



Islamabad POST

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Romanian Ambassador bids farewell to Defence Attache

Detailed News On Page-08

Sherry warns against more devastation

Detailed News On Page-08

Verstappen wins Belgian Grand Prix

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Indonesian envoy grieved over losses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan Adam Tugio has extended his condolences over the loss of lives in the recent floods. In his message Ambassador Tugio said, 'My heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to Pakistani brothers and sisters victims of flooding in Sindh, Balochistan and Kyber Pakhtunkhwa. The unprecedented scale of the flooding in these provinces has clearly demonstrated a devastating impact of climate change'.

COAS to visit flood-hit areas

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa would visit flood-hit areas of Sindh on Sunday and also to interact with ground troops busy in relief activities. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said that Pakistan Army had established 212 Relief Collection points to support flood affectees. It included 81 Relief Collection points in Sindh, 73 in Punjab, 41 in Balochistan and 17 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) were functioning. The Pakistan Army had also established flood Relief donation account to help flood victims. - APP

Germany assures Kyiv of support

NEWS DESK

KYIV: Germany's foreign minister vowed to support Ukraine "financially and militarily" even if the war endures "for years." Meanwhile, Britain believes Russia will struggle to reinforce its troops. DW has more. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Sunday reaffirmed Berlin's support for Ukraine in its war against Russia, warning that the conflict "could go on for years." "Unfortunately, we have to assume that Ukraine will still need new heavy weapons from its friends next summer," she told Bild am Sonntag newspaper. "Ukraine is also defending our freedom, our peace."

PM pledges Rs10 bn for Balochistan

After visiting the flood-affected areas, the PM said that he had never witnessed such massive destruction wrecked by unprecedented floods

BUREAU REPORT

JAFFARABAD, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday announced a grant of Rs10 billion for Balochistan province to cope with the situation and assist the flood victims in the aftermath of recent heavy rainfall and floods. Speaking to media after visiting the flood-affected areas including Haji Allah Dino village, the prime minister said that he had never witnessed in his lifetime such massive destruction wrecked by unprecedented floods and rainfalls across the country. He said the impacts of natural calamities could not be overcome with mere raising of slogans, statements and allegations. He stressed that they would have to work hard, and shed sweat and blood to overcome the flood situation in the country, adding that different countries had devised technical mechanisms by making investments to overcome the natural catastrophes. The prime minister regretted that false statements by certain political figures could not mislead the nation. "I will speak the truth. For the last 73 years, Pakistan could not stand on its feet," he regretted. The prime

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France ready to support flood victims: Macron

DNA



ISLAMABAD: French President Emmanuel Macron on Sunday while expressing solidarity with the flood victims of Pakistan said that his country was ready to provide help. On his Twitter handle, the French president said that their thought went to the people in Pakistan who had been facing terrible floods with countless people missing. "Our thoughts go out to the Pakistani people facing terrible floods, to the families of the countless people missing and to the populations affected. France stands ready to provide help," he posted. Meanwhile,

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More goods from UAE to arrive soon

Info Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb says relief goods from Turkiye to reach on Monday

STAFF REPORT



KARACHI: Relief goods from Turkiye arrived in Karachi, on Sunday. - DNA

ISLAMABAD, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said fifteen more plane loads of relief goods from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) would arrive in Pakistan in the coming days.

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Azerbaijan to provide US \$2m

DNA

ISLAMABAD, Azerbaijan Permanent Representative to Economic Co-operation Organization (ECO) and Ambassador to Iran Ali Alizada on Sunday said that under the instruction of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, his country would provide US\$ 2 million relief assistance to Pakistan to cope with the situation in the aftermath of recent massive floods. Ali Alizada, who also served as Azerbaijan's ambassador to Pakistan, posted on his Twitter handle, "By the instructions of the President,

Continued on Page 06



JAFFARABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with flood victims in Village Haji Allah Dino. - DNA

Asia Cup

India beat Pakistan in a close contest

SPORTS DESK

DUBAI: India beat Pakistan by 5 wickets in the Asia Cup match in a close contest and low scoring game. India chased target of 147 set by Pakistan in the last over. Pakistan top order batsmen failed to put up a good show. It was because of a couple of big shots from Shanawaz Dhani that Pakistan were able to score 147. Indian bowlers got rid of Pakistani batters mostly on short balls as they bowled them out for 147 runs. Pakistan's five wickets till the sixteenth over fell off short balls. Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed and Khushdil Shah failed to read short balls as Pakistan were left tattered at 97-5 in 14.3 overs. India has won the toss and decided to bowl first against Pakistan in their first game in T20 Asia Cup 2022. Sent into bat first, Pakistan lost their in-form opener, Babar Azam, for the sum of just 15 runs. The right-handed batter fell to a clever bouncer bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar. He scored eight runs followed by the scalp of Fakhar Zaman who also scored as many runs. Short balls kept haunting Pakistan against the arch-rivals as the next three batters also fell on short balls. Rizwan fought hard but his 43-runs inning was at a snail's pace and it kept Pakistan's run-rate quite low.

US Drones strikes

Afghan Minister accuses Pakistan

Mullah Yaquib Mujahid says we have asked Pakistan not to allow its airspace to be used for such purposes

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR The rifts amongst the ranks of Taliban, governing Afghanistan confirmed when defense minister has accused Pakistan for extending help to United States in Drones strikes in that war affected country. During a press conference, Mullah Muhammad Yaquob Akhund, defense minister in the Emirate Islami Afghanistan has directly accused Pakistan of allowing its airspace for US drone operations against Afghanistan and demanded that the neighboring country to stop doing so. "We do not have accurate information in this regard because our radar

system was destroyed by American forces during their withdrawal, but our information shows they are entering from Pakistan airspace to Afghanistan and using Pakistan airspace," Yaquob remarked, adding, "we are asking Pakistan to not let to its airspace use against us". The Taliban defense Mullah Yaquib Mujahid who is son of Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan founder Mullah Muhammad Omar Akhund founder while talking to journalists during a conference regarding Taliban one year performances at Kabul has highlighted achievements of his ministry. In response to a question he also reconfirmed

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Qatar's RCS, Muslim states pledge support

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: In response to the flood disaster in Pakistan, the Qatar Red Crescent Society (QRCS) has activated its disaster information management center. It has allocated \$100,000 from its disaster response fund to provide relief for the victims of floods, mitigate the impact of the disaster on them, and meet their basic needs. The emergency humanitarian intervention plan of QRCS involves providing emergency shelter tents, family hygiene kits and 1,000 blankets for 200 flood-affected families in Sindh.

To keep updated the humanitarian situation and gather real-time information, in coordination with Pakistan Red Crescent Society, the QRCS has activated its disaster information management center. It has allocated \$100,000 from its disaster response fund to provide relief for the victims of floods, mitigate the impact of the disaster on them, and meet their basic needs. The emergency humanitarian intervention plan of QRCS involves providing emergency shelter tents, family hygiene kits and 1,000 blankets for 200 flood-affected families in Sindh.

The tragedy caused by floods and our response

Devastating floods and human misery that emanated from the floods have badly exposed the governance system in all the provinces and even in the federal capital. Over 1,000 people have so far been killed by the deadly floods while tens of thousands have already been rendered homeless. Loss of livestock that runs into millions of rupees is yet another ordeal that the hapless victims had to face. Many of them died simply because no one came to their rescue. While the natural calamity continues multiply misers of the victims the rulers are seen only visiting the affected areas for merely photo session purposes. When it comes to point scoring, the entire political elite seems to be on the same page. Regrettably it invariably happens in Pakistan that whenever the country is hit by a calamity the leaders then start doing politics. An endless game of accusations kick starts with those in power start enjoying Heli rides with a view to 'assessing' the damages. Some of them also show 'immense generosity' by dropping down a few packs of food for the ill-fated people. In the past two decades Pakistan has witnessed three major floods; one in early 90s, second around 2010 and third one now. Unfortunately, on all these occasions the leaders acted in the same fashion i.e they extended only lip service and

nothing practically. Figures show mostly the backward areas of Balochistan, Sindh, South Punjab and KP have been hit-hard by floods and rains miserably because people there are leading a miserable life. Poverty is at its best in these areas. These areas are mostly governed by Sardars, chieftains; feudals; Malikis who would never want these areas to prosper and develop. So we can say without any doubt that these areas have been kept backward deliberately by these worldly gods. In some areas humans are forced to lead a life worse than animals. And ironically it is still happening in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan or in the 'State of Madina'. When such calamities befall on us, everybody including the so-called civil society wake up. Rescue camps are established; fundraising campaigns are launched and social media networks are activated. The governments try to turn such calamities into an opportunity for themselves and start extending the begging bowls both at home and abroad for some charity. The prime minister convened a meeting of the diplomats last week and asked them for help. But perhaps the international community is well aware of Pakistan's past when it comes to dealing with such situations therefore all such pleas hitherto have received a lackluster response. We need to seriously think about our image problem. A sitting Senator from Balochistan Kamran Murtaza, in his recent TV talk admitted that

in Balochistan and Sindh provinces corruption rules supreme. In each and every contract 55 per cent commission is doled out which means only 45 per cent is spent on a project. It is quite obvious a project completed with only 45 per cent of the total amount, will not last for long. That is why most of the bridges; small dams; roads and even high-

ed an amount of USD two million. The UK too has extended some help while we continue to receive pledges from other countries. Most of the countries do want to help us but not in the shape of cash. Ostensibly the amount that Pakistan has received so far appears to be the peanuts viz-a-viz losses that have been incurred. But then we perhaps should not wholly bank upon the foreign aid always. We need to mobilize local resources and philanthropists as well, many of them happen to be the richest men on this earth. Likewise, the entire political elite too needs to contribute generously to this end. As it goes, charity begins at home. The members of the Parliament including the prime minister have all made their fortunes in Pakistan and so is the case with the opposition parties. It is high time that they should donate handsomely from their personal accounts. If they do so, then indeed others would follow them. It would also send a positive signal abroad. The Prime Minister has convened an All Parties Conference (APC) on Monday to seek collective wisdom as to how to tackle this tragedy. But it must not be just a debate for the sake of debate. No occasion can be more opportune than this that the political leaders announce substantial sums either on behalf of their respective

parties or in their individual capacity to set a worth-emulating precedent. Woes of the wretched victims multiplied also because of the sheer mismanagement on the part of the authorities. For example in Swat most of the hotels were illegally built by encroaching the river area. Consequently a 200 feet wide river got squeezed to just 50 feet or even less at some points. Therefore most of the hotels and constructions built on the river land were washed away as water had to make its way. So much so, in Islamabad too the builders have not spared the waterways and nullahs. In July 2021 the E 11 Sector of the Capital downed after heavy rains simply because most of the nullahs had been encroached upon by the housing society. At least two people were killed in that tragedy. So the mind-boggling question is that did we learn any lessons from that tragedy? Absolutely not and that is the reason we have to bear the brunt of yet another human tragedy in the shape of recent floods that has already taken away more than 1,000 precious lives. I could not find a suitable reason to be optimistic that our leaders and rulers would learn a lesson after the recent catastrophe, which continues to take a heavy toll on especially have-nots and the underprivileged class. As the British author Christina Lamb would put it, 'Pakistanis are a nation waiting for Allah'.

Inside...

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COMMENT



Ansar M Bhatti

ways could not withstand torrential floods and hence destroyed allowing water to enter the settled areas causing colossal losses. When it comes to corruption, the rest of the provinces are not an exception either. The European Union announced 1.8 million Euros support while another USD 500 million came from the rest of the world so far. Another brotherly country Azerbaijan has also extend-

KP: Floods bring havoc to roads infrastructure

SWAT: Besides colossal humans and material losses, the devastating floods have brought havoc to communication infrastructure including roads and bridges in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where several upper areas of Swat and Dir districts were cut off from rest of the country hampering relief operations. Damaging 3161.5 kilometers roads and 149 bridges in Pakistan, the floods have swept away Tangi bridge near Monda headworks in Charsadda district affecting traffic flow between Charsadda and Peshawar while about 200 tourists were trapped in Mahudhand lake due to severe damage of Kalam-Matalan road in Upper Swat. Junaid Khan, Deputy Commissioner Swat while confirming trapping of 200 tourists at Mahudhand lake said the district administration was in contact with these tourists, who would be rescued after completion of rescue operation at Matalan and upper Kalam. He said that 15 female teachers trapped in a hotel in Kalam were successfully rescued and they had reached Kabal Swat. According to National Disasters Management Authority, since June 14 to August 27, 2022, a total of 3161.5km roads, 149 bridges and 122 shops were destroyed and damaged during recent devastating record breaking floods in the country including KP.

The national calamity has played havoc to roads infrastructure in Sindh where 2,328km roads, 60 bridges and 45 shops were destroyed/damaged by the killer floods hampering relief operations. Likewise, 115km roads and 12 bridges in Punjab, 6.5km roads and seven bridges in KP, 710km roads

and 18 bridges in Balochistan, 710 km roads and 17 shops in AJK were washed away by the gushing water. Besides 982 human deaths and 1456 injuries, the natural calamity has several affected roads connectivity in upper areas of Swat including Madain, Kalam and Bahrain areas that were adversely affecting rescue operations.

Deputy Commissioner Swat said that rehabilitation works at Madain-Bahrain has been started to provide relief to flood hit people. By today's evening, he said that Madain-Bahrain road would be reopened for people that would also help expedite relief operations and transportation goods to facilitate floods victims. He said relief and rescue operations was being started at flood hit Atror area while first helicopter carrying relief goods was landed at Kalam where devastating floods brought havoc to hotels, inns and motels inflicted millions rupees losses.

