

Sanahart

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

Italy shifts to the right as voters reward Meloni's party

Detailed News On Page-07

Stop the loose talk on nukes; US tells Russia

Detailed News On Page-08



US ambassador visits Wazir Khan mosque

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Ishaq Dar arrives in **Pakistan**

SAIFULLAH



to take charge as finance minister replacing Miftah Ismail. Earlier while departing from UK, Dar said he has his eyes set on putting Pakistan's weakening economy back on track. Speaking to media before leaving for Pakistan with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Dar said he looked forward to taking oath as Pakistan's finance minister and then doing his best to stabilise the struggling economy.

FM stresses on curbing Islamophobia

DNA



ister of Pakistan Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met the High Representative for

the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Miguel Moratinos, on the margins of the 77th UNGA Session in New York. They discussed the work of the UNAOC and avenues for collaboration, particularly in strengthening inter-religious dialogue, combating Islamophobia as well as intolerance based on religion or belief. They stressed the need for achieving harmony among diverse cultures and societies.

Murtaza resigns as administrator

DNA



Advisor Sindh Chief Minister for Mur-Wahab Monday

stepped down from the post of the administrator of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). Wahab has sent his resignation to CM Murad Ali Shah for approval. "I regrettably submit that I am unable to continue any further as administrator KMC due to personal reasons," he wrote in a letter to the chief minister. "I tender my resignation from the post of the administrator. You are requested to kindly direct the Local Government Department to de-notify me," Wahab said.

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Emirates Hospital treats 7,000 flood-hit people Page 04

Ijtehad for better society - Page 05

Palestinians arrested, injured as Jewish settlers enter Aqsa - Page 06

World reacts to Meloni's right-wing victory in Italy election - Page 07

Indonesian President Widodo sends humanitarian aid to Pak - Page 08

Audio Leaks issue

PM summons important **NSC** meeting

Important decisions are expected to be made in the civil-military huddle on Wednesday, say sources

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has summoned the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting to discuss matters related to national security including audio leaks allegedly featuring conversation of the premier with high-profile government officials.

PM Shehbaz and key members of his party and family became the centre of attention on Sunday after audio recordings purportedly of their conversation surfaced on social media. The audios drew sharp criticism from the opposition, which expressed concerns over the security of the Prime Minister Office (PMO). However, several government ministers insisted that the audios pointed to no wrongdoing. Soon after the audios surfaced, there was a storm on social media, many bashing the government and expressing shock at the way sensitive audios had purportedly leaked from the PMO. Also several TV channels also splashed their screens with the leaks. According to an official statement issued on Monday, the NSC meeting will take place at the PM House on Wednesday.

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Audio leaks a worrisome trend: President

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

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi has termed the incidences of audio leaks as a worrisome trend. Talking to Karachi-based journalists at Governor House in Karachi on Monday, he said that leaking private conversations fell within the category of "backbiting", which needed to be discouraged. He said that the privacy of every person was a trust which should be upheld, and leaking private conversations or comments and spreading fake news is unethical as it gives rise to fear and anxiety in society. He said that politicians should play their role in making the nation intellectually strong. He said that intellectual strength could make our country strong in a minimum time period rather than brick and mortal model.

Continued on Page 06

COAS lauds Canada's support in relief efforts

Canadian High Commissioner expressed her grief over the devastation caused by floods

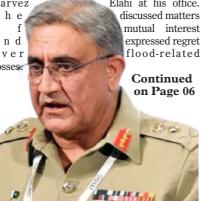
STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Wendy Gilmour on Monday paid a farewell call to Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at GHQ in Rawalpindi, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement. During the meeting, matters of mutual interests, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation in various fields came under discussion. ISPR said that the COAS thanked the visiting dignitary for her services and appreciated her contri-



the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. According to the statement, she offered full support of her country to the people of Pakistan. She also appreciated Pakistan Army's efforts for rescue and relief in flood-affected areas. The army chief thanked her for Canada's support and reiterated that "assistance from our global partners shall be vital in the rehabilitation of the flood victims". Earlier this month, Canadian High Commissioner Ms Wendy Gilmour called





ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf receiving Ambassador of Argentina Leopold Francisco Sahores at Parliament House. - DNA

Rabi ul Awal moon not sighted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The moon for the holy month of Rabi ul Awal has not been sighted in Pakistan, therefore, Eid Milad un Nabi (PBUH) will fall on October 9.

The development came after Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad chaired the meeting of the zonal committee at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Kohsar Block, Pak Secretariat in Islamabad.

Gunman kills 15 at school in Russia

News Desk

MOSCOW: A gunman killed 15 people, including eleven children, and injured dozens others at a school in the Russian city of Izhevsk in the Udmurtia region, the Investigative Committee said on Monday. The dead also included teachers and school guards, said a committee investigating the incident. Earlier, the Russian Interior Ministry had said that six people were killed in the incident. The shooter killed himself and his body was found at the crime scene, a ministry statement said.

Teachers and schoolchildren were evacuated following the incident, it said. Alexander Brechalov, the regional governor, arrived at the school and said security and ambulance teams are also present at the site of the incident. Some 982 children study and 80 teachers teach in the school which is located near the city administration building in the

CEC should resign after PMO audio leaks: Imran Khan

Imran claims there would be more "episodes" in audio leaks saga

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PTI chief Imran Khan said on Monday that after the surfacing of audio leaks allegedly featuring conversations between key figures in the coalition government, Chief election commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja should resign from his post. Addressing a gathering at Government College University (GCU) in Lahore, Imran said the audio leaks had made it apparent that CEC Raja was a

"servant of the Sharif household". In the audio leaks, "Nawaz is telling him [CEC] who should be disqualified and when to hold elections," the former premier said. After the audio leaks, the CEC should resign if he has even an ounce of shame, he said. "But he doesn't [have any shame], so we will have to make him resign." Audio recordings of purported conversations between key government figures - including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif,

PTI demands impartial probe into audio leaks

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhary demanded impartial and thorough investigation into the audio leaks from the PM House containing conversations between the PM and the cabinet members, which, he said, a major security lapse and another tragic incident for the people of the country. Addressing a press conference here on Monday, he said that it was a very serious issue and it must be investigated properly; however, surprisingly, neither the PM House issued a statement nor

Continued on Page 06

murreebrewerycompany

Continued on Page 06



www.murreebrewery.com

Six soldiers martyred in helicopter crash

The unfortunate incident occurred during a flying mission, PM grieves the loss of lives

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Two Pakistan Army majors were among six military personnel who were martyred when a helicopter crash occurred in Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Monday. The unfortunate incident occurred during a flying mission near Harnai district's Khost personnel were two pilots as well who lost their lives.

Afzal, 30, was a resident of Rawalpindi and is survived by and ammunition were recovered from him.

South Waziristan: Terrorist killed in exchange of fire

DNA

city late last night, the military's media wing mentioned in RAWALPINDI: Terrorists attacked a military post in its statement. The press statement read that among the six the general area of Azam Warsak in the South Waziristan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday. Major Khurram Shahzad, 39, was a resident of Attock who has In an intense exchange of fire and a prompt response left behind a wife and daughter. Major Muhammad Muneeb from Pak forces, a terrorist was killed and weapons

a wife and two sons. Subedar Abdul Wahid, 44. hailed from The killed terrorist was involved in terrorist ac-Karak's Sabir Abad village and has left behind a wife and four tivities against security forces and the killing of children, while sepoy Muhammad Imran, 27, was a resident innocent citizens. However, during an intense exof Khanewal's Makhdoompur and is survived by a wife and change of fire, Naik Rasheed (age 29 years, resithree children. Naik Jalil, 30, was a resident of Gujarat's vil- dent of Tank) and Sepoy Rasool Badshah (age 22 lage Bhutta. He left behind a wife and two children. Sepoy years, resident of Lower Dir) having fought gal-Shoaib, 35, was a resident of Attock's Khatarphatti village. lantly, embraced Shahadat. As per the report, area clearance is being carried out to eliminate terror

ists from the South Waziristan district.

Continued on Page 06

SBBWUP holds int'l seminar on regional connectivity

PESHAWAR: Benazir Bhutto University Peshawar (SBB-WUP) Department of Political Science, in collaboration with Area Study Centre, University of Peshawar on Monday organized a oneday international seminar on "Regional Connectivity: Central Asian Perspective", in which four scholars from Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) participated as guest speakers. These scholars were hosted by the Area Study Centre (Russia, China and Central Asia), University of Peshawar for four-week research programme.

Prior to the seminar, the delegation of Central Asian scholars along with the faculty members of Area Study Centre and Department of Political Science, SBBWU, Peshawar had a meeting with the Vice Chancellor

Campaign

against profiteers to

continue: DC

ISLAMABAD:Deputy Com-

missioner Islamabad, Irfan

Nawaz Memon Monday

said the campaign launched

against profiteers would

continue till they ensure

that the commodities were

sold at rates fixed by the ad-

He directed the officials to

ensure that prices of com-

modities were displayed and

stern actions taken against

those involved in selling

essential commodities at

Talking to APP, he said dur-

ing the campaign, the assis-

tant commissioners/ magis-

trates inspected some 205

shops including fruits, veg-

etables and general stores.

Three shopkeepers were

sent to jail whereas other

Memon said the civil admin-

istration had focused those

areas where complaints

against price hike were re-

The DC stated that special

teams had been deputed in

Sabzi Mandi to ensure price

control and stop artificial

shortage of vegetables and

These actions have made

vegetables and fruits avail-

able in the open market at

The city administration

would continue its efforts to

control the prices of fruits,

vegetables along with the

essential commodities so

that people get these items

at affordable prices, the DC

IESCO

issues power

suspension

programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad

Electric Supply Company

(IESCO) on Monday issued

a power suspension pro-

gramme for Tuesday for var-

ious areas of its region due

to necessary maintenance

and routine development

Spokesman, the power

supply of different feeders

and grid stations would

remain suspended for the

period from 07:00 AM

to 12:00 Noon, Sanghui,

Besharat, CS Shah, Bhara

Kahu, NIH, T&T, Golf

City, Tarit, Bhara Kahu

To, Athal, NCI Toba, Lila

Town, Ahmedabad, Ghosia

Colony, Lawah, Dharanka,

Dinda Shah Bilawal, Dhok

Ghazan, Sukho, Dhar-

nal, Kot Shera, Kot Gala,

Niscom, I-10/2, Islamic University, Ndc 1-, Dhok

Naju, Raja Sultan, Eid

Gah, Malhwali, Kharpa,

Pinnwal, New Kliam, Old

Kliam, HPT 3, Industri-

al, Misrial Road, Ameer

Hamza, Radio Pak, Mult-

abad, Peshawar Road,

Range Road, Lohi Bhir,

UC Road, Coral, Bani

Gala, Imran Khan, Dip-

lomatic, NIH, AQ Khan,

Mushtaq Shaheed Jalala,

Nawababad, PMC Colo-

ny, Nad Topa Feeders,

From 06:30 AM to 02:30

PM, Beirut Gala, Darbar

Mai Toti, Kho E-Ratta

City, Cheruhi, Dana Bhal,

Cheruhi Dungi, Sree

City, Kariala, Jandrot Dab-

si, Ditot, Mojajan, Cheruhi

feeders and surroundings.

to IESCO

work.

According

remarked.—APP

lower prices.

violators were fined.

excessive prices.

ministration.

Ahmed and discussed various aspects of the regional connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asia.

The Vice Chancellor discussed opportunities related to educational, research collaborations and academic exchanges for students and faculty between SBB-WU and academic institutions of Central Asian states

The delegates also visited various departments of the institute.

The seminar started with the presentation of Ibrokhimov I. Feruzbek, Senior Research Fellow at the Information-analytical Center for International Relations (IACIR) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Uzbekistan.

He highlighted the development projects between Pakistan and Central Asian states. He shared that some by 2025 which will further enhance connectivity between Pakistan and Central Asian states

Almas Tussipzanov, Chief Expert, Centre for Analysis and Prognosis "Open World", Kazakhstan emphasized on extended efforts for increasing people-to-people contact. $\bar{\mathrm{H}}\mathrm{e}$ also underlined women's role in this regard particularly in the field of business and education.

Muhammadsaidzoda Abubakar, Specialist, Department of the Regional Security Issues Studies, Centre for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, talked about CASA -1000 electricity project.

He said that it would not only resolve Pakistan's energy needs but would also open up Pakistan's market to Central Asia.

