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Kazakhstan vows to 'ensure safety' of Russians fleeing draft

Detailed News On Page-06

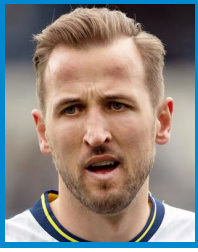
Indonesian aid reflects spirit of friendship

Detailed News On Page-08



England in good place for World Cup

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

PPP's Asif Ali Zardari hospitalized

DNA

KARACHI: Former president and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari was shifted to hospital after his condition worsens. A board of the senior doctors of the private hospital is examining the former president's condition. According to sources, a medical team, led by Dr Asim Hussain, is examining the former president, adding that a "procedure" will be performed on Zardari's lungs. Sources privy to the development added that further tests of the former president will be carried out after the "procedure" is completed.

UK's William makes visit to Wales

APP

LONDON: Britain's heir to the throne, William, and his wife, Catherine, on Tuesday made their first visit to Wales since becoming the new Prince and Princess of Wales. William automatically inherited the title on the death of his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, when his father - the previous prince of Wales - became king. The visit came as media reports said William had no plans for "any kind" of investiture. King Charles III spent time learning Welsh at university before he was crowned by his mother in a televised ceremony at Caernarfon Castle in July 1969 when he was 20.

China vows to support flood-victims

WEB DESK

BEIJING: China has reassured its commitment to help the Pakistani people overcome the floods and rebuild their homes at the earliest. In a regular press conference, China's Foreign Ministry's spokesperson Wang Wenbin said since the floods hit the country, China has rushed to Pakistan's aid as its genuine friend and brother in times of need. The spokesperson said Chinese govt has provided over 55 million dollar worth of humanitarian assistance and China's civil society has also lent a helping hand.

'Audio leaks' put prestige at stake: PM

Says he is in the process of forming a high-level committee to probe into it

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said "audio leaks" had marred the country's standing in the international community as no one would feel free to speak with the prime minister out of privacy concerns. He said this while addressing a press conference at the Prime Minister's House in the federal capital. The younger Sharif said the "audio leaks" scandal was a critical matter and he was in the process of forming a high-level committee to probe into it. "Who is going to visit the Pakistani prime minister from overseas now?" the PM questioned. "This scandal has put the prestige of a 220 million-strong nation at stake." Replying to a question, the PM dismissed allegations that PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz ever sought favour from him for the import of machinery for her son-in-law. The prime minister said he fought Pakistan's case with all his might at the United Nation's 77th General Assembly and highlighted the plight of millions of flood victims before the world nations. "I don't think we have done anything to deserve the disaster of flooding that has displaced millions and so far claimed the lives of over 16,000 people," the PM while talking to the press. The PM added he had fruitful meetings with the world leaders, especially the heads of the state of China and Russia, who also pledged aid for

Post-flood demands relief work, not 'jalsas': PM

NAZIR SIYAL

JHAKRO: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the nation to work in unison by extending a helping hand to the people suffering from the devastation in the wake of massive floods. Terming as noble service the helping the people in distress, he stressed the need for rising above politics and the so-called 'number game' in order to converge the energies to help the flood-hit people. Without naming any politician, he pointed out that the post-flood situation in the country demanded to reach out to the flood victims instead of holding jalsas (public gatherings). In address to the locals during his visit to the tent-city set up in Jhakro village to accommodate the flood victims, he said all the segments of society including the federal government, provincial governments and

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I will hamper Dar's plans, Imran warns

"It is unfortunate that the justice system could not stop Ishaq Dar," he added

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Tuesday warned that he will obstruct PML-N leader Ishaq Dar's plans, saying that Pakistan's treasury is being handed over to someone who had been an "absconder for the last five years." Dar, who landed in Pakistan a day earlier along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, will take an oath as the country's new finance minister tomorrow. Speaking during the Ulema and Mashaikh Convention in Peshawar, the former prime minister alleged that Dar had made a deal under National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) before returning to Pakistan. "It is unfortunate that the justice system could not stop Ishaq Dar," he added. "A fugitive, after stealing billions of rupees, was roaming freely abroad and was taking decisions for Pakistan." Comparing Muslim states with European countries, Khan said that there was only 20% of rule of law in Muslim countries. "If you want to see justice, then go to Switzerland. There is a 100% rule of law there," he added. He continued to say that those who want to see a welfare state should go to Sweden and Britain.

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Ishaq Dar takes oath as senator

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N leader Ishaq Dar on Tuesday took oath as a senator during a swearing-in ceremony at the Senate after living five years in self-imposed exile in the United Kingdom. Dar had been successfully elected to the Senate from Punjab but had been out of the country since October 2017. Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjarani administered the oath amid the ruckus created by the Opposition. PTI members tore the copies of the agenda of the meeting to register their protest and also surrounded the dais. The Senate chairman directed all members to maintain the decorum of the Upper House as Dar continued to receive felicitations from members of the coalition parties. The politician, who touched down in Pakistan with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday night, will swear in as

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DADU: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif meets flood affectees of District Dadu at Tent city established at Village Jakhro. - APP

Rupee further strengthens against dollar

DNA

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee gained further ground as the US dollar continued its declining trend for the third consecutive session on Tuesday. The dollar lost Rs3.11 against the rupee on Tuesday and closed at Rs233.91 in the interbank market at the end of trade session, after the local unit suffered consecutive losses during several sessions in the last trading week. The dollar has so far shed Rs5.15 in the interbank market, only two days into the trade week. The local currency on Friday - the last trading day of the outgoing week - finally broke its losing streak against the dollar after continuously depreciating for 15 consecutive sessions. The rupee came close to reaching a record low of 240 against the dollar but was unable to do so after several positive cues despite deadly floods devastating Pakistan's economy.

US welcomes fleeing Russians

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States welcomes Russians seeking asylum from President Vladimir Putin's "unpopular" war, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on Tuesday. "We believe that regardless of their nationality, they may apply for asylum in the United States and have their claim educated on a case by case basis," she said. Earlier in the day, an ally of President Putin issued a stark new nuclear warning to Ukraine and the West as Russia began releasing results of referendums it bills as a prelude to it annexing four Ukrainian regions.

US pledges additional \$10m for Pak food security programme

Blinken urges Pakistan to seek China debt relief after floods

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The US government has announced it will offer another \$10 million to Pakistan for a food security programme, media reported Tuesday. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari called on his US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the State Department building in Washington. The two leaders discussed bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. Bilawal, holding a joint press conference with Blinken following the meeting, said that diplomacy has returned between the State Department and the foreign ministry of Pakistan. "It is indeed true that diplomacy is back between the US State Department and the foreign ministry of Pakistan," he stressed. The foreign minister said that Pakistan seeks help and cooperation from the US on climate justice. It was time for the green revolution to take place, he said, hoping that US President Joe Biden would lead it [the green revolution]. "Pakistan has experienced a climate catastrophe of biblical apocalyptic proportions," he said. "It rained from mid-June to the end of August in Pakistan."

Continued on Page 06

Pak snubs India over attack on US relationship

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Foreign Office on Tuesday came down hard on India for raising unwarranted questions on Pakistan's diplomatic relations with the United States and warned New Delhi to exercise restraint while touching on sensitive issues. "Pakistan has a long-standing and broad-based relationship with the United States, which has been vital in promoting peace, security, and stability in the region," a foreign office spokesman said responding to media questions about uncalculated remarks by the Indian minister for external affairs. International Affairs Minister of India S Jaishankar recently called on Washington to reconsider its improving relations with Pakistan and was

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Gas leaks from Russian pipelines raise fears

STOCKHOLM: Europe was investigating leaks in two Russian gas pipelines that churned up the Baltic Sea on Tuesday and raised concerns from Copenhagen to Moscow about sabotage on infrastructure at the heart of an energy standoff. However, it remained far from clear who might be behind any foul play, if proven, on the Nord Stream pipelines that Russia and European partners spent billions of dollars building. Poland's prime minister blamed sabotage for the leaks, without citing evidence, while the Danish premier said it could not be ruled out. Russia, which slashed gas

deliveries to Europe after the West imposed sanctions over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, said sabotage was a possibility and that the incident undermined the continent's energy security. A senior Ukrainian official called it a Russian attack to destabilise Europe, without giving proof. The Nord Stream pipelines have been flashpoints in an escalating energy war between European capitals and Moscow that has pummeled major Western economies, sent gas prices soaring and sparked a hunt for alternative energy supplies. - Agencies

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Turkish leader slams Western countries protecting terrorists - Page 07

Indonesian humanitarian relief assistance arrives - Page 08

Azerbaijan ever ready to thwart any aggression: Amb. Khazar

Says Shusha, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan has already become a venue for international events; condemns Armenian acts of aggression against innocent Azerbaijani people

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov has said that brave Azerbaijani forces had successfully thwarted the Armenian aggression and re-gained its territory illegally occupied by the aggressor Armenia. He added his country greatly valued moral and diplomatic support extended to Azerbaijan by Pakistan during the 44-day Patriotic War. Ambassador Khazar expressed these views while addressing a press conference in connection with September 27- Commemoration Day, at the embassy premises on Monday. Col Mehman A Novruzov the Defence Attache was also present on the occasion. The ambassador further said Armenia kept Azerbaijan's territories under occupation illegally for almost 30 years. During these years, Armenia always committed provocations against Azerbaijan. While sharing the background information the ambassador said, 2 years back, on 27 September 2020, a counter-offensive was launched in response to Armenia's yet another large-scale military attack on Azerbaijani Army positions and civilian settlements. The counter-offensive later became known



as Operation Iron Fist that led to the Patriotic War. At the end of the 44-day Patriotic War, under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, President Ilham Aliyev, our army liberated Azerbaijan's territories from Armenian occupation and Armenia was forced to sign an act of capitulation, thus acknowledging Azerbaijan's historic victory.

He said, as a sign of deep respect for Azerbaijani soldiers and officers, all the martyrs, who fought heroically in the Patriotic War, waved the Azerbaijani flag in the liberated lands and sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, September 27 is marked as Commemoration Day in Azerbaijan every year. Ambassador Khazar said the Patriotic War put an end to Armenia's nearly

30-year-long policy of aggression. Azerbaijan ensured its territorial integrity, and the fundamental rights of nearly one million displaced Azerbaijanis were restored. Azerbaijan, alone ensured the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions of 1993. 'I must mention that brotherly Pakistan from the first day of the former Karabakh conflict, as well as the during Patriotic War in 2020 morally and politically supported just position of Azerbaijan and it has been highly appreciated by the Government and people of Azerbaijan'. While giving a brief account of the reconstruction process the ambassador said, right after the liberation, Azerbaijan started a massive reconstruction and restoration works in the liberated areas. In 2021 and 2022, the Azerbaijani Government allocated nearly \$3 billion to the large-scale reconstruction and restoration activities in the liberated lands. I would like to inform you that Fuzuli International Airport which was built just in 8 months is operational now. 2 more international airports namely Zangilan and Lachin are under construction and they will be also operational very soon, he added.

