



Islamabad POST

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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

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US ambassador visits Wazir Khan mosque

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Ishaq Dar arrives in Pakistan

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: PML-N senior leader Ishaq Dar has arrived in Pakistan on Monday. He is set 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

NEW YORK: Foreign Minister 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

KARACHI: PPP leader and Advisor to Sindh Chief Minister for Law Murtaza Wahab on 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 regretfully 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.

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

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 mortar model.

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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 contributions for fostering strong ties between the two countries. The visiting dignitary expressed her grief over

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 on Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at his office. She discussed matters of mutual interest and expressed regret over flood-related losses.

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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 city late last night, the military's media wing mentioned in its statement. The press statement read that among the six personnel were two pilots as well who lost their lives. Major Khurram Shahzad, 39, was a resident of Attock who has left behind a wife and daughter. Major Muhammad Muneeb Afzal, 30, was a resident of Rawalpindi and is survived by a wife and two sons. Subedar Abdul Wahid, 44, hailed from Karak's Sabir Abad village and has left behind a wife and four children, while sepoy Muhammad Imran, 27, was a resident of Khanewal's Makhdoompur and is survived by a wife and three children. Naik Jalil, 30, was a resident of Gujarat's village Bhutta. He left behind a wife and two children. Sepoy Shoab, 35, was a resident of Attock's Khatarphatti village.

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South Waziristan: Terrorist killed in exchange of fire

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Terrorists attacked a military post in the general area of Azam Warsak in the South Waziristan District in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday. In an intense exchange of fire and a prompt response from Pak forces, a terrorist was killed and weapons and ammunition were recovered from him. The killed terrorist was involved in terrorist activities against security forces and the killing of innocent citizens. However, during an intense exchange of fire, Naik Rasheed (age 29 years, resident of Tank) and Sepoy Rasool Badshah (age 22 years, resident of Lower Dir) having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat. As per the report, area clearance is being carried out to eliminate terrorists from the South Waziristan district.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf receiving Ambassador of Argentina Leopoldo 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 center of Izhevsk.

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,

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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

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Briefs

Search operations conducted

RAWALPINDI: The police on Monday, under the National Action Plan, conducted 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 Planning, 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 "Dukhtar-e-Pakistan Training Manual" at Shariah Academy International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), the minister underlined the necessity of working together towards nation-building. He said, 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

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

ISLAMABAD: Emirates 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 front-line 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

to volunteer in the field and virtually to provide diagnostic, 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 of the President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to adopt innovative humanitarian projects, 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. Dr Adel explained that the volunteer medical teams focused on meeting the needs

of those affected by chronic 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 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 roads leading to those areas.—APP

Seminar on Current Trends in Virology

ISLAMABAD: COMSTEC—the 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. Human papillomavirus (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 Kahan' 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 railway 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. Climate Change has brought these catastrophic floods 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 begin relief activities on priority to provide essential daily necessities and assist flood

victims. 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 of nationhood and fraternity, 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, he added. 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

have been exacerbated by the effects of climate change. He said the government presented the damage estimating that the economic impact of the floods would be at least \$10 billion, or 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

in the country. Thousands of people have lost their lives and millions have lost their homes and livelihood.—APP

'He inspires me as an actor'

ISLAMABAD: The epitome of brilliance, style and talent 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 skills and bubbly persona. Previously, the young diva became talk of the town when her spellbinding nikkah photos went viral on social media. This time around, the starlet is singing praise for Pakistan's most-adored actor, producer and television host Faysal Quraishi. Turning to her social media handle, the Chupke Chupke sensation shared a heart-touching note full of love and praise along with a couple of photos with the renowned star. "There are very few actors whom are dear to me, I have worked with them frequently even grew up in front 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 praising 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 remember 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 heart emoticon.—APP

'Groundwater recharges tech ultimate solution to urban flooding'

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's recent climate-induced flooding has given the world a wakeup call to come up with certain solutions to simultaneously tackle drought and urban flooding to avoid human catastrophes in the future. The country's experts cognizant to the issue have forcefully suggested on Monday to adopt groundwater recharge wells technology as a national policy to counter urban flooding and ensuing drought due to climate change. The groundwater recharge well was a cost effective nature based solution to revive aquifer and mitigate the risk of urban flooding through most modern indigenous technology available. The Institute of Urbanism, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and Pakistan Council for Research on Water Resources (PCRWR)

and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (HBS) organized media fellowship on Harvesting Rainwater for Urban Flood Management. 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 Pakistan, he added. Dr Ashraf said Pakistan was facing environmental degradation as in one season it had dryness and in other there were floods. The rainwater storage solutions like artificial lakes at housing societies or artificial recharge wells would help manage rainwater, he said, adding, "60% agriculture use water is coming from groundwater resources. We will have to either reduce groundwater extraction or increase water table recharge". Dr Ashraf elaborated that watershed

management was imperative for flood and drought management whereas catchment area enhancement was also crucial for this purpose. The artificial recharge wells' purpose was to intercept rainwater near catchment area and inject it into groundwater well. "It will help save water from evaporation, ponding and pollution." He informed that the Capital Development Authority (CDA) was establishing 100 recharge wells and 20 monitoring stations from its own resources in the federal capital which showed the intention and motivation of the civic body after successful implementation of the pilot projects. "Out of which 50 recharge wells have conserved 10 million gallons water which at first replenished the groundwater and then reduced Nulh Lai flooding.—APP



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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Crimes against humanity

SIXTEEN 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.