Abai Zurdinov, Researcher

of these projects would end at Department of IR and Law, Diplomatic Academy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic highlighted educational exchange opportunities and increased trade linkages between the two countries. Dr Muhammad Ali Dinakhel, Research Associate, Area Study Centre focused on the shared literary, linguistic and historical links between the two regions. Dr Sadaf Bashir, Head of the Department of Political Science, SBBWUP emphasized that digital connectivity would play an instrumental role in promoting regional cooperation and connectivity, whereas Dr Zarmina Baloch, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science SBBWUP expressed hope that the event would play a vital role in promoting regional connectivity between Pakistan

and Central Asia.-APP



KARACHI: President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi having interaction with anchor persons of news and current affairs programs on different television channels at Governor House Sindh. APP

PHP arranges awareness seminar

FAISALABAD: The Punjab Highway Patrol (PFP) Faisalabad region held an awareness seminar at a private col-

lege here on Monday. DSP Patrolling Officer Malik Muhammad Amin delivered a keynote lecture on traffic laws. He sensitized the teaching staff and students about road safety, traffic rules, smog, dengue, abuses of narcotics, traffic signals, line and lane discipline etc. He said that never drive vehicles if you are drowsy, in addiction or angry, adding that in these conditions, there are more chances of road accidents. He said that underage driv-

ing and one-way violations were strictly prohibited in the laws. He also advised the youth to avoid deadly plays, one-wheeling and zig-zag drivDERA ISMAIL KHAN: Speinternational flights from cial Assistant to Prime Minthe Dera's airport. ister Faisal Karim Kundi Faisal Karim Kundi main-

Efforts underway for

development of district

Kundi said the so-called past elected representa-

tives also did not raise voice or make efforts when

regional offices of other key departments

tained these people also remained tight lipped over the issue in the Parliament and kept people of the area deprived of the crucial facility for years.

As part of such efforts, the Moreover, he said the so-Prime Minister's Special called past elected repre-Assistant said that a smart sentatives also did not raise booking office of the Pakivoice or make efforts when stan International Airlines regional offices of other key (PIA) would be operationaldepartments such as Asized by October 10. He lamented that past rulers have closed airport fa-

sociated Press of Pakistan (APP), Pakistan Television Corporation (PTV), Press Information Department (PIA), Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) and National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) were closed down right under their nose.

Now being a leader of the allied party of the coalition government, Fasial Karim said no one would be allowed to do injustice with the Dera Ismail Khan district and all these offices were being in phases which would usher in development

of the area. He said that the PID office was going to be reopened in the Dera Ismail Khan region from next week while the offices of PTV and APP had already started operation in the area.—APP

Punjab govt focusing on welfare of common man

cility in the district despite

their false claims and hollow

slogans about operation of

Monday vowed to continue

his efforts for the develop-

ment and prosperity of the

district which was subject-

ed to injustices by the past

Khan and Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi on Monday held a detailed meeting at Chief Minister's Office to discuss prevailing political development schemes and solutions to problems being faced by the people.

issued here, Imran Khan appreciated the steps tak-

Punjab government for the rehabilitation of the floodhit population and to save educational institutions

accelerated to provide necessary relief to the people. The CM apprised the former prime minister that all hospitals in the province would be converted Pervaiz Elahi said that to solar energy in phases. While briefing about the Punjab Control of Narcotics Substance Act, 2022 the CM added that strict legislation was being enacted to make educational institutions drug-free.

Strict punishment would be proposed for selling drugs in higher education institutions. The government was legislating to keep the minimum punishment of two years and added that an autonomous institution, special force and special courts would be set up to eradicate the drug trade.

heirs of those who died

due to rains and floods had been given financial aid of Rs 1 million per person. He further said that the amount of aid had been increased to redress damages to houses, crops, and livestock. Chief minister said that new development schemes were also being started in the province as

He said welfare of the common man was a focal point of the Punjab government. Senior Minister Aslam Igbal, Punjab Health Minister Dr Yasmin Rashid, former federal minister Hammad Azhar and others were also present.

per Imran Khan's vision.

Court returns Pak PWD reference to **NAB**

LAHORE:An accountability court on Monday returned Pakistan Public Works Department (Pak PWD) contracts reference to the National Accountability Bu reau (NAB). The court held that the matter did not fall under its jurisdiction, as per NAB amended law, and ordered the NAB chairman to place the matter before the court concerned without any delay.

The court also granted protective bail to the accused and directed for submitting surety bonds of Rs 200,000 each.Accountability Court Judge Zubair Shahzad Kivani passed the orders while deciding applications of the accused.

The accused through their applications had submitted that the accountability court was not empowered to hear any reference involving an amount below Rs 500 million.

The NAB had filed reference against eight Pak PWD officials including SDO Khursheed Ahmed. XEN Humera Khurram, and others. It was alleged that the accused embezzled millions of rupees by submitting bogus bills/payments fraudulently of the 19 development projects regarding of roads and drainage in Sheikhupura, while the projects had already been executed by the Tehsil Municipal .-APP

18 criminals held; drugs, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital police apprehended 18 criminals including drug peddlers involved in criminal activities and recovered drugs, valuables and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha had ordered all zonal officers to curb the crime in their respective areas and arrest those involved in looting innocent people. Following these directives, a Abpara police team arrested three accused namely Muhammad Sulman, Muhammad Zubair and Fahim Akram and recovered two 30 bore pistols and 127 gram heroin from their possession. Kohsar police arrested an accused namely Rizwan and recovered 115 gram heroin from his possession.-DNA

BISP disburses over 46 Rs billion among the needy 1,861,836 flood affectof Punjab have received

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An amount of Rs.25,000 per family is being distributed through Benazir Income Support Programme to the flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan. So far a total of Rs.46,545,900,000 has been disbursed among

ed families under Flood Relief Cash Assistance across the country. In Balochistan 150,568 flood affected families have received Rs. 3,764,200,000. 1,321,300 affected families of Sindh have received Rs.33,032,500,000. Pakhtunkhwa Khyber 183,628 families have re-

ceived Rs. 4,590,700,000

whereas 206,033 families

Rs.5,150,825,000. In Gilgit Baltistan 307 flood affected families have also received Rs. 7,675,000. Today a total of 142,171 flood affected families have received financial assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas. A control room has been established at Benazir Income Support Pogramme headquarters to ensure smooth payments.

Bill moved in Senate to improve living standard of transgenders

Govt. believes in

supremacy of law

ISLAMABAD:Federal Minister of Law and Justice Azam

Nazeer Tarar Monday informed the Senate that the gov-

ernment believed in the supremacy of the law and con-

stitutions. Responding to the motion moved by the op-

position members in the senate, he regretted that

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government during

the last three and half years had promoted the cul-

ture of political victimization. He named political lead-

ers and journalists victimized by the PTI government

and said, "We do not believe in political victimization".

He observed that a drug case had also been made while

female members of parliament had also been arrested by

the PIT government. About the raid in Senator Saifullah

Sarwar Khan Nyazee's residence, he said that a commit-

tee had been constituted to investigate the issue. He said

that an outcome of the committee would be shared with

the house. However, he said that no one was above the

law and the government would ensure rule of law in the

country. Leader of Opposition in the Senate Dr. Shahzad

Waseem while introducing motions regarding raid at

Senator Saifullah Sarwar Khan Nyazee's house strongly

condemned the raid. He asked the government to ensure

freedom of expression in the country.-APP

ISLAMABAD: A private members' bill was moved in Senate on Monday seeking amendments in the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2018 aimed to reduce suftering, improve standard of living and bring reform in the lives of the deprived segment of society

The Bill moved by Senator Fawzai Arshad, was seeking amendments in definitions of "gender expression" and "gender identity". The Bill aimed to redefine the transgender person and also seeking amendments in various sub-sections of Section 3 and focus to omit the expressions related to self-perceived gender identity of transgender persons. It sought to omit the expression "as per his or her self-perceived gender identity, as such," from sub-section 1 of Section 3 and expressions" as per his or her self-perceived gender

identity" from sub-sections 2 and 3 of Section 3.

It also proposed to delete sub-section 4 from Section 3 which says "a transgender person already issued CNIC by NADRA shall be allowed to change the name and gender according to his or her self perceived identity on the CNIC, CRC, Driving License and passport in accordance with the provisions of the NA-

DRA Ordinance, 2000". The Bill also sought amendments in Sections 7 and 8 related to the share of inheritance and right to education. statement of objects and reasons of the proposed Bill says that this legislative proposal has been brought to fill the gaps and make this Act more effective and worthwhile for reducing suffering, improving standard of living and reforming the most deprived segment of the society.-APP

Over speeding claims life of two youngsters

ABBOTTABAD: At least two youngsters Monday died in a motorcycle accident in Union Council Dalula, an area Gari Habibullah police station Abbottabad. According to police sourc-

es, two motorcyclists were heading towards Ghari Habibullah Bazaar from village Gharang when the driver lost control over his bike at a turn and fell into the deep gorge. Tabish, son of Ghulam Rabbani, a resident of village Gharang of Village Council Daban 2, who was riding the motorcycle, died on the spot while the other motorcyclist Ehsan, son of Muhammad Ilyas, was seriously injured and was immediately shifted to King Abdullah Hospital Mansehra–APP

Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran situation,

According to a handout en by the

from drug addiction. The Punjab government's

aid package would ensure early rehabilitation of the affected families, he added. Imran Khan said that welfare schemes should be

maximum life imprisonment, he added. The CM said for selling and use of drugs in the educational institutions, the owners and employees would be responsible and



NAWABSHAH: PPP Leader Ms. Asifa Bhutto Zardari giving direction to medical staff during her visiting at free medical camp setup for Flood affected people. –APP

World Contraceptive Day seminar held in Lodhran

Rapidly increasing population is a national problem and collective efforts are urgently needed to tackle this problem. He said that the efforts of the Population Welfare Department to deal with the rapidly growing population are commendable

SAQIB MUSHTAQ LODHRAN: An awareness seminar was organized at District

Council Hall Lodhran on the occasion of World Contraceptive Day organized by District Population Welfare Department Lodhran. Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Lodhran Chaudhry Fahad Anwar participated as a special guest in the awareness seminar organized regarding World Contraceptive Day. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Deputy District Population Welfare Officer Tariq Mehmood Sukhira informed the people about the World Contraceptive Day.

In the event, Dr. Amina Maqbool, in charge of Family Health Clinic, emphasized the importance of breast milk. She said that breast milk is very important for the health of both mother and child. He said that mother's milk is the natural food of the child and protects the child from diseases. In the event, Health Nutritionist Abida

Batul provided important information regarding the nutritional needs of breastfeeding mothers and children.

In the event, the well-known religious figure Mufti Ehsan Rasool Saeedi informed the participants about Islam and family planning. He said that a mother should breastfeed her child for two whole years. In his address, religious leader Mian Khurshid Ahmed Owaisi praised the efforts of the Department of Welfare and Development and said that the scope of the Department of Development and Welfare should be expanded.

District Population Welfare Officer Lodharan Mudassar Abbas Hashmi said in his address that the Department of Population Welfare is providing facilities and services to the public for a balanced family. He said that the contraceptives of the Population Welfare Department are completely safe and reliable and are available free of cost at all welfare centers of the Population Welfare Department. District Officer Health Captain Dr. Usman said that there is a need to adopt modern methods for proper interval in children. Chief Guest Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Chaudhry Fahad Anwar said that the rapidly increasing population is reducing our resources rapidly and our resources are getting less and problems are increasing.

Rapidly increasing population is a national problem and collective efforts are urgently needed to tackle this problem. He said that the efforts of the Population Welfare Department to deal with the rapidly growing population are commendable In the seminar, District Education Officer Literacy Shazia Noreen, Deputy Director Information Noman Masood Khan, Deputy District Officer Health Lodhran Dr. Aamir Bashir, Social and Political Leader Rana Shehzad Anwar, Social Leader Allah Dutta Anjum, Journalist Organizations, Welfare Department and other government departments officers and A large number of people participated.

National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya

Sept01 / Tanzania Defence day

Revolution Day

Sept01 / Uzbekistan

Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico National Day

Sept 16/Papua New Guinea Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile National Day

Sept 21 / Malta Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia 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 ...9222596 Islamabad..... Rawalpindi......9270601-20



Enquiry

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DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	onal.4603666



Departments

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CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment Bo	oard 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
RawalTown	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Awn Chaudhry Advisor to the PM on Tourism and Sports cutting ribbon to kickoff a two-day conference and photography exhibition on the theme "Rethinking Tourism" to celebrate World Tourism Day organized by PTDC at PNCA. APP

3-day photography, art exhibition kicks off on Intl Tourism Day

ISLAMABAD: As many as 322 photographs and around 100 paintings were submitted by established and amateur photographers and painters from across the country in the Photography and Painting competition that was displayed at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) here Monday. The competition was organized by Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation

AIOU's int'l

moot for

Developing

education

framework

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The 6th in-

ternational conference on

Research and Practices in

Education started at Alla-

ma Iqbal Open University

(AIOU) with aim to empha-

size the need on developing

education framework for

2025. The inaugural ses-

sion was presided over by

the Dean of the Faculty of

Education, AIOU, Prof. Dr

Nasir Mehmood, while the

renowned educationist and

former Vice Chancellor,

AIOU, Prof. Dr Shahid Sid-

diqui was the chief guest.

Education experts while

ISLAMABAD: The Univer-

sal Service Fund (USF)

Board approved an award

of 10 contracts worth Rs

21 billion for connectivity

of the un-served and un-

der-served communities of

Baluchistan, Punjab, Sindh

and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

broadband projects, high-

ways and motorways projects and optical fiber cable

(OFC) projects will provide

4G LTE connectivity and

backhaul connectivity to

approximately 3.5 million people by connecting 187

Union Councils (UCs) with

1,554 km of OFC and pro-

viding seamless connectiv-

ity to 622 km of unserved

road segments on the M-8

motorway and N-35 high-

way. Additional Secretary

(Incharge), Ministry of In-

formation Technology (IT)

and Chairman of USF Board

Mohsin Mushtaq Chandna

Telecommunication,

high-speed mobile

(KP) provinces.