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COMSTECH organises seminar on food insecurity during UNGA summit

DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER) organized an international virtual seminar on "solutions to combat food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel". The seminar was hosted by COMSTECH Forum on Environment and Ecosystem Restoration (CFEER) in cooperation with the Sahel Coalition based in Brussels (Belgium), Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control (CILSS) based in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Regional Climate Centre for West Africa and Sahel-AGRYMET based in Niamey (Niger) and Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), based in Nur Sultan City, Kazakhstan. The event was held during the United Nations General Assembly Science Summit on September 26, 2022. COMSTECH Advisor (Climate Change), Ambassador Shahid Kamal

welcomed the participants of the seminar. He said that food security is in great interest of global community. Ambassador Kamal said that the degraded soils can no longer produce enough food. Brussels based High Representative of the Sahel Coalition, Dr. Djime Adoum addressed the session and suggested the nations to increase investment and regional cooperation for equitable land distribution and food security. Policy officer of European Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation with Africa and ASEAN countries, Dr. Vincenzo Lorusso gave a comprehensive presentation in the session on AU-EU R&I partnership on food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture & the AU-EU innovation agenda. COMSTECH Forum seminar has highlighted the critical food security crisis in West Africa. The event coincided with the global food security summit held

last week at the United Nations which was organized jointly by African Union, European Union and United States during the UN General Assembly Session in New York. COMSTECH has signed a memorandum of cooperation with CILSS permanent interstate committee for drought control in the Sahel based in Burkina Faso. This agreement has linked COMSTECH with its two specialized institutes - regional center in Niger and Sahel institute in Mali. Two OIC institutions - Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Kazakhstan, and Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) based in Morocco are partners in this endeavor. Ten experts, each from Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, China, Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Pakistan and United Kingdom participated in the technical session of the seminar and gave 12 minutes long presentations

on the topics addressing different dimensions of food security and malnutrition in the Sahel. Session was moderated by Dr. Irfan Aziz, Associate Professor, University of Karachi, Pakistan. 164 people from around the world registered themselves to attend this seminar. The objective of the seminar was to focus on sustainable solutions to combat food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel. Major challenges of food security such as sustainable use of energy resources, using climate smart strategies, aspects related to agricultural productivity and energy-smart food chains and climate-smart agriculture that may help in ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture in the Sahel region were discussed for concerted efforts to establish sustainable food systems.



ISLAMABAD: Canadian High Commissioner Wendy Gilmore pays a farewell call to Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar at Ministry of Law. — DNA

BISP committed to provide relief to the people

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is continuing its commitment to provide relief to the flood-stricken families by ensuring speedy disbursement of Rs.25,000 among affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Gilgit Baltistan under Flood Relief Cash Assistance. So far a total of Rs. 50,125,975,000 has been disbursed among 2,005,039 flood affected families under Flood Relief Cash Assistance across the country. In Balochistan 156,697 flood affected families have received Rs. 3,917,425,000. 1,415,761 affected families of Sindh have received Rs.35,394,025,000. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 208,321 families have received Rs. 5,208,025,000 whereas 224,260 families of Punjab have received Rs.5,606,500,000. In Gilgit Baltistan 331 flood affected families have also received Rs. 8,275,000. Today a total of 122,073 flood affected families have received financial assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas.

IFRC under Secretary General visits PRCS

Xavier said the leadership of the Red Crescent is admirable, as it has done excellent work in the flood-affected areas in a short period

ISLAMABAD: "Pakistan Red Crescent Society is engaged in multifaceted response in the flood affected areas of the country in collaboration with International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, the National Society is providing clean drinking water, food items, tents, hygiene kits and medical facilities to the affected population in an efficient manner and we are thankful to the support of our Red Cross Movement partners in alleviating the sufferings of the vulnerable people", PRCS Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari expressed these views in a meeting with IFRC Under Secretary

General Xavier Castellanos at the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, National Headquarters here on Tuesday. Xavier who is on a visit to Pakistan, was told in a detailed briefing about the ongoing actions and services of the Red Crescent in the flood-affected areas. IFRC Under Secretary General while appreciating the services of the PRCS said that the Red Crescent has always performed valuable services during natural and man-made disasters. He said that due to the recent floods, the health of women and children are at risk, and IFRC will continue its support for the provision of treatment and better facilities." The success of the National

Society is the success of IFRC, and we will continue our full cooperation with PRCS in mitigating the sufferings of vulnerable communities in Pakistan", he added. Xavier said the leadership of the Red Crescent is admirable, as it has done excellent work in the flood-affected areas in a short period. He said IFRC intends to help the affected families according to their needs. In the end, Chairman PRCS Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari presented a memento to Xavier Castellanos. Head of Delegation of IFRC in Pakistan Peter Ophoff, Secretary General PRCS and officers were also present on this occasion. — DNA

Korean embassy holds tree plantation inauguration in KP

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Embassy of the Republic of Korea to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in its commitment to assist and encourage nature conservation held a Tree Plantation inaugural event in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, aimed at supporting Pakistan in combatting Climate Change.

The tree plantation activity held near the Shah Maqsood Interchange of the Hazara Motorway in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Forest Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Pakistan.

The Korean Ambassador, H.E. Suh Sangpyo while speaking at the ceremony collectively appreciated the efforts of the Pakistan government and its citizens in Climate change mitigation and mentioned other green and sustainable development initia-



tives being undertaken and possibilities of cooperation. The Ambassador also mentioned the significance of such plantation activities in restoring biodiversity and ecosystem amidst

devastating floods crisis and global warming. Senior officials of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Forest department, IUCN and Haripur University Faculty and students were present at the ceremony.

T-5 Project scheduled to start power generation in 2025: WAPDA

PESHAWAR: Chairman WAPDA Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) Tuesday said that Tarbela Dam had been phenomenally contributing towards economic and social development of the country since its completion in 1974. Under-construction Tarbela 5th Extension Hydropower Project (T-5) will increase its hydel generation. Chairman WAPDA expressed these views during his visit to Tarbela Dam. He had a detailed round of Ghazi Barrage downstream of Tarbela Dam, intake, penstock and power house sites of T-5 Project, Tarbela Hydel Power Station and Tarbela 4th Extension Hydel Power Station. Earlier, General Manager (GM) Tarbela Dam/PD T-5 Project briefed the chairman about effective

operation and benefits of the dam. He was also briefed about the progress on the under-construction T-5 Project, which is scheduled for generation in 2025. GM (Power) Tarbela made a presentation about the matters related to the operation and maintenance of the 3478 MW-Tarbela Hydel Power Station and the 1410 MW-Tarbela 4th Extension Hydel Power Station. The dam has been a vital project for irrigated agriculture and economy of the country, because it provides water for agriculture, mitigates floods and generates a sizable quantum of low-cost and environment friendly hydel electricity to the National Grid.—APP

DD Information holds meeting with journalists

STAFF REPORT

LODHARAN: A consultation meeting was held with journalists, columnists and social media activists under the management of Lodhran District Welfare Department on the instructions of the Director General of Population Welfare Department, Ms. Taman Roy. This meeting was held under the need of the hour for the importance of advocacy for social change, a project of the Department of Population Welfare. Chief Guest of the meeting was Deputy Director Information Lodhran Nauman Masood Khan while the meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Chaudhry Fahad Anwar. In the meeting, District Population Welfare Officer Mudassar Abbas Hashmi gave a detailed briefing to the participants on the current situation of the country's population on multimedia. Addressing the consultation meeting, Additional Deputy Commissioner Finance and Planning Lodhran Fahad Anwar Sahib said that the rapidly growing population is consuming our resources and our natural resources are diminishing. Educating

the population is the need of the hour. He said that in view of the current situation, it is the responsibility of the people associated with the media to provide full awareness to the public about the Department of Population Welfare and the concerns of the people in this regard. Do your part in removing. He said that the use of social media is the need of the hour to convey the message of the welfare department to the grass root level. Addressing the consultation meeting, Deputy Director Information Lodhran Nauman Masood Khan said that journalists and columnists are the eyes and ears of the society who have a keen eye on social attitudes. He said that there is a need for people associated with this journalism to play their role in changing the social attitudes related to family planning and help in promoting the tradition of a balanced family. Addressing the consultation meeting, District Population Welfare Officer Mudassar Abbas Hashmi said that recognizing the importance of advocacy for changing social attitudes is the need of the hour and today's program is also a link in the same chain.

Police takes action against drug peddlers

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

BAHAWALPUR: Effective actions of Bahawalpur police against anti-social elements, especially drug-related elements, district police arrested dozens of suspects and recovered large quantities of drugs and illegal weapons while conducting operations at various places. Cases were registered. Actions against anti-social elements will be continued in the same way, Bahawalpur Police is working day and night to eliminate social evils and suppress crimes District Police Officer Ibadan Nisar.

According to the details, while following the policy of Inspector General of Police Punjab Faisal Shahkar, "Crime free society" and Additional Inspector General of Police South Punjab's drug prohibition policy, according to the instructions of District Police Officer Ibadan Nisar, Bahawalpur Police. Ac-

tions are being continued against the criminal elements and many accused have been arrested and drugs and illegal weapons have been recovered from them. Police Station Civil Line, Samhista, Goth and Khairpur Tamewali conducted operations against the liquor vendors and arrested the accused Imran, employee Hussain, Farooq, Abdul Majeed and Riaz Ahmed and seized 790 liters of country liquor, 02 bottles of provincial liquor, 400 liters of liquor per month from their possession. Recover the active furnace. Police station Cantt, Civil Line and Sadar Yazman police arrested the accused Zeeshan alias Shan, Asif and Ghulam Murtaza and recovered 2805 grams of hashish from their possession. 02 pistols of 30 bore were recovered from the possession of accused Naveed and Asif. In this way, police station Abbas Nagar took action against accused Dilbar, an ice seller, and arrested him.

Floods damage over 1,500 schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

ISLAMABAD: Recent floods have damaged at least 1,500 government schools in different parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, KP education minister said.

