pakistan as they struggle through this difficult time," said Mr. Harjit Singh Sajjan, Canadian Minister of International Development, on his Twitter handle following a video conference meeting with Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada, Mr. Zaheer Janjua. During the meeting, the Pakistan High Commissioner conveyed the Canadian Minister his gratitude on behalf of the people of Pakistan for Canada's initial assistance of CAD 5 million for the people affected by floods in Pakistan. He also briefed the Minister on the ongoing relief efforts and the nature of assistance required from international community,

donors and friendly countries, including Canada, in the rescue and relief efforts and subsequent rehabilitation of flood victims and restoration of damaged infrastructure. Mr Janjua also briefed Mr. Harjit Sajjan about the \$160 million flash appeal launched by UN Secretary General Mr. António Guterres for the Pakistani people who, in the words of Mr. Guterres, were facing "a monsoon on steroids" in a colossal crisis that could only be handled through an urgent and

collective action by the international community. Later, High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua also had an extensive interaction with journalists representing mainstream Canadian news media outlets, including CBC, Global News, CityNews and National Post. During the briefing, the High Commissioner shared details of loss of life and to property and infrastructure in the floods and rains which had claimed 1162 lives and injured over 3,350 people so far. Similarly, rains and floods had destroyed or

damaged 5,063 km of roads, 243 bridges, 173 shops and 1,057 million houses besides killing 730,483 livestock, he added. To a question, Zaheer Janjua said Pakistan was facing the effects of climate change and it was evident by the widespread loss of life and damage to human lives, property and infrastructure caused by unprecedented rains that had averaged, in some regions such as Sindh, more than 500 per cent than the normal average recorded in the last 30 years.

Zaheer Janjua said the Pakistani Canadians had always stood by Pakistan in its hour of need and he was hopeful they would be again forthcoming with generous donations and support for the flood victims in Pakistan. He said donations and contributions could be deposited in bank accounts in various Pakistani banks or routed through International Red Cross, Red Crescent and other organisations taking part in rescue and relief work in Pakistan. He shared a list of relief items required for flood affectees and announced PIA would carry these relief items free of charge from Toronto to Pakistan. In a separate interview with CBC Vancouver, High Commissioner Zaheer Janjua described climate change as an existential, clear and present danger that required an urgent attention of the global community. He said Pakistan was almost nowhere on the emission index, but it was amongst the top five countries in the vulnerability index.



Ursula rebuffs call to suspend carbon market

DNA

COPENHAGEN: European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen rebuffed a call by Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki to temporarily suspend the EU's Emission Trading System (ETS) in order to stabilise power prices. At an energy summit in Copenhagen, Morawiecki suggested suspending the ETS system, the EU's main tool for reducing carbon emissions and enforcing its climate policy. "Why add another 90 or 100 in the form of ETS allowances to already very high electricity prices? We can revert back to the system the moment we secure energy for all of Europe and we bring back peace to Ukraine," Morawiecki said at a news conference. The ETS is considered as the cornerstone of the EU's climate policy. By forcing power plants and industries to buy permits when they produce CO2 emissions, it provides a financial incentive to pollute less, to dodge the carbon costs. That feeds into the cost of power, but von der Leyen said ETS costs were contributing only around 6% of the electricity price, versus 94% caused by other factors - mainly, the surging price of gas. "We need the emission trading system to cut CO2 emissions," von der Leyen said at the same news conference. Instead, she said, the EU is working on an emergency tool and a structural reform of EU's electricity market.

Mississippi Governor declares emergency

DNA

HOUSTON: The governor of the US state of Mississippi declared a state of emergency on Tuesday as more than 160,000 residents scramble for fresh water in the capital city of Jackson. "The city cannot produce enough water to fight fires, to reliably flush toilets and to meet other critical needs," Gov. Tate Reeves said at a news conference emphasizing the urgency of the crisis. The governor said the failure of the city's water treatment system is the culmination of a long-standing deterioration in critical water infrastructure, combined with damage from this week's mass flooding. "All of this was with the prayer that we would have more time before their system ran to failure," said Reeves. The water emergency has left most people without sanitary drinking water, or in some cases, no water at all. "Do not drink the water," stressed Reeves. "In too many cases, it is raw water from the reservoir being pushed through the pipes."