(PTDC) to celebrate International Tourism Day 2022. The themes for the competitions included Tourist Attractions of Pakistan, Landscapes, Culture and Life, Adventure Sports and Flora & Fauna. While the painting competition was in two age categories including youth and kid competitions.

The final paintings and photographs were showcased to encourage the talent of

presenting their papers em-

phasized the need to pre-

pare the education frame-

work of 2025. The speakers

said that "Education" was

the greatest weapon to

bring about positive change

was need to formulate a

common policy to review

the method of education,

upgrade teacher education

and curricula and intro-

duce an educational system

lated Allama Igbal Open

University, especially Vice

Chancellor Professor Dr

Zia Ul-Qayyum for his ef-

forts to connect education

with the overall develop-

ment of society and to deal

with social and economic

Two foreign delegates - Dr

Jason Laker, Professor of

Higher Education, Student

Affairs, and Community De-

velopment, San José State

challenges.

speakers congratu-

based on moral values.

in society, therefore there speakers of the opening

the participants while Advisor to Prime Minister, Awn Chaudry inaugurated the show and termed the works as great effort by the young and budding artists to create awareness among the general public about the importance of tourism, environment related issues and promotion sustainable and responsible tourism. Managing Director, PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana, on

University (SJSU) and Dr

Faith Muirhead, Senior

Associate Director of the

Professional Development

Center at the Universi-

ty of Delaware, Newark,

USA - were the foreign

session, while Prof. Dr Ir-

fan Ahmed Rind from IBA

Sukkur university was the

national speaker. Professor

Dr Shahid Siddiqui, in his

keynote address, said that

the main purpose of edu-

cation and training was to

train the collective minds of

any society and enable them

to cope with the demands of

the present age. He said that

education was a medium of

delivery, but it was related

to change. The mind can be

controlled through good train-

ing, Dr Shahid said, adding

that time was changing very

fast, and "we need to redefine

the role of education as a tool

of change, step-by-step with

pose of this competition was to engage the youth in healthy activities side by side educating them on tourism related activities and celebrate the World Tourism Day.

World Tourism Day was designated by the World Tourism Organization (UN-WTO) in September 1979, with the commemoration to commence in 1980. This

with an important milestone in world tourism: the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September 1970. The theme for this year is "Rethinking Tourism".

date was chosen to coincide

The exhibition was followed by two day National Conference in which experts and representatives of provincial, federal governments and related departments

discussed topics like removing bottlenecks to promote foreign tourism in Pakistan, recovery of tourism after floods and widespread rains, issues and challenges of mountaineering and trekking tourism in Pakistan, tourism development and promotion in Islamabad Capital territoof Tourism.-APP

ry, Initiatives of provincial tourism departments for the development and promotion Islam protects rights of society: IIUI Rector

ISLAMABAD: Rector, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Professor Dr. Muhammad Masoom Yasinzai on Monday said Islamic principles protected rights of each segment in a society. He said this during the concluding ceremony of a one day International Conference on "Social Protection; Practices, Experiences and Way Forward". The conference was jointly hosted by the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, FSS, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI) and Social Protection Resource Center (SPRC) with the support of UNICEF here at Allama Iqbal Auditorium of the university. Focusing on the theme of the conference "Universal & Life-Course Social Protection as Way Forward" Dr. Masoom Yasinzai highlighted the scope of social protection in the third world countries and urged to adopt the golden principles of Islam. He also referred to the pain and misery of people facing flood in Pakistan. He congratulated Chairman, Sociology Department, Dr. Akhlaq Ahmad Social Protection Resource Center (SPRC) Islamabad for organizing this international conference and also thanked UNICEF, Pakistan for support-Earlier, the inaugural session was preing the event. sided over by Professor Dr. Ayaz Afsar, Vice President (Academics), IIUI, who appreciated the efforts by the department of sociology and organizing team. He emphasized the importance of social Protection and its role in Pakistan in particular.-APP

Labourers become unemployed due to floods:

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Sajid Hussain Turi Monday said thousands of industrial and daily wage labourers had become unemployed due to catastrophic floods in the country and the government's priority was to provide employments to them in collaboration with international organizations. He said this during his visit to International Labor Organisation (ILO). Federal Secretary and other senior officers of the ministry also accompanied him. From the ILO and OIC Peter Buwembo and Manzoor Khalig, Sr. Technical Specialist, Employment, DW, Peace and Resilience, ILO Geneva, briefed the minister and his team on the process of collecting and assimilating data based on existing national surveys. The minister was informed about unemployment and difficulties of workers due to floods by ILO. The problems faced by the workers due to flood and the measures taken to solve them were discussed

Turi showed his commitment to cooperate with world bodies

in the meeting.- APP

ISLAMABAD, Sep 26 (AP-P):The Education Testing Council (ETC), viz. Higher Education Commission (HEC) has announced that its portal etc.hec.gov.pk will remain open until October 3, 2022 midnight for the third batch of students who wish to take the Undergraduate Studies Admission Test (USAT).

According to the HEC, their USAT will be held on October 16, 2022. If there is a change in the test date, it will be communicated to applicants individually as well as through email/ SMS.

The ETC conducts USAT for admission at the undergraduate level in universities operating all over Paki-

The USAT is designed on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) pattern and covers all known disciplines of Engineering, Medicine (Allied Health), IT, Management and Social Sciences at the undergraduate entry level. The students after qualifying respective USAT would stand eligible to all relevant universities accepting it, like the SAT.-APP

Education ministry announces vacant positions ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has announced the

vacant positions of Vice Chancellors and Rector of three major universities of the federal capital. According to official sources, the posts of Vice Chancellors of Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU), Allama Iqbal Open University and Rector, International Islamic University (IIU), Islamabad soon to be vacant and will be filled through legal process.

The Search Committee for appointment of Vice Chancellors/Rector, constituted by the President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan/Chancellor, Federally Chartered Universities invites applications from accomplished and strongly motivated academic leaders and administrators who can further develop and improve the management of the important institutions of intellectual growth and higher learning. As per details of eligibility criteria, the applicant shall not be more than 65 years of age on the last date fixed for submission of applications. However, he/she may have earned a Ph.D Degree from an HEC recognized or UNESCO - listed institutions. - APP

chaired the USF Board of

Directors meeting, said

a news release issued on

Monday. While congratulat-

ing the USF Board on the

launch of 10 projects, Fed-

eral Minister for IT and Tel-

ecommunication Syed Amin

Ul Haque said, "Ministry of

IT and Telecommunication

through USF has taken

another concrete step to

fulfil the vision of Digital

Pakistan. We are on the path of 'Meaningful Con-

nectivity and Smart Phone

"These projects will en-

hance social equality,

employment opportuni-

ties, and digital literacy

of people in the backward

areas and strengthen the

foundations of our digital

infrastructure. I am proud

to say that we are the

frontrunner in creating information-rich commu-

nities and accelerating so-

cioeconomic growth in the

country.-APP

for All Policy.'

Rs 21 bln contracts

awarded for remote

areas' connectivity

Our priority is Pakistan, not politics: Javed Latif

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Mian Javed Latif on Monday said Pakistan Mus lim League Nawaz (PML-N) has saved the country from bankruptcy by taking difficult political decisions.

Talking to a private news channel, he said PML-N has history to sacrifice personal interests and given priority to the state over politics. Javed Latif said that under the visionary leadership of Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan was on the path of development until 2017. Nawaz Sharif's disqualification was under the conspiracy and Pakistan was pushed into the quagmire of difficulties under

the conspiracy, he added.



Raja Pervaiz Ashraf at Parliament House.=DNA PHOTO

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Search operations conducted

RAWALPINDI: The police on Monday, under the National Action Plan, conduct ed a search operations in Dheri Hassanabad and adjoining areas to arrest criminals and proclaimed offenders, the spokesperson said. He informed that heavy police contingent, Elite Force, Special Branch personnel and Ladies police along with officials of Civil Line police conducted search operations in and around Dheri Hassanabad.

Moreover, data was collected from a total of 99 houses, 23 tenants and 21 shops. Around 290 suspects were questioned during the operation.-APP

Police arrested son for torturing parents

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a son for torturing and hurling threats to kill his parents here on Monday, informed police spokesman. The victim woman filed an application to Taxila police station that her son Zeeshan threatened her and his father for dire consequences for not giving money.

On the request of the woman, the Taxila police registered a case under the Parental Protection Ordinance and arrested the accused Zeeshan. SP Potohar said that violence against women would not be tolerated, he added. "Islam teaches us a lesson to give respect, love to parents", he remarked.-APP

Ahsan for promoting culture of tolerance

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Plan-Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday highlighted the importance of promoting tolerance and positive attitudes to safeguard national interest. Addressing the launching ceremony "Dukhtaran-e-Pakistan Training Manual" at Shariah Academy International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), the minister underlined the necessity of working together towards nation-building.He there was need to learn a lesson from history and condemn all the attitudes that are not in national interest. He said there was need to promote culture of tolerance and avoid all the attitudes that lead to intolerance adding different people may have different opinions and ideologies which should be accepted. –**APP**

PAF distributes two months ration amongst flood affectees

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has distributed two months ration among the flood victims enabling them to be self-sufficient until the rehabilitation work was completed in the flood affected areas. The PAF was vigorously undertaking rehabilitation operation for flood victims of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab where the flood affectees are also provided free of cost medicines and medical care at PAF Field Medical Camps, a PAF news release said on Monday. -APP

Briefs Emirates Hospital treats 7,000 flood-hit people

Doctors and medical workers have been battling increase in waterborne diseases and other infections, and struggling to treat sick and deliver medicines

Field Hospital has successfully treated more than 7,000 children, women and the elderly affected by floods in Pakistani villages. Since the start of the unprecedented monsoon rains and flooding, more than 1,600 people have died and thousands more have been injured. The floods have affected 33 million people, leaving hundreds of thousands homeless.

Doctors and medical workers have been battling the increase in waterborne diseases and other infections, and struggling to treat the sick and deliver medicines. food supplies and tents to people displaced by the floods. The Emirates Field Hospital in Sindh Province

in Pakistan is on the frontline to provide medical assistance to the flood-hit families through mobile medical teams, mobile clinics and a field hospital equipped with the latest diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive equipment.

Working under the supervision of the UAE Embassy in Islamabad and the Consulate General in Karachi in coordination with the Pakistani Ministry of Health, it is operated with the participation of UAE and Pakistani doctors who are volunteers in the Emirates Medical Relief Programme.

The joint initiative of UAE and Pakistani health and humanitarian institutions has proven to be a distinctive model of joint humanitarian

work to alleviate the suffering of patients, especially children, women and the elderly. Dr Adel Al Shamri Al Ajmi, CEO of Zayed Al Ataa Initiative, chief physician of the UAE and director of the Emirates Medical Relief Programme, said that the Emirates Field Hospital enhances its humanitarian tasks through its mobile medical teams in villages located in the vicinity of flood-affected areas in Sindh province. Gulf news reported. This is done according to a study prepared by the team to cover the segments that have not been reached by humanitarian and health services to reduce the effects of the disaster in Pakistan. He pointed out that

UAE doctors launched their

programme in various Pakistani villages through the efforts of volunteer doctors in the Emirates Medical Relief Programme.

The initiative continues its diagnostic and therapeutic programmes with more gradual expansion to accommodate the largest number of affected segments in the vicinity of its humanitarian services to reduce the seriousness of the health situation and the repercussions of the disaster on the most affected groups.

He pointed out that the doctors of the UAE-Pakistan Field Hospital have succeeded in gaining the best and specialised medical competencies from the UAE and Pakistan. The facility is enabling them

tic, therapeutic and preventive services to thousands of women, children and the elderly through the mobile clinics of the field hospital. This is in line with the directives of the wise leadership led by the President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to adopt innovative humanitarian and to translate the vision of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, by activating the humanitarian partnership and empowering young people in the service of humanity.

skills and bubbly persona.

heart emoticon.-APP

to volunteer in the field and of those affected by chronvirtually to provide diagnosic diseases in light of their inability to reach the health clinics where they are treated. This was in addition to providing various pharmaceutical items and conducting medical examinations that revealed many different pathological conditions. Mumtaz Al Balushi, director of Humanitarian Physicians in Pakistan, said that projects, the Emirates Field Hospital and its mobile units have delivered the necessary medical services and dispense free medicines to those affected in the most affected areas, despite the logistical challenges caused by the damage to infrastructure and the dredging of Dr Adel explained that the roads leading to those arvolunteer medical teams focused on meeting the needs

'He inspires

me as an actor'

ISLAMABAD: The epitome of brilliance, style and tal-

ent Arisha Razi, who is mostly known as one of the

most-loved child stars in the industry has earned a spot

in the hearts of millions due to her spectacular acting

Previously, the young diva became talk of the town

when her spellbinding nikkah photos went viral on so-

This time around, the starlet is singing praise for Paki-

stan's most-adored actor, producer and television host

Turning to her social media handle, the Chupke Chup-

ke sensation shared a heart-touching note full of love

and praise along with a couple of photos with the re-

"There are very few actors whom are dear to me, I

have worked with them frequently even grew up infront

of them. Back then when I have started working in media

industry, Faysal Quraishi is one of those I have played the

role of his daughter several times" Razi wrote While prais-

ing the starlet, Razi also spilled the beans about how she

felt, meeting Quraishi after a long time "2 days back I met

him after years and find no change in him as a person.