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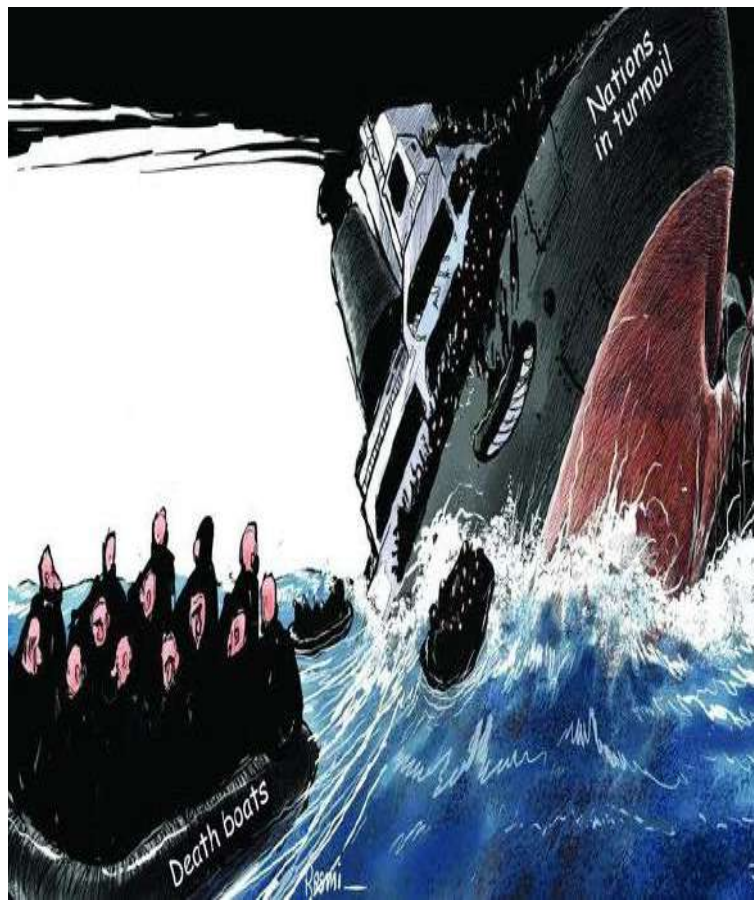
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Global efforts for peace needed

THE 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

WE 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 that 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 theologians 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 perpetual and Islamic jurisprudence can only match up to this if ijtehad is made a regular phenomenon of Muslim societies. Muslim 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

Muslim societies vis-a-vis protection of environment 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 to the President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and his Minister for Awqaf 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

HUMANITY is no one's legacy 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 flood-hit 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 busing 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 en-

tire 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 (CU) Lahore Campus, Email: drabdussattar@cuilahore.edu.pk*

Briefs

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.

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.

COAS lauds Canada's support...

FROM PAGE 01

The CM welcomed international assistance to flood affectedes and maintained that the flood has caused colossal damages and the government was following a comprehensive strategy to rehabilitate the affected people.

CEC should resign after PMO...

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).

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 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 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.

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.

North Korea, China resume freight train services: reports

BEIJING: North Korea and China have resumed freight train services after a five-month suspension due to the pandemic, South Korean media has reported.



but cross-border commerce has been sharply curtailed during the pandemic. 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.

not be unprecedented," Morgan told Al Jazeera. "The resumption of regular freight shipments could be expected to support economic activity and availability of goods in the DPRK." North Korea's economy shrank an estimated 0.1 percent last year.

France says controlling inflation is main priority for 2023 budget

PARIS: The fight against inflation is the biggest priority, 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.

German, Qatari leaders back JCPOA

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Germany and Qatar have expressed their support for efforts aimed at reviving Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Pak delegation participated in conference at Moscow

MOSCOW: A high level Parliamentary Delegation 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. Shafiqat 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.

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.



'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"

DNA

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.

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.

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."



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.

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.

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.

Briefs

US gives a new \$457 mln for Ukraine law enforcement

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States on Monday announced another \$457.5 million for Ukrainian law enforcement, its latest funding to Kyiv 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

DNA

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 lives caused 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 Dompethuafa 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 post-flood 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 school shooting leaves 13 dead, including children

MOSCOW: The death toll has risen to 13 people, including 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

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 para-

graph 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-Ilimsk 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 Friend-

ship 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

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


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