Deputy Commissioner said that 66 people stranded in Kalam were rescued and shifted to Khwazakhela. Besides destruction to hotels, gardens and standing crops, the floods also swept away 802,583 livestock inflicted great losses to farmers and livestock owners. "Floods have swept away my 20 goats and sheeps as the killer gushing water did not give me time to shift it to safer places," said Khan Gee, a poor shepherd of Barikot Swat while talking to APP. When the flood struck our village, the poor shepherd said he along with his brother rushed to shift their livestock from cattle farm to safer places, but within moments we saw ourselves stranded in six-feet floodwa-

ter with people screaming and running for their lives in a desperate condition. He said all the livestock were swept away by the gushing water in a jiffy and he suffered over one million losses.

The poor farmer requested the Government to provide compensation to flood victims at earliest so that they could restart their business under the Prime Minister's relief package. Advisor to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Ameer Muqam has said that all the concerned authorities including National Highway Authority (NHA) was mobilized to rehabilitate road links in floods affected areas. He said NHA and PESCO have been directed to expedite efforts in flood affected areas and efforts were underway to mitigate sufferings of people including those who are residing in hilly areas and are faced problems due to damaging of roads and bridges. He also appreciated the efforts of PESCO authorities to restore electricity in areas affected by floods. He said equipment and necessary machinery has been dispatched to restore electricity and roads in affected areas in Swat. PM advisor informed that Gird Station of Khwazakhela and Tank has been rehabilitated and efforts are underway to start all the grid stations affected by recent floods. He said that authorities were also monitoring rehabilitation and restoration work. The provincial government has been contacted to rescue people stranded on rooftops in areas of Charsadda and Nowshera besides hills in Swat and Dir districts. -APP



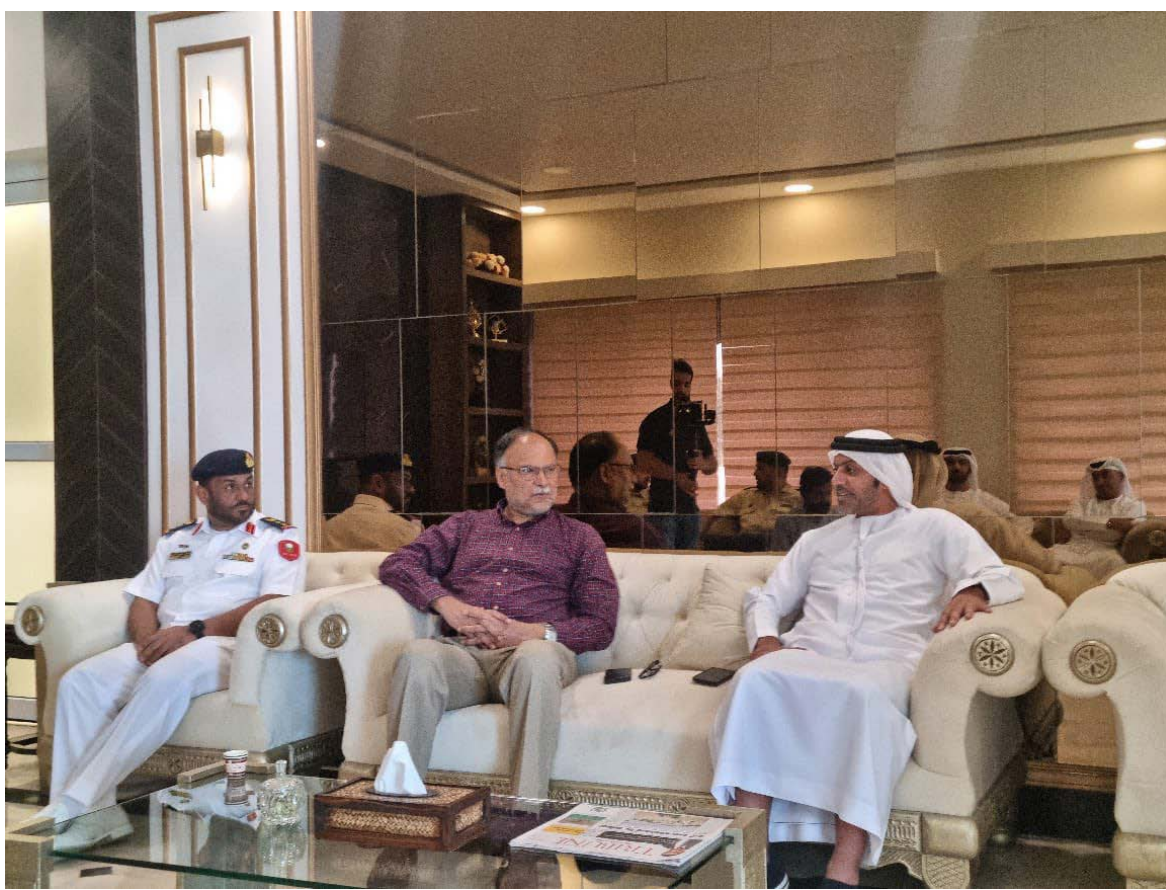
ISLAMABAD: Former Ambassador Hamayun hosted a farewell dinner for the outgoing DHM of the French embassy Yves Manville, at his residence. - DNA

BISP distributed over Rs 6 bn under flood relief assistance

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: On special Instructions of Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/ Chairperson BISP Ms. Shazia Marri and with special coordination of State-bank of Pakistan BISP's partner banks payment centers are kept open on Sunday (holiday) for the smooth disbursement of payment to flood affectees in Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. So far a total amount of Rs.6,434,111,806 has been disbursed among 255,946 flood affected families under this programme. Currently, 38,930 affected families have received Rs.984,007,726 in Balochistan; 154,860 families have received Rs.3,888,417,506 in Sindh; 20,799 families

have received Rs. 522,441,500 in KP and 41,357 families have received Rs.1,039,245,074 in Punjab. The administration of Benazir Income Support Programme has directed the concerned staff who is present at the campsites to fully cooperate and facilitate the people in their respective regions. Affected families can send their CNIC number to 8171 for registration in Flood Relief Cash Assistance program and upon receiving payment message they can visit their nearby campsite to receive their payment. A control Room has also been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters to ensure smooth payments. People can visit BISP headquarters or contact at 051-9246312 from 08:00 AM to 07:00 PM for the assistance and other related information.



RAWALPINDI: Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal meets with Ambassador of UAE Hammad Obaid Ibrahim al Zabi at NoorKhan Airbase. - DNA

PTCL opens medical centers for flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) Group has opened the doors of its medical centers for flood affected people in Swat, Dera Ismail Khan, Sukkur, Mirpur Khas, Larkana, Hyderabad, Malir-Karachi and Quetta. The centers will operate to facilitate and treat people injured in flood related accidents or fallen ill due to water-borne diseases said a news release issued here on Sunday.

Heavy rains and flooding have caused irreparable losses to life and property across the length and breadth of the

country, laying waste to large swathes of settlements, bazars, standing crops and urban centers in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh. The government of Pakistan has declared emergency across dozens of districts in all four provinces, prompting emergency response to the floods. Responding to the emergency, PTCL Group in an endeavor to support the disaster struck communities is extending its medical facilities to the communities affected. Speaking on the initiative, Shoaib Baig, Group Chief People Officer, PTCL & Ufone said: "Being

Pakistani companies, PTCL and Ufone feel great responsibility to stand by our people during this hour of great anguish caused by the recent floods. We are taking all possible measures within our reach to bring some comfort and solace to our distressed brethren." Besides, working tirelessly to maintain uninterrupted connectivity for continuation of rescue and relief activities, PTCL Group's decision to leverage its physical infrastructure will facilitate the people in the affected areas and share some burden of the stressed public health infrastructure of the country. -APP

Millions marooned as flood relief activities accelerate

ISLAMABAD: Millions of countrymen are left homeless with flood wreaking havoc in most parts of country inflicting miseries and loss of billions of rupees on a nation already struggling against economic recession. Tales of agony and pain are all around in most parts of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan with people losing their dear ones, household, residences, cattle and valuables as well as crops. The situation continues worsening amidst eighth spell of mighty monsoon that submerged roads infrastructure and the railways tracks hindering the relief activities in areas totally cut off from rest of the country. Most miserable is a situation where in some areas people do not find dry land to bury their kith and kin who could not escape the furious flood tides that submerged their

bricks and mud homes. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Armed Forces, civil society, philanthropists and welfare organization are toiling hard to reach out to stranded people with direly needed accessories. But the volume of calamity is too colossal that affected around 300 million, claiming lives of approximately 930 people, killing thousands cattle heads and ruining crops on hundreds of thousands acre land. Starting from June 14, there has been no let up in the massive downpour inundating the plains and the hilly areas in most parts of the country with Balochistan, Sindh and South Punjab worst hit by this catastrophe. Cognizant of the severity of this ethereal calamity - one of the biggest in our country's history, Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif, the federal government, Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa and Armed Forces

along with provincial governments, civil society and Non-governmental Organizations are all out for gearing up relief activities in affected areas. The federal government has announced Rs 37.2 billion relief package for flood affected with each family getting immediate cash relief of Rs 25,000 through BISP as the Prime Minister announced Rs 15 billion for Sindh's affected areas. Separate compensation shall also be paid for losses of family members and other losses including houses damage. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Army Chief Qamar Bajwa rushed back home after concluding their Qatar visit and embarked on visits to affected areas for supervising the relief activities. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah are already in the affected areas to console the grieved families. - APP

PIMA establishes 30 medical camps

QUETTA: Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) has established 30 medical camps in the flood-hit areas of Balochistan to provide free medical facilities to the affected people. Doctors and paramedical staff of PIMA has provided treatment to over thousands of patients out of whom included 80 percent of women and children in medical camp, Dr Khalil baloch said. The PIMA has organized medical camps to provide treatment and free medicine to the people affected by heavy rains and deadly flooding at their doorstep. The medical camps were especially designed for a period of one month after the recent rains and floods situation in the province to avoid secondary health related issues. The medical camps have been established in the flood-affected areas including Jhal Magsi, Naseerabad, Jaffarabad, Lasbela, Quetta, Kech, Panjgur and others districts for treatment of flood victims' sufferings. - APP

35 stranded people in Kalam, Kumrat rescued

PESHAWAR: On the directives of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Swat and Dir Upper districts have launched rescue operation to rescue stranded people in Kalam and Kumrat. According to an official handout issued here on Sunday, 35 people have shifted from Kalam and Kumrat have been shifted to Saidu Sharif Airport (Mingora) and Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University Sheringal (Dir Upper). In both districts both rescue and relief operations were in progress through helicopters. Four women tourists were shifted through helicopter from Kumrat forests to the university. The Deputy Commissioner Dir Upper himself was supervising the rescue operation. The Commissioner Malakand Division, Shaukat Ali Yousafzai has said "Both the shifting of tourists to safe places and provision of food and shelter to the local flood affected people is their priority." He said "At least one food store at every tehsil level is being set up at an emergency basis and all government machinery is in the field to ensure the provision of relief to the flood affectees." The commissioner said "Beside district administration police and other agencies are also participating in the relief operation and medicines and food items are being dispatched to inaccessible areas." - APP

'Flood Carnage: Millions need humanitarian aid'

Pakistan also needs trained humanitarian workers with global expertise to bring people out of trauma and flood waters and help them rebuild

ISLAMABAD: Millions of people hit by the worst floods in Pakistan's history of six decades need huge humanitarian aid in terms of food and non-food items, tents, toilets, hygiene kits, sanitary pads, and cash for quick response, rescue and recovery. Pakistan also needs trained humanitarian workers with global expertise to bring people out of trauma and flood waters and help them rebuild. This was the crux of a discussion over twitter space organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) where in experts with humanitarian background highlighted a number of policy options for adequate response, recovery and rehabilitation plan. Speaking at the occasion, Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) Dr Abid Qayyum Suleri, said when losses are more than the 2010 floods, a bigger response and recovery plan backed by adequate resources should be made leaving aside political differences and considerations. He said that the damages will result into livelihood losses and food insecurity. He said BISP is a great cash disbursement programme as social safety net. Those who are not registered, they could be taken on board and cash transfer should start as soon as possible so that people start returning to normal

cy and markets are up and running. Head of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum Syed Shahid Kazmi said that we need to prioritize providing cooked food, nutritious dry food items, drinking water, medical camps, fodder and other veterinary services for livestock, de-watering, mosquito nets and shelters with temporary toilets. He said under such circumstances, there is a need to provide women and children safe spaces to protect them against violence. He hoped that once the UN flash appeal will be launched, much of humanitarian funding will come to Pakistan which may be helpful in protecting people from hunger and diseases.