1,600 people, and left 33 million scrambling to survive. The initial government estimate of losses to the economy as a result of the three-month flooding disaster is \$30 billion. The consequences have been especially horrific for children, who make up about half the affected pop-

ulation. More than 400 children have been killed in the floods, and many more were injured. UNICEF said at least 3.4 million children need urgent humanitarian assistance and are at increased risk of waterborne diseases, drowning, and malnutrition. —APP

No Overstay Charges - No Legal Action

General Amnesty for Overstaying Foreigners

Apply through Pakistan Online Visa System (POVS) and exit Pakistan after obtaining the Exit Permit within 7 working days till December 31, 2022



Alert! As per Foreigners Act 1946, 3 years sentence can be awarded to overstaying foreigners After December 31, 2022, legal action will be initiated against the foreigners overstaying for more than one year and will be blacklisted for future entry into Pakistan

Note: Overstaying Foreigners of India and Somalia shall apply for Exit Permit manually in concerned Section of Ministry of Interior

For more information please scan



Ministry of Interior
Government of Pakistan
www.interior.gov.pk

For Flood Relief Updates



SMS # FUND ON 9999 TO DONATE RUPEES 10 FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya	Revolution Day
Sept 01 / Tanzania	Defence day
Sept 01 / 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
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Emergency

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PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: Cultural Counselor China Embassy Zhang Heqing, President Pakistan China Friendship Association KPK Chapter Yousaf Ayub Khan, Secretary General Pakistan China Friendship Association KPK Chapter Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani along with others cutting cake during celebration of 73rd Anniversary of Founding of Peoples Republic of China at KPK House.

ADB plans \$14 billion to ease food catastrophe

ISLAMABAD: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Tuesday announced plans to provide at least \$14 billion over 2022-2025 in a comprehensive program of support to ease a worsening food crisis in Asia and the Pacific, and improve long-term food security by strengthening food systems against the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss. The assistance expands ADB's already significant support for food security in the region, where nearly 1.1 billion people lack healthy diets due to poverty and food prices which have soared to record highs this year. The funding will be

channeled through existing and new projects in sectors including farm inputs, food production and distribution, social protection, irrigation, and water resources management, as well as projects leveraging nature-based solutions. ADB will continue to invest in other activities which contribute to food security such as energy transition, transport, access to rural finance, environmental management, health, and education. "This is a timely and urgently needed response to a crisis that is leaving too many poor families in Asia hungry and in deeper poverty," said ADB

President Masatsugu Asakawa, in remarks at ADB's 55th Annual Meeting. "We need to act now, before the impacts of climate change worsen and further erode the region's hard-won development gains. Our support will be targeted, integrated, and impactful to help vulnerable people, particularly vulnerable women, in the near-term, while bolstering food systems to reduce the impact of emerging and future food security risks." The Russian invasion of Ukraine has disrupted supplies of food staples and fertilizer, straining a global food system already weakened by climate change

impacts, pandemic-related supply shocks, and unsustainable farming practices. Asia and the Pacific is vulnerable to food shocks, as some of its countries depend on imported staples and fertilizer. Even before the invasion of Ukraine, nutritious food was unaffordable for significant portions of the population in many ADB low-income member countries. As well as supporting vulnerable people, ADB's food security assistance will promote open trade, improve smallholder farm production and livelihoods, ease shortages of fertilizer and promote its efficient use or

organic alternatives, support investments in food production and distribution, enhance nutrition, and boost climate resilience through integrated and nature-based solutions. A key focus will be to protect the region's natural environment from climate change impacts and biodiversity loss, which have degraded soils, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. "An important part of our long-term approach is to safeguard natural resources and support farmers and agribusinesses which produce and distribute much of the region's food, and to promote open trade to ensure it reaches consumers

efficiently," said Mr. Asakawa. Assistance under the program will start this year and continue through 2025. It will be drawn from across ADB's sovereign and private sector operations, and seek to leverage an additional \$5 billion in private sector cofinancing for food security. ADB will apply lessons learned from supporting its members during the global food crisis in 2007-2008 and through the implementation of its food security operational plan the following year. Since then, ADB has provided \$2 billion in annual investments in food security. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Mohsin Butt DG FIA presenting sheild to Zafar Bakhtawari former president ICCI during his visit to FIA headquarter. — DNA

Consensus-based decision making structures stressed

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Whimsical decisions and speech acts of government elites required better planning and delivery in order to act in unison in the face of globally emerging alliances, said Dr Khuram Iqbal, Head of the International Relations Department at the National Defense University (NDU) Islamabad. He was addressing a roundtable discussion titled, "Emergence of Maritime Alliances: Case Study of QUAD, AUKUS and I2U2", jointly organized by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) and National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA), here on Tuesday. Discussing the role of emerging alliances and the resultant shift in global power dynamics, Dr Khuram added that it was high time to analyse if QUAD actually bore the potential of evolving into a full-fledged military alliance. At present, he said that QUAD was merely a multilateral dialogue

platform and was bound to function as such for another few years. He added that lack of formal institutionalization and socialization in addition to an increased level of economic interdependence among the member countries were precursors to the fact that QUAD would remain a dialogue platform. While addressing the underlying reasons behind the creation of these alliances, Dr Iqbal said that China had tried its best to shun down its image as a revisionist power. It was unfortunate that this Chinese rhetoric was not reciprocated by the West and that was what fed continued tensions between China and the West. It appeared as if the West was bent on creating an adversary for itself. If there was an anti-China force to emerge, it would be AUKUS, not QUAD as AUKUS had a particular Anglo-Saxon niche to it, he added. Mr Syed Muhammad Ali, International Policy Expert said that AUKUS had exposed the true expressions of the

Anglo-Saxon world, feeding on the supremacy of the existing order whilst posing a challenge to the emergence of competing powers. One of the main features of AUKUS, he said was to ensure defense industrial integration. He added that the US was determined to develop a favourite in the Asia Pacific and also that the emerging alliance system to contain China had a certain hierarchy. The nature of alliance that the US was building was fundamentally different from what China could work with. China could not operationalise an alliance of similar nature, he added. He expressed hopes for Pakistan to work along the emerging alliance systems as India had been hedging over the opportunities, making the most of the global power transition. Dr Nazir Hussain, Dean Social Sciences, University of Wah, said that the American foreign policy was a collection of clearly chalked out policies.

Sajid Sadpara summits Mt. Manaslu without oxygen

ISLAMABAD: Sajid Sadpara, the son of late legendary climber Ali Sadpara has summited Nepal's Manaslu Peak without using oxygen, Alpine Club of Pakistan (ACP) said on Tuesday. "Sajid reached atop the peak on Monday," Karar Haidri, Secretary ACP told APP. Manaslu, the 8th highest peak in the world is elevated at the height of 8,163m above sea level in the ridges of Mansiri Himal in the Gorkha District of Nepal. According to Haidri, Sajid is the first Pakistani to scale Manaslu without oxygen. "He is in good shape and can achieve such targets with quite ease. We are proud of him," he added. —APP

'GB most attractive tourism destination'

ISLAMABAD: Gilgit Baltistan Minister for Tourism Raja Nasir Ali Khan Tuesday said that GB was among Asia's most attractive tourism destinations in the world and it has received record-breaking foreign tourists during the current year as compared to previous years. Talking to a private news channel, he said that the government was taking practical steps to improve tourism policy and road infrastructure, especially the GB road on a priority basis to facilitate more tourists. He said the number of foreign tourists has exceeded the past, adding, the government's top priority is to provide world-class facilities to tourists in the area. —APP

Rain wind-thunderstorm likely at isolated places

ISLAMABAD: Mainly dry weather is likely to prevail over most parts of the country, while hot in central and southern parts, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). However, rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected at isolated places of Potohar region, northeast Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan. In Islamabad, Partly cloudy with chances of rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected during the next 24 hours. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, mainly dry weather is expected in most districts of the province. However, partly cloudy weather with rain-wind/thunderstorm is likely in Chitral, Dir, Swat, Kohistan, Abbottabad, Mansehra and Haripur. In Punjab, mainly hot and dry weather is expected in most districts of the province, however, rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in Murree, Galiyat, Potohar region, Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Okara and Kasur. —APP

To combat climate catastrophe Bahrain assures full support to NA's call for global funds

ISLAMABAD: Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Kingdom of Bahrain Fawzia Bint Abdullah Zainal On Tuesday assured full support to National Assembly's call for global funds to combat climate catastrophe being the President of the Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union (AIPU). She expressed these views during the telephonic conversation with the National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf. The NA Speaker apprised the Speaker of Bahrain that Pakistan had successfully hosted the 3rd Regional Seminar for the Parliaments of Asia Pacific Region on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals from September 13-14, 2022 to highlight the losses and damages caused by the devastating floods in Pakistan. He said that an emergency resolution will be presented in the context of the devastating floods in Pakistan in the next meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Rwanda with the objective to present a forceful demand that developed countries must compensate for irreparable socio-economic losses due to climate change in developing countries. He expressed gratitude to the government and people of Bahrain for extending assistance for the relief of flood victims. While talking about World Tourism day, being observed today, the Speaker said that Pa-

kistan seeks support in promoting tourism in Pakistan. There are ample opportunities for investment in tourism industry and food security from which Bahrain investors could be benefited. He added that Industrial sector was also open to foreign investors including Bahrain. The Speaker said that Pakistani Diasporas in Bahrain was playing an important role in the economic development of Bahrain along with that of Pakistan. Pervez Ashraf also expressed gratitude for the support of Bahrain at the platform of FATF and OIC and expressed hope for continued support in the future as well. He said that Pakistan looked forward to welcome His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, (King of Bahrain) and HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa (the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and Prime Minister) in Pakistan. Fawzia Bint Abdullah Zainal expressed grief over the loss during the recent floods in Pakistan. She applauded National Assembly of Pakistan for successfully hosting the 3rd regional seminar on IPU. She said that Pakistan had effectively highlighted the vulnerabilities of developing countries especially the countries of the Asia-Pacific region from the ever-intensifying impacts of global climate change. —APP

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Briefs

PIDEAS
research-
based
documentary

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PIDEAS (PIDE IDEAS) is an initiative of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and Research for Social Transformation and Advancement (RASTA). The visual format has always remained one of the most engaging and key conversational tools for producing research, and in the wake of using this as an instrument for knowledge production and dissemination, RASTA is producing documentary films based on the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) research. In this regard, RASTA is organizing a documentary film screening event Today (Wednesday, September 28, 2022) in Cinema Hall of Islamabad Club, from 04:00 PM-08:00 PM. Under the PIDEAS Initiative, this will be the first session in the series of documentary films based on PIDE's research.