Spain's tomato fight fiesta returns

BUNOL: Thousands of revellers splattered each other with tomatoes on Wednesday in the Spanish town of Bunol celebrating the return of the annual "Tomatina" food fight after a two-year absence due to the Covid pandemic. A convoy of six trucks carrying 130 tonnes of ripe tomatoes rolled through the eastern town's narrow streets, as teams on board distributed the load among the baying crowd for an hour-long frenzy. The festival - billed as "the world's biggest food fight" - has become a major draw for foreigners, in particular from Australia, Britain, Japan and the United States. But this year only 15,000 of the 20,000 available tickets sold as fewer people from Asia made the trip due to lingering Covid-19 travel restrictions, local officials said. The bang of fireworks set off the free-for-all at noon and within minutes the streets were bathed in red goo. Revellers, some wearing goggles to protect their eyes, bent down to pick up tomatoes from the ground to throw while others lay in the pulp. "We have come to the 'Tomatina' because it's the craziest thing we have seen here," Patricia, a tourist from Mexico, told local television station A Punt. The town of around 9,500 people has since 2013 charged a participation fee to control the growing numbers who had flocked to the festival last held in 2019 before Covid curbs. - APP

Briefs

Navy extends flood relief activities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has further extended its flood relief activities in Dera Ismail Khan and surrounding areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa besides ongoing operations in the rural areas of Sindh. Pakistan Navy personnel including diving teams rescued stranded families in flooded areas by operating boats in challenging circumstances at night and at long distances, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

"Pakistan Navy is also operating helicopters for rapid access to deep areas and immediate reaction to life threatening situations. Thousands of survivors from small villages in Mirpur Khas, Qambar Shahdadkot and Dadu have been evacuated so far by Pakistan Navy." Pakistan Navy Diving Team recovered four dead bodies of an unfortunate boat sinking incident near Talti Lake, Sehwan. Furthermore, Pakistan Navy troops were distributing ration bags, cooked food, fresh drinking water, tents and other necessities to affected populace. Medical Camps by Pakistan Navy were also continually working in different flood affected areas. Pakistan Navy, along with civil administration and various philanthropist organizations is providing continuous assistance to the people of flood stricken areas.

Notices issued to police officials over terror case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The IHC has issued notices to the Islamabad Inspector General of Police (IGP) and one of his deputies over a case that the police lodged against PTI Chief Imran Khan under terror charges. Imran Khan had filed a petition before the court pleading with it to quash the FIR registered against him on the complaint of a magistrate. The FIR was lodged after the former prime minister issued threats to Additional Sessions Judge Zeba Chaudhry and police officials earlier this month in a speech at a public rally in Islamabad's F-9 park.

Khan was furious over the judge's decision of remanding his aide Shahbaz Gill into police custody for interrogation. Imran Khan also faces a contempt of court case over the same issue and was set to appear before the IHC in person on Wednesday. His petition against the FIR under the anti-terrorism act (ATA) was heard by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah. The court issued notices to Islamabad IGP, DIG, the magistrate who is the complainant in the FIR, and the SHO who registered the case.

Malaysian High Commission celebrates National Day

Acting High Commissioner Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh leads the flag raising ceremony

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of 65th National Day of Malaysia, the High Commission of Malaysia in Islamabad led by Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh organised a flag raising ceremony on 31 August 2022. It was attended by all Home Based Staff of the High Commission and Malaysian citizens residing in Islamabad.

The ceremony began with the singing of Malaysian national anthem 'Negaraku' and the raising of Jalur Gemilang - the name given to the Malaysian flag followed by the recitation of Rukun Negara by Immigration Attaché Mr Sharmanrizal bin Rustam. First Secretary Mr Nor Hazwan bin Mohd Hisham then led the recitation of the doa.