A leading expert on Disaster Management, Syed Waqar Shirazi gave a situation overview on the impacts of floods calling for a real time assessment of the losses and damages and impacts on the people and infrastructure. He said only in three districts-Dera Ismail Khan, Dera Ghazi Khan and Tanks 70 to 85% area submerged and caused massive destruction. He said power and telephone signals were cut in the flood hit areas which hampered rescue work. The floods damaged standing crops such as rice, sugarcane and cotton; and seeds for future crops were also washed away. He warned against ensuing epidemics as a result of standing water. Shirazi said this is the result of disallowing humanitarian IN-

GOs to operate in the country that now we have shortage of trained humanitarian workers with global experience. Humanitarian policy specialist and Research Fellow Resilient Development Programme at the SDPI, Dr Shafiqat Munir Ahmad said had we learnt lesson from the 2010 onwards floods, we would have built safe spaces and raised platforms to protect people and their belongings. He said that we need to update national, provincial, and district levels development plans making them risk-sensitive. We need to align disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies with the commitments under Sendai Framework on DRR. He said unprecedented monsoon will continue to occur ostensibly linked to climate change, so we have to put in place proper preparedness and DRR plans at community level. He called for allowing global humanitarian actors to restart their operations on a long-term basis by providing them enabling environment. Disallowing INGOs on security concern could be valid but their absence has created a grave and continued human security issue. We have to rethink, he added. Senior developmental journalist, Moazzam S Bhatti was of the opinion that media can play a great role provided it is given access to assessment data. Appeals through

media always draw funds and humanitarian support from general masses and philanthropists. Climate scientist Dr Fahad Saeed gave a suggestion that Pakistan should build its case at the forthcoming COP27 in Egypt based on scientifically tested data that the losses incurred in floods are related to climate change so that the country can access to climate fund set aside for this purpose. He said heatwaves and floods impact the communities largely and there is a need to protect the people through strong early warning, preparedness, and adaptation measures. Senior official of WWF, Dr Imran Khalid said that the areas submerged are prone to such incidents in future as well so there is a need to build safety bunds to protect people and livestock, and build reservoirs to harvest rainwater. He called for urgent action to make communities resilient against such shocks as their resilience has been marred due to multiple crises. Many other participants hailing from various parts of the country gave their opinions and suggestions to provide relief to the flood affected people and to rebuild their lives and livelihoods sustainably. They called for providing credible channels through which people can send their donations for the flood hit people. - APP

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TENDER NOTICE
PURCHASE OF Fruit Drier MACHINE

ZTBL invites sealed bids under Single Stage Single envelope Procedure as envisaged in PPRA-2004 for the procurement of Fruit Drier Machine of 50 Trays capacity for ZTBL Gilgit Zone. Successful Supplier shall be responsible for Transportation/ installation of machine to the Gilgit zone as communicated to them, and charges must be incorporated in the Financial proposal. Bidding document containing detailed information can be obtained from Room No 509, Main building ZTBL Head Office against cash payment of Rs. 1000/- on any working day during office hours. The Tender Notice is also available on ZTBL and Public Procurement Regulatory Authority Websites.

Sealed Bids will be received upto 11.00A.M 12-09-2022 and will be opened at 11.30A.M on the same day in the Jamil Nishtar Auditorium, ZTBL Head Office. It may please be noted that incomplete application or applications received after closing date and time as mentioned above shall not be entertained.

ZAFAR ULLAH KHAN WARAICH
HEAD PROCUREMENT MONITORING & NEED ASSESMENT UNIT
Room 509 main building, Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited
Head Office, Zero Point, Islamabad.
Phone #: 051-2002500, 2002293

PID: 1185

National Days and Armed Forces Days

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

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

- Edhi Ambulance.....115
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Inquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange 9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi..5555489
- CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International.4603666



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

- Corporation.....9209224
- Potohar Town.....9209224
- Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Situation in Afghanistan is still precarious: Khalid

This transition in Afghanistan presents a role for the international community, especially regional countries, towards facilitating the desired transformation through a dynamic, persistent, and symbiotic engagement at multiple levels

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban government or the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (IEA), going through a political transition, from a battle-hardened resistance force to a state government, is facing several voids that cannot be filled right away or in a disconnected manner. This transition in Afghanistan presents a role for the international community, especially regional countries, towards facilitating the desired transformation through a dynamic, persistent, and symbiotic engagement at multiple levels.

These views were reflected in a heart-to-heart discussion followed by a keynote speech of Ambassador (r) Mohammad Sadiq, special assistant to the prime minister/ minister of state and Pakistan's special representative for Afghanistan in a roundtable titled "Transitioning Afghanistan" at



Institute of Policy Studies (IPS). The in-camera address by Ambassador Sadiq to a select gathering of Islamabad's intelligentsia based on Chatham House rules, aimed at assessing the actual picture

of Afghanistan and how Pakistan should carry itself in the scenario, was moderated by Brig (R) Dr. Saif-ur-Rehman Malik, IPS's senior research fellow. Lt Gen Asif Yasin Malik (ret), former Corp Commander Peshawar, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Husain, vice chairman IPS, Professor Dr Fakhar-ul-Islam, director, Pakistan Study Centre, University of Peshawar, Maj Gen Dr Shahid Ah-

mad Hashmat (Retd), Obaid Ullah Baheer, former faculty member (IR), American University, Kabul, Tahir Khan, senior journalist and Afghan affairs analyst, Dr Farhat Taj, associate professor, University of Troms, Norway, Dr Salma Malik, assistant professor, defense & strategic studies, Quaid-i-Azam, University, and Brigadier (R) Said Nazir Mohamad also took part in the discussion. Concluding the roundtable proceedings, Khalid Rahman, IPS' chairman, remarked that the situation in Afghanistan is still precarious after one year of an 'exclusive' Taliban rule as, among other things, the demand for an inclusive government for it to be recognized has created a vacuum that can't be addressed immediately. Moreover, the failure of the US' clueless leadership to adopt and formulate enduring policies for Afghanistan which was on its canvas for two decades presents a liability to not only Afghanistan but also to the entire world.

Railways planning to upgrade five Stations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was planning to upgrade five major Railway stations across the country on modern lines to facilitate the passengers as well as help the department to generate more revenue. "The purpose to upgrade the railway stations is to make them commercial hubs for business activities and facilitate the passengers," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that all the five major railway stations including Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Peshawar and Quetta. He said the decision was taken on the direction

of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique. The official said the government was taking several steps to improve the performance of Pakistan Railways and would provide maximum facilities to the masses. To a question, he said the Railway infrastructure in Balochistan was being maintained as per available resources in order to provide safe and secure travel to the passengers. The official said that railway track in Balochistan was consisted of Sibi-Quetta-Chaman, Spezand-Taftan and Sibi-Hurnai and some portion

of Jacobabad-Sibi Section. He said that improvement of passengers' amenities has been carried out by providing washrooms, drinking water and renovation of waiting rooms at various station buildings. Regarding the Sama Satta-Amruka section, he said that the contract for the rehabilitation of the track had been awarded to the FWO which was signed in March 2021. He said that the total cost of the contract for the rehabilitation of the track between Sama Satta- Bahawalnagar was Rs7,735 million. - APP

Islamabad police to renovate police station

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police along with other stakeholders would ensure speedy renovation of buildings of newly established police station and residential barracks in K-Block, Diplomatic Enclave and Police Lines Headquarters. Following the directions of IGP Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a series of reforms and welfare steps are underway for the Capital police force and development projects have been accelerated in all divisions of Islamabad, police spokesperson said. The officials of Capital Development Authority, Public Works Department and Islamabad Capital Police Development Branch have been directed to effectively coordinate with

one another. It has been decided to start immediate work for construction of buildings for newly established police stations and renovate existing barracks at K-Block, Diplomatic Enclave and Police Lines Headquarters. Islamabad police have asked to speed up undergoing projects and said that no negligence will be tolerated at all. Following direction of IGP Islamabad, the spokesperson said that Islamabad police would ensure provision of all facilities for its jawans on whom the entire force is proud of. He said that ongoing development works in all divisions of Islamabad Capital Police will be completed as soon as possible. - APP

Int'l Housing Expo-2022 to be held in November

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works will organise the first International Housing Expo-2022, during the month of November, in collaboration with other relevant ministries, agencies, organizations and authorities aiming to ensure safe and secure housing for the people. Secretary Housing and Works Iftikhar Ali Shallwani has chaired a meeting to review

arrangements for the expo, which will be inaugurated by the prime minister. Iftikhar Shallwani said the construction sector and allied industry were the biggest job providers. "Everyone has a fundamental right to have secure and safe housing, and the ministry intends to organize the event to achieve this purpose," he added. During the meeting, different themes came under consideration. It was decided to have minimum reliance on government resources, and seek the financial support for expo through sponsors and partners. Different stalls will be set up by the FGE-HA, PHAF and country's major builders and developers. During the course of meeting, different committees headed by Joint Secretary Housing Shahzad Nawaz Cheema were constituted, which were assigned various tasks. - APP

President decides 25-year-old land compensation case

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi while overruling Wafaqi Mohtasib's decision in a 25-year-old case, directed the NHA to award compensation to the complainants in lieu of the land purchased by it in accordance with the Compensation Award announced by NHA in 1997, which remained uncontested and unimplemented since then. He reprimanded NHA for causing unnecessary delay to implement the award announced 25 years ago, and directed it to pay the due amount to the citizens within 45-days of the order. The president pointed out that it was not a matter of measurement and assessment of land or any other nit-gritty, but implementation and payment of the awarded

compensation as per the orders of NHA in 1997, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Sunday. He highlighted that this aspect was not factored in by the Mohtasib while passing the impugned orders, and held that since the award of 1997 had not been challenged by either party, therefore, it attained finality and NHA was bound to pay the assessed amount as per law. The Wafaqi Mohtasib in its decision had declined to intervene and provide relief to the complainant, saying that the matter required site visit, measurement of land and detailed examination of both documentary and oral evidence, and its assessment in the light of Qanoon-e-Shahadat Order for which the proper forum

was a court of competent jurisdiction and not the office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib. As per details, NHA had acquired a land of 11-Kanal and 10-Marlas from three citizens for the construction of road (N-5). NHA had announced an award for 8-shops in 1994 which was accepted by the complainants under protest pending the award for remaining 35-shops. Afterwards, measurement of the remaining shops was done, the assessment was made by NHA, and an award was announced on 17 December 1997 but remained unimplemented. Feeling aggrieved, the complainants approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib in 2021 to seek compensation for the remaining shops, but the Mohtasib disposed of the matter without providing any relief. - APP

IESCO announces power schedules

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/ Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 29th August, From 06:00 AM to 02:00 PM, City-II Feeder, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Miani, Manara, PAF Kaler Kahar, Istiqlal Camp, Kaler Kahar, Anguri, Bohi Ghar, Salar Gah, Haru, Ghor, Amanpur, Khaklian, Sanghui, Chotala, Bhara Kahu, NIH, T&T, Golf City, Treat, Athal, Westridge, Rajahabad, Golra, Dhok Chowdhury, New Race Course, Charing Cross, Modern Floor. Mill feeders, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Muslimabad, Gulzar Shaheed, Quaidabad, Ahsanabad, Perwadhai, Dhok Hasu feeders and surroundings will be closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. - APP

AIOU starts flood relief activities

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has established relief camps in different parts of the country for the flood affected. Vice Chancellor, AIOU, Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum has instructed AIOU's Regional Directors to set up relief camps in flood-affected areas of the country to help the victims. It is pertinent to mention here that the university has 56 Regional Centres in different parts of Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, Azad Kashmir, and Gilgit Baltistan. The Vice-Chancellor has said, "we cannot leave them alone in this difficult time". - APP

Mobile, internet services restored in Quetta: PTA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) on Sunday said that Telenor, Zong, and Ufone and all internet services have been restored in Quetta city. "Efforts are underway to restore the services in other flood-hit areas," said a news release. All Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) are providing free voice calls (On-net/same network to all their subscribers in flood-affected areas with Zero and nil balance. The Pakistani telecom company, Ufone 4G is providing free calls in flood-affected areas to establish connectivity among the affected people, their loved ones, and rescue personnel to facilitate relief activities.

Ufone 4G will provide free calls from the Ufone-to-Ufone network and on PTCL numbers in the flood-affected districts. This initiative is valid for both prepaid and postpaid customers. Ufone customers can avail of the facility by dialing *4375#. Telenor Pakistan is also offering free Telenor-to-Telenor calls in severely hit areas of the country so that residents can stay connected to their loved ones and reach out to authorities to seek help in these challenging times. The facility will enable users who have zero balance or have run out of their bundles and packages, to make calls and stay connected. - APP

Calamity is more a test of our humanity than their courage

Step forward to help the fellow countrymen
Donate generously for flood victims



9999
SMS "FUND"
to donate Rs. 10

G-12164
Deposit your donations in
Prime Minister's Flood Relief
Fund Account

For overseas:

- Wire Transfer through your bank
- Transfer through Money Service Bureaus, Money Transfer Operators or Money Exchange Services

For IBAN, please scan:



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Briefs

Digital economy need of hour: Meher Kashif

ISLAMABAD: Fully equipping Pakistan with digital economy is now need of hour to meet the ever increasing emerging global challenges through result oriented digital connectivity with advanced countries especially with China.

Speaking as a keynote speaker at a seminar on "Global Digital Governance", which held under the aegis of Gold Ring Economic Forum (GREF) on Sunday Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis said that China, the United States and the European Union with respective comprehensive strengthen and sci-tech capabilities, have become the three poles in the global digital geopolitical landscape.

While China and the European Union have a noticeable gap with the US in overall strength, he said adding that with regard to the size of the digital economy, the US ranked first (\$13.1 trillion) followed by China (\$5.2 trillion) Germany (\$2.44 trillion) Japan, (\$2.39 trillion) the UK (\$1.7 trillion) and France (\$1.17 trillion).

He said Chinese tech giant Huawei is breaking the US monopoly in a number of high tech fields such as communications and chip designs. He said against such a backdrop, China-EU relations have great strategic importance as the US protected its own networks without caring other players interests.

He said as the power of digital technologies quietly but fiercely shocks existing boundaries and defenses, the reshaping of international rules and order will gradually unfold and proceed on the global stage. - APP

IIUI President inaugurates Lab

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University (IIU), Dr. Hathal bin Homoud Al-Otaibi inaugurated the newly installed preservation and conservation lab that will process as many as 20 thousand rare manuscripts and books at the Dr. Hamidullah library of the Islamic Research Institute (IRI).

The President IIUI was briefed about this fumigation chamber (the aforesaid lab) by Director General IRI Dr. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, while Dr. Nabi Bux Jumani Vice President A&F, Dr. Sajid Mirza, chief Librarian and senior officials of the institute were also present on the occasion. Dr. Hathal hailed the efforts of the IRI library officials adding that Dr. Hamidullah library is one of the precious assets of the university that contains rare legacy and history.