He inspires me as an actor, he is a gem", "I remem-

ber he used to say you will be playing my heroine one

day because he admires my acting skills although

this has not happened yet" Concluding the note,

the diva shared a humorous memory followed by a

Seminar on Current Trends in **Virology**

ISLAMABAD:COMSTECHthe OIC Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation will arrange a seminar on 'Current Trends in Virology and Epidemiology; Women's Health" on September 27, as a hybrid event.

papillomavirus Human (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection. Cervical cancer is the most prevalent HPV-associated cancer, and some cancers of the reproductive organs and oropharynx (back of the throat, including the base of the tongue and tonsils) are also caused by HPV. Cancer often takes years, even decades, to develop after a person gets HPV. Many women do not know they have HPV, because it usually has no symptoms and usually goes away on its own.

Scientists and young researchers from all over the world will participate in this international seminar. -APP

Railways to start professional healthcare services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways was planning to shortly provide qualified healthcare services to 70,000 current and 150,000 retired employees of the department along with their families with the help of 7,000 expert doctors.

The basic aim of the project was to provide quality and accessible healthcare services to Pakistan Railways' 70,000 current and ex-employees and millions of passengers nationwide, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP here Monday.

In this regard, he said that Pakistan Railways had already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 'Sehat Kahani' for the provision of best healthcare facilities to railways employees. He said that use of technology and innovation was extremely needed to fill the gap of access to healthcare to railways employees as well as millions of passengers to trust its services.-APP



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of students from CSS Socrates visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Real estate sector urged to help flood-affected people

ISLAMABAD: The real estate sector was urged on Monday to extend every possible support to the people of flood-affected areas for early rehabilitation.

limate Change has brought to our villages and towns, resulting in millions of people being displaced and shelterless. As a nation, we should extend all that we can in support of our people," said AAA Associates Chairman Sheikh Fawad Bashir while talking to APP here Monday. He appealed to his community to began relief activities on priority to provide essential daily necessities and assist flood

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's re-

cent climate-induced flood-

ing has given the world a

wakeup call to come up with

certain solutions to simulta-

neously tackle drought and

urban flooding to avoid hu-

man catastrophes in the fu-

ture. The country's experts

cognizant to the issue have

forcefully suggested on

Monday to adopt groundwa-

ter recharge wells technol-

ogy as a national policy to

counter urban flooding and

ensuing drought due to cli-

mate change. The ground-

water recharge well was a

cost effective nature based

solution to revive aquifer

and mitigate the risk of ur-

ban flooding through most

modern indigenous technol-

ogy available. The Institute

of Urbanism, International

Water Management Insti-

tute (IWMI), and Pakistan

Council for Research on

Water Resources (PCRWR)

Sheikh Fawad expressed his solidarity with the people that have lost their homes, their farms and all the sources of their livelihood. Keeping up the spirit nity, he said his company was actively participating in flood relief efforts. Along with the flood relief aid in Quetta, it had made a cash donation to the affected

people in Sindh and Skardu,

'Groundwater recharges tech

ultimate solution to urban flooding'

and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

(HBS) organized media fel-

lowship on Harvesting Rain-

water for Urban Flood Man-

agement. Chairman PCRWR

Dr Muhammad Ashraf told

APP that the groundwater

recharge solutions were the

need of the entire country.

Especially in the prevailing

floods that occurred in an

unprecedented fashion in Pa-

kistan, he added. Dr Ashraf

said Pakistan was facing

environmental degradation

as in one season it had dry-

ness and in other there were

floods. The rainwater storage

solutions like artificial lakes

at housing societies or artifi-

cial recharge wells would help

manage rainwater, he said,

adding, "60% agriculture use

water is coming from ground-

water resources. We will have

to either reduce groundwater

extraction or increase water

table recharge". Dr Ashraf

elaborated that watershed

MD AAA Associates Lt. Col. (r) Shahzad Ali Kiani also expressed his concern as well and said, am deeply troubled about the current floods in Pakistan, which

been exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

He said the government presented the damage estimating that the economic impact of the floods would nearly 3 percent of the country's GDP. He emphasized the need to prove that patriotism is above any nationality and help people impacted by the devastating floods. In these times of despair, the real estate industry must come together to assist the people of flood hit areas regardless of political affiliation, he remarked. The recent monsoon floods

in Pakistan have run havoc

management was imperative

for flood and drought management whereas catchment

area enhancement was also

crucial for this purpose. The

artificial recharge wells' pur-

pose was to intercept rain-

water near catchment area

and inject it into groundwater

well. "It will help save water

from evaporation, ponding

He informed that the Capi-

tal Development Authority

(CDA) was establishing 100

recharge wells and 20 mon-

itoring stations from its own

resources in the federal cap-

ital which showed the inten-

tion and motivation of the

civic body after successful

implementation of the pilot

"Out of which 50 recharge

wells have conserved 10 mil-

lion gallons water which at

first replenished the ground-

water and then reduced Nul-

lah Lai flooding.-APP

and pollution."

projects.

of people have lost their lives and millions have lost their homes and liveli-

hood.-APP

10 minutes Drive from The Monal Islamabad



ISLAMABAD: Female visitors and taking keen interest in a beautiful Photo during two-day conference and photography exhibition on the theme "Rethinking Tourism" to celebrate World Tourism Day organized by PTDC at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). APP

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05

Crimes against humanity

IXTEEN years after it began – and half a century after Cambodia's Khmer Rouge claimed perhaps 2 million lives – the UN-backed tribunal on its crimes has ended. It concluded its work on Thursday, having cost \$337m and convicted just three men. Other cases were dropped, or blocked by Cambodian judges. Pol Pot, the genocide's chief architect, died without facing justice. Some survivors feel the process fell short of already low expectations. One day later, UN legal experts told the body's human rights council that Russian soldiers had raped and tortured children in Ukraine, among other war crimes. Will victims there ever see justice? The gravest matters to the international community - crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide - are the hardest and slowest to pursue. Those who are most responsible are the least likely to face justice, for the same reason: their power. Legal processes are inevitably politicised and imperfect. Even when justice can be achieved, it cannot revive the dead, or erase their pain, or wipe away the trauma of survivors.

The Cambodia tribunal opened in 1998, the year that the Rome statute was adopted as the basis for the international criminal court (ICC). A longstanding proposal had gained fresh impetus in the wake of genocide in Rwanda and Yugoslavia (though those were addressed through specially created tribunals). But it was weakened by the refusal of the US, China, Russia and others to support it, and almost all its initial investigations focused on Africa. A sense of despondency set in as the atrocities in Syria unfolded, Bashar al-Assad's regime perpetrating atrocities with impunity. Yet efforts have persisted and a German court this year jailed a former Syrian intelligence official for life for crimes against humanity on the basis of universal jurisdiction. There may be signs of renewed purpose in the ICC and among NGOs, lawyers and scholars. The ICC launched investigations into alleged war crimes in Afghanistan - including by government forces and US troops, though it later said it would focus on the Taliban and Islamic State - and in the Palestinian territories. Ukrainian authorities have already prosecuted Russian soldiers, with the first convictions in May. It is easier to pursue perpetrators while they are still on Ukrainian soil. But urgency also comes from the knowledge that evidence must be found and saved, and that establishing culpability now might just help to deter further crimes like those in Bucha or uncovered last week at Izium. New methods and practices have been used in Syria and now Ukraine to establish accountability and help to accurately record evidence. There are growing calls for a special tribunal to prosecute the crime of aggression, which the ICC could not investigate, allowing Vladimir Putin to be held directly accountable. The paradox is that the grim and laborious work of seeking justice must begin at once. The pursuit of accountability requires both urgency and tenacity - acting now, and persisting for years or decades.

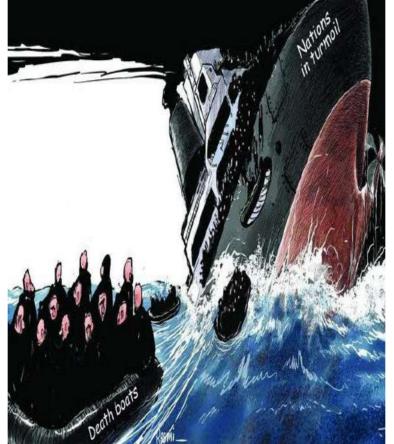
Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC Certified Vol: 03 Issue: 51

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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Global efforts for peace needed

HE more severe and complex the international situation becomes, the more urgent it is for countries to maintain communication and interaction. That the Chinese delegation was one of the busiest ones among all the delegations on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week has demonstrated China's strong sense of responsibility as a major country. The Chinese delegation, headed by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, participated in more than 40 bilateral and multilateral activities, some of which it organized.

In contrast to the fierce and divisive geopolitical games of the United States and its allies, China upholds multilateralism and a fair international order, so it is no surprise that the Chinese delegation's efforts to promote peace and shared development should be warmly received. At the general debate of the UN General Assembly, Wang put forward a six-point proposal on how China should respond to the call of the times, urging all countries to stand up for peace, development, openness, cooperation, unity and fairness rather than their opposites.

Three years ago, then US president Donald Trump declared in the UN General Assembly that the future does not belong to globalists, and openly questioned the authority of the UN. Last week, his successor Joe Biden called on countries to uphold the UN Charter. Yet his administration has repeatedly and openly failed to do that.

The common aspirations of all countries should not be hijacked by the selfish agenda of an individual country or a small clique. The international community as a whole should oppose the universal aspiration of all peoples for a better life being usurped by the narrow interests of the privileged few. The core issue of this era is neither the so-called duel between democracy and authoritarianism, nor the deliberately intensified bloc politics or ideological camp confrontation, but rather the question of whether or not countries are willing to work together for shared development and shared security.

China's Global Development Initiative and Global Security Initiative have resonated with so many countries because they are not based on serving the interests of any one country or a small group of countries but rather aimed at striking a balance. The reason why so many countries have expressed their support for Wang's proposals is that China has proved that its endeavors to build a community with a shared future for mankind are not a cause that it is just paying lip service to. China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development, a defender of the international order, a provider of public goods and a mediator of hot issues.

Those making irresponsible remarks against China's "stance" in relation to the Ukraine crisis during the UN General Assembly are also those openly supporting the secessionists in Taiwan and Xinjiang. Is that just coincidence?

Ijtehad for better society

Saeed Ahmed Shaikh



Ijtehad is usually taken as a theological term that refers to the process of deriving laws of Islamic Shariah from its supreme sources i.e., Holy Quran and Sunnah. But if you peep deeper into the spirit of Islamic Shariah, ijtehad does not appear as such limiting; it invariably comes out as a concept that invites collective wisdom of each and every Muslim society around the globe to be part of a 'mega collective wisdom' that can become instrumental in handling the problems that perpetual process of 'change' poses or has been posing since centuries

E are living in a fascinating world. A world whose charm is unending. We are lucky to be the inhabitants of this charismatic globe which offers countless pleasures. Our ancestors were however star-crossed as they lived in a comparatively less-fascinating world. They missed its hundreds and thousands of gratifications including gladdening themselves from electronic gadgets, booting out Boeings and air-buses, hanging down on manuscripts for knowledge, enjoying online shopping with virtual currencies and so on and so forth. List of our forefathers' deprivations is too long.

Nothing is perpetual except 'change'. The perennial presence of 'change' is an unchallenged fact and history is also clear-cut testimony to it. None of the surviving societies has remained static so far, nor can it afford to remain so. Those who resisted 'change' are now nowhere. Even history has wiped them out from its pages. Let us accept this reality in toto. No one can deny the fact it was Muslims' readiness to revere perpetual nature of 'change' that they enjoyed their 'Golden Era' in a dashing way. They were cordial, accommodative. tolerant and ready to mould their societies as per requirements of 'change'. They didn't resist the perpetual process of 'change'; rather they devised strategies to accept 'change' as reality at the same time holding their faith tightly. And unluckily when they didn't respond timely to the 'change' or at least miscalculated the speed of 'change', they were among the losers and they also paid for it. Victory has thousand fathers, but defeat is an orphan. Muslims' readiness to accept change as reality is also envisaged in their religion. We term this readiness as 'Ijtehad'. No fault lies in our religion; it lies in our slackness.

Ijtehad is usually taken as a theological term that refers to the process of deriving laws of Islamic Shariah from its supreme sources i.e., Holy Quran and Sunnah. But if you peep deeper into the spirit of Islamic Shariah, ijtehad does not appear as such limiting; it invariably comes out as a concept that invites collective wisdom of each and every Muslim society around the globe to be part of a 'mega collective wisdom' that can become instrumental in handling the problems that perpetual process of 'change' poses or has been posing since centuries.

Early Muslim theologists rightfully believed that ijtehad could perpetuate the efficacy of Islamic jurisprudence in face of ever-changing socio-religious or politico-economic conditions of the globe. These wise men, through their God-gifted

wisdom, had predicted that 'change' is perpetu- Muslim societies vis-a-vis protection of enal and Islamic jurisprudence can only match up this if ijtehad is made a regular phenomenon of Muslim societies. Muslims societies have always adorned true mujtahidins. History is a clear-cut testimony of this fact.