NPO to
organize
webinar

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Project & Construction Management" on September 28 (Wednesday). Project and Construction Management is a complex discipline that requires addressing many important concerns, including cost control, scheduling, procurement, and risk assessment, according to an NPO document shared. It involves directing and organizing each part of the project life cycle, from inception to completion. PSM is a holistic practice with the goal of delivering projects on time and under budget. The programme would provide information about what is project and project management, why projects are undertaken, PMI talent triangle, key knowledge areas of a project, project methodology and construction management. The workshop will also provide information of PSDP projects procedures, World Bank procurement guideline, quality management, and best practices. The webinar has been designed for project and construction managers, engineers, supervisors and students.—APP

15000 micro-
sized water
purifiers
distributed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PakVitaie has distributed its Every Water branded 15,000 micro sized water purifiers through partner organizations, to flood affected people across Pakistan including Sindh, KP, Baluchistan and Punjab. These innovative filters are now providing clean water at 15,000 points delivering 500,000 liters per hour. These off-grid purifiers are easy to maintain and purify water with 99.9999% efficiency. They carry a 2 years performance warranty. The purifiers are developed using indigenous innovative ERM (Esoteric Resistive Membrane) technology. The technology was invented by the UET Lahore Chemical Engineering graduates and Founders of PakVitaie, Shayan Sohail and Arslan Ahmed. PakVitaie ultrafilters have undergone rigorous field use providing millions of liters of clean water from hundreds of contaminated water sources across Pakistan, India, and Africa. This far over 300,000 individuals have benefited from every-water across the globe. Unlike centralized water purification solutions which tend to get crowded, require power, infrastructure, and supervision, these purifiers are provided to individual families who can easily maintain them and get readily available clean drinking water in their homes / camps. Each purifier costs only Rs. 4000 and comes with a 15 liters container. This solution helps contain plastic pollution and carbon emissions as each filter saves up to 2 tons of Carbon dioxide and 400 kgs.—APP

PM highlighted climate change
impacts in UNGA: SAPM Tarar

PM also highlighted that Pakistan had never seen a starker and more devastating example of the impact of Global Warming. "Life in Pakistan has changed forever

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Attaullah Tarar Tuesday lauded Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for effectively highlighting the climate change impacts on Pakistan, besides the Kashmir issue during his maiden address to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his address to the UNGA has effectively pointed out the negative impacts of climate change on Pakistan and highlighted plight of the Kashmiris in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir," the SAPM said while addressing a news conference here. The PM in his address said that despite

negligible carbon emissions, Pakistan's economy and people were paying the dual cost of climate injustice and high global warming causing massive flash floods which required the world leaders to take immediate remedial actions. He said the PM also highlighted that Pakistan had never seen a starker and more devastating example of the impact of Global Warming. "Life in Pakistan has changed forever," he quoted PM as saying.

On the Kashmir issue, he noted that the PM said Pakistan desired peace with all its neighbours including India, however, sustainable peace and stability in South Asia remained contingent upon a just and



lasting solution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Tarar said the PM in UNGA pointed out that India's ruthless campaign of repression against Kashmiris had continued to grow in scale and intensity. In pursuit of this heinous goal, New Delhi had ramp up its military

deployments in occupied Jammu and Kashmir to 900,000 troops, thus making it the most militarized zone in the world. SAPM criticized the harassment of Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb by the goons of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) in London and demanded prosecution of the culprits. He criticized PTI Chairman Imran Khan for polluting the minds of youths. He said the toxic impacts of Imran's politics of hate and division had saddened him and this tendency should be stopped. The culprits should be awarded exemplary punishment, he added. Tarar said that he would submit an application the ministry of interior for the revocation of the character certificates and passports of the people involved in the incident. He said that the government of the UK would also be approached for seeking action against the culprits and conveying the concerns of the people of Pakistan. Attaullah

Tarar said in the testing times when the people of Punjab were badly hit by the flood, the provincial government moved a sum of Rs 1.3 billion to purchase new vehicles for ministers and advisors. He accused Chief Minister Punjab Pervaiz Elahi of becoming a hurdle in proroguing the Punjab Assembly session which had been going on for the last four months. About Rs.1.2 billion had been spent on the current session of the Punjab Assembly, he added. The SAPM said it seemed that the CM Punjab had lost majority in the PA and feared that he would be asked for the vote of confidence by the governor if the session prorogued. —APP

PHMA
elects new
chairman,
SVC, VC

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA) has elected new office-bearers unopposed for the period of one year 2022-23, with Muhammad Babar Khan as Central Chairman and Naseer Butt as Vice-Chairman.

The new office-bearers, addressing the annual general meeting held here today, said that it was an honor for them to lead the hosiery association for the year 2022-23, paying tributes to the outgoing chairman, saying the outgoing body has been actively promoting the interests of the value-added textile industry throughout the year. They vowed to continue with their efforts for the promotion and protection of the value-added textile industry. The new chairman Muhammad Babar Khan expressed the confidence that he would make all efforts to work selflessly in resolving issues and problems faced by the industry in the best interests of PHMA members and in further enhancing and boosting the exports.

He added that he would accord top priority in respect to reduction in cost of inputs, resolution of refund related issues, and a favorable environment for the promotion of hosiery industry in Pakistan. Growth of value-added textile industry was a must to steer the industry out of worse situation and contribute to the exports of the country.

If conducive environment is provided by the government the exports of knitwear sector alone will be enhanced significantly in coming years, he pledged.

PHMA new vice chairman Naseer Butt said that the knitwear apparel maintains the highest exports share, remaining at top of exports statistics every year despite adverse factors such as liquidity crunch and high costs of doing business. He suggested the new body to accord top priority in reduction of input cost, resolution of refund issues and a favorable environment for the promotion of hosiery industry.—APP

Strict action
against
currency
mafia
demanded

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Dr. Shahid Rasheed Butt on Tuesday said Senator Ishaq Dar should take strict action against the currency mafia after assuming the portfolio of the finance ministry.

The influential mafia is manipulating the exchange rates to make millions overnight and causing huge damage to the country, he said. The reason behind the fall of the Rupee is not based on economic fundamentals but it is an outcome of the tricks of the currency mafia, he added. In a statement issued here today, Shahid Rashid Butt

said that keeping the Pakistani rupee stable has remained the focus of Ishaq Dar's policy and it is hoped that he will give priority to this policy so that inflation and the suffering of the people are reduced.

In 2017 when he left the portfolio of the ministry, Pakistan was becoming the eighteenth largest economy in the world. The rupee was stable, the interest rate was low, the tax situation and foreign exchange reserves were satisfactory and the overall economic conditions were very good.

Those who came to power after Ishaq Dar played havoc with the economy in a way that even the enemy did not do, which closed their fortunes and left the country bankrupt.

Due to their wrong policies, industries closed down, agriculture was destroyed, unemployment was common and the rupee became as worthless as tissue paper for which the public paid a heavy price, he observed.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Alzaabi called on President National Defence University Lt. General Nauman at the NDU.—DNA

'Pakistan tourism industry
expects to earn 4b USD'

Managing Director of PTDC Aftab Ur Rehman Rana says government was doing all to promote tourism and generate more employment opportunities for youth in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director of Pakistan Tourism Department Corporation (PTDC) Aftab Ur Rehman Rana, Tuesday said that Pakistan's tourism industry, currently estimated at USD 2.5 billion which will go up to USD 4 billion in next four years.

Tourism was not just about attractive destinations and leisure activities, but had emerged as one of the fundamental pillars of economic development and had one of the highest job-creating potentials across all sectors of the country, he said while speaking to PTV news channel.

The government was doing all to promote tourism and generate more employment opportunities for youth in Pakistan, he said, adding, currently over 300,000 jobs were created through tourism industry which would further increase to 500,000 in coming years. "The promotion of tourism will not only create economic activity in the local areas, but will also have a positive impact on the national economy," he said adding, the contribution rate of the tourism industry to Pakistan's GDP was 5%, which

would exceed to 7%. The tourism ministry was taking a keen interest in promoting the culture, adventure and religious tourism in the country and adopting measures to revamp the infrastructure and ensure all the required facilities for the tourists, he added.

With public-private partnership more destinations were being identified and developed, historic and religious places were being refurbished and preserved, roads and motorways leading to tourist destinations were being built, and new hotels and accommodations were being set up, he mentioned.

He said that government was facilitating private tour operators, adding, private tour operators from next year would participate in five major tourism expose to further promote soft image of Pakistan on international forums. He also stressed for bringing improvement in aviation policy which would control high rate fares of airlines, adding, there was dire need to allow neighbour countries' airlines in the country in which we would earn

double revenue and it would give a new competition between airlines.

Replying a question about recent flood's effects on tourism related assets, he said that yet no final report was collected of damages but it would take 2 to 3 years of recovery time.

He said Pakistan was among the top few countries which were facing the highest risk of disasters due to impacts of global warming and climate change, adding, many heritage sites had faced serious damages and many natural landscapes of tourist areas had been eroded.

To another question, he said Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) had hold a two-day conference in Islamabad to mark the World Tourism Day, which was celebrated every year on 27th September. Experts from tourism industry had participated in five panel discussions to discuss topics including restoration of tourism after floods and widespread rains, removing bottlenecks to promote foreign tourism in Pakistan, issues and challenges of mountaineering and trekking tourism in the country, he added.—APP

Ishaq Dar
has ability
to meet
current
challenges

DNA

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Tuesday said Senator Ishaq Dar has the ability to deal with economic challenges and he will take the country out of the whirlpool of economic problems. The second finance minister of the current government will face historical inflation, flood damage and instability but the biggest problem will be to improve the

value of the rupee which he will manage successfully, he said. Ishaq Dar has been the finance minister thrice in the past but never in such a serious economic situation, he added. In a statement issued here today, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the foreign exchange reserves are insufficient and the revenue will also fall due to the flood while the social sector expenses will have to be increased to help the victims, which will be a test of his abilities. He will also deal successfully with the IMF to reduce the tax of 7200 billion rupees, while the issue of inflation will have to be tackled as it will play important role in the upcoming election. Atif Ikram further said that despite the global response after the nuclear tests in 1998, Ishaq Dar did not allow the expected increase in the value of the dollar, while in 2014, he brought the dollar below one hundred rupees on the challenge of the opposition. It is a fact that Pakistan has to pay a heavy price for the decision to allow free movement of dollars and even now there is an influential mafia behind the fluctuation in the value of dollars which the new finance minister will have to control.