On the occasion, IIUI President also inaugurated the International Centre of excellence for Seerah Studies at Dr. Hamidullah library. Dr. Sajid Mirza in his briefing on the occasion told that the centre has a very rich collection of around 7 thousand precious books on Seerah.

The IIUI President hoped that the efforts shall help in promoting research on Seerah and also it would help in bringing the students towards exploring the precious pieces of knowledge available in the library. - APP

5 fireworks dealers arrested

RAWALPINDI: The Police have arrested five fireworks dealers during a crackdown and recovered huge quantity of fireworks items from their possession.

According to a police spokesman, in line with special directive of City Police Officer, Gunjmandi Police team led by Station House Officer (SHO) launched a crackdown against firework dealers and managed to arrest Babar Iqbal, Tayyab, Shahrukh, Zeeshan and Numan, five fireworks dealers and recovered an ample quantity of fireworks from them. Separate cases have been registered against the fireworks dealers, police confirmed. Superintendent Police (SP) Rawal said no one would be allowed to violate the law and violators would be treated with iron hands. - APP

PAF continues relief and rehabilitation operations

PAF Bases in the North zone are also geared up to respond to call of nation in the aftermath of devastation caused by recent torrential rains in KPK



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rescue, Relief and Rehabilitation operation by Pakistan Air Force is underway at brisk pace in flood affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan and South

Punjab. In the last 24 hours relief goods including ration packs, 3100 cooked food packs and 1100 water bottles were distributed amongst the needy families of Hala, Mitiari, Talhar, Machi, Bolani, Lashari, Norwah, Sehwan Sharif, Gharo, Jati, Kodario, Hajipur, Chuhar Jamali, Mirpur



Khas, Saindard Village, Village Balu, Jhaal Magsi, Hajipur, Basti Sher Muhammad, Lakhra, Matyari, Shahdadkot, Sohbatpur, Basti Jageer Gabool, Fazilpur and Allah Waraio Jamali. PAF Bases in the North zone are also geared up to respond to the call of nation in the aftermath of devas-

tation caused by recent torrential rains in KPK. Moreover, free medical camps established by PAF are continuously working in flood affected areas to provide free medical facilities to the locals. 721 patients were also attended by medical teams of PAF deployed in field hospitals.

China stands solidly behind Pakistan amid floods

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China stands solidly behind Pakistan amid floods, as the Chinese Embassy is highly active these days to support Pakistan at this hour of distress. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Sunday, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong held several meetings over the weekend to discuss the flood situation with the Pakistani leaders and hand over Chinese donations to the Pakistani government. The Chinese envoy held meetings among others with federal ministers Shazain Bugti and Ahsan Iqbal to assure China's unwavering support during this difficult time. "Had a fruitful discussion with Shahzain Bugti,

Minister for Narcotic's Control. He highly appreciated the emergency humanitarian assistance from the Chinese government for flood relief, including to Balochistan. We are with Pak in times of difficulties," Ambassador Nong Rong tweeted after a meeting on Saturday afternoon. Earlier, the envoy held a meeting with Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, he tweeted as he handed over the Pakistani Rs 15 million donation to PM Relief Fund by Chinese companies.

"China is always together with Pakistan to overcome the flood disaster and pull through at an early date," Ambassador Nong Rong added. A few days earlier, China expressed deep con-

lences and sympathies with the victims of flash floods in Balochistan and Sindh and announced the provision of emergency humanitarian aid, including tents and urgently-needed relief material.

A spokesman of the Chinese government said the emergency humanitarian aid, including 25,000 tents and relief materials, was dispatched forthwith, while 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets, 50,000 tarpaulins and other reserves provided by China under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor's (CPEC) social and people's livelihood cooperation had been put into the frontline for relief.

"Red Cross Society of China has already provided emergency cash assistance of (US) \$300,000 to the Pakistan Red Crescent Society,"

the spokesman informed. He further stated: "China has noticed that severe floods in Pakistan recently caused heavy casualties and property losses. We would like to express our deep sympathies to the victims and offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims, the injured and the people hit in the disaster."

The Chinese spokesman mentioned that the "statement shared by the Chinese Mission in Islamabad reminded us that China and Pakistan are true friends who shared weal and woe and had a fine tradition of helping each other in major natural disasters. Since the floods in Pakistan, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed condolences to Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto."

PDMA appeals for safe drinking water, shelters for flood survivors

ISLAMABAD: Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Sunday appealed that the people should donate safe drinking water and shelters which are urgently required for flood survivors and assured that all possible assistance was being provided to the flood victims. Director Operation PDMA Sindh Imdad Ali Siddiqui talking to a private news channel emphasized immediate supply of clean water and shelters to the victims besides ensuring them facilities of accommodation and medicines. He said on the strict directions of prime minister Shahbaz Sharif concerned authorities are vigilantly working in the wake of potential rainy season and flood besides taking necessary measures in this regard. He said government was taking all possible measures to provide speedy relief to the flood-affected people and massive relief operation would be continued till their complete rehabilitation. He said medical camps have also been established in every relief camps wherein flood-affected people have been provided treatments. Director PDMA Punjab Khalid Masood added that the authority in concert with other government organizations is carrying out relief activities in the flood-ravaged areas and all resources are being utilized to provide relief to the flood victims. He mentioned that according to nationwide data over 149 bridges have collapsed so far. He also stressed that the donation of clean drinking water will help flood victims to prevent them suffering from infectious diseases. - APP

UK includes Pak in new trading scheme

ISLAMABAD: President British-Pakistan Friendship Council North West UK Muhammad Arbab Khan Sunday disclosed that the United Kingdom has launched a "Developing Countries Trading Scheme" (DCTS) to be commenced soon. He said the DCTS will provide tariff reduction and simpler terms of trade to 65 countries including Pakistan. Talking to Chairman UK-Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq here Sunday through zoom, he said the DCTS replaces the UK generalized scheme of preference (GPS), a preferential trading system that provides tariff removal and reduction on various products, said a press release.

He said 94 percent of goods exported from Pakistan will facilitate duty free access to the UK by saving £120 million in tariffs. He said that bed linen, jeans and other products would save over £250 million and added, UK international trade secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan launched the scheme which would remove the tariffs on over 156 additional products besides simplifying some seasonal tariffs. Mian Kashif said total trade between two countries stands at £2.9 billion annually. He hoped that volume of trade would swell to new heights after DCTS implementation starts next year. - APP

World should help Pakistan to deal with emergency: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday urged the world to extend all-out support to Pakistan to deal with national emergency. In an exclusive talk with APP, Ashrafi who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulama Council said the torrential rains and flash floods in Pakistan had badly affected more than 33 million people over the last few weeks. He said as per National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)'s report, the monsoon rain and flooding had killed nearly 1,000 people and 793,995 livestock besides injuring 1,343 people and destroying 3,100 km roads, 145 bridges, and 581,207 houses so far.



He said the government had earmarked Rs37 billion to aid flood-affected people under the Benazir Income Support Programme among other assistance.

Ashrafi said the humanitarian situation was expected to worsen as communities and infrastructure were increasingly unable to cope with ongoing heavy rainfall. He said an assessment of destruction was being prepared but Pakistan was in dire need of the international help as dealing with this historic disaster was beyond the capacity of federal or provincial governments. He said Pakistan Army was continuously playing its part with all available resources and even rendered many precious lives during flood relief mission in Balochistan. He urged the religious and political leaderships to avoid their differences at this hour of trials and tribulations and take part in welfare activities for the well-being of flood affected people across the country. - APP

APHC calls for shutdown, march on Sept 01

ISLAMABAD: In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference has appealed to the people to observe complete shutdown and massively march towards Hyderpora in Srinagar on September 01 (Thursday) to pay tribute to the icon of Kashmir resistance movement, Syed Ali Gilani, on his first martyrdom anniversary.

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

The APHC in a statement issued in Srinagar appealed to the freedom loving people of the territory to observe complete strike and assemble at Hyderpora graveyard to pay homage to the great leader of the Kashmir freedom movement. It urged the Imams and Ulama to pay tributes and offer special prayers in mosques for Syed Ali Gilani.

It is to mention here that the Indian forces' personnel had forcibly taken away the dead body of Syed Ali Gilani for burial at Hyderpora graveyard in Srinagar under heavy military siege in the dark of night in violation of the last will of the veteran leader. Syed Ali Gilani, according to his family, wanted to be buried at Martyrs Graveyard at Eidgah in Srinagar. - APP

PAC hosts book launching ceremony

RAWALPINDI: The launching ceremony of the Head of National Anthem Foundation, Prof. Dr Aziz Ahmed Hashmi, book "Muta-e-Aziz" was held here at Punjab Arts Council.

The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor of Jamia Al Karam International University Hazrat Pir Dr Muhammad Abul Hasan Shah Sahib Al Azhari while former federal parliamentary secretary for Ministry of Law and former judge of Lahore High Court Akhtar Hasan Malik participated in the event as a special guest. Meanwhile, former Ameer Al-Bahr Admiral Abdul Aziz Mirza attended the ceremony as a guest of honour, and Ayesha Masood performed the duties of the host in the ceremony. The ceremony started with the national anthem, in which the elite of Anjuman Faiz-e-Salam gave a salute.

The event's host, Major General (Retd) Waqar Ahmad Khan, thanked the participants for attending the ceremony. Dr Muhammad Abul Hasan Shah Sahib Al-Azhari, while addressing the audience and dignitaries, urged them to study the book thoroughly and added that Muta-e-Aziz was not a book; instead, they were thoughts and observations of Professor Aziz Ahmed Hashmi.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr Aziz Ahmed Hashmi said that the students and the new generation should try to understand the objectives of the national anthem and ensure its implementation. - APP

Cheema appeals to help for flood victims

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Chaudhary Tariq Bashir Cheema on Sunday appealed all the philanthropists at home and abroad to step forward and help the government for rehabilitation of flood victims. "Federal and provincial governments are in close contact regarding the relief distribution of necessary food items amongst the flood affectees", he said while speaking to a private news channel. He further assured that the government will help flood affectees at every step.

He mentioned the country had received unprecedented rains this year, breaking past average rainfall record, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan where flash floods have killed hundreds of people. "Our nation is ahead of all in the world when it comes to the passion to sacrifice. I appeal to all nation to support their brothers and sisters," he added.

Replying to a query, he said rehabilitation of the flood victims is the main goal after the immediate relief work is done. - APP

'ASEAN a symbol of shared property for world'

The Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has established excellent economic and trade relations with the whole world, which is likely to improve further in the future, The Ambassador said

ISLAMABAD: Chairman ASEAN Committee Islamabad (ACI) Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong on Sunday said that ASEAN is a symbol of shared property and economic development for the whole world including Pakistan, which is a catalyst in global economy and trade. The Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has established excellent economic and trade relations with the whole world, which is likely to improve further in the future, The Ambassador said. In an interview with APP here, he said that according to the vision of ASEAN, these economic relations are to further strengthen economic and trade integration in the world, from which the rest of the countries including Pakistan can also get benefits. The 55th anniversary of this month will be made with the determination that ASEAN will play its full role for economic prosperity, trade integration to promote peace and harmony with the other regions of the world, Chairman Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN)'s Committee Islamabad (ACI) and Ambassador of Vietnam to Pakistan, Nguyen Tien Phong on told APP.

The Ambassador said that today the economic volume of the ASEAN countries has exceeded \$3.3 trillion, which is likely to improve further in the near future.

He said that Pakistan's trade volume with ASEAN countries is \$11 billion, which is much less than its current potential. The Ambassador said that ASEAN's economic growth could further accelerate to 5.0% in 2022.

The ASEAN's total merchandise trade reached USD 3.3 trillion in 2021, of which 21.3% was within the region, while services trade reached USD 743 billion with intra-ASEAN comprising 11.7%, he said. Meanwhile, inflows of foreign direct investments to ASEAN reached USD 174.1 billion in 2021, 12.0% of which was among ASEAN Member States, he said.

ASEAN were optimistic that macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust and committed to continue working together to ensure the region's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and as well as strengthening its region's collective resilience and competitiveness in the long run, he said.

The ASEAN were pleased to note the significant recovery in the region's economy, which expanded by 3.0% in 2021 compared to a 3.2% contraction in 2020.

In the same month, the foundation of ASEAN was laid on August 8, 1967, he said.

The Ambassador said that regional integration of ASEAN countries is not only essential for the economic prosperity of the ASEAN region but also important for global economic linkages and connectivity. He said economic and trade liberalization, multilateralism, credibility, global connectivity, economic stability, youth empowerment, maritime security, political stability, and regional to regional connectivity are part of ASEAN's regional economic vision. He said that ASEAN reaffirmed its belief that regionalism and multilateralism are important principles and frameworks of cooperation, and that their strength and value lie in their inclusivity, rules-based nature, and emphasis on mutual benefit and respect. The ASEAN underscored the importance of maintaining ASEAN's unity and Centrality in its community-building efforts

and engagement with external partners, in promoting peace, security and stability as well as in enhancing regional resilience in response to common and emerging challenges, he said.