However, during later medieval period and even till the time large swathes of Muslims' land were colonized by the European powers, Muslims ignored the true spirit of ijtehad by making it a purely religious subject used for deliberating upon purely ideological matters which have very less to do with the practical social lives of common Muslims.

Irrespective of their glory or downfall, Muslim societies from within have always remained vibrant. Muslims are blessed in the sense that they accept wisdom as their 'lost treasure'. As narrated by Abu Hurairah (RA), the Holy Messenger of Allah said: 'The wise statement is the lost property of the believer, so wherever he finds it, then he is more worthy of it." Arab Republic of Egypt through its Ministry of Awqaf is currently hosting a general conference on "Ijtehad as the Necessity of the Modern Era" under the auspices of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the Egyptian President. This is an event which can be safely termed as the most sincere effort from a Nation-state to redefine the word 'ijtehad'.

Egypt, since the period of auspices of Fatimid dynasty, holds great significance in history. Even afterwards, it has immensely contributed to humanity's intellectual and Cultural Revolution. Courtesy to University of Al'Azhar (which was opened in Cairo for prayers in 972) and vibrant leadership of this land, Egypt has been continuously patronizing intellectual growth of Muslim Ummah.

What can be more captivating than the fact that the conference even invites the focus of

vironment in the light of Quran and Sunnah through the institution of ijtehad. The conference has timely and aptly invited mega collective wisdom of Muslims across the globe on each and every contemporary subject: virtual currencies, corneal transplantation, machine slaughtering of animals, climate change, afforestation, media landscapes, etc. It is a big opening. Egypt has become harbinger. It would be injustice if the magnificent presence of the delegation of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not praised and acknowledged. His Highness Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Crown Prince His Highness Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud have always been supportive to all efforts carried out for the glory of Islam.

Hats off for the President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and his Minister for Awgaf Professor Mohamed Mukhtar Jumah. Praise and applaud is also due to Islamic Broadcasting Union (IBU), which is a subsidiary platform of OIC, for inviting its members to participate in this two-day conference in Egypt. The way elders of IBU, especially Mr. Ahmed Al Murtda has been facilitating the guests from various Muslim countries so that they are able to reap the benefits of this conference is extremely praiseworthy. Change is perpetual so is the religion of Islam. Muslim Ummah is once again on the path of searching out its lost treasure, the wisdom. Again congratulations to Arab Republic of Egypt.

-The writer is Director General in Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan and is currently attending 33rd General Conference of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Egypt



Pakistan is paying the Price

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Smriti Mallapaty from Nature portrayed the disaster in these words, "Rivers breaking their banks, flash flooding and glacial lakes bursting, Pakistan is experiencing its worst floods this century. At least two-thirds of the country's districts have been affected. Scientists say several factors have contributed to the extreme event, which has displaced some 33 million people and killed more than 1,200." It is unbearable to notice miseries of millions of these displaced people without any shelter

UMANITY is no one'slegacy it belongs to the one who has the cognizance for compassion and empathy. The Secretary General of the United Nations personally witnessed the devastations and tweeted, "Pakistan and other developing countries are paying a horrific price for the intransigence of big emitters that continue to bet on fossil fuels, From Islamabad, I am issuing a global appeal: Stop the madness. Invest in renewable energy now. End the war with nature". According to The Guardian the UN chief appeals for 'massive' help as floodhit Pakistan puts losses at \$30bn.

United States of America is the leading per capita greenhouse gas emitter followed by the Russia and Japan. International response to the recent disastrous floods in Pakistan exposed real face of big emitters of greenhouse gases. Despite loud and clear message from Mr.Guterres the response of these top three emitters of greenhouse gases remains unsatisfactory. A press release of USAID on September 09, 2022 suggests an aid of meagre \$50.1 million in disaster assistance against the gigantic loss of more than 30 billion dollars due to the climate change which a common man in Pakistan bears at the cost of their lives and entire loss of livelihood based on seasonal crops and livestock. The Express Tribune suggests that Japan the third biggest emitter announced \$7 million relief goods. We can't find any contribution from Russia the second biggest emitter in relief activities except two transport planes. Interestingly the statements of officials of both countries refer their relief support to the appeal of Pakistan. None of top three emitters mentioned even a word about the tyranny of climate change which emerged due to their apathy to reduce greenhouse gases for the benefit of entire humanity. Ben Clarke from University of Oxford and his colleagues concluded their thorough debate in these words, "Pakistan is undoubtedly on the front lines of climate change. In the ongoing flooding, it is clear that climate change created a compounding set of circumstances causing millions of additional people to suffer than otherwise might have. Projections are very clear that with further climate change, Pakistan is a hotspot for increases in extreme rainfall. The country must prepare for future flooding to avoid similar or even worse disasters. To do so, international adaptation funding must increase to match rich countries' overwhelming contribution to this new climate.Pakistan has more than 7,000 glaciers in its northern mountainous regions. As these glaciers melt, their waters contribute to the flooding. This melting is driven to a large degree by climate change." It is extremely disappointing to notice indifference of top emitters and referring to the appeal repeatedly without realising that millions of people are suffering only because of their irresponsibility and insensitivity to the planet and the mankind who form beauty of our existence. Smriti Mallapaty from Nature portrayed the disaster in these words, "Rivers breaking their banks, flash flooding and glacial lakes bursting, Pakistan is experiencing its worst floods this century. At least two-thirds of the country's districts have been affected. Scientists say several factors have contributed to the extreme event, which has

displaced some 33 million people and killed more than 1,200." It is unbearable to notice miseries of millions of these displaced people without any shelter. Starved and barefooted children lacking clothing with bees bussing around their beautiful innocent faces lying on grounds waiting for food are making mockery of entire exceptional development of today's civilised world. Is it for this time we progressed to put pregnant women deliver their babies in dirty muds of manmade flooding due to extensive emissions of greenhouse gases? Can we compensate a person who struggled for entire life to provide shelter and a reasonable life to his family and a deluge caused due to the ambitions of developed nations destroys his/her entire life with a single stroke? Can anyone give them another life to make their dreams come true? None of us, they are left with tears, helplessness, and embarrassments of looking to others even for their daily food. Generally these people spend their life with grace despite several financial challenges and don't expose their difficulties to others but look at the ruthlessness of the tragedy that they are left with no other option but to seek help and support for the sustenance of their families. We can only imagine and sympathise, it is the person who is suffering, is the only person who truly knows how much it hurts.

Cost of the disaster is far beyond the material loss, it is spiritual and psychological shock which affectees are going through. We only need to imagine the agony of school going children who are longing to resume their schools; we need to determine who is responsible for their loss and anxiety? We need to fix the responsibility. Otherwise it will continue in the same manner victimising other nations and people of other developing countries. To do this we need to take top emitters to the court of justice. We need to make them pay not only for the financial loss of millions of people who were victim of recent floods in Pakistan but also ensure compensation for their psychological trauma they were subject to. We should bring top emitters to the justice to pay for the entire infrastructure which was subject to the tyranny of climate change. It will take years to bring the Country back on the track due to recent devastations of flood adding to the burden of the economy. Therefore, the Government of Pakistan should immediately initiate the process of court proceedings against these top emitters to claim compensation beyond 30 billion dollars which is just an estimated material loss during this monsoon.

The writer is Associate Professor Management Sciences Head, Center of Islamic Finance COMSATS University (CUI) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk

PM summons important NSC meeting

From Page 01 The top military and civilian leadership including defence minister, interior minister, information minister, finance minister and other important cabinet members will participate in the meeting.

The huddle will discuss flood situation, national security and other matters. According to the sources, the NSC meeting is expected to make important decisions in view of the audio leaks. The participants will also be briefed on the law and order situation of the

Audio leaks as worrisome trend...

From Page 01

He said that the world had made important innovations and progress in Cyber Security which has become an important discipline for the safety and security of any nation. He emphasized that Pakistan needed to take decisive and committed initiatives to adopt cyber security technology to lay down the foundation of stability and progress.

COAS lauds Canada's support...

From Page 01 The CM welcomed international assistance to flood affectees and maintained that the flood has caused colossal damages and the government was following a comprehensive strategy to rehabilitate the affected people. Pakistan and Canada enjoy the best friendly relations while a good number of Pakistanis are also residing there, he remarked. However, there is a need to take solid steps to promote trade and economic relations by expanding cooperation in education, health and en-

CEC should resign after PMO...

he maintained.

From Page 01

PML-N leader Maryam Nawaz and some members of the federal cabinet - discussing governance matters privately surfaced over the weekend, prompting concerns over the security of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). In his speech, Imran also alleged that the CEC had blocked the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) on the instructions of PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP co-chairper son Asif Ali Zardari.

"I kept on trying to introduce EVMs for three years [...] But this man, on the instructions of Nawaz and Zardari, who rely on false votes, did not allow EVMs," he claimed. Turning his guns on Maryam, the PTI chief referred to one of the audio recordings purportedly featuring a conversation between PM Shehbaz and an unidentified official about the possibility of facilitating the import of Indian machinery for a power project that was linked to the PML-N vice president's son-in-law. Lambasting the PML-N,

particularly PM Shehbaz, Imran said that his government had ended trade ties with India after New Delhi had revoked occupied Kashmir's special autonomy in August 2019. "There are still no ties, but Maryam's son-in-law [intends] to procure machinery from India," Imran continued, adding: "And what is prime minister cherry blossom's response? He suggests that they bring the machinery via another country instead of telling them not to

import it at all. He further claimed that PM Shehbaz had also assured Maryam's son-in-law that he would not face any obstacles in constructing a grid station worth Rs700 million at one of his housing societies.

He was told that the grid station would be "financed by money from the Pakistani taxpayers", the PTI chief claimed. He continued that in the coming days, there would be more "episodes" in audio leaks saga.

Briefs Palestinians arrested, injured as Jewish settlers enter Aqsa

Abu Rudeineh held the Israeli government "fully responsible for this dangerous escalation and its repercussions". Elsewhere, in the southern occupied West Bank city of Hebron, Palestinians faced more restrictions related to the Jewish New Year

FOREIGN DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Hundreds of ultranationalist Jews have entered the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem - under the protection of Israeli authorities – for the second day in a row, as Israeli police attacked Palestinians gathered in the compound and prevented others from entering.

The Palestinian Red Crescent says at least three Palestinians were injured on Monday by Israeli forces, while journalists reported that 10 others were arrested in and around the compound. Israeli forces were seen using batons to attack Palestinian women and elderly men, as well as journalists. Palestinian journalists reported on Monday that at least 264 ultranationalist Israelis had entered the compound - one of the holiest sites in Islam and a Palestinian national symbol - in Jerusalem's Old City, which Israel occupied and illegally annexed in 1967. On Sunday, more than 400 had entered.

BEIIING: North Korea and

China have resumed freight train services after a five-

month suspension due to

the pandemic, South Kore-

A freight train travelled

from the Chinese border

city of Dandong to North

Korea's Sinuiju, South Ko-

rea's Yonhap news agency

Trains had been suspend-

ed since April 29, after an

outbreak of COVID-19 in

Dandong. It was not imme-

diately clear if the train that

crossed the Sino-Korean

Friendship Bridge on Mon-

day marked the resumption

of regular services, but Yon-

hap news agency quoted an

anonymous source in China

as saying trains would run

China is North Korea's

main economic lifeline, nor-

mally accounting for more

Foreign Desk

TEHRAN: Germany and

Qatar have expressed their

support for efforts aimed

at reviving Iran's 2015 nu-

clear deal, officially known

as the Joint Comprehensive

Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The United States, under

former president Donald

Trump, abandoned the

JCPOA in May 2018 and

launched a "maximum pres-

sure" campaign against the

Islamic Republic in order

to destroy the agreement.

Talks to salvage the agree-

ment kicked off in the Aus-

trian capital of Vienna in

April last year, months af-

ter US President Joe Biden

succeeded Donald Trump,

with the intention of ex-

seriousness in rejoining

the deal and removing its

anti-Iran sanctions.

Washington's

amining

one or two times a day.

reported on Monday.

an media has reported.



The number of ultranationalist Jews - supporters of Israel's settler movement - entering the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound increased on Sunday and Monday in light of Rosh Hashanah, or the Jewish New Year, which is from September 25 to 27 this year.

Some of those who entered prayed

but cross-border commerce

has been sharply curtailed

China's trade with North

Korea, officially known as

the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea (DPRK),

plunged to \$318m in 2021,

down 90 percent compared

with pre-pandemic levels,

according to Chinese cus-

toms data. Aid workers

and analysts have warned

that the country's isolation

has hammered its already

fragile economy and exac-

during the pandemic.

North Korea, China resume

freight train services: reports

chronic malnutrition.

North Korea's economy

shrank an estimated 0.1 per-

cent last year, according to

South Korea's central bank,

following a 4.5 percent de-

cline in 2020. Alastair Mor-

gan, the United Kingdom's

ambassador to North Korea

between 2005 and 2008,

said the significance of the

latest freight train service

would depend on whether

it marked the beginning of

"A one-off shipment of, for

regular operations.

at the site, despite a general consensus among Orthodox Jews that Iewish prayer is not allowed in the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Jewish prayer at the site, which is

also known as the Temple Mount to Jews, is seen as provocative by Palestinians, and a reversal of a decades-long consensus to not allow the practice. That has led to increasing tension with Palestinians, who fear attempts by farright Jews to take over the site. Some far-right Jews have openly expressed a desire to demolish Muslim structures in the Al-Aqsa compound to make way for what is referred to as the Third Temple. mosque compound.