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West's sanctions have badly backfired

IN a speech delivered at the opening of the Hungarian Parliament's autumn session on Monday, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Western countries' sanctions against Russia have turned the "local" conflict between Russia and Ukraine into a "global economic war". As Orban has correctly pointed out, an increasing number of countries around the world are becoming "victims" of the conflict in Ukraine due to its impact on global food and energy supplies and the spillover effects of the sanctions imposed on Russia. The United States' proxy war against Russia has sent oil and food prices rocketing upwards. From Sri Lanka's financial crisis to the acute food crisis in Africa, the conflict's impacts on other parts of the world have been swift and serious. Even European countries are bracing for a winter of fuel shortages and high fuel prices. Europe's plight prompted Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto to say, in an interview with CNN on Saturday, that the European Union's sanctions policy against Russia had failed "because those sanctions that were introduced against Russia are more harmful and more painful to Europe than to the Russian Federation". Before the Ukraine conflict erupted, the world economy was already being battered by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the efforts of the US to break and reshape supply chains and the disruptions caused by global warming-induced extreme weather events. The sanctions imposed on Russia and their broad consequences have painted an even gloomier picture. As the adverse effects of the sanctions have become increasingly evident, the EU's sanction regime has created differences and divisions among the bloc: According to a Bloomberg report on Monday, EU nations are likely to delay an accord on imposing a price cap on Russian oil as opposition to it has surfaced within the bloc. History has shown that sanctions are not an effective means of resolving conflicts and disputes. Instead of forcing Russia to its knees, the sanctions against it have only added more fuel to the fire of Moscow's confrontation with the West and opened a Pandora's box for the world. Nothing is more salient of the folly of their actions than the fact that European countries are facing a rising wave of public anger as the sanctions hit home, literally. It is high time the US and the EU placed their apoplectic sanctions genie back in the bottle before it does any more harm.

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Italy's election

THE radical right's clear victory in Italy's election is a historic and disturbing moment in European politics. Formed 10 years ago, and with roots in a formerly fringe neo-fascist tradition, Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy party will dominate the most right-wing administration to govern the country in the postwar period. The third-largest economy in the eurozone and a founding member of the European Union, Italy has now become a beacon and a model for nationalist, authoritarian forces across the continent. Throughout the election campaign, Ms Meloni has been at pains to distance herself and her party from historical links to the Italian Social Movement (MSI), set up by supporters of Benito Mussolini after the war. According to Italy's next prime minister, the far right has been on "a journey", and should now be considered a national conservative party comparable to the British Conservative party. But a more relevant benchmark is her close ally Viktor Orbán's Fidesz in Hungary, which in power has developed a form of soft autocracy which Mr Orbán describes as "illiberal democracy". As has happened in Hungary, Ms Meloni's aggressive social conservatism is likely to make Italy a more hostile place for migrants, LGBT people and women seeking to exercise reproductive rights guaranteed by the constitution after the abortion referendum in 1978. Like Hungary's prime minister, Ms Meloni has channelled "great replacement" theory, pledging to defend Italy's Christian identity by cracking down on immigration and upping Italy's low birthrate. The bigger picture, for those committed to the internationalism and liberal democratic values forged by the EU since the second world war, is a depressing one. Among the first to congratulate Ms Meloni on her victory was Marine Le Pen, who suggested that "the whole of Europe is waking up, after Poland, Hungary, Sweden and now Italy". For years, Ms Meloni has been assiduous in building up far-right alliances. Profiting from disastrous divisions on the centre-left and popular frustration with established parties, she is now able to place Italy – a major western democracy – at the head of forces favourable to rolling back European integration in the name of a reactionary nationalism and identity politics. Speaking before the election, Romano Prodi, the former centre-left prime minister and ex-president of the European Commission, warned of the dangers for the European idea if national laws were ever allowed to take precedence over EU law. That is largely where Ms Le Pen, Mr Orbán and Ms Meloni would like to end up. The triumph of Ms Meloni has immeasurably helped their cause.

Current confrontation between Israel and Palestine

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Egypt also has actively sought to reach a ceasefire in all of the above wars and military disputes. This time it tried to de-escalate the situation between Israel and the PIJ in order to stop the attack and continue its efforts once it had started until a ceasefire was reached, in which Qatar was instrumental. Egypt indicated in the ceasefire agreement that it would seek to comply with the PIJ's request that two prisoners held by Israel be released

IN the third week of August, Israeli forces raided and forcibly closed the offices of six Palestinian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including three leading human rights organizations in the occupied West Bank. Tensions often arise between Israel and the Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. Gaza is ruled by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has fought Israel on several occasions. Israel and Egypt tightly control Gaza's borders to prevent the flow of arms to Hamas. Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank say they are suffering from Israeli actions and sanctions. Israel says it is only acting to protect itself from Palestinian violence. The threat of evictions from some Palestinian families in East Jerusalem has also fueled anger. The move follows Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Gantz's decision to designate six civil society groups as "terrorist" organizations in October last year. These groups include the oldest and the most prominent human rights NGO in Palestine and one of the oldest in the Arab world, along with the Adamir Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Defense for Children-International, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees as well as Center for Research and Development, and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees was included. All six organizations, several of which have been at the forefront of advancing ongoing cases against Israel at the International Criminal Court, are respected and have strong ties to foreign NGOs and governments. These groups receive foreign financial support, including from many European governments. This move has also been seen as an attempt to shut down organizations by cutting off their funding. The moves were seen with shock and outrage by Palestinians, who described the move as a brazen attempt to stifle criticism of Israeli policies. Representatives of European governments, many of which have funded the named groups for years, expressed similar concerns and asked Israel to provide evidence of the allegations. The Biden administration's response to this has been largely muted, only asking that Israel should provide reasons for the raids. The permanent closure

of these NGOs by such actions will have dire consequences for their problems and the constituencies they serve. Including the possibility of severe repression by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, there will be far-reaching implications for Palestinian civil society. In response to the international criticism, Israel promised to provide evidence, including a secret document containing evidence of the groups' alleged terrorist ties, but has so far failed to convince a single government or donor. The European Union investigation concluded that Israel's evidence did not meet the required standard of proof. A group of United Nations human rights experts similarly said Israel had failed to provide any public concrete and credible evidence against the groups. In July, the EU's nine donor countries Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden issued a joint statement categorically rejected the Israeli allegations and citing a lack of evidence. They announced their intention to continue funding to Six Palestinian NGOs, though reportedly the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), have found nothing to back up the Israeli allegations, and the Biden administration has largely avoided commenting on the matter. At the same time, the region has seen Iranian support increased Hezbollah's capabilities to the point of deterring Israel and allowing the Houthis to attack Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, with significant results. Iran has a strong relation with the PIJ and its collaboration with Hamas continues. The siege has not stopped Gaza's armed groups from bolstering their capabilities and is expected that Iranian may continue their support despite obstacles. There are many speculations in the region that the upcoming Israeli elections played a role in recent decisions regarding attacks on both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Prime Minister Yair Lapid may felt the need to show his credentials to right-wing voters due to his lack of military experience. Defense Secretary Benny Gantz was also seen as eager to improve the chances to win the election. On the Palestinian side, Hamas supported the PIJ rhetorically but not militarily. It also helped

Egypt broker a ceasefire. However, this military confrontation allowed the PIJ to demonstrate its military capabilities on its own. There will no doubt be strained between Hamas and the PIJ, which has lost two key leaders and expects more support from Hamas. Egypt also has actively sought to reach a ceasefire in all of the above wars and military disputes. This time it tried to de-escalate the situation between Israel and the PIJ in order to stop the attack and continue its efforts once it had started until a ceasefire was reached, in which Qatar was instrumental. Egypt indicated in the ceasefire agreement that it would seek to comply with the PIJ's request that two prisoners held by Israel be released. However, Secretary of Defense Gantz has indicated that Israel will not release them. Last week, during the military crackdown on NGOs has drawn even more outcry from the international community. The United Nations Human Rights Office has described this move by Israel as completely illogical. In a public show of solidarity on the day of the raids, representatives of EU diplomatic missions including Germany, Mexico, Poland, the UK and others met with representatives of the six targeted groups, even forcing the US to break its silence. They forced to publicize that it was "concerned" about Israel's closure of organizations and for the first time expressed that the evidence provided by Israel did not support any justification that civil society take action against organizations. Until the international community, and particularly the United States, are prepared to pressure Israel to change the course of incursion, such gestures may force Israeli authorities for some pause. In short, the situation will not be resolved soon. Any future peace agreement will require being agreed of both sides on complex issues. The May 2021 violence was the fourth major war between Hamas and Israel since 2008, said Jeremy Bowen, the BBC's Middle East editor. He has seen previous wars end this way that both the sides claimed victory and then basically sow the seeds of the next battle. At this time if the status quo does not change positively, it will have another round.

Who is responsible for the deaths of children at EU borders?

Karolína Augustová

"The same mothers [grieving for the loss of their children] had no problem to encourage or fund their children on dangerous journeys to Europe. Like in Senegal, symbolically prosecuting parents for putting at risk their children could trigger serious attitudinal change on death journeys," Vincent Cochetel, a special UNHCR envoy, recently argued in a tweet. By adopting this narrative, EU governments and officials seek to absolve themselves of responsibility for refugee children's deaths. But the blame very much lies with them. Children are placed in these dangerous situations because of the EU's migration policies...

ON August 10, the world found out about the tragic death of five-year-old Maria on the Greek-Turkish border. The little Syrian girl was part of a group of 39 refugees, who had crossed from Turkey into Greece to seek asylum, but who were instead pushed back by the Greek and Turkish authorities onto an uninhabitable islet in the middle of the Evros river, which runs along the border. Maria died after being stung by a scorpion, two days after the group was stranded there. Although activists contacted the Greek police, Frontex and the UNHCR in Greece to rescue the group, their calls were presented as "fake news" and ignored. Another girl, a nine-year-old, was also stung by a scorpion and was in critical condition. A few weeks later, a four-year-old girl died on a refugee boat that had tried to reach Italy but had broken down and drifted towards Malta. Despite alerts about a vessel in distress, European authorities did not respond for six days. These are not just isolated cases of child refugees dying at a European border, while fleeing war, authoritarianism, climate change-related natural disasters, poverty or a combination of these factors. In 2015, the world was shocked by photos of three-year-old Syrian boy Alan Kurdi, who drowned in the Mediterranean Sea after a boat carrying him and dozens of other refugees sank. In 2017, international media reported on the story of six-year-old Afghan girl Madina Husein, who was hit by a train after she and her family were pushed back by Croatian authorities into Serbia. Alongside these few publicly known cases, the Missing Migrants Project, launched by the International Organization for Migration, reports that more than 1,000 children died or went missing during their journeys to Europe between 2014 and 2022. These children died or got lost at European borders – stretching from the English Channel to the Balkans, and the Mediterranean – and borders of Europe's key partners in migration controls, Turkey and Libya. Children who do survive their journeys to European Union countries often get injured or traumatised while crossing borders. While researching border-related violence, I have met many families who saw their children being harmed or dying. Their stories are similar to Maria's. They all took place at borders where illegal pushbacks by local authorities and Frontex are a common practice, which denies people the right to seek asylum. Nearly 2,000 kilometres (1,243 miles) east of where Maria died lies the border between Iran and Turkey, which refugees from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iran try to cross on their way to Europe.