The ASEAN countries also shown its shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). ASEAN underscored the importance of seizing the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) with the COVID-19 pandemic having accentuated the urgency for digital transformation. Replying to a question on ASEAN and Pakistan Relations, he said that Pakistan was accorded the status of sectoral dialogue partner of ASEAN at the 26th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 23 July 1993. - APP

The mischievous Afghan Taliban

AFGHANISTAN'S de facto Taliban rulers have blamed Pakistan for allowing US the use of its air space to carry out a drone strike that killed Al-Qaeda leader Ayman Al-Awahi. The Taliban's acting Defense Minister said on Sunday that Pakistan had allowed its airspace to be used by US drones to enter and attack Afghanistan, a claim Pakistan has since refuted in the wake of an airstrike by the US in Kabul, the Afghan capital. Before noon on Sunday, August 28, Mullah Yaqoub and the Chief of Staff of the Taliban's military forces held a press conference during which the Defense official claimed that US drones were using Pakistan's territory and airspace to attack Afghanistan. He emphasized that the use of drones to patrol Afghanistan's airspace is a clear transgression of the country's borders. "We [the Taliban] ask Pakistan, don't use your airspace against us," Mullah Yaqoub said. Pakistani officials, on the other hand, have denied any involvement in or knowledge of a July drone operation in Kabul that the US claimed killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri. Its not the first time that the Afghan authorities have accused Pakistan of something without some evidence. Although the relations between the neighboring states were likely to become good after the Taliban took over the government, however, the Taliban have acted so far against it. Since the Taliban takeover, the insurgent attacks on Pakistani forces in border areas have become more common. Terrorists have freely been operating inside Afghanistan to carry out their activities in Pakistan. The Taliban have failed to put a halt to the use of Afghan soil as a command and operation centre for carrying out terrorist activities in Pakistan, just as they have failed to honor their promises to the world. While Pakistan is trying to get the world unfreeze Afghan assets and bringing the world to help Afghans, the Taliban have in return given nothing but false accusations and safe haven to TTP terrorists. For the good of the region, Taliban must get their act together and pursue a good relationship with their neighbors.



Cold War in space

REGARDING space exploration as an integral part of the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, China has always kept an open attitude to international cooperation and it is committed to using its aerospace technology and space research findings to serve the common good. In contrast, the United States has never changed its zero-sum approach to space, and has never stopped militarizing it. The latest edition of the State of the Space Industrial Base report urges the United States to attract private investment to further its space endeavors, so that it can maintain its superiority in space technology. Written by military and civilian officials from the US Space Force, the Defense Innovation Unit, the Department of the Air Force and the Air Force Research Laboratory – the contributors to the report speak volumes of the nature and purpose of the US' space cause – the report's main argument is that the US is in danger of lagging behind other countries in space and it raises an alarm about how fast China is developing its space missions. Without providing any substantial evidence, Michael Brown, director of the Defense Innovation Unit, warned at an Atlantic Council forum convened to discuss the report on Wednesday that "China could surpass the US in space superiority if we don't increase our investment". He urged the US to have a "national vision" for space investment and innovation to stay ahead of China. With this aim, the US set up the Space Force as an independent power paralleled with its air force, army and navy as early as 2019. That the report says "China is making steady progress toward their goal of surpassing the US as the dominant space power by 2045" is a pure grasping at shadows. For China, the development of its aerospace industry is for peaceful purposes not an arms race. That the arms race in space served as the last straw crippling the Soviet Union has reinforced the US' outdated thinking about space. The strategists in Washington behold dominance in space as a jewel in the crown of its hegemony, and they will never accept the fact that their concept is not only irresponsible but also dangerous. Many solutions to common challenges confronting human beings, particularly global warming, might lie in the exploration of space. Countries should abandon the I-come-I-conquer-I-plant-a-flag model of space exploration and instead work together to advance human knowledge and space technologies, which may have practical benefits back on Earth. It is a shame that the US is not only smearing China's space cause but also seeking to block its international cooperation by trying to coerce other countries not to collaborate with China and blacklisting Chinese entities. Space should not be a new front for the dog-eat-dog competition on Earth, or the new frontier for colonial expansionism. Time will tell which country's space cause is on the right side of history.

Revival of Iran nuclear agreement likely to test Middle Eastern détente

James Dorsey

The United States struck twice in recent days against Iranian-backed forces in Syria in response to attacks on a US base in the country. Analysts suggested the attacks were retaliation for Israeli strikes against Iranian targets in Syria. Israel has insisted that it retains the right to strike Iranian nuclear facilities on its own, a move that could spark a regional war

APOTENTIAL revival of the Iran nuclear accord is likely to test the sustainability of Middle Eastern efforts to dial down tensions and manage differences by improving diplomatic relations and fostering economic cooperation. In the latest fence mending, two Gulf states, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates announced their ambassadors' return to Tehran. The two countries, together with Saudi Arabia, withdrew their envoys in 2016 after rioters protesting the execution of a Shiite cleric in the kingdom ransacked the Saudi embassy in the Iranian capital. For its part, Saudi Arabia is engaged in a round of Iraqi-mediated talks with Iran focused on security issues, including an end to the war in Yemen, where Iran supports Houthi rebels. The Gulf's latest outreach to Iran comes on the heels of two years of regional diplomacy that produced UAE, Bahraini, Moroccan, and Sudanese recognition of Israel; greater Saudi openness towards the Jewish state; improved Saudi, Emirati, and Egyptian rela-

tions with Turkey; and most recently, restoration of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel. Laudable as that may be, much of the endeavour to manage disputes is built on thin ice. It assumes that improved communication, economic interest, and a regional concern that armed conflict could prove devastating will reduce differences or even help resolve disputes in the longer term. Moreover, the endeavour was in response to major powers—the United States, China, and Russia—making clear in recent years that they expected Middle Eastern players to take greater responsibility for managing regional conflict, reducing tensions, and their defense. The Gulf states, alongside the United States and Europe, further hope that a dialling down of tensions will challenge Iran's regional alliances like in Iraq, where they are betting on the campaign by populist Islamic scholar Muqtada al-Sadr, a leading Shiite powerbroker, to counter Iranian influence in Iraq. Even so, the rivalry between various regional powers continues more subtly. For example, competition for regional influence drove the battle between Turkey and Qatar on the one hand, and the UAE, on the other, for the contract to manage Kabul's international airport. The rivalries are also evident in Turkey's still fragile regional relationships and Saudi moves. The rivalry was the subtext of a recent visit to Greece by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who earlier had visited Turkey, and Israel's sale to Cyprus of its Iron Dome air defence system at a time when Turkish-Greek-Cypriot tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean threaten to heat up again. There is little doubt that the system would serve as a defence against Turkey, which has had troops in the breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic since it invaded the island 38 years ago. Similarly, Turkey will likely watch with argus eyes Saudi Arabia's expanding ties to Greece, its longstanding archrival. Turkey has also insisted that relations with Israel would not dampen its support for the Palestinians, a festering problem that repeatedly erupts into violence at the expense of innocent civilians and resonates in Turkish and Arab public opinion. Add to this that Turkey may see its hopes dashed of finding common ground in curtailing Kurdish aspirations in northern Syria with President Bashar al-Assad, whose demise Turkey has demanded for

the past decade. Finally, when it comes to Turkey, a potential rift in NATO if Turkey renews its opposition to Swedish and Finnish membership could impact the country's regional calculations. Turkey has demanded the extradition by the two Nordic countries of scores of ethnic Kurds and followers of exiled cleric Fethullah Gulen, some of whom are Swedish nationals. To be sure, a revival of an admittedly problematic and flawed Iran nuclear accord is better than a failure of the negotiations involving the United States, the European Union, Britain, France, Germany, China, and Russia. Even so, a revival of the accord is unlikely to reshape the regional environment given that in the words of analyst Trita Parsi, "the current US and Iranian political leaderships...have few domestic incentives to move beyond their shared enmity." Mr. Parsi added that "still, both sides can take steps to address these concerns and make the deal more durable. If they do not, even this historic breakthrough could be merely a precursor to an even more dangerous crisis." As a result, a revival could be as much a regional stabiliser as a regional destabiliser. A revival of the nuclear agreement would return Iranian oil to world markets and compensate for the loss of sanctioned Russian crude. As a result, it would likely spark a drop in oil prices and weaken the Saudi-Russian grip on pricing. In the ultimate analysis, Saudi Arabia may see this as a price it must pay for averting a regional conflagration in the absence of a nuclear deal. Nevertheless, in talks in Washington in the last week, senior Israeli officials, including Defence Minister Benny Gantz and National Security Advisor Eyal Hulata, made their objections to the agreement clear. Israeli officials said they had found a sympathetic hearing in Washington, including their demand that the United States develop a military option if all other efforts fail to prevent Iran producing a nuclear weapon. The United States struck twice in recent days against Iranian-backed forces in Syria in response to attacks on a US base in the country. Analysts suggested the attacks were retaliation for Israeli strikes against Iranian targets in Syria. Israel has insisted that it retains the right to strike Iranian nuclear facilities on its own, a move that could spark a regional war. Moreover, even if it decides not to do so, Israel's covert war against Iranian targets in Iran itself as well as in Syria risks armed confron-

tation with Iranian-backed groups, including the Islamic Republic's foremost non-state ally Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militia. Confrontation with Hezbollah could erupt not only because of Iran but also because the group is threatening to attack Israeli drilling platforms in the Mediterranean if a final agreement is not reached in US-mediated talks to draw the Israel-Lebanon maritime border. Adding to the uncertainty is the possibility of a return to office of former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu following elections in November. Mr. Netanyahu was a driving force behind Mr. Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear agreement and his failed maximum pressure strategy. Like the Gulf states, Israel argues that the agreement would allow Iran to increase its support for allied militant groups in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen and does nothing to curb the Islamic republic's ballistic missiles program. Neither issue was part of the original deal. Israel and the Gulf states are further concerned that the deal has a remaining shelf life of at best three years, at which point Iran would be free to do as it likes unless a follow-up deal can be negotiated. Moreover, Iran will likely continue to be a nuclear threshold state with or without a revival of the nuclear agreement, raising the spectre of a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, with countries like Saudi Arabia and Turkey seeking to match Iranian capabilities. So far, albeit undeclared, Israel is the region's only nuclear power. The risk of an arms race was enhanced by the blocking this week by Russia of agreement on the final document of a review of the 50-year-old Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), to which Israel is not a signatory. The document called for the first time without apparent objection for a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East. Russia blocked the agreement because it was critical of the takeover by invading Russian troops of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, Europe's largest. Said political scientist Paul Rogers: "What appears to be stable, although unjust, is more fragile when you take a closer look. As the Leonard Cohen song, 'Anthem', puts it: 'There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.'"
— Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar, an Adjunct Senior Fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

Rapists freed: Is this how justice ends for Indian Muslims?

Apoorvanand

The case was moved out of Gujarat because the Supreme Court was convinced that a fair trial was not possible in that state. In 2008, a special court in Mumbai convicted the accused of rape and murder, a verdict upheld by higher courts. In 2019, the Supreme Court asked the Gujarat government to give Bilkis Bano Rs 50 lakh (\$62,560), a house and a job as compensation. The amount was unprecedented for such cases and underlined the extraordinary nature of the crime. This wasn't just about Bilkis

IT was Independence Day – for rapists and murderers. On August 15, 11 convicts serving life terms for having committed mass murder and gang-raped Muslim women in the Indian state of Gujarat in 2002 were released. The state government had ordered their remission. It is not a coincidence that their release came on a day when India marked 75 years of freedom from colonialism. The men were garlanded when they stepped out of prison. Bilkis Bano, the lone survivor among a group of Muslims who were chased and attacked with lethal weapons as part of a pogrom against the community, received the news of the release of her assaulters with shock and disbelief. "How can justice for any woman end like this?" she asked in a statement. Bilkis, who was five months pregnant at the time, was among three women who were gang-raped by the convicts now set free. Her daughter Saleha's head was smashed before her, killing her instantly. She was three years old. In all, 14 people were murdered in the attack. From that moment, Bilkis fought against the odds – and the might of the Gujarat state government then led by current Prime Minister Narendra Modi and still headed by his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – for justice. The local police officer who registered her case, after she walked almost naked from the scene of the crime, distorted her account to make the case weaker, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation, India's premier investigative agency. A court found later that police officials and doctors fudged the facts, tried to manipulate the autopsy process and falsify records and destroy evidence. It was only when the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) took up her case that the wheels of justice slowly started turning. The case was moved out of Gujarat because the Supreme Court was convinced that a fair trial was not possible in that state. In 2008, a special court in Mumbai convicted the accused of rape and murder, a verdict upheld by higher courts. In 2019, the Supreme Court asked the Gujarat government to give Bilkis Bano Rs 50 lakh (\$62,560), a house and a job

as compensation. The amount was unprecedented for such cases and underlined the extraordinary nature of the crime. This wasn't just about Bilkis. Scores of feminists, human rights defenders and organisations joined hands to shelter Bilkis, who had to live in hiding for her safety, constantly moving from one place to another. Their fight was also for every other person brutalised and murdered in what, in the eyes of many, was part of a genocidal crime against Muslims. When people with no criminal record decide to rape and kill women and men for their religion, as happened in 2002, it becomes all the more heinous. **Now, justice is being trampled upon.** After one of the convicts appealed to the Supreme Court for release, the top court of the land asked the Gujarat government to act in keeping with the state's remission policy in 2002. Using holes in that policy, a Gujarat government-appointed committee – loaded with BJP members – recommended remission. Never mind that Bilkis, who lives in close proximity to the homes of the released convicts, must now fear for her life, and the safety of her family, once more. Why was this done on Independence Day? The symbolism is inescapable, especially since Modi had – only hours earlier – spoken about the need to respect women, in a speech to the nation. It is inconceivable that the Gujarat government could have pressed ahead with the release of the convicts without the consent of the prime minister's office and the office of the home minister, Amit Shah, who is Modi's most trusted lieutenant. Shah held the home office during Modi's time as Gujarat chief minister too. The message to Bilkis and all those who held her hands while she fought for justice is clear: This is how battles for justice will end in Modi's India; that crimes against Muslims – even mass murders and gang rapes – will be treated lightly. Sadly, none of this is surprising. After all, it was under Modi's rule in Gujarat that Bilkis first had to run for her life and hide from the state machinery. It was Modi's government in the state that fought her as she battled for justice.