Palestinians had gathered in the compound in an attempt to defend the site. An elderly Palestinian man, Abubakr al-Shimi, was hospitalised after suffering head injuries when he was pushed to the ground by Israeli police in an incident that was filmed. Israeli forces pushed away medical staff who attempted to treat al-Shimi. Members of the press were also attacked, with the head of the Turkish Anadolu Agency office in Jerusalem, Anas Janli, pushed to the ground in an altercation with police.

Israeli forces began restricting Palestinian entry into the compound after dawn Muslim prayers at 6am (03:00 GMT). Entry of ultranationalist Jews began about an hour later and continued on into the afternoon, until about 2pm (11:00 GMT). Palestinians under the age of 40 were banned from entering the mosque, while dozens gathered at the Chain Gate (Bab al-Silsila) and the Lion's Gate (Bab al-Asbat), prayed, and protested. The Palestinian Authority (PA) condemned what it called the "storming" of the

France says controlling inflation is main priority for 2023 budget

France's finance minister said on Monday, as he delivered a 2023 budget subject to what he called 'unprecedented uncertainty' due to the fallout from Russia's war against Ukraine. "The most important and most urgent challenge for France and other European nations is to bring down the inflation pressure," Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire told journalists as he presented the 2023 budget bill.

The ministry said it had budgeted 45 billion euros (\$43.6 billion) next year to cap increases in gas and power prices at 15%, although special levies on energy companies was expected to bring the net cost to 12 billion euros, lower than the 16 billion previously flagged. Le Maire said that "uncertainty has never been greater" about the economic outlook for next year as the war in Ukraine continues to rage and

the United States, Germany and China - further obscured the slowdown. "Political movements in Europe can also impact the euro zone," Le Maire said a day after voters in Italy put the debt-laden country on a path towards its most right-

wing government since World War Two. The Finance Ministry forecast earlier this month that the economy would grow 2.7% this year before slowing to 1% next year, while the central bank expects 0.8% next year at best. Despite the slowdown, the ministry expects to be able to keep the public sector budget deficit steady next year at

PARIS: The fight against inflation is the biggest priority,

Russia's moves remained unpredictable.

Economic slowdowns in France's main economic partners

5% of economic output, leaving the public finances on target to be within an EU-imposed ceiling by 2027. - DNA

than 90 percent of its trade, have resulted in widespread equipment or food would Korean War. – Agencies Pak delegation participated German, Qatari leaders in conference at Moscow back JCPOA

erbated food shortages that example, medical goods and

gation of Pakistan led by Senator Walid Iqbal, Chairman Senate Committee on Human Rights, comprising of Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokar and Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar and Pakistan's Ambassador to the Russian Federation HE Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan today participated in the International Conference on the Occasion of 75th Anniversary of Pakistan Independence at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow. The International Conference on 75th Anniversary of Pakistan was organized by the Institute of Oriental Studies in collaboration with the Embassy of Pakistan in the Russian Federation to highlight and discuss different aspects of place and role of Pakistan in global and regional affairs, cooperation, current progress in the bilateral relations, exploration of cooperation and connectivity, strengthening of Pak-Russia strategic and economic relations. Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights Senator Walid Iqal in his keynote address stressed the need of cooperation between Pakistan and Russia. He acknowledged Russian support of Pakistan membership of SCO and conveyed gratitude for Russian Federation assistance in the wake of unprecedented floods in Pakistan. He stressed the need of realization

MOSCOW: A high level Parliamentary Dele- of cooperation of agreements including the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline project to further boost the relations between the two countries. He mentioned Dr. Allama Iqbal's emphasis on Asian renaissance and how it would positively impact the world. He added that an Asian renaissance was inconceivable without Russia.

not be unprecedented," Morgan told Al Jazeera.

"The resumption of regular

freight shipments could be

expected to support econom-

ic activity and availability of

goods in the DPRK. The eco-

nomic implications for China

at a national level would be

negligible. China in principle

supports trade with the DPRK

in non-sanctioned goods and

favours the maintenance of

North Korean leader Kim

Jong-un last month declared

victory over the coronavirus.

after authorities in the iso-

lated country had reported

about 4.8 million "fever cas-

es" following an extensive

outbreak in May. Kim, the

third member of his family

to rule the secretive state,

has nonetheless acknowl-

edged the hardships facing

North Koreans, likening the

pandemic to the 1950-1953

stability in DPRK."

Ambassador Shafqat Ali Khan, while deliberating upon the bilateral relations between the two countries, noted with satisfaction that the

ernments. He listed significant achievements of Pakistan in various fields. He highlighted strong political consensus in the country for the constitutional democracy and rule of law. He also briefed on various aspects of Pakistan foreign and defense policy and emphasized the importance of settlement of Kashmir issue for peace and security in the region. Welcoming the Chief Guest and distinguished Senators, Professor Vyacheslav Belokrensitsky, Chairman Center for the Study of Near and Middle Eastern Countries, Institute of Oriental Studies said that the occasion provides a valuable opportunity for learned participants to throw lights on various aspects of bilateral and regional issues with their recommendations. - DNA

also seamless irrespective of change of Gov-



'Wales' relegation a price worth paying'

"If you had said to me at the start of June that we would qualify for World Cup and have it go down to one game to win to stay in League A, I would have taken that," said Page. "The playoff final against Ukraine did have an impact on our games either side of it"

CARDIFF: Wales manager Rob Page said relegation from the top tier of the Nations League on Sunday is softened by the prospect of looking forward to his country's first World Cup since 1958 in two months' time. A 1-0 defeat to Poland in Cardiff condemned Page's men to finishing bottom of a group also containing Belgium and the Netherlands. Wales' four Nations League games in June were split either side of a vital World Cup qualifying playoff against Ukraine, which forced Page to rest a number of key players for their 2-1 defeat in Poland to start the group.

Despite the disappointment of dropping down a division, the Wales boss was happy to pay that price for having made it to Qatar. "If you had said to me at the start of June that we would qualify for the World Cup and have it go down to one game to win to stay in League A, I would have taken that," said Page. "The playoff final against Ukraine did have an impact on our games either side of it." Page's most pressing concern is recovering some of his best players in time for their opening game of the World Cup

against the United States on November 21. Aaron Ramsey, Ben Davies and Joe Allen missed both the defeats, to Poland and to Belgium, on Thursday, due to injury.

"For us to compete at the top, top level we're going to need every player fit and

available and playing well," added Page. "That's nothing against the rest of the squad - they're brilliant, to a man - but we need our best players on the pitch."

Gareth Bale was recalled to the starting line-up and lasted the full 96 minutes in a



boost for Wales as his fitness is managed in the lead up to Qatar. But for once, Bale could not provide the spark for the hosts as they fell to just a second defeat in 22 games

at the Cardiff City Stadium. Wales started the night three points behind the Poles, knowing victory would be enough to avoid relegation. Page's men had the better chances before the break as Dan James fired too close to Wojciech Szczesny when one-on-one before Brennan Johnson's goalbound effort was deflected behind by his own teammate James. "There are a lot of positives to take out of the performance. It's just that final pass and final shot - that's where we need to improve and get better," added Page.

'We have to be ruthless with it as, against top teams, chances are few and far between. We've created a lot of chances tonight against a very good team but we haven't been ruthless enough." At the other end, Wales had done well to deny Robert Lewandowski any clear sights of goal but one moment of magic from the Barcelona striker swung the game. Lewandowski cushioned a bouncing ball into the path of Karol Swiderski who slotted under the onrushing Wayne Hennessey.

Six soldiers martyred in helicopter...

FORM PAGE 01 He is survived by a wife and child. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of six army officials including two pilots in a helicopter crash in Harnai, Balochistan.

He said the entire nation was grieved over the loss of lives of the troops. The prime minister prayed for the departed souls to rest in peace and for the grant of patience to the bereaved families.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said on Monday that six Pakistan Army officials, including two majors, were martvred after a helicopter crashed during a flying mission near Khost in Harnai, Balochistan.

"All six personnel on board, including two pilots, have embraced shahadat," the military's media affairs wing said, adding that the incident occurred late last night. In August, a Pakistan Army helicopter - that had gone missing for a day - had also crashed, leaving the same number of military personnel martyred.

The chopper was found in Musa Goth, Windar, Lasbela. It had gone missing en route to Karachi from Quetta at around 5:30pm.

The personnel in the chopper were overseeing flood relief efforts in the southwest of the country.

The ISPR, in a statement, said the accident occurred due to "bad weather" as per an initial investigation.

PTI demands impartial...

From Page 01

announced investigation on the matter hitherto. He lashed out the imported government for being unable to manage its affairs efficiently and demanded that action should be taken against Shehbaz Sharif for providing undue facilitation to procure machinery from India for Maryam Nawaz's son-in-law on her request. Fawad quoted a TV chan-

nel that the imported government was so scared that they were in talks with the hackers to purchase the data that was put on the dark web, demanding \$345,000, who claimed to have more explosive audios, which are yet to be released. However, he that what

was the guarantee that the hacker would not blackmail the government again.

Fawad stated that hackers even claimed that they had even conversations of Pakistan security agencies pertaining to the security related issues.

He said that the breach suggested weak cybersecurity in the PM's Office and that anything could be leaked as no conversation is safe there, adding that the 140-hour-long audio leak of the PM's House has been available on internet since August 20, but no institution was aware of it.

Fawad stated that the IB was the relevant agency that has to monitor the affairs of the PM House, but despite spending billions of rupees, the agency remained completely unaware in this regard.

He said that a Twitter account was then created through which a few minutes of the conversation was leaked to the general public but unfortunately, even after several hours, the imported government failed to react to the unfortunate development. "PTI spent a lot of money to provide the latest equipment to agencies," he added. Fawad termed Rana San-

aullah and Marriyum Aurangzeb's statements on the matter as funny, who, he said, indirectly confirmed the conversation. He said that the National Assembly speaker must summon the PM and other members of the national assembly before the privilege committee to answer about it because it showed that Pakistan has faced a serious national security crisis.

ter Jose Manuel Albares

warned on Monday that

populist movements always

surge during difficult times

but always end badly in re-

sponse to the election re-

sults. "These are uncertain

times and at times like this,

populist movements always

grow, but it always ends in

the same way - in catastro-

phe because they offer sim-

ple short-term answers to

problems which are very

complex," he told reporters

at a briefing. However, San-

tiago Abascal, leader of Vox,

Spain's far-right conserva-

tive party, said on Twitter:

"Giorgia Meloni has shown

the way for a proud, free Eu-

rope of sovereign nations to

be able to cooperate for the

security and prosperity of

all."Australian One Nation

senator, Malcolm Roberts,

took to Twitter to share

a video of Meloni talking

about protecting the family

and said: "Crisp & accurate

2-minute video. The world

is waking to the globalist

predators as inhuman, an-

ti-human scum." The Eu-

ropean Commission said

it hoped for a constructive

relationship with the next

government in Italy, despite

the Brothers of Italy being

a Eurosceptic populist par-

ty. The commission, the

EU's executive, by principle

works "with the govern-

ments that emerge from the

elections", said EU spokes-

man Eric Mamer at a news

briefing.—Agencies

Youssef al-Qaradawi dies in exile at 96

DNA

DOHA: Influential Egyptian cleric Youssef al-Qaradawi has died at the age of 96, his official website announced on Monday.

He died in the Gulf Arab nation of Qatar, where he had been living in exile following the military's overthrow of the government in Egypt in

Al-Qaradawi had been tried and sentenced to death in absentia in Egypt. He is known for being a vocal critic of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who, as defense minister, led the 2013 coup that ousted Egypt's first freely elected president, Mohamed Morsi. For many years while living in exile, he had a popular talk show on Qatar's Al-Jazeera network and often weighed in on political topics. Al-Qaradawi was the founder and former chair of the International Union for Muslim Scholars between 2004 to 2018.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdo an conveved his condolences to al-Qaradawi's family on a phone call Monday. President Erdo an talked to al-Qaradawi's son Abdul Rahman Yusuf and expressed his heartfelt condolences. According to a statement by the Presidency's Directorate of Communications, Erdo an said the late al-Qaradawi showed the best example of how to live as a Muslim throughout his life and did not compromise on his belief.

"May God bless him with paradise and have mercy (on his soul)." used the phrase.

Abdul Rahman Yusuf, on the other hand, thanked the Turkish president and added that they will organize a condolence program in Istanbul next week.

OECD slashes global growth forecast

ISTANBUL: The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has lowered its global economic growth forecast for 2023, and warned that many European countries could face a recession next year.

An OECD interim report released on Monday revised down the global GDP growth estimate from 2.8% to 2.2%, a drop it blamed on "Russia's aggression against Ukraine." World GDP next year will be at least \$2.8 trillion lower than previous projections, it said.