Even asylum seekers from Turkey's neighbours, Iraq and Syria, opt for this dangerous route, as the Syrian-Turkish and Iraqi-Turkish borders have become more difficult to pass through. To prevent movement towards its borders, the EU has provided 110 million euros (\$110m) to Turkey to construct a concrete wall and install additional surveillance equipment at the Iran-Turkey border. In parallel, pushbacks by Turkish border authorities have become the main form of migration deterrence. During my research at this border in 2021, I met several people who said they were pushed back by Turkish security forces into Iranian territory. Four men from Afghanistan told me that after a pushback, they got lost in the mountainous area near the border; while walking through the rough terrain, they came across members of an Afghan family, including a baby who was about a year old, lying dead in the snow: "They had to die of freezing," one of the men told me. In other cases, refugees, including children, were injured or died while being transported by smugglers across Turkish territory. "I was here when 70 people drowned in Van Lake, including a six-month-old baby from Afghanistan," an Afghan refugee I met in the Turkish city of Van, told me. "We were all crying and buried the little body in the local cemetery." I also heard stories of children dying when police opened fire on the vehicles they were travelling in or when they crashed. About 1,300 kilometres (808 miles) to the northeast of the Evros River, where Maria died, lies the Croatian-Bosnian border. I volunteered there with the Border Violence Monitoring Network in 2018 and 2019. Among the hundreds of people I met reporting pushbacks was an Iranian family, which included a three-year-old girl. Her father rolled up her T-shirt to show her bruised back and said: "[During the push-back from Croatia to Bosnia, Croatian] police kept shouting at us to go fast across the river. I was holding in my arms my daughter and they kept beating me while I was holding her. I slipped and fell, and my baby got her back injured." The deaths and injuries of refugee children are commonly labelled by state officials as accidents that happen as a result of the harsh terrain refugees cross and attacks by wild animals, or because of their dealings with smugglers. State authorities also like to blame and prosecute parents for their children's deaths – a practice that has been backed even by international aid agency officials. "The same mothers [grieving for the loss of their children] had no problem to encourage or fund their children on dangerous journeys to Europe. Like in Senegal, sym-

bolically prosecuting parents for putting at risk their children could trigger serious attitudinal change on death journeys," Vincent Cochetel, a special UNHCR envoy, recently argued in a tweet. By adopting this narrative, EU governments and officials seek to absolve themselves of responsibility for refugee children's deaths. But the blame very much lies with them. Children are placed in these dangerous situations because of the EU's migration policies and border controls which aim to reduce refugee arrivals to the Union. Families with small children would not have to embark on risky journeys, alone or with smugglers, if they were not denied legal and safe border passage and immediate access to asylum procedures. Children would not be stranded on islands and in the mountains or fall into the rivers or seas if EU state authorities and their non-EU partners were not pushing them back or refusing rescue missions. In other words, children die at borders because of violent policies, including surveillance and pushbacks, deliberately deployed to prevent them from exercising their right to asylum. This means that children's deaths are not accidents but the result of EU "strategies of non-arrival" which aim to stop refugees from exercising their rights granted by international law. At the same time, closed border passage underpins racial violence as border walls and pushbacks target mainly non-white refugee groups fleeing former European colonies. The humanitarian corridors the EU opened earlier this year for Ukrainian refugees – who are considered white and European and therefore, "desirable" – demonstrate that it is possible for children (and adult) refugees to cross borders in safe and legal ways in order to apply for asylum in the EU. Children are without doubt the most vulnerable refugee population. Any refugee child, no matter their race, faith or social background, should be allowed to cross borders safely to access protection. European officials should abandon violent closed-border policies and develop safe and legal routes in collaboration with their key partners. Instead of prosecuting parents who have lost their children on dangerous migration journeys, governments ought to hold accountable members of their security forces who commit illegal pushbacks and use violence against refugees. Equally, Europe should move away from the racist logic of border control shaped by its colonial past. Unless these changes are made, we will continue reading media reports about the tragic deaths of children at borders.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Briefs

Azerbaijan ever ready to thwart any aggression: Amb. Khazar

FROM PAGE 01

When asked to comment on the rehabilitation process the ambassador said, first Azerbaijani IDPs have already returned to liberated Zangilan region's Aghali village, which was rebuilt based on the "smart village" concept. Shusha, the cultural capital of Azerbaijan has already become a venue for international events. "Pakistan Colors" group performed the "Bhangra" dance at the 5th "Kharibulbul" International Folklore Festival which was held in Shusha in May 2022. Azerbaijan offered Armenia peace immediately after the war. This was perhaps one of a handful of examples in the military history of the world when lands remained under occupation for 30 years, people lived in suffering and deprivation, historical and religious monuments were destroyed, cities were razed to the ground, and more than a million mines planted, and yet Azerbaijan is offering peace. However, Armenia is not interested in peace. The Azerbaijani side proposes delimitation and demarcation but Armenia delays it. We have proposed 5 principles for signing a peace treaty with Armenia. In words, they accepted them, but we do not see it in practice. These all show again that Armenia is not interested in peace.

'Moreover, in the past few months, Armenia has committed repeated military provocations against Azerbaijan. More than 1,400 new landmines were planted in the Lachin district alone, and these mines were planted in 2021, after the war. This is a flagrant act of terror against Azerbaijan. Since the war ended, more than 240 Azerbaijani citizens have been killed or seriously injured due to landmine explosions'.

To a question Ambassador Khazar said, Armenian armed forces committed large-scale provocations in the Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin directions of the Azerbaijani-Armenian state border on 13th September again. The sabotage groups of the Armenian armed forces using the mountainous terrain of the area and the existing ravine gaps mined the territories and supply roads between the positions of the Azerbaijan Army Units in different directions. But of course Glorious Azerbaijani Army responded and put the enemy back in place. Ambassador Khazar extended gratitude to Pakistani media representatives for their support in highlighting the Azerbaijan realities among Pakistani public as well as in the international arena. The Azerbaijani defence attaché to a question said that Azerbaijan Air Force was in the process of enhancing its capabilities for which negotiations were under way with various countries including Pakistan. He said most of the landmines had been cleared however there were still areas with landmines therefore Azerbaijan authorities are making sure that such areas are fully secured before the return of the IDPs.

Pak snubs India over attack...

FROM PAGE 01

highly critical of the sanctioning of \$450 million for the F-16 programme. Jaishankar received a befitting response from the US State Department spokesperson Ned Price who said, "the relationship we have with India stands on its own; the relationship we have with Pakistan stands on its own. We also want to do everything we can to see to it that these neighbours have relations with one another that are as constructive as can be possible."

"We don't view our relationship with Pakistan, and on the other hand, we don't view our relationship with India as in relation to one another. These are both partners of ours with different points of emphasis in each, and we look to both as partners because we do have in many cases shared values, we do have in many cases shared interests," Price added.

Kazakhstan to 'ensure safety' of Russians fleeing draft

Meanwhile, Kazakhstan's interior ministry has published a proposal to change immigration rules that would limit to three months the time Russians can stay in Kazakhstan unless they have a passport. While some Kazakhs have already called for border closures or restrictions on Russians' entry

NEWS DESK

NUR SULTAN: Kazakhstan will guarantee the safety of Russians fleeing their country as Russia moves to conscript hundreds of thousands of army reserves to fight in Ukraine, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has said. "A lot of people from Russia have come here over the last few days," Tokayev said in a speech on Tuesday. "Most of them are forced to leave because of the hopeless situation. We must take care of them and ensure their safety." Tokayev's remarks came as Kazakhstan's interior ministry said nearly 100,000 Russians had crossed the two countries' shared border measuring 7,644 kilometres (4,762 miles) – the world's second-longest land border – since Russia issued what it called a "partial mobilisation" order last week. Russians do not need a visa or even a passport to enter Kazakhstan, just their Russian identity papers. The Russian language is also widely spoken in the vast but sparsely populated country, which is home to a large ethnic Russian minority. Tokayev said his government, which has refused to support what Russia calls a "special military operation" in Ukraine, will discuss the



growing crisis directly with Moscow, a traditional ally. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan's interior ministry has published a proposal to change immigration rules that would limit to three months the time Russians can stay in Kazakhstan unless they have a passport. While some Kazakhs have already called for border closures or restrictions on Russians' entry, others have arranged meeting points

for arriving Russians and set up volunteer networks to help them find shelter amid reports of limited availability at hotels and hostels. A resident in the country's largest city, Almaty, told the Reuters news agency she had taken in three young men from Russia on Monday who were preparing to spend the night on the street. Others who fled Russia were staying with friends, and ex-

pressed certainty they would not return home, come what may. "I am crashing on my friends' couch right now," a 32-year-old Russian IT professional, who had moved to Almaty, told Reuters on condition of anonymity. "I do not have a clear plan on what to do next, but I am definitely not going back to Russia. I hope to find work here." Authorities in Georgia, which also shares a bor-

der with Russia, have reported a rise in crossings from its neighbour as well. "Four to five days ago 5,000 to 6,000 [Russians] were arriving in Georgia daily. The number has grown to some 10,000 per day," Vakhtang Gomelauri, the country's interior minister, told reporters on Tuesday. Gomelauri's comments came as the local interior ministry in North Ossetia, a Russian region that borders Georgia, said there was a tail-back of about 5,500 cars waiting to cross the frontier. It described the situation in the area as "extremely tense". Al Jazeera's Mohamed Vall, reporting from Moscow, said Russia was "revamping" its mobilisation strategy in response to the attempts by groups of Russian men to escape the country in order to avoid being called up to fight in Ukraine. "We have just heard about a new strategy of moving some of the conscription centres to the border crossing areas, right where thousands of Russians are trying to flee and cross into other countries," Vall said. "One of those has already become operational and that's in North Ossetia, on the border with Georgia. People who go there thinking they can escape are met with conscription officers."

'Audio leaks' put prestige at stake: PM

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan's flood-hit population. He said unlike the last government headed by the PTI, the coalition regime was going the extra mile to reconnect with the world, especially friendly countries. "The PTI government isolated Pakistan by estranging a number of close allies," the PM said adding, "now we are coming out of that diplomatic backwater, thanks to the efforts of our Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Sherry Rehman, and Maryam Aurangzeb". He said the former government pushed the economy to the brink of collapse because of its incompetence. "Imran Khan-led government disgraced Pakistan before the world because of their 'diplomacy of begging'," he said. The PM also alleged that Pakistan's prestige and honour were jeopardised by the former rulers as – during their meetings with the global leaders – they used to carry themselves as though international delegations were beggars.