Going back further, it is important to remember that Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, one of the ideological gurus of the ruling dispensation, had once justified rape as a legitimate weapon that could deter Muslims from doing the same to Hindu women. It is also not a coincidence that calls for the murder of Muslims and rape of Muslim women have been given by so-called Hindu religious leaders in recent months. Instead of punishing them, Indian authorities have targeted those who exposed this hate speech, such as fact-checker Mohammad Zubair, who was arrested on spurious grounds. Equally worrying is the role of some bodies that had once stood by Bilkis – like the Supreme Court. In June, activist Teesta Setalvad was arrested after the Supreme Court itself suggested that her pursuit of justice for the victims of the Gujarat pogrom was a conspiracy for which action should be taken against her. If the message to Muslims is to not expect justice, the signal to the BJP's supporters is that they are immune from punishment for any crime. That in fact, any allegations that a Hindu has committed a crime against a Muslim must be a conspiracy – irrespective of the evidence available. Already, that is the claim being peddled by some regarding the 11 men released in the Bilkis case. The remission of their sentences has sparked outrage in Indian civil society, with most opposition parties criticising the move. Interestingly, the newest contender for power in Gujarat, the Aam Aadmi Party – which rules in the national capital, Delhi, and in the state of Punjab – has maintained a studied silence. Is it choosing political expedience over justice? The BJP, through decisions like this – which should be abhorrent to all sensitive people – is trying to make its constituents, who are mostly Hindu, partners in this perversity. They must speak up against this release. The implications for India's 200 million Muslims are even more dire: Justice, even if secured as an exception, can be undone at any moment. Even on a day when they, like other Indians, are celebrating the nation they have always embraced, but that is now turning its back on them.

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

PM pledges...

FORM PAGE 01

minister also expressed gratitude to the Presidents of the United Arab Emirates and Turkey for expressing their grief over loss of lives in Pakistan and their concerns over the distressed Pakistanis who were facing ordeals due to floods. He said that they were thankful to the friendly countries who were extending flood relief and assistance to the flood victims, adding two plane loads of relief assistance from Turkey would land in Karachi while another from the UAE would arrive Islamabad. "We are grateful to the friendly countries for their support and solidarity. The UK government and other countries have announced their support in this hour of distress for which we express our thankfulness," he added. The prime minister also appealed to the wealthy people of the country to support the millions affected people with their generous donations who had been in dire need of immediate relief and assistance. He said in the past, the people had supported the calamity hit populace, adding that they were receiving donations in the PM Relief Fund, and cited a donation of worth Rs45 million by a group while another significant contribution by an individual. Acting Governor Balochistan Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali, Chief Minister Abdul Qudus Bizenjo and Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Aqeeli, NDMA and PDMA authorities were also accompanied the prime minister.

The prime minister said during his aerial view, he had witnessed huge chunks of land inundated by the flood water including Kachi, and Sobatpur, and likened the situation to an overflowing ocean. Flood water had submerged Rajanpur, Rahimyar Khan and Ghotki areas. He said during 2010, Pakistan faced a huge deluge, but it was restricted to Sindh river, but the recent devastation had been widespread, Sindh and Balochistan provinces were badly battered. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the heavy downpours had led to swollen rivers and water channels in Swat and Kalam, sweeping away hotels and homes within the winks of eyes, he said, adding hundreds of people lost their lives, crops were damaged while the stagnant water would create problems. "In my political and personal life, I had never witnessed such widespread destruction caused by floods, as scores of villages were effaced, hundreds of lives were lost and millions of homes swept away," he expressed his grief. The prime minister said the federal government was providing Rs25,000 to each flood affected family out of allocated grant of Rs38 billion through the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), so that the deserving were not deprived of the assistance package. In Sindh, he said, he had already announced a grant of Rs15 billion. The provincial chief ministers and their teams in assistance with the relevant departments had been making untiring efforts day and night, the prime minister said.

France...

FROM PAGE 01

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari received telephone call from French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna. Foreign Minister Colonna offered condolences on the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan. The Foreign Minister thanked her for France's expression of solidarity and offer of assistance to Pakistani people in this hour of need. The Foreign Minister briefed his French counterpart on the widespread destruction caused across Pakistan by unprecedented rainfall resulting in floods and landslides. The Foreign Minister informed that the floods have caused extensive loss of human lives, livelihoods, livestock, crops, property and infrastructure and the situation is likely to deteriorate further as heavy rains continue over areas already inundated by more than two months of storms and flooding. Foreign Minister apprised the French Foreign Minister of government's humanitarian response for

Football charity fund raiser holds Hunger Free Pak gala

The Islamabad Sports Complex was hustling and bustling with students, diplomats, businessmen, and the corporate community, who not only enjoyed the live comedy improved but thoroughly participated in the auctions held to raise maximum donations

SHAHID RAJU

ISLAMABAD: Gerry's Visa, in collaboration with Sanjrani Oxen joined hands with over 16 diplomatic missions to host its first-ever football charity fundraiser in Islamabad to raise awareness for a #HungerFreePakistan to support Rizq Trust. According to the details, Players from all nationalities, sponsors, and collaborators from different parts of Pakistan came together for the love of football; under the banner of ensuring food security for all. The Islamabad Sports Complex was hustling and bustling with students, diplomats, businessmen, and the corporate community, who not only enjoyed the live comedy improved but thoroughly participated in the auctions held to raise maximum donations. Auction partners included, but were not limited to, Hotels, Aviation, Swiss Watches, the FIFA ball, and merchandise from famous sportsmen in Pakistan. The United Nations Office on Drugs



and Crime (UNODC) extended special support by running an anti-drug campaign, "Drugs, No, Never, Ever!", which could be seen printed on all the player's uniforms. As recent accolade winners of the 19th Annual Environmental Excellence Awards, Gerry's Visa's commitment to a sustainable environment did not take a step back there. A complete waste management system could be seen at the venue, leaving the complex spotless. Furthermore, give-away planters were extended to all those who attended as a reminder to keep the plantation drive alive in Pakistan. Gerry's Group is a renowned group in Pakistan since the past 50+ years and proudly holds to its profile a diversified portfolio of business alliances which include FedEx, Gerry's Visa, Gerry's Travels, etc. Gerry's Group are also partners in Pakistan for many global operators including Costa Coffee, IHOP, dnata, Virgin Atlantic, Emirates Airlines Group, Air France and KLM, amongst many others.

Max Verstappen wins Belgian Grand Prix

BRUSSELS: Max Verstappen won the Belgian Grand Prix from 14th on the grid – not only his ninth victory of the season but a one-sided annihilation. The Dutchman was cheered on by a largely supportive crowd at Spa-Francorchamps on a weekend of total domination that not even an engine penalty which condemned him down the grid could spoil. It took the reigning world champion just 12 of the 44 laps – three of which were whiled away behind a safety car – to take the lead. He ended up winning by 18 seconds to extend his championship lead to a massive 93 points. Lewis Hamilton, meanwhile, crashed out on the first lap when he tangled with Alpine's Fernando Alonso, who branded his former McLaren teammate 'an idiot'. It happened as Hamilton attacked Alonso along the Kemmel Straight in an attempt to grab second place behind pole man Carlos



Sainz of Ferrari, who ended the afternoon third. Hamilton, on the outside of the right-handed Les Combes, squeezed perhaps half a car ahead of the Spaniard as they collided. The front of Hamilton's Mercedes was sent into mid-air before landing on its belly. He gathered his car as it thumped on to the asphalt and limped on for half a lap with a small plume of smoke billowing out – perhaps from the radiator

given he had a water leak. Alonso let rip, saying: 'What an idiot! Closing the door from the outside. We had a mega start but this guy only knows how to drive and start in first.' Hamilton stared at his parked car dejectedly before making the long trudge back to the pits. He later admitted responsibility, saying: 'Looking back at the footage, he was in my blind spot and I didn't give

him enough space. 'It was my fault, I couldn't see him. He was right in my blind spot.' Verstappen moved up fast, from 14th to 8th on the first lap, before a safety car came out following Alfa Romeo's Valtteri Bottas and Williams' Nicholas Latifi collided. He was sixth by lap six, fourth by lap 7. He then passed George Russell's Mercedes. He was lying second once Sainz pitted, and then Sergio Perez made way for his faster team-mate for the lead. That was 12. When Verstappen stopped for the first time he was behind Sainz but soon passed him. When he stopped again he was 27 seconds ahead of Perez in second. That was enough for a free stop with his lead uncompromised. Perez finished runner-up. Charles Leclerc, one of six drivers other than Verstappen to take engine penalties, finished fifth but was dropped to sixth for speeding in the pit lane. – Agencies

Ambassador briefs Pakistani Diaspora on flood situation

DNA

BRUSSELS: Pakistan's Ambassador to EU, Belgium and Luxembourg briefs Pakistani Diaspora on flood situation in Pakistan. Pakistan's Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium and Luxembourg, Dr. Asad Majeed Khan convened a meeting of the leading Pakistani community members based in Belgium at the chancery, today. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the Pakistani diaspora on the situation resulting from flash floods across the country and to coordinate the provision of relief assistance from Belgium for the flood affected population. While underscoring that the ongoing rains have caused unprecedented damage and devastation in Pakistan, the Ambassador indicated that more than 1033 people including 348 children had lost their lives and 1,527 people got injured including 355 children. Ambassador Khan underlined that over 33 million people have been badly affected by the floods and losses could be much more than the 2010 floods. He explained that as per the initial assessments almost 3451.5 km of roads, 149 bridges, 949,858 houses have been destroyed and 719,558 livestock have been lost due to the heavy rains in 116 affected districts, including 66 districts officially declared 'calamity hit' across Pakistan.



Williams sisters to play doubles together

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: Serena Williams will play alongside older sister Venus in the US Open doubles in what will be the final tournament of her career. The Williams sisters have won 14 major doubles titles and three Olympic gold medals together. Serena Williams, 40, says she will retire after the US Open, which starts in New York on Monday. As well as playing in the singles, she has been given a wildcard to play with her 42-year-old sister in the doubles. The pair have not played doubles together since the 2018 French Open, when they lost in the third round. Their first Grand Slam title together came at the 1999 French Open, and they won their 14th at Wimbledon in 2016. Serena Williams announced last month she is "evolving away" from the sport and will play her final tournament at Flushing Meadows. Now ranked 608th in the world, the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion will play Montenegro's Danka Kovinic in the first round, and the match headlines the night session on Arthur Ashe Stadium on Monday (19:00 local time, 00:00 BST on Tuesday). Venus Williams, who has won seven major singles titles and is ranked 1,445th in the world, is also playing in the singles. After being given a wildcard, she will face Belgium's Alison van Uytvanck in her opener on Tuesday.

PCB to donate in PM's Flood Relief Fund

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Sunday announced that gate earnings from the first T20I against England will be donated to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund 2022. The match will be played on September 20 at the National Stadium in Karachi and will begin at 7:30pm (PST). The PCB has urged cricket fans and followers to purchase tickets in big numbers once they are made available online for sale next week to show unity with all those affected by the calamity, help with rehabilitation of the affected population and support the local and federal governments in their relief and rescue operations. In this regard, PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja: "We at the PCB express our grief and sorrow for all those affected by the

extreme monsoon rainfall and floods, which has resulted in havoc and devastation beyond imagination, killing over 1,000 and leaving around a million homeless. As cricket unites our proud nation, we stand firmly with the victims and all those involved in the flood relief and rescue operations. "As a responsible and caring organisation, the PCB has always stood with its fans and public in tough, challenging and testing times. In this regard, we have decided to donate gate proceeds from the first T20I against England next month to the Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund. "I encourage all spectators to participate in this initiative by purchasing tickets for the first T20I and turning up in big numbers so that we as a cricket family can donate a substantial amount to the fund and show solidarity with those affected by the catastrophe. "We have already sent trucks full of food, medicines and other commodities to the affected areas and will continue to support our nation and rescue operational teams in any way we can. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the people of Pakistan." England will play seven T20Is on their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years. Karachi will stage matches on September 20, 22, 23 and 25, while Lahore will be the venue for the remaining three matches on September 28 and 30, and October 2. – DNA

Milan maintain perfect start to season

DNA

MILAN: AC Milan continued their unbeaten start to their Serie A title defence with a 2-0 win over Bologna on Saturday as Tammy Abraham earned Roma a 1-1 draw at Juventus on Paulo Dybala's return to his old stomping ground. Champions Milan eased to a routine win at the San Siro with goals either side of half-time from Rafael Leao and Olivier Giroud to go top on goal difference. Stefano Pioli's side took full advantage of Inter Milan's loss at Lazio on Friday night to move a point above their local rivals. "We're more concentrated and have more self-belief than in the past, we played with a real

commitment to attacking and defending as a unit," Pioli told Sky Sport Italia. "I'm happy with our performance but I know we can still get better." Milan are one of four teams locked on seven points, with Roma, Lazio and Torino – 2-1 winners over promoted Cremonese. Leao gave the hosts the lead in front of over 60,000 fans with his first goal of the season, the Portugal winger fortunate to see his duffed shot squirm past Lukasz Skorupski in the 21st minute after good play by debutant Charles De Ketelaere. The 23-year-old Leao, who has been linked with Chelsea, should have added to Milan's lead before the break, missing a one-on-one with Skorupski in first

half stoppage time. However, he set up Giroud's opening strike of the campaign in the 58th minute with a perfectly clipped pass which the France international guided home with a beautifully-placed volleyed finish. Nicola Sansone smashed the upright 10 minutes later for Bologna who are hovering above the drop zone with a single point. Andrea Pinamonti scored his first goal for Sassuolo after moving from Inter, rolling home following a defensive mix-up to give his new team a 2-2 draw at Spezia. Jose Mourinho said he was "ashamed" of his Roma players' performances before they fought back to draw through Abraham's first goal of the season.

Afghan...