In his speech, Acting High Commissioner Mr Deddy Faisal bin Ahmad Salleh remarked that the bilateral relations between Malaysia and Pakistan have been established since the first moment of our independence in 1957. The former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy was among the distinguished guests who were present during the Proclamation of Independence at the Merdeka Stadium on 31 August 1957. A member of the Reid Commission who drafted the Malaysian Constitution is Justice Abdul Hamid, who was then the Judge of the High



Court of Pakistan. Pakistan is also one of the earliest countries to recognize our independence. This strong relationship will continue to remain close and brotherly as we will always need each other at all times. The simple but meaningful ceremony concluded with all guests joining the singing of patriotic song "Warisan" led by Third Secretary Mr Nor Azuan bin Haji Ayub.

India to commission home-built carrier, but short of jets

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: India will formally commission its first home-built aircraft carrier on Friday, the culmination of 17 years of construction and tests as the country seeks to catch up with regional rival China and its far larger naval fleet. The INS Vikrant, however, will not have its own fleet of fighter jets on deck and instead will rely on a few Russian-designed aircraft borrowed from India's only other carrier, the INS Vikramaditya. France's Dassault and Boeing are locked in a race to provide the Indian government with over two dozen jets earmarked for the Vikrant, a 262 metre-long vessel built at the state-run Cochin Shipyard in southern India. The Indian Navy and India's defence ministry did not respond to questions from Reuters. Designed by the Indian Navy, the carrier is the largest warship to be built in the country, able to accommodate a crew of around 1,600 and operate a fleet of 30 aircraft, including fighter jets and helicopters.

IAEA team heads for Zaporizhzhia plant

NEWS DESK

KYIV: The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) mission to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine arrived in the Ukrainian-held city of Zaporizhzhia on Wednesday. UN inspectors will have access to a Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant on Thursday and will try to establish "a permanent presence", the IAEA chief Rafael Grossi said.

"We are preparing for the real work which begins tomorrow," he said. "We are going to try to establish a permanent presence for the agency starting from then." The mission, headed by Grossi, intends to inspect the plant after its territory was repeatedly shelled over the last month, with Ukraine and Russia trading blame over the attacks.

Russian forces captured the plant soon after they launched their February 24 invasion of Ukraine and it is close to the front line. The mission comes after extensive negotiations. "We are now finally moving after six months of strenuous efforts," Grossi told reporters before the convoy set off, adding that the mission planned to spend "a few days" at the site.

"We have a very important task there to perform - to assess the real situations there, to help stabilize the situation as much as we can," he added.

It was not clear when the IAEA team would reach Europe's biggest nuclear plant and when it would conduct its inspection. Both sides in the war have in recent days reported regular shelling in the vicinity. Ukraine accused Russian forces of firing on Enerhodar, a town by the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, as IAEA inspectors were en route to inspect the facility.



NEWSHERA: President Dr. Arif Alvi meets with flood affected family at Fazaia Degree College relief camp. - DNA

US approves updated Moderna, Pfizer shots

WASHINGTON: US health officials on Wednesday authorized updated Covid-19 vaccinations by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech that specifically target the latest strains of the Omicron variant, with the goal of jump-starting a new booster campaign. The two updated booster shots aimed at providing "better protection against Covid-19 caused by the Omicron variant" are approved for people age 12 and above for the Pfizer shot and 18 and older for Moderna, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said in a statement.

This new generation of anti-Covid vaccines targets both the original strain of coronavirus and the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages, the subvariants of Omicron that are causing the most cases in the United States and which the FDA predicts will circulate in the coming months.