Post-flood demands relief work...

FROM PAGE 01

the people across the country needed to work hand-in-hand with an objective to mitigate the problems of flood-stricken population. The prime minister arrived in Sindh's flood-affected area of Jhakra in Dadu district this morning to oversee the relief and rehabilitation efforts. He expressed satisfaction over the efforts made by the Sindh government, armed forces and the disaster management authorities in providing relief to the flood-affected people. PM Sharif said the flood affected 33 million people including 1,600 dead and inflicting a huge loss of \$30 billion to the national economy.

I will hamper Dar's...

FROM PAGE 01

Speaking about his aide Shahbaz Gill's arrest and alleged torture, the former premier said that JUI-F chief Fazl-ur-Rehman was part of a government where these cruel acts were taking place. "Sixty per cent of people belonging to this cabinet are out on bail," he said. Khan also spoke about the country's economy while taking a jibe at the leaders in the government. He said that the economy has deteriorated while unemployment was increasing and these leaders have only come to hide their corruption cases and not to serve the nation.

US pledges additional \$10m...

FROM PAGE 01

The rain finally stopped and a 100-kilometre lake was formed in the middle of my country." As a result of massive downpours, a third of Pakistan is under water, he said. More than 33 million people – a number greater than the population of Australia – are hit by flooding, he noted. Of these flood victims, 16 million are children, he said. He said that 1,600 people have already died in Pakistan, with children making up a third of those fatalities. He noted that it is ironic that Pakistan, which contributed 0.8% to global carbon emissions, is one of the ten most climate-stressed nations on the planet. The foreign minister said his country looks to the US for assistance and support so it can get its people climate justice. "I am convinced that we can build back better. We will build a climate-resilient Pakistan. We will build a greener Pakistan. We will create green opportunities and green jobs – these opportunities not only for us and our private sector but also for those across the world willing to invest in Pakistan," he said.

Ishaq Dar takes oath as senator

FROM PAGE 01

the federal finance minister today (September 28) at 10am. President Arif Alvi will administer the oath to Dar at Aiwan-e-Sadar.

Bismah confident of a good show in Asia Cup

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan women's team will fly out from Lahore for Bangladesh via Dubai in the wee hours of 28 September to feature in ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup. The seven-team tournament will be played in Sylhet, Bangladesh from October 1, the final of the tournament will be played on October 15.

The Bismah Maroof-led side had practiced and trained for ten days at the Lahore Country Club, Muridke. The players went through rigorous nets sessions and scenario-based matches, besides undergoing bowling and batting drills. Captain Bismah Maroof: "Our previous series didn't go well, so we will try to rebuild our side and restart our winning streak. Our coaches have worked really hard on players in the camp



and we will try to execute the practice in the matches in the tournament. "The tournament format is such that it provides a number of matches to the players which will ultimately help us to get ourselves ready for next year's World Cup. We will not be complacent, every team in the tournament will come fully prepared, and we will try to produce good results. "Match against India is an important match, but before that we have other games. We will try to gain momentum in the tournament, and once it is with us, we will

look forward to the game against India."

Before the Muridke camp, right-arm pacer Fatima Sana was ruled out of the tournament due to ankle injury. When asked how much she will be missed in the tournament, Bismah replied, "Fatima has remained a vital part of the side, her absence is a setback for us, but at the same time it is a great opportunity for other players to step up and play a role in winning matches for the side."

The seven-team tournament format is such that each team will play the other once before the top four sides qualifying for the semi-finals. The final of the tournament will be played on 15 October. Pakistan will play their opening match of the tournament against Malaysia at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium

on 2 October. Pakistan will take on arch-rivals India on 7 October.

Squad: Bismah Maroof (c), Aimen Anwar, Aliya Riaz, Ayesha Naseem, Diana Baig, Kainat Imtiaz, Muneeba Ali (wk), Nida Dar, Omaima Sohail, Nashra Sundhu, Sadaf Shamas, Sadia Iqbal, Sidra Amin, Sidra Nawaz (wk) and Tuba Hasan

Reserve players: Natalia Pervaiz, Ummehani Hanif and Waheeda Akhtar

Support staff: Ayesha Ashraf (team manager), Saleem Jaffer (bowling coach and interim head coach), Mautashim Rashid (fielding coach), Muhammad Zubair Ahmad (analyst) and Rifat Gill (physiotherapist).

Pakistan's fixtures: 2 October – v Malaysia 6 October – v Thailand 7 October – v India 9 October – v UAE 11 October – v Sri Lanka

Violations at al-Aqsa could detonate entire ME

FOREIGN DESK

GAZA: The Palestinian Hamas resistance movement has severely censured the Israeli regime and extremist Jewish settlers for their unrelenting violations at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the occupied Old City of al-Quds, saying such acts of desecration could lead to an uncontrollable explosion of Muslim nations' wrath. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said in a statement on Tuesday that the Israeli regime insists on provoking the feelings of Palestinian people and all Muslim nations through escalating violations of the sanctity of the al-Aqsa Mosque. "The acts of provocation against the sacred site are all considered an utter disregard for the sentiments of Muslims across the world. The unrelenting violations could lead to an uncontrollable explosion and unleash the wrath of all Muslim nations," he added.

Earlier in the day, dozens of Israeli settlers intruded into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound under the protection of the regime's forces as Jews celebrated their New Year, Rosh Hashanah. Palestine's official Wafa news agency quoted eyewitnesses as saying that the settlers broke into the site through the Moroccan Gate, also known as Maghariba Gate. They then embarked on a provocative tour inside the compound and performed Talmudic rituals. Israeli right-wing groups have called for the storming of the site so as to increase Jewish presence there as Jews celebrate Rosh Hashanah from Monday until Wednesday.

England in 'good place' for World Cup

LONDON: England captain Harry Kane said the Three Lions are in a good place heading into the World Cup after a 3-3 draw with Germany on Monday despite going to Qatar on a six-game winless run. Kane looked to have completed a famous fightback for Gareth Southgate's men as they came from 2-0 down to lead 3-2 at Wembley before Kai Havertz salvaged a point for the visitors.

"The mentality and fight of the team was shown out there today," said Kane, who moved to within two goals of matching Wayne Rooney's record of 53 goals for England. "We didn't get the win but we can be proud of what we did and it puts us in a good place ahead of the World Cup." Despite leading England to the semi-finals of the 2018

World Cup and a first major tournament final for 55 years at Euro 2020, Gareth Southgate was under the spotlight after his side were relegated from the top tier of the Nations League with a game to spare. England had not scored a goal from open play in their opening five games in Group A3, but Kane is confident they will respond to the heightened pressure of a major tournament in two months' time. "Major football tournament is different to any other football you play for England. The pressure is high and the concentration has to be high and I feel like we respond well to that," he added. "We've upped our game as we've gone along in the last two major tournaments. We dust ourselves down, we know we have to improve. – Agencies



MOSCOW: Book launching ceremony of "Encyclopedia of Iqbal" written by Senator Waleed Iqbal was held at the Historical Institute of Oriental Studies of Russia. Dr. Ludmila, a famous Russian-born Urdu expert, said that Iqbal lives in the hearts of Russians. Senator Mustafa Nawaz is also present at the occasion. – DNA

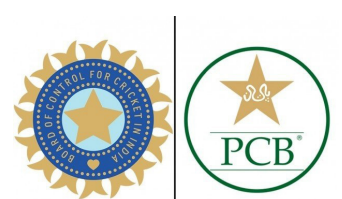
ECB offer to host Pak-India series in England

Martin Darlow, the deputy chairman of the England & Wales Cricket Board, has held talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board during the current Twenty20 series and offered England's grounds as venues for ideally a three match Test series in the future

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: England have offered to be a neutral host for future Pakistan-India Test series opening the possibility of the two countries playing bilateral cricket for the first time in more than 15 years. Martin Darlow, the deputy chairman of the England & Wales Cricket Board, has held talks with the Pakistan Cricket Board during the current Twenty20 series and offered England's grounds as venues for ideally a three match Test series in the future. The matches would attract big crowds in the UK, which has a large expat south Asian population. It would also be more political-

ly acceptable for India to play Pakistan on neutral turf. The two countries play each other regularly in ICC World Cup events and last month in the Asia Cup as well. The matches attract huge sponsorship revenue and television audiences. When India played Pakistan in the semi-final of the 2011 World Cup, the television audience was calculated to be 495 million. But there has been a hardening under the Narendra Modi government in India towards Pakistan and for political reasons the two countries have not played bilateral Test cricket since Pakistan toured India in 2007. Pakistan players are also barred from playing in the IPL, a scenario that could spread if



IPL owners buy teams in other leagues. For example, no Pakistani players are playing in the South Africa T20 league in February where all the teams have India owners, raising questions about the influence of private investment in national leagues. It is understood the PCB are not keen on playing India at the moment at a neutral venue but are grateful for the ECB's offer, which shows the growing relationship between the

two boards. Pakistan have only recently persuaded teams to tour their own country after a decade long absence. To play India in England would be a retrograde step in their eyes but that could change if it becomes the only practical way of making the matches happen and bring in vital funds to Pakistan cricket. It will probably take a change of government and political mood in India for any bilateral Test series to take place regardless of whether the two boards in Pakistan and India want the matches to happen. Despite the situation between national governments, the two boards do have a good relationship but not playing India has a big financial ramification for

Pakistan cricket. England and Australia make more money from playing India than from Ashes series, highlighting how much Pakistan is missing out. England has been a base for Pakistan before. They played two Tests against Australia at Lord's and Headingley in 2010 but the series was not a commercial success. Yorkshire gave up an England Test against Bangladesh to host Pakistan-Australia but ticket sales were disappointing and they were a loss. It would be different with India, selling tickets would be easier especially if matches are held in London and Birmingham. Edgbaston would be a favourite to land one of the matches if they were to happen.

Briefs

Vietnam orders mass evacuations ahead of Noru

DANANG (VIETNAM): Vietnam ordered hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate their homes Tuesday as Super Typhoon Noru barreled towards the busy city of Danang, with forecasters predicting the storm would be one of the biggest to hit the country. Almost half of Vietnam's airports have been shut, schools and offices across several central provinces were closed and residents rushed to find shelter before the expected arrival of the typhoon on Wednesday. After slamming into the Philippines earlier this week, where it killed six people, Noru is predicted to make landfall as a super typhoon before 11 am (0400 GMT) and then subside to a severe typhoon as it makes its way inland.