FROM PAGE 01

that US drones overflying in Afghanistan airspace, which according to him is causing wide range unrest amongst common people of Afghanistan. Afghanistan interior minister Siraj Ud Din Haqqani who is chief of Haqqani network considered most influential in Emirate Islami is always polite and friendly towards Pakistan. Siraj Ud Din Haqqani had brokered ceasefire agreement between government of Pakistan and banned Tehrik Taliban in early days of May. Now the Haqqanis are mediating talks for a permanent settlement between the two sides. However observers believe a set back to talks between government of Pakistan and banned TTP with latest reshuffling in armed forces.

Couple of days back, Afghanistan Deputy Information Minister and Taliban spokesman Zabih Ullah Mujahid has informed about US drones roaming in Helmand and Qandahar. He, however in response to a question didn't endorse the US President Joe Biden and other High ranking authorities claims of "successfully targeting Al Qaeda chief Dr Aiman Al Zawahiri through drones in a well poshed and sensitive residential locality at Kabul in previous July." Zabih Ullah Mujahid said that investigations into US high ups claims pertained to targeting Dr Aiman Al Zawahiri is still in progress.

Defense Minister Mullah Yaqoob in his Sunday presser at Kabul said nothing about the alleged US drone attack, targeting Al Qaeda chief. Besides Defense Minister several other Afghan leaders including deposed First Vice President Amar Ullah Saleh also alleges involvement of Pakistan in alleged US drones attacks in Afghanistan. But other high ranking Taliban officials including acting Prime Minister Mullah Abdul Salam and Interior Minister Siraj Ud Din Haqqani are silent on this issue. Neither they are endorsing nor contradicting allegations pertained to Pakistan's involvement in alleged drone attacks.

More goods...

FROM PAGE 01

She, in a series of tweets, said the first consignment of relief goods from the UAE would arrive at Nur Khan Airbase today (Sunday) at around 4:30 p.m. The first flight from United Arab Emirates (UAE), carrying over 3,000 tons of relief goods including tents, food, medicines and other items of basic needs on Sunday reached Pakistan Air Force Base Nur Khan. The Ambassador of UAE to Pakistan Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al-Zaabi handed over the relief goods to Minister for Planning Development and Reforms Professor Ahsan Iqbal at the Base. Meanwhile talking to media, Minister for Planning and Development said that international community has expressed solidarity with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and assured them their full support for the relief and rehabilitation of the people, which effected due to recent flash floods.

Azerbaijan...

FROM PAGE 01

Azerbaijan will provide to Pakistan 2 million USD aid to assist in elimination of the consequences of large scale floods."

AUGUST 2022

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Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165

Briefs

Kazakhstan
halts arms
exports

DNA

NURSULTAN: Kazakhstan, a neighbour and ally of Russia, has suspended all arms exports for a year, its government said on Saturday (27 August), amid conflict in Ukraine and Western sanctions against Moscow. The former Soviet republic – which also has active economic ties with Kyiv – has avoided taking sides in the Ukrainian crisis while calling for its peaceful resolution. The Kazakh government did not give a reason in Saturday's statement for the decision to halt arms exports. Kazakhstan produces a wide range of military equipment including boats, armoured and artillery vehicles, machine guns, night visors, grenades, torpedoes and protective gear. The government has not said these items were being exported. The Russian press carried publications alleging that Kazakhstan exported arms and ammunition to Ukraine via proxies, by order from the UK. Arms trade to problematic clients is often done by proxies. EU member Bulgaria officially says it doesn't export weapons and ammunition to Ukraine, but a lot of its military production ends up in Ukraine via proxies. The President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met with his Russian colleague Vladimir Putin in Sochi on 19 August. The short readouts from the meeting didn't mention Kazakh arms trade among the issues discussed.

UK to donate
drones to
Ukraine

DNA

LONDON: The UK will donate underwater minehunter drones to Ukraine to help the country clear its coastline of deadly explosives from the ongoing war, Britain announced Saturday. The Royal Navy will send six autonomous vehicles (AV) to the Ukrainian Navy to aid its efforts to detect and locate Russian underwater mines that hinder the shipping of global grain supplies. "Russia's cynical attempts to hold the world's food supply to ransom must not be allowed to succeed," Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement. "This vital equipment and training will help Ukraine make their waters safe, helping to smooth the flow of grain to the rest of the world and supporting the Armed Forces of Ukraine as they look to defend their coastline and ports," he added. Ukrainian Navy personnel will be taught by the Royal Navy on how to operate the AVs. The latter are able to operate at depths of up to 100 meters (328 feet) to detect, locate, and identify mines using an array of sensors. Three of the drones will be donated from existing stocks in the Royal Navy while another three will be procured from a defense firm. Russia and Ukraine have heavily mined coastal waters surrounding Ukraine since Russia launched the war on Feb. 24, hindering grain shipments. Last month, Kyiv and Moscow agreed to an agreement formulated by Türkiye and the UN that would allow the shipments to resume.

EU countries
revisit
shale gas

DNA

BRUSSELS: Shale gas production may be brought back on the table to alleviate the European energy crisis similar to coal and nuclear power, which had long been shelved due to mounting reactions from environmentalists. Shale gas is extracted through a combination of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, which has been criticized for its damage to the environment by contaminating ground and surface water. In response to concerns over climate change, European Union nations have been implementing eco-friendly energy transformation policies for many years, ignoring energy supply security. However, the eruption of the Russia-Ukraine war has prompted European countries to reassess their energy policy alternatives, putting a higher priority on energy supply and security than ecological strategies.

Tentative calm in Libyan capital after clashes kill 32

The UN's Libya mission called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", deploring "indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling in civilian-populated neighbourhoods"

TRIPOLI: Flights resumed and shops re-opened in Libya's capital Tripoli on Sunday after clashes between backers of rival governments killed at least 32 people and sparked fears of major new conflict. Armed groups had exchanged fire that damaged several hospitals and set buildings on fire starting Friday evening, the worst fighting in the Libyan capital since a landmark 2020 ceasefire. A cautious calm had set in by Saturday evening, an AFP correspondent reported, and the health ministry said Sunday morning that 32 people had been killed and 159 wounded during the clashes. The fighting came after months of mounting tensions between backers of

Abdulhamid Dbeibah and Fathi Bashagha, whose rival administrations are vying for control of the North African country which has seen more than a decade of violence since a 2011 uprising. Dbeibah's administration, installed in the capital as part of a United Nations-led peace process last year, has so far prevented Bashagha from taking office there, arguing that the next administration should be the product of elections. Bashagha was appointed by Libya's eastern-based parliament earlier this year and is backed by powerful eastern military chief Khalifa Haftar, whose 2019 attempt to seize the capital by force turned into a year-long civil war. Bashagha, a former interior minister, had initially ruled

out the use of violence to take power in Tripoli but subsequently hinted that he could resort to force. Libya plunged into chaos following the 2011 overthrow and killing of dictator Moamer Kadhafi in a NATO-backed uprising, with myriad armed groups and foreign powers moving to fill the power vacuum. Certain armed groups seen as neutral in the latest crisis moved to back Dbeibah this weekend to push back Bashagha's second attempt to enter the capital. Both sides exchanged blame on Saturday while world powers appealed for calm. The UN's Libya mission called for "an immediate cessation of hostilities", deploring "indiscriminate medium and heavy shelling

in civilian-populated neighbourhoods". On Saturday evening, Dbeibah posted a video of himself surrounded by bodyguards and greeting fighters supporting his administration. Wearing a blue shirt and accompanied by his personal guard, he shook hands and took selfies with supporters. "We won't leave this country to the scoundrels," he said in the video posted on his Twitter account under the title "end of the aggression". He said on Sunday he would create two committees to survey the damage from the fighting. Dbeibah's Government of National Unity said fighting had broken out after negotiations to avoid bloodshed in the western city collapsed. Bashagha denied such

talks had taken place, and accused Dbeibah's "illegitimate" administration of "clinging to power". Local media reported late Saturday that a group of pro-Bashagha militias that had been making their way to the capital from Misrata later turned back. The fighting prompted several airlines to cancel flights in and out of the only working airport in the capital, and high school examinations set for the end of August were postponed. But flights resumed and shops reopened on Sunday morning, while the University of Tripoli announced that exams set for Monday would go ahead as originally planned, annulling an earlier postponement. On Saturday evening Dbeibah

ordered the arrest of anyone involved in the "attack on Tripoli", both civilian and military. A pro-GNU force from Misrata – the hometown of both Dbeibah and Bashagha – said Sunday it had arrested several involved in the attack. But analysts said the crisis was far from resolved, with the capital controlled by a multitude of armed groups with shifting alliances described by analyst Wolfram Lacher as "a never-ending story". "The armed groups that found themselves on the same side in yesterday's Tripoli fighting will tomorrow clash over turf, positions and budgets," he wrote on Twitter. "The factions that were pro-Dbeibah yesterday will challenge him tomorrow." – APP

Pope urges
aid for flood-
hit Pakistan

L'AQUILA (ITALY): Pope Francis on Sunday called on the international community to help Pakistan, where deadly floods have killed more than 1,000 people. The Argentine pontiff appealed for "prompt and generous international solidarity", and said he was praying for the victims. His comments came as he visited the city of L'Aquila in central Italy, which was hit by an earthquake that killed more than 300 people in 2009. The 85-year-old pope praised the people of L'Aquila's "resilience" and "dignity". Pope Francis, who used a wheelchair during the visit, was due to return to the Vatican early this afternoon. He will chair a meeting with cardinals from around the world on Monday and Tuesday, where they will discuss the future of the Catholic Church. – APP

Thousands
rally in
Argentina
to support
Kirchner

BUENOS AIRES: Supporters of Argentine Vice President Cristina Kirchner – on trial for alleged corruption – gathered across the country on Saturday, with police using tear gas and water cannon in the capital Buenos Aires. Kirchner, 69, is accused of fraudulently awarding public works contracts in her stronghold in Patagonia, and prosecutors have asked that she face 12 years in jail and a lifetime ban from politics. Thousands responded to a social media campaign and gathered peacefully in town squares across Argentina, though in Buenos Aires some supporters breached police barricades to reach Kirchner's home. "There has been too much blood in Argentina for them to continue threatening those who think differently with gunfire, bullets, tear gas and pepper spray," Kirchner told supporters. The ex-president, who ruled from 2007 to 2015, called on her opponents "to stop competing among themselves" about who hates Peronists more, referencing the political movement she subscribes to, based on the ideas of former ruler Juan Peron. "It is incredible the degree of cynicism and perversion of not assuming and taking charge of what they want: to exterminate Peronism," she said. Kirchner is the Senate president and enjoys parliamentary immunity. Even if convicted – the verdict is expected at the end of the year – she would not go to prison unless her sentence was ratified by the country's Supreme Court, or she loses her Senate seat at the next elections at the end of 2023. – APP

Egypt dims
lights to
boost foreign
reserves

CAIRO: An economic crisis spurred by the Ukraine war is casting darkness upon Egypt's streets, as the government dims lights to free up energy for export and bolster hard currency reserves. Russia's invasion of Ukraine had an immediate impact on Egypt, the world's biggest wheat importer which has relied on the ex-Soviet states for over 80 percent of its grain. Egypt, which turned to the International Monetary Fund for a loan after the war erupted, is pumping more natural gas abroad to increase its foreign currency reserves – a move that has come in for criticism. And while the government announced electricity rationing this month, signs of wastage elicit scorn. "I see streetlights still working during daylight hours... and we're suffering from high electricity bills," said a disgruntled Cairo resident in his 30s who spoke on condition of anonymity. The country's vital tourism sector has also been hit by the Ukraine conflict, cutting the flow of holidaymakers to a country still hurting from the 2011 revolution and Covid-19 pandemic. Economic growth slowed to 3.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 2021-22 against 7.7 percent last year, although annual expansion was 6.6 percent. Despite the better-than-expected annual figure, the government said growth had tapered off in the wake of "global political and economic developments". – APP

Tunisia recalls
envoy from
Morocco
amid Western
Sahara row

DNA

TUNIS: Tunisia summoned its ambassador from Morocco on Saturday amid a dispute over a visit to the North African nation by the head of the Polisario Front that is seeking independence of the Western Sahara. The move came one day after Morocco recalled its envoy from Tunisia in protest of a meeting between President Kais Saied and Brahim Ghali ahead of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) summit, due to open on Saturday. Morocco termed Ghali's invitation as "a serious and unprecedented act, which deeply offends the feelings of the Moroccan people and its forces." Rabat said it will not attend the two-day summit in response to the Tunisian move. Responding to the Moroccan statement, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said it was "surprised" by the Moroccan reaction.



LONDON: A Kabaddi match was held at Bassilah celebration of independence at Bradford UK. The Bradford club won the match. – DNA

Poland and Czech
to protect Slovak
airspace

FOREIGN DESK

WARSAW: Poland and the Czech Republic have agreed to protect Slovakia's airspace as the country seeks to retire its 11 Soviet-era fighter planes. At an air show this weekend, the defence ministers from the three countries signed the agreement which will allow the Polish and Czech air forces to patrol Slovak skies until the arrival of newer, more modern planes. The promise of protection comes as Russia's war in Ukraine enters its seventh month. The deal also aims to ensure a quick response in case of air border violations on Slovak territory. The Russian MiG-29s will be replaced by American F-16s and are set to be delivered in 2024. The Slovak defence minister, Jaroslav Nad said that the decommissioned fleet may be donated to its neighbour Ukraine, under certain conditions. Since February 2022, the country has been at war with Russia and the eastern European nations fear potential spill overs onto their respective territories. Alongside her Slovak and Polish counterparts, Czech defence minister, Jana Cernochova said, "In the immediate proximity of our region where we live came a war, and all of us who are standing here today either have experience with fascism or communism, and we really value the freedom that we gained after 1989." At a press conference, Nad said the treaty between the three countries was a sign of Slovakia's close relations with Poland and the Czech Republic and strength of their alliance. He added that while Slovakia was in talks with Ukraine and its European Union allies about how best to help, he did not know how that help might look like yet.