Earlier this summer the US health department announced it had purchased 105 million doses from Pfizer and 66 million from Moderna for use over the fall and winter. The vaccines have yet to be recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the nation's health protection agency. But an independent panel of experts is scheduled to be convened by the CDC on Thursday to discuss the updates. CDC director Rochelle Walensky will be in charge of giving the final green light. The new versions of the vaccines could potentially be available in the United States as early as next week. - APP

BAGHDAD: A months-long political crisis in Iraq showed little sign of abating Wednesday despite a fresh push for negotiations after nearly 24 hours of deadly violence between rival Shiite factions ended.

Baghdad's Green Zone, home to government buildings and embassies, returned to normality after 30 people were killed and 570 wounded in clashes pitting supporters of powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr against pro-Iran factions.

Since elections in October 2021, political deadlock has left Iraq without a new government, prime minister or president, due to disagreement over the formation of a coalition.

Iraq deadlock persists after bloody unrest

The tensions escalated sharply on Monday when Sadr loyalists stormed the government palace following their leader's announcement that he was quitting politics. But Sadr's supporters trickled out of the Green Zone in a steady stream on Tuesday afternoon when he appealed for them to withdraw within the hour. A nationwide curfew was lifted, before shops reopened and infamous traffic jams returned to Baghdad's streets on Wednesday as the government announced the resumption of school exams postponed by the unrest. But the hurdles obstructing a solution to Iraq's political crisis remained firmly in place, with rival powers disagreeing over a path forwards. Early elections, less than a year after the last polls, and the dissolution of parliament have been a key demand of Sadr. Sadr's rivals in the pro-Iran Coordination Framework want a new head of government to be appointed before any new elections are held.

On Wednesday, a senior aide of Sadr, Saleh Mohammad al-Iraqi, lashed out at the Framework in a strongly worded statement that pointed to a widening schism. "Iran should reign in its Iraqi camels, or else there will be little room left for regret," he said Wednesday, referring to the Framework. Under the constitution, parliament can only be dissolved by a majority vote, which can take place at the request of a third of lawmakers, or by the prime minister in agreement with the president. - Agencies

Pak, Denmark sign Green Framework Agreement

IRSHAD ALI



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan signed the Green Framework Engagement Agreement with Denmark in Copenhagen. The Agreement was signed by Pakistan's Ambassador to Denmark, Ahmad Farooq and by Denmark's Ambassador to Pakistan, Lis Rosenholm. The Green Framework Engagement is underpinned by the mutual interests, high ambitions and shared visions of the two countries in a green and sustainable future for the planet including through private sector engagement and public-private partnerships. The Green Framework Engagement will mark the first step in creating stronger collaboration in areas such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, and a just and sustainable green transition. Following the conclusion of the Framework Engagement a Joint Plan of Action will be finalized between the two countries containing specific activities of collaboration. Pakistan is keen to benefit from Danish expertise to build its capacity for dealing with the repercussions of Climate Change. The current floods in Pakistan, which have been induced by climate change, underscore the need for increasing such cooperation between the developed and the developing countries. Denmark is already assisting Pakistan under its Danish Energy Transition Initiative (DETI) through which technical assistance is being provided to the Ministry of Energy in the areas of planning of long-term energy scenarios and integration of renewable energy into the existing grid. Pakistan and Denmark enjoy cooperative bilateral relations encompassing all areas of mutual interest, including trade and investment, climate change and renewable energy. A sizeable Pakistani Diaspora living in Denmark provides a strong link between the two peoples. The two countries also closely coordinate on regional and international issues. The signing of Green Framework Engagement Agreement will contribute to further strengthening of close cooperation between the two countries.



Monal Foundation

Current Progress: 22 to 29 Aug 2022
Total Donation Received: Rs. 23 Million
Tents 650 (Donated)
Rashan Bags 25 Kg 2450 (Donated)
We are presently working in Khairpur, Kashmore, Fazilpur, Sukkur, Swat, D.I Khan and Tank.

For Contributions

Account Title: Monal Foundation
Account Number: 0010032981570018
Branch Code: 0702
IBAN: PK 55 ABPA
0010032981570018
Bank: Allied Bank Limited
Blue Area Islamabad

For information contact us at 051-111-777-778, 0310 8150122.