Insufficient supply diversi fication and demand reductions could cause shortages that will push up energy prices, dent confidence and financial conditions, and make it necessary for businesses to temporarily ration their gas use, the report added. "Taken together, these shocks could reduce growth in the European economies by over 1.25 percentage points in 2023, relative to baseline, and raise inflation by over 1.5 percentage point," the OECD "This would push many European countries into a recession in 2023." It added that global inflation will increase by over 0.5 percentage point in 2023, with growth dipping by

Polish PM hails far-right's victory in Italy

just under 0.5 percentage

point.-APP

WARSAW: Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Monday hailed the Italian farright's "great victory' after Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party came top in a general election."Great Congratulations!" Morawiecki said on Facebook, using emojis to say that the two countries would be strong together. Poland's governing Law and Justice (PiS) party and the Brothers of Italy are both part of the rightwing European Conservatives and Reformists Group."I'm glad that a party from the ECR group is assuming responsibility for vet another European nation," tweeted PiS member and former premier Beata

Szydlo.-APP

Briefs World reacts to Meloni's rightwing victory in Italy election Giorgia Meloni is set to become Italy's first female prime minister after leading a right-wing alliance to an election win

Spanish Foreign Minis-

ROME: Giorgia Meloni, the leader of the Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) party, is set to become Italy's first female prime minister after leading a right-wing alliance to victory at Sunday's elec-

Meloni's party, which has fascist origins, is expected to form a coalition with other far-right groups, including League, led by former Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, and Forza Italia, headed by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. As Meloni ran on a ticket

of putting Italians first and staunch anti-immigration policies during her election campaign, many are worried about what her leadership could mean for Italians and its reverberations worldwide. Here is how the world reacted to Meloni's success: Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said France would monitor abortion and human rights in Italy following

Meloni's win. Borne told BFM television: "We will be attentive, with the president of the European Commission, that these values of human rights, the respect of one another, notably the respect of abortion rights, are respected by all." However, she declined to comment directly on Italy's decision to give the Brothers of Italy party a majority on Sunday. "I am not going to comment on the democratic choice of the Italian people," she said. Meanty leaders, including Marine Le Pen and Eric Zemmour, congratulated Meloni on the win.

Le Pen tweeted: "The Italian people have decided to take their destiny into their own hands by electing a patriotic and sovereigntist government. Congratulations to @GiorgiaMeloni and @ matteosalvinimi for resisting the threats of an anti-democratic and arrogant European Union by obtaining this great victory!"

German politicians also expressed concern after Meloni's victory.

Jurgen Hardt, a lawmaker

and foreign policy expert for the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) - currently in opposition said he was troubled by the "openly post-fascist statements" of Meloni and the "hair-raising positions" of her fellow Brothers of Italy party members. "Racism and the exclusion

of minorities can no longer have a place in Europe," Hardt told the DPA news agency. "In Germany and Brussels, the new Italian government will be judged on its contribution to the future of Europe, compliance with the sanctions against Russia and progress in rebuilding the Italian economv." Hardt said.Hardt said Berlusconi, who is nearly 86, had acted as kingmaker in order to share power



hope that at his advanced age he is able to see the implications of his decisions and keep this government on the right track," he said. Meanwhile, the far-right party, Alternative for Germany (AfD), issued a statement celebrating Meloni's win and called it "another

victory of reason". "We, as Alternative for Germany, congratulate Giorgia Meloni on her election and wish her to be the first woman to head an Italian government," it said. "Despite all the undemocratic warnings

from EU Commission President von der Leyen and other politicians, the Italians, like the Sweden Democrats before them, have opted for a change of policy," the statement added.

"And that is their good democratic right. The electoral success of the Fratelli d'Italia is another victory of reason. Germany is pretty much alone in Europe with its left-green traffic light coalition." Balazs Orban, political director to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, celebrated Meloni's

"Congratulations to Giorgia Meloni, Matteo Salvini and Silvio Berlusconi on the elections today! In these difficult times, we need more than ever friends who share a common vision and approach to Europe's challenges.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki congratulated Meloni and hailed the Italian far right's "great victory". Poland's governing Law and Justice (PiS) party and the Brothers of Italy are both parts of the right-wing European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) group. PiS member and former Prime Minister Beata Szydlo tweeted: "I'm glad that a party from the ECR group is assuming responsibility for yet another European nation." Other Polish governing politicians highlighted the overlap between the two parties, including their emphasis on Catholic family values. "The EU right is growing stronger ... We will defeat the communists, leftism and the LGBT lobby - everyone who is ruining our civilisation," Deputy Agriculture Minister Janusz Kowalski said on Twitter. Deputy Justice Minister

Michal Wojcik said Meloni's victory was a "defeat" for European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, calling her a "representative of anti-democratic

US, South Korea begin joint naval exercises

WASHINGTON: The US and South Korea started joint naval exercises on Monday, a day after North Korea fired another shortrange ballistic missile, local media reported.

During the four-day combined exercises in the East Sea, the allies mobilized over 20 vessels, an American aircraft carrier, and South Korean warships, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The US nuclear-powered USS Ronald Reagan arrived in the South Korean waters on Friday to join the comhined exercises.

"Through the training this time, we will further improve capabilities for the navies' combined operations and maintain a firm maritime defense posture based on the solid South Korea-US alliance," the agency quoted a senior South Korean official as saying.

The drill is part of the US and South Korean security cooperation to counter North Korea as tension further grew in the region after Pyongyang adopted a new law to use pre-emptive nuclear strikes to protect itself, declaring North Korea a nuclear weapons state earlier this month.

The US and South Korea have repeatedly offered North Korea dialogue to defuse current tensions on the Korean Peninsula, but neither has received a response. -APP

French Greens party boss Julien Bayou resigns

PARIS: The head of France's Greens party resigned on Monday after being accused of "psychological violence" by a former partner, dealing a fresh blow to the country's beleaguered left-wing political coalition.

Julien Bayou, head of the Europe Ecology Greens party (EELV), said in a statement that he was stepping down due to the "unsustainable" nature of his position. He has denied the allegations and said he would remain an MP, adding that the decision did not call into question "my current or future commitment".

The environmentalist came

under pressure last week

after fellow EELV lawmaker Sandrine Rousseau told a TV show that she had met Bayou's former partner, who was "very depressed". Bayou "has behaviour that causes women mental breakdowns," Rousseau claimed. The explosive allegations came amid a separate scandal that has enveloped the fellow leftwing party France Unbowed (LFI), where a senior MP recently admitted hitting his wife during a break up. Rousseau has faced criticism for publicly undermining a colleague on the basis of allegations about his private life that have not been reported to the police.-APP

Ambassador Donald Blome visits historic Wazir Khan mosque

LAHORE:US ambassador to Pakistan Donald Armin Blome on Monday visited historic Wazir Khan mosque in the old city and praised the cultural heritage of Lahore. During his three-day maiden since his arrival in Pakistan, the US ambassador will visit various places besides watching the flag-lowering ceremony at the Wahga. He will also watch the Pakistan-England T20I match at the Gaddafi stadium during his sojourn. Wazir Khan mosque, since 2009. has been restored and preserved through the Ambassador's Fund while the work on the restoration of the domes inside and different shops and 'hujras' outside the mosque was in progress. Speaking on the occasion, Blome said Lahore was custodian of the rich cultural heritage and the United Satets government is proud of playing its role in the preservation of the cultural sites in the different parts of the country through the Ambassador's Fund, adding that were preserved in the country through the US funding since 2001. "It is inspiring to see work done at this cultural heritage of such magnitude and it continues to be done. The United States government is committed to preserve the cultural heritage sites in Pakistan and the projects like this exemplify depth and breadth of our partnership", the diplomat said, adding that he looks forward to continue the Pak-US partnership in future.

Terming people to people contacts as strength of US-Pak bilateral relations, the

ambassador underlined the importance of the people to people contacts, adding that the projects like this add to the community bonding. He said the Pakistani community in the US was playing mutual ties. Donald A. Blome said,"Pakistan is passing through the most difficult times due to the incessant flooding in most parts of the country and was saddened by the loss of lives and livelihood", adding that the United States government stands side by side with Pakistan. The US envoy said his visit to the city was significant as Pakistan and the US celebrate 75 yeas of diplomatic ties, adding such projects were hoped to shape the surroundings and future of our children. Ambassador Blome was accompanied by US



Counsel General Lahore William K. Makaneole, Public Affairs officer US Consulate Lahore Bryce A. Isham and

Deputy PAO Carl R. Rogers. Earlier, the Director General Walled City Lahore Authority (WCLA) Kamran Lashari

briefed ambassador Donald Blome on the restoration and preservation at the Wazir Khan Mosque.-APP

Current int'l system fails to respond to ongoing problems

News Desk

ANKARA: Noting the importance of countries like Japan, Brazil, and India in a "multi-polar world," the Turkish foreign minister on Monday stressed that the current international system fails to respond to ongoing problems. "The revival of Asia has changed the global balance. Pandemics, climate change, migration, terrorism, and energy and food crises are the common problems of humanity. Unfortunately, the current international system fails to respond to these," Mevlut Cavusoglu told a news conference at the Japan National Press Club in the capital Tokyo. The current system must be used in the face paves way for competition rather than solidarity, Cavusoglu stressed, and said such competition was evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in the migration issue.

"In such eras, global actors need to assume common sense, dialogue, and diplomacy," he said, adding that Türkiye follows such foreign policy actively.

In issues related to Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Caucasus, Libya, and Syria, Ankara has carried on an active policy bearing results in favor of the entire world, according to the Turkish minister. Both soft and hard power

of crises, Cavusoglu noted, saying the ability to "speak to both East and West is an important asset for us. As a NATO member and a candidate for the EU membership, we have been one of the few actors who could manage to have active relations with Russia (amid Moscow's war on Ukraine)." On Türkiye-Japan relations, Cavusoglu hailed the longstanding bilateral ties, affirming his country's readiness to further strengthen Ankara's strategic partnership with Tokyo. "We see great potential in areas like the defense industry, energy, science, and technology," he added. Cavusoglu arrived in Tokvo late Sunday to attend the State Funeral for late Prime Minister Abe Shinzo.

Japan is holding a state funeral for Abe, who was assassinated in early July while delivering an election campaign speech in the western Nara city.

Security agencies have been put on high alert as over 18,000 police personnel will guard the venue set up in a park near the Nippon Budokan Hall in Tokyo, where more than 30 foreign dignitaries will pay tributes to the former leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, known for stabilizing the Japanese political

Chinese People's Association donates relief assistance

BEIJING: A special cere- enterprises and charity mony was held here at the Headquarters of Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) to donate relief and rehabilitation assistance worth RMB 125 million for the flood victims of Pakistan.

Lin Songtian, the President of CPAFFC; Ambassador Sha Zukang, President of China-Pakistan Friendship Association and Mr. Li Xikui, Chairman of China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development (CFFPD) attended the ceremony. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the event was also attended by the leaders of prominent

organizations, media representatives and senior officials of Embassy of Pakistan. Senior government officials of many provinces and cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Tianjin, Hubei, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang etc. also sent special messages of support and sympathy

for Pakistan. Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, President Lin Songtian said that in the wake of devastating floods, the government and people of China have made a substantive contribution to Pakistan's relief and rehabilitation efforts. –APP

China's exhibition platforms can help increase forex

BEIJING: Pakistan can make active use of the China-ASEAN Expo in Nanning, China International Import Expo in Shanghai, Canton Fair in Guangzhou and other product-specific platforms exhibitions in China to increase its foreign exchange reserves

This was stated by Muhammad Irfan, Trade and Investment Counselor, Consulate General of Pakistan in Guangzhou in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). During the 19th China-ASEAN Expo, which was held from September 16 to 19. the Counselor said, "insufficient foreign exchange reserves has been a very

serious problem for Pakistan in the past few years, especially in recent months. Export is an important means to increase foreign exchange reserves and displaying and selling Pakistani products through exhibitions can effectively promote the popularity and export of products to China and other ASEAN coun-

Pakistan exported a range of distinctive products through the exhibition, such as textiles, carpets, sporting goods, marble, furniture, etc. Muhammad Kamil, a Pakistani exhibitor, said that the Chinese love Pakistani handicrafts so much that they have signed short and long-term contracts with Pakistani exhibitors, many of whom are repeat customers.

Pakistan has been participating in the China-ASEAN Expo for many years. A larger Pakistan pavilion has also been on display for the last two years. Each time, about 20 or more exhibitors participate in Pakistan's national platform and trade development.

The signing of the second phase of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement in 2019 allowed 313 more Pakistani products to enjoy duty-free access to the Chinese market. These include

textiles including garments, leather and leather products and fish. Muhammad Irfan mentioned that the Consulate General is working on issues related to the export of Pakistani fruits, meat and dairy products to China.

He added, "despite travel restrictions caused by the pandemic, Pakistan's exports to China have almost doubled in the past three years. Pakistan's export to China crossed \$2.40 billion in the first eight months of this year, up 6.23 percent year on year. And we still have \$3 billion in potential

exports to China." The Chinese government has given preferential treatment to Pakistani products, but many Chinese consumers are curious to know what kind of products Pakistan can offer.

"By building such pavilions at the expo, more Chinese people can learn about Pakistani products, which are of good quality, cost-effective, and from a friendly country to China." the Counselor said.