Spain offers
to host
Colombian
peace talks

MADRID: Spain has offered to host talks to secure peace in Colombia under the country's new president Gustavo Petro, the first leftist president in the Latin-American nation. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez made the offer during an interview with W Radio in Colombia during his official visit to the country on Thursday and Friday. "We offer ourselves to the Colombian government to help in everything that I think is common sense to achieve peace, and therefore, if these peace talks can be hosted in Spain, Spain would be willing and offers to host them," Sánchez told the local radio station. He said Spain had supported Colombian peace efforts at every moment, describing the historic 2016 deal between the government and the FARC guerrilla group as a milestone in international politics, EURACTIV's partner EFE reported. – DNA

Antonio Guterres
disappointed over end
of NPT conference

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has highlighted the need for dialogue to reduce the nuclear threat after countries failed to reach consensus at a conference to review the landmark Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), according to his Spokesperson. Following four weeks of intense discussions at UN Headquarters in New York, the Tenth Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT ended late on Friday night without an outcome document because Russia objected to text about its control over Ukrainian nuclear facilities. The Secretary-General expressed disappointment that countries were unable to reach consensus on a "substantive outcome", and to capitalize on the opportunity to strengthen the

52-year-old treaty and advance its goals, UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric said in a statement. While the UN chief welcomed the sincere and meaningful engagement by the parties, and the fact that the Conference recognized the NPT as the "cornerstone" of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime, he regretted that it was unable to address the pressing challenges threatening global collective security. "The fraught international environment and the heightened risk of nuclear weapons being used, by accident or through miscalculation, demand urgent and resolute action. The Secretary-General appeals to all States to use every avenue of dialogue, diplomacy, and negotiation to ease tensions, reduce nuclear risk and eliminate the

nuclear threat once and for all," Dujarric said. "A world free of nuclear weapons remains the United Nations' highest disarmament priority and a goal to which the Secretary-General remains firmly committed." The NPT, which entered into force in March 1970, is the only binding commitment to the goal of disarmament by States which officially stockpile nuclear weapons. It is organized around three pillars – disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy – and 191 countries have joined the Treaty. Review conferences are held every five years. The 2015 session also ended without an outcome document while the 2020 Conference was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. – APP

France and Algeria launch 'renewed partnership'

ALGIERS: French President Emmanuel Macron and his Algerian counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune Saturday declared a "new, irreversible dynamic of progress" in their nations' ties, concluding a visit by Macron aimed at ending months of tensions. The three-day visit comes less than two months after Algeria marked six decades of independence following 132 years of French rule and a devastating eight-year war. It also comes as European powers scramble to replace Russian energy imports – including with supplies from Algeria, Africa's top gas exporter, which in turn is seeking to expand its clout in North Africa and the Sahel. In their joint declaration on Saturday, the two leaders said "France and Algeria have decided to open a new era... laying the foundation for a renewed partnership expressed through a concrete and constructive approach, focused on future projects and youth." At the signing ceremony, Tebboune addressed his guest in French, gushing over an "excellent, successful visit... which allowed for a rapprochement which wouldn't have been possible without the personality of President Macron himself." Ties between Paris and Algiers have seen repeated crises over the years. They had been particularly cool since last year



when Macron questioned Algeria's existence as a nation before the French occupation and accused the government of fomenting "hatred towards France". Tebboune withdrew his country's ambassador in response and banned French military aircraft from its airspace. Normal diplomatic relations have since resumed, along with overflights to French army bases in sub-Saharan Africa. After vowing to "build a new pact", Macron was in the spiritual home of Rai music on Saturday,

visiting a record shop made famous by French-Algerian singer DJ Snake's recent hit of the same name, "Disco Maghreb". He also met athletes and artists and went for a somewhat chaotic walk in the streets where police struggled with onlookers trying to shake his hand or take photos. On Friday evening, Macron had dinner with Algerian writer Kamel Daoud and other Oran personalities. He had also met young entrepreneurs who quizzed him on the difficulties of getting visas to France, the decline of the

French language in its former colony and the contentious issues around the two countries' painful past. Macron announced that an additional 8,000 Algerian students would be admitted to study in France this year, joining 30,000 already in the country. He also announced the creation of a joint commission of historians to examine the colonial period and the devastating eight-year war that ended it. But in France, both left and right-wing politicians were angered by the proposal. Socialist party leader Olivier Faure noted that Macron in 2017 had called French colonialism a "crime against humanity", then later questioned the existence of Algeria as a nation prior to the colonial period. "The lightness with which he deals with the subject is an insult to wounded memories," Faure tweeted. Far right leader Thomas Menage tweeted that Algeria should stop "using its past to avoid establishing true, friendly diplomatic relations". Macron's visit was not universally welcomed by Algerians either. "History can't be written with lies... like the one that Algeria was created by France," read an editorial in the French-language Le Soir newspaper. "We expected Macron to erase this gross untruth during this visit," it said, criticising him for a "lack of courage... to recognise his own faults and those of his country". – AFP

Briefs

President reinforces appeal for int'l assistance

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Sunday reinforced the Government of Pakistan's appeal for international assistance and relief to support the flood affectees. On his Twitter handle, the president said that recent floods had devastated Pakistan as more than one thousand people had lost their lives with billions of dollars damages caused to infrastructure. The president also appealed to the people in the country to donate generously to help support the flood victims. "Floods have devastated Pakistan. More than 1K lives lost & billions of \$ of infrastructure damaged. Our institutions are trying their best to help people & knowing our unique spirit, I am sure that we will open our hearts. Let me reinforce govt's appeal for int. assistance," he posted. - APP

Plumes of dust as India demolishes illegal skyscrapers

WEB DESK

NOIDA: Indian authorities demolished two illegally constructed skyscrapers in a wide plume of dust debris on Sunday near the capital New Delhi, razing the tallest structures ever pulled down in the country in less than 10 seconds. Crowds watching the collapse from rooftops on nearby high-rise buildings cheered and clapped as the 103-metre (338-feet) tall towers collapsed from a controlled demolition and the dust enveloped the residential area. The Supreme Court last year ordered the demolition of the towers in the Noida area after a long legal battle found they violated multiple building regulations and fire safety norms.

Two US warships transit Taiwan Strait

FOREIGN DESK

TAIPEI: Two US Navy warships sailed through international waters in the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, the first such operation since a visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi enraged China which regards the island as its territory. The US Navy said cruisers Chancellorsville and Antietam were carrying out the ongoing operation. Such operations usually take eight to 12 hours to complete and are closely monitored by China's military. "These (US) ships transited through a corridor in the strait that is beyond the territorial sea of any coastal state," the US Navy said.

Romanian Ambassador bids farewell to Defence Attache



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing Defence Attache Col. LENOARD VEZA and his wife. The Romanian DA is leaving Pakistan after spending four years here, for his next posting. The Romanian ambassador in his speech praised services of the outgoing defence attaché adding his absence shall be greatly felt by the embassy staff and his colleagues in Islamabad. Ambassador Nicolae further said during past four years he not only developed professional relationship with Col Veza but they became good friends as well. He wished him success in all his future postings. The Ambassador also briefly talked about the Russian invasion of Ukraine saying Russia had not grounds to attack Ukraine. He said Romania is also celebrating 15 years of its membership of the European Union and 160 years of creation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania. The ambassador also welcomed the new Defence Attache Colonel Cristian Raducu. He assured him of his full support during his stay in Pakistan. Defence Attaches of various countries attended the reception. The guests were served with traditional Romanian as well Pakistani cuisines.



Khalistan Referendum shakes Canadian politics

NEWS DESK

TORONTO: After creating strong waves in the United Kingdom in November 2021, the Khalistan Referendum – a community-sponsored plebiscite of an international advocacy group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) – is now rocking Canadian politics where the voting is going to start on September 18. Khalistan Referendum campaign – in which Sikhs are asked to answer the question "Should Indian governed Punjab be an independent country?" – has drawn fierce opposition from New Delhi, Indian media and pro-India segments of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). While Indian media and NRIs have been voicing their opposition, the Indian government has been pro-actively labelling and equating the unofficial referendum on Khalistan as "terrorism" and has declared SFJ – the proponent of the referendum – as an illegal organisation under the controversial Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) of India.

Dutch truck crash toll climbs to six dead: police

AGENCIES

THE HAGUE: Dutch police on Sunday raised the death toll to six with seven other people hurt after a horse-and-trailer truck ran off a dike road, plunging into rellers. The accident happened around six pm (1600 GMT) on Saturday when the Spanish-registered truck left the road on the narrow Zuidzidsedijk, 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of Rotterdam. Police had first confirmed at least two dead after the vehicle drove into a community barbeque, which Dutch news reports said was being hosted by an ice-skating club. "We now have six people killed and seven injured, one seriously after yesterday's accident," police spokeswoman Mirjam Boers told AFP. "We are still investigating what exactly happened," she said.

Afghans pay heavy price for country's isolation: Borrell

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell Fontelles criticized the closing of girls' schools in Afghanistan and said that the Islamic Emirate has denied girls access to education in spite of their promises. According to the statement of the European Union External Action, Afghanistan is currently isolated from the world and the people of this country are paying a heavy price for it. "Afghanistan may have dropped from the headlines. However, the situation for its people is dire. In the past year, the Taliban have shown no sign of moderation, quite the contrary: all girls, despite earlier promises, are banned from education; huge swathes of the country are gripped by hunger (70% of the population); and many Afghans live in fear or exile. Understandably, no government, not even Pakistan or Qatar, has officially recognised the Taliban. Meanwhile, the Afghan people pay a heavy price for their country's isolation: humanitarian aid levels are tiny compared to the needs," the European Union External Action said in a statement. Meanwhile, girls asked the Islamic

Emirate to reopen schools for girls above sixth grade as soon as possible. "Nothing improves when girls stay at home; in addition to the devastation and destruction of our poor country, staying at home just strengthens the enemies. Our people are indirectly regressing. How long will you keep us at home?," said Rukhsar, a student. "Schools should be reopened, all females should return to classes, we should take our examinations, and our unclear future should be cleared," said Jahanoora, another student. "We tell the Islamic Emirate that staying at home won't help them. We should attend classes and learn, so that Afghanistan's future would be better," said Rohina, another student. "By closing girls' schools, women's aspirations for a prosperous future were also dashed. Women were completely excluded from society and had no involvement in political or social activities during this one-year period," said Mulsina Saboor, women's rights activist. Over one year has passed since the closure of girls' schools in Afghanistan, it is still not clear when these schools will be reopened for female students. The Islamic Emirate has always said that it is committed to the education of girls within the framework of Islamic Sharia.

Pak Army Aviation Pilots rescue stranded individual

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Army Aviation Pilots on Sunday in an extremely dangerous and challenging situation rescued a stranded individual surrounded in flood in Kohistan. An emergency call was made by Kohistan administration for rescue, said the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release. Responding immediately, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) Mangla Division and Commander Mangla Brigade who were on flood assessment mission near Pattan diverted from original flight

to save the precious life. "Had they not reached on time the individual could have drowned in flood. The pilots made daring attempt, lower the helicopter and the officers and crew lifted the individual safely," the ISPR added. Pakistan Army and Army Aviation keeping in with their traditions would not hesitate to save their brothers and sisters in line with the COAS vision that people of Pakistan were our priority and we would not rest until every single individual was reached and helped. - APP

Numbers of affected may increase as calamity extends, says Rehman

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman stressed that the numbers of flood-affected population may rise from 33 million as the monster flood continues. "The humanitarian action is right now being led by the Government and supported by United Nations and other humanitarian agencies. 1033 people have lost their lives and more than 1500 have been injured. Kabul River is still at VERY HIGH Flood level at Nowshera as the water has crossed 300,000 cusecs which is why residents in some areas have not been allowed to come back to their homes. Water levels in River Indus at Taunsa, Sukkur and Chashma are at HIGH Flood level as it crossed 500,000 cusecs while Guddu and Kotri are in Medium Flood level. Rains have disrupted the essential communications systems which are now being rebuilt by NHA and others. Kalam has received most rains at 41.5mm and Bagrot in Gilgit Baltistan has received up to 21mm. More rains are expected in the northern part of AJK, KP and Balochistan. As the rain has abated in some ar-

reas, the NDMA and Pak Army have increased their helicopter sorties for rescue. Pak Navy has also been deployed on a terrain it would not normally operate its boats." EAD and other Ministries are working around the clock with about 35 multilateral and bilateral donors to assess needs and bridge gaps in relief efforts. Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) has started rolling out PKR 25,000 relief tranches of PKR 35 billion for the most vulnerable. 218,112 beneficiaries have been provided with immediate cash assistance. The Government is providing PKR 1 million (US\$4,615) in ex-gratia compensation to the next of kin of families who have lost their loved ones and PKR 250,000 (US\$1,154) to those who have been injured. PKR 500,000 (US\$2,308) is being provided for fully destroyed

houses and PKR 250,000 (US\$1,154) for partially destroyed houses. However, hygiene kits, waterproof tents are still short on the ground for stranded families. Many are being housed in empty schools as the ground is too wet. Just as we battled with relentless rains in the South of Pakistan in over 72 calamity-hit districts, the Indus river flooding from the north has increased the number of calamity-hit districts as reports of floods in Gilgit Baltistan have come in as well. It's really a perfect storm", Minister Rehman said. "It is unfortunate that a time of national emergency the opposition leadership and rank and file is busy scoring points instead of helping those in need. From social media activists who are urging local and international donors to not assist Pakistan's vulnerable people and over 33 million affected, the toxic discourse of the PTI continues to compromise Pakistan's relief efforts.



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