The Counselor further explained, "in the past two to three years, we have been introducing non-traditional Pakistani products like biscuits, sweets and drinks. which are also highly popular with the Chinese cus-

tomers. We are also promoting Pakistani mangoes through B2B and B2C linkages. Numerous people in Guangzhou have asked to buy Pakistani mangoes. This year we have started efforts to introduce mango pulp and mango juice into the Chinese market." Apart from its active participation in the on-site exhibition. Pakistan has opened online Pakistan pavilions on Chinese e-commerce platforms. The Counselor believes that e-commerce is one of the most modern channels to keep and observe the latest developments in international trade.

Russians by air, sea WARSAW: Poland on Mon-

Poland bars

entry of

day barred the entry of Russian nationals crossing into its land by air and sea. The restriction began a week

after Estonia, Latvia, Lithua-

nia, and Poland closed their

land borders to Russians. barring the entry of most of them, including those with Schengen visas.Deputy Interior Minister Bartosz Grodecki explained last week why there will be a week delay for air and sea border crossings, saying the time will allow air and sea carriers to adjust to the new law. If any carrier allows a barred citizen to enter the EU through Polish border crossings under new regulations, they will be turned away and transported back to the original point of departure. The EU last month reached a political deal on suspending its visa facilitation agreement with Russia, a move that would significantly reduce the number of visas issued by EU member states to Russians. Estonia, Latvia, and Finland had originally proposed an EU-wide blanket ban on tourist visas for Russians. August's full suspension of the visa agreement came after the EU partially halted the deal in February, mainly targeting government officials, diplomats.-APP



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Briefs

US gives a new \$457 min for **Ukraine law** enforcement

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States on Monday announced another \$457.5 million for Ukrainian law enforcement, its latest funding to Kviv in addition to billions for the military as it fights Russian invaders.

The latest assistance will support the national police and border guards and also support efforts to probe alleged atrocities by Russian troops as they withdraw.

"Our provision of personal protective equipment, medical supplies and armored vehicles has significantly reduced casualties for Ukrainian civilians and their defenders," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. "The United States stands side-by-side with the Ukrainian people and remains committed to supporting a democratic, independent and sovereign Ukraine." The United States has committed in total more than \$645 million to Ukrainian law enforcement since mid-December, according to the State Department.

The funding for prosecution of atrocities comes after Ukraine uncovered a mass burial site in the town of Izyum after repelling Russian troops. The bodies of 447 people, mostly civilians, were uncovered, some showing signs of torture.

Protests in Tunisia amid inflation, food shortages

DNA

TUNIS: Hundreds of protesters have taken to the streets in the Tunisian capital as soaring inflation and food shortages have compounded unrest amid the country's ongoing political crisis. Protesters in the working class Douar Hicher district of the capital Tunis lifted loaves of bread in the air as they took to the streets in anger on Sunday evening.

Some gathered burned tyres, while others chanted, "Where is Kais Saied?", in reference to Tunisia's president, who is under pressure as the North African country faces a financial crisis, with inflation running at nearly nine percent and shortages of some food items in stores across the country.

Saied dissolved parliament last year in a move opponents decried as a "coup". Frustrated protesters chanted "jobs, freedom and national dignity", "we can't support crazy price hikes" and "where is the sugar?". Images on social media showed empty shelves at supermarkets, with videos posted on Sunday showing dozens of customers scrambling for a kilogramme of sugar at a market. Many Tunisians have reported spending hours searching for sugar, milk, butter, cooking oil and rice, among other supplies.

Cholera death toll rises to 29 in Syria

DNA

DAMASCUS: At least 29 people have been killed due to a cholera outbreak in several regions of Syria, in what the United Nations has called the worst outbreak in the war-torn country for years. Rapid assessment testing confirmed 338 cases since the outbreak was first recorded last month, with the bulk of deaths and cases in the northern Aleppo province, the Syrian health ministry said in a statement on Monday. 230 cases were reported in Aleppo province, with 25 people confirmed dead.

The UN this month said the outbreak was believed to be linked to the irrigation of crops using contaminated water and people drinking unsafe water from the Euphrates River, which bisects Syria from north to east.

The UN has made an urgent appeal for funds to control the outbreak as well as approvals to "ensure timely delivery" of life-saving medicine and supplies.

Indonesian President Widodo sends humanitarian aid to Pak

The flood damage was estimated at USD 30 billion that destroyed 2 million houses and damaged 23,900 schools, 1,460 health facilities and 13,000 km road network

KARACHI: The Government of Indonesia has joined the international community in providing humanitarian assistance for the flood victims in Pakistan. The President of Indonesia Joko Widodo dispatched humanitarian assistance by two special aircrafts, in the form of packages of medicines, tents, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, mosquito nets, and generators. In his remarks, President Jokowi expressed deepest condolences on his personal behalf and also on behalf of the Indonesian people to Pakistani brothers on the loss of precious human livescaused by heavy floods and landslides. President Joko Widodo also pledged to provide humanitarian grant of USD 1 million and to send a medical team to Pakistan.

The Indonesian Humanitarian Assistance Team is led by the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture, Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi, along with the Chairperson of Commission 8 of the Indonesian House of Representatives AshabulKahfi, Head of Indonesian National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) Lt. Gen. Suharyanto and Director of South Asia at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representatives from other relevant Ministries/Agencies.

The total Indonesian non-cash grant assistance to Pakistan is worth USD 1.2 Million and weighing around 90 tons. Currently, a need assessment is being carried out at the flood affected areas in Pakistan by a team from Indonesian NDMA in close consultation with Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Cultural Affairs. Together, these institutions have taken several initiatives to raise humanitarian assistance to Pakistan from various segments in Indonesia's community including from state enterprises, entrepreneurs and civil society.

On separate occasions, the Indonesian Embassy in Islamabad and the Indonesian Consulate General in Karachi have also taken the initiative to raise humanitarian aid in collaboration with Indonesian students and Indonesian diaspora in Pakistan. The aid worth 1.8 million PKR has been sent through the Pakistan Red Crescent Society. Besides, Indonesian volunteers from DompetDhuafa organization have also built two houses in one of the flooded areas in Sindh Province. The flash floods in Pakistan have killed more than 1,600 people, and submerged one-third of Pakistan's territory. Around 33 million people were affected by the monsoon floods which the UN Secretary-General called "climate carnage", including 650,000 pregnant women. The flood damage was estimated at USD 30 billion that destroyed 2 million houses and damaged 23,900 schools, 1,460 health facilities and 13,000 km road network. More than two million hectares of agricultural land was also swept out by the floods while in some areas, the water inundation is still high and has not receded. The flood refugees are under threat of postflood diseases such as dengue fever, malaria, and diarrhea.





US warned Russia to 'stop the loose talk' on nukes

DNA

WASHINGTON: The US has sent private warnings to Russia to "stop the loose talk" regarding nuclear weapons, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday. In an interview with "60 Minutes," an American television news magazine broadcast on the CBS television network, the top US diplomat confirmed reports that Washington privately warned Moscow against using nuclear weapons.

"We have been very clear with the Russians publicly and as well as privately to stop the loose talk about nuclear weapons," Blinken said in New York on the margins of the UN General Assembly, "It's very important that Moscow



hear from us and know from us that the consequences would be horrific. And we've made that very clear," he said. "Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic effects for, of course, the country using them, but for many others as well," Blinken added. CNN reported on Friday that the State Department was involved in conveying the warnings, and the US may have also relied on sensitive intelligence channels to communicate to the Russians. The report comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a stark warning that he is prepared to use nuclear weapons as he and his proxies prepared to hold polls in separatist-controlled areas of Ukraine.

"When the territorial integrity of our country is threatened, we will certainly use all the means at our disposal to protect Russia and our people. This is not a bluff," Putin said. The polls, denounced as a "sham" by the US and its allies, began on Friday and are slated to run through Tuesday.

Russia admits errors during Ukraine war mobilisation drive

MOSCOW: The Kremlin has admitted mistakes were made in its drive to mobilise Russian army reservists to fight in Ukraine, amid growing public opposition. "There are cases when the decree is violated," Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said, adding that "all the errors will be corrected". Multiple reports say people with no military experience - or who are too old or disabled - are being called up. Last week's mobilisation decree has already triggered widespread protests. President Putin announced what he described as partial mobilisation on 21 September, with Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu later saying 300,000 reservists would be called up. However, reports in opposition Russian media suggested that up to one million people could be called up, pointing out that one paragraph believed to be about the exact number of the required reservists was omitted (classified) in the published version of Mr Putin's decree on the official Kremlin website. A number of military experts in the West and Ukraine say Mr Putin's decision to call up reservists shows that Russian troops are failing badly on the battlefield in Ukraine - more than seven months after Moscow launched its invasion.

Since the mobilisation announcement, more than 2,000 people have been detained at protests across Russia. At a briefing on Monday, Mr Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, conceded that mistakes were being made.

He said that in some regions, "governors are actively working to rectify the situation"

Mr Peskov also said he was unaware of any decisions to shut Russia's borders and impose martial law in the country. Media reports earlier suggested this could be done to stop potential recruits escaping abroad.

In the latest sign of growing public protest, a man critically injured an army recruitment officer in the Siberian city of Ust-llimsk on Monday. Footage has emerged on social media apparently showing the attacker approaching the officer and then shooting him. People in the building are then seen screaming and running in panic after the gunman shouted to them to flee. - Agencies

Chinese govt, people to continue support for flood relief efforts

Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese government had provided 400 million yuan worth of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan and added, the civil society in China had also extended the helping hand

BEIJING: The Chinese government and people will continue to stand with Pakistan and take prompt actions to help flood-stricken people, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Wang Wenbin said on Monday.

China and Pakistan now are all weather strategic cooperative partners and ironclad brothers that have always stood with each other in trying times. Since, Pakistan was hit by the floods, the Chinese side feeling deeply for their brothers and sisters has taken prompt actions to help, he said during his regular briefing held here.

He said that a donation ceremony titled Chinese People for Pakistani Brothers and Sisters was co-hosted by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), China Pakistan Friendship Association and China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development.

The event raised 125 million yuan worth of donations and flood relief supplies out of which some of the supplies have been delivered to the flood-stricken areas, he added.

Wang Wenbin said that the Chinese government had provided 400 million yuan worth of humanitarian assistance to Pakistan and added, the civil society in China had also extended the helping hand. He said, the CPAFFC worked immediately to encourage and organize friendship associations of Chinese cities with sister-city friendships with Pakistani cities as well as the Chinese

enterprises, institutions and philanthropists, among others to take part in the fund-raising.

He said, the event attended by a large number of Chinese officials, enterprises, and people received prompt support from the civil society with the participation of 80 cities which have sister-city relationship with Pakistani cities, 24 friendship organizations and several 100 charitable individuals from 15 Chinese provinces and municipalities. Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that in the event the exceptional amount of donation was indeed very generous and timely and would be immensely helpful in reinforcing Pakistan's ongoing flood relief efforts. - APP

Russia school shooting leaves 13 dead. including children

seven children, after a shooting at a school in the city of Izhevsk in central Russia, investigators said Monday. The attack was the latest in a series of school shootings that have shaken Russia in recent years and came with the country on edge over efforts to mobilise tens of thousands of men to fight in Ukraine. "Thirteen people, including six adults and seven minors, were killed because of this crime," Russia's Investigative Committee said in a statement, adding that 14 children and seven adults were injured. Authorities previously announced a death toll of nine people but did not specify if that included the suspected shooter. Investigators have said two security guards and two teachers were among the victims, adding that the attacker "committed suicide". According to investigators, "he was wearing a black top with Nazi symbols and a balaclava" and was not carrying any ID. The region's governor Alexander Brechalov confirmed there were "casualties and wounded among children", speaking in a video statement outside school No88 in Izhevsk. - APP

ECP reserves Dar's empty **Senate seat** case verdict

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday reserved verdict on a petition seeking to declare Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Leader Ishaq Dar's Senate seat as vacant for not taken oath to his office. Ishaq Dar's counsel Salman Aslam Butt appeared before the commission on behalf of former Finance Minister Ishaq Dar. During hearing, ECP member observed that the government had issued an ordinance that stipulated that if a member did not take oath to his Senate seat within 60 days, his seat would be deemed empty. Counsel Butt argued that Dar's notification regarding winning of Senate seat was issued on March 09, 2018 and it was suspended on March 29, same year.

After dismissal of a petition from Supreme Court, that notification was restored. The lawyer argued that the ordinance did not apply on Ishaq Dar as he could not take oath to his seat when his success notification was already suspended. Dar's lawyer contended that under Article 63-P, no one could be disqualified under a law introduced through an ordinance as the ordinance had already been lapsed. Salman Butt contended that the ordinance enacted by the PTI government was unconstitutional. - APP

British pound hits record low against dollar

LONDON: The pound hit a record low against the dollar Monday on surging fears about the UK economy after the government unveiled a huge tax-cutting budget. The selloff came as equity markets across Asia and Europe fell again owing to a growing expectation that central bank interest rate hikes to fight runaway inflation would lead to deep and painful recessions. Oil also suffered more hefty selling. Officials in several countries including the United States, Britain, Switzerland and Sweden announced more increases in the cost of borrowing. The moves sent equity markets deep into the red again after officials reiterated their focus on fighting inflation, even if that means causing a recession. But the biggest casualty of the week was the pound, which fell below \$1.10 for the first time since 1985 as new finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng announced his controversial mini-budget. - APP