Vietnam's flood and storm control authority said wind speeds would reach 160 kilometres per hour (100 miles per hour), equalling Typhoon Xangsane - which hit Danang in 2006 and killed 76 people.

Authorities have urged 400,000 people to leave their homes, including in the popular tourist city of Hoi An, where residents were brought to a primary school.

Russia shuns Oscars as Ukraine standoff hits arts

MOSCOW: Russia has decided not to put forward a film to compete in the Oscars this year, as Moscow's deteriorating ties with the West over Ukraine have hit arts and culture.

"The presidium of the Film Academy of Russia has decided not to nominate a national film for the Oscars award of the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2022," the Russian academy said in a statement late Monday. The head of the committee responsible for selecting a nomination said on Tuesday that he had resigned in the wake of a decision taken "behind his back". "The leadership of the Academy unilaterally decided not to nominate a Russian film for the Oscar nomination," Pavel Chukhray wrote in a letter announcing he was stepping down from his post. Kremlin-friendly film director Nikita Mikhalkov earlier on Monday told the Russian state-run TASS news agency that Russia had nothing to gain by participating this year.—APP

Turkish leader slams Western countries protecting terrorists

NEWS DESK

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday harshly criticized the European countries which protect terrorist organizations, including the PKK and FETO.

"As the nests of terror are destroyed, members of terrorist organizations openly set up camps for themselves in some countries.

"The murderers who shed the blood of our citizens are embraced in almost every country in Europe, particularly in the Lavrion camp in Greece. They can walk around freely by waving their arms," Erdogan told a meeting in the capital Ankara. Erdogan's remarks came a

day after a police officer was killed and another injured in a PKK terror attack on a police station in Türkiye's southern Mersin province.

The terrorists pose a threat to peace and security of Western countries protecting the terror groups, Erdogan warned, and said he expects all countries, especially Türkiye's neighbors, to take necessary measures against terrorist organizations.

"The increasing protection of terrorists by western countries is, first of all, a threat to their peace and security. Remember, the snake will eventually bite the hand outstretched to it. The place of the terrorist is not the streets, but the courts and prisons, where they will pay for the blood



they have spilled," he added.

Weapons piled up in Western Thrace mean nothing to Türkiye. About the military buildups in Greece, Erdogan reiterated that Ankara knows very well the intentions of those who provoked Athens, add-

ing: "The weapons piled up in Western Thrace and on the islands make no sense to us because our power is far beyond them, but we remind you that this means a covert occupation." Previously, Turkish army drones recorded that Greece, in violation of in-

ternational law, deployed armored vehicles on the islands of Midilli (Lesvos) and Sisam (Samos).

Ankara on Monday summoned the Greek ambassador and called for an end to violations on the Aegean islands and restoring their non-military status, according to the Foreign Ministry.

Also, in a protest note to the US, Türkiye urged respect for the status of Eastern Aegean islands and stressed measures should be taken to prevent the use of weapons there. "Do you think the support from the US and Europe will save you? It will not. You simply spin your wheels; nothing else," Erdogan said. He also warned the Greek

government, which is disturbed by the word 'Turkish' in the name of any association or school in Western Thrace, saying: "Behave yourselves!"

Erdogan said Türkiye does not want Aegean and Mediterranean seas "being polluted with human blood, tears, or hostility."

"We want peace and tranquility with all our hearts," he added. Ankara wants stability and security in the region, Erdogan said, expressing his wish to resolve disputes through dialogue on the basis of international law. "We never hesitate to defend the interests of our nation and our Turkish Cypriot brothers in the Blue Homeland," he added.

Xi condoles with Putin over school shooting

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping has sent condolences to Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over Monday's deadly school shooting in Russia.

In a condolence message on Tuesday, Xi said he was shocked to learn of the shooting in the city of Izhevsk, which claimed 17 lives. On behalf of the Chinese government and people and in his own name, Xi expressed deep condolences for those killed in the incident and sincere sympathies to the bereaved families. A gunman opened fire in a school in the Udmurtia region, east of Moscow. Investigators said the death toll included 11 children while 24 others were wounded. The shooter was identified as Artym Kazantsev, a graduate of the same school, who was wearing a black T-shirt with Nazi symbols. He killed himself after committing the crime.—APP

Rare protest in China tech hub over Covid lockdown

BEIJING: Dozens of people have taken part in a rare protest in the southern Chinese tech hub of Shenzhen, social media footage shows, after officials announced a snap lockdown over a handful of Covid cases.

The megacity of more than 18 million people reported just 10 infections on Tuesday, but officials have still ordered residents in three districts to stay home as China sticks to its strict zero-Covid policy. Officials are also under pressure to snuff out outbreaks quickly ahead of a key political meeting in Beijing next month. Videos circulating on China's Twitter-like platform Weibo and Instagram since Monday - verified by AFP - show dozens chanting "lift the Covid lockdown" as rows of police in medical protective gear look on. In one clip a woman shouts: "Police are hitting people." The protest took place in Shawei, a neighbourhood in Futian district where the city government is based, AFP confirmed. Shawei's subway station was shut down from 10 pm (1400 GMT) on Monday until further notice "as part of pandemic prevention and control", the city's metro operator said in a statement. At least 14 "high-risk areas" across three districts - Futian, Luohu and Longgang - were under lockdown on Tuesday, with residents forced to stay in their homes, health officials said without offering details on the number of people affected.—APP

Netherlands 'stepping up' support for Kyiv

THE HAGUE: The Netherlands is "stepping up" its support to Kyiv, the country's prime minister said on Monday after speaking to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy over phone.

"We are stepping up our support for Ukraine. More weapons, more sanctions, and more isolation for Russia," Mark Rutte said on Twitter.

"I stressed this once again when speaking to Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in response to Russia's mobilisation and illegitimate referendum. Protecting Europe is crucial for our security," he added.

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a partial military mobilization, calling up to 300,000 reservists for deployment to Ukraine, a move seen as escalation in the war that began in

February. Meanwhile, Ukraine's self-declared republics of Luhansk and Donetsk, along with Russian-controlled parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, are holding referendums on joining Russia, a move the international community says is illegal and would not be recognized.

Zelenskyy said he had a "productive talk" with Rutte. "Discussed the situation at the front & further defense support for Ukraine. & are unanimous: the world should react decisively to sham referenda & increase sanctions pressure on RF. Coordinated support for initiatives within the UN," he tweeted. Besides joining EU sanctions on Moscow and providing Kyiv with weapons, the Netherlands is supporting Ukraine and neighboring countries by helping war victims - providing humanitarian aid funding, medicines and aid supplies. In his speech at the UN General Assembly last week, Rutte had called on UN members to stand firm for Ukraine's freedom and stop the war.—APP



TOKYO: Federal Minister for Energy Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan meeting with the State Minister at Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry. APP

Japan honours assassinated ex-PM Abe at state funeral

TOKYO: Japanese and foreign dignitaries paid tribute to assassinated former prime minister Shinzo Abe at a controversial state funeral on Tuesday, as long lines of people gathered to offer flowers and prayers. Abe's ashes, carried by his widow Akie, arrived at the storied Budokan venue in Tokyo, where a 19-gun salute sounded in honour of the slain former leader. The motorcade carrying his remains had travelled from his widow's home in the capital, past a row of white-uniformed armed troops who stood to attention. Outside the Budokan, thousands of Japanese people stood in line as the ashes ar-

rived, waiting to deliver flowers and say a prayer in two mourning tents.

Toru Sato, 71, leaned on his cane as he waited. "I only know Abe-san on TV. He worked so hard. His death was so tragic. I felt so sorry for him," he told AFP.

Koji Takamori came all the way from northern Hokkaido with his nine-year-old son. "I wanted to thank him. He has done so much for Japan," the 46-year-old said. "The way he died was so shocking. To be honest, I also came because there has been so much opposition. It's almost like I'm here to oppose those who are opposing this (funeral)," he added. Those

opponents were also out, albeit in much smaller numbers, marching near the tents before an expected demonstration in front of the parliament. Abe was Japan's longest-serving prime minister and one of the country's most recognisable political figures, known for cultivating international alliances and his "Abenomics" economic strategy. He resigned in 2020 over recurring health problems, but remained a key political voice and was campaigning for his ruling party when a lone gunman killed him on July 8. The shooting sent shock waves through a country with famously low gun crime and prompted international con-

demnation. But the decision to give him a state funeral - only the second for a former premier in the post-war period - has provoked opposition, with around 60 percent of Japanese against the event in recent polls. Abe's accused killer targeted the former leader believing he had ties to the Unification Church, which he resented over massive donations his mother had made to the sect. The assassination prompted fresh scrutiny of the church and its fundraising, and uncomfortable questions for Japan's political establishment, with the ruling party admitting around half its lawmakers had links to the religious organisation.—APP

Kremlin warns about 'radical change' after referendum

MOSCOW: Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday the situation in Donbas will radically change from the legal point of view, including in the security domain, after the referendum on joining Russia. "The situation will change radically from a legal point of view, from the point of view of international law. With all the relevant consequences for the purposes of protection and security of these territories," he told reporters at a press

briefing in Moscow. Peskov confirmed that Russian President Vladimir Putin conveyed to his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan Russia's readiness to sit at the negotiation table with Ukraine. "Russia confirms its readiness to negotiate, but as the situation changes, the conditions also change," he said. Asked how many people left Russia after Putin's announcement on partial mobilization, Peskov said he has no information.—APP

Patriotic War Fund of National Museum of History Azerbaijan

SHAFQA MOVSUMOV

National Museum of Azerbaijan History Head of the



Patriotic War Fund In September-November years of 2020, as a result of the unity of the Azerbaijani people and the bravery of our army, the process of liberating our lands from occupation began. The recognition of our compatriots who participated in the Patriotic War and the display of various materials related to our martyred heroes to the Azerbaijani

public showed its relevance. On this occasion, the National Museum of History Azerbaijan (Baku city, Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev Street -4) started collecting materials belonging to our martyrs. In this regard, the Scientific Council of the museum made an important decision on the creation of a new fund for the collection, preservation, study and promotion of these materials that reflect our historical victory in the museum. On this occasion, the Patriotic War Fund was established at National Museum of History of Azerbaijan in January 2021. Among the materials included in the fund, there are also examples of relevant state institutions with special services in the Patriotic War. Among the materials included in the Patriotic War fund, there are samples captured as mili-

tary spoils from the army of the invading country. The main purpose of cre-

ating the fund is to organize exhibitions based on items, documents and materials belonging to our compatriots who died in the Patriotic War, to permanently preserve those materials, to involve them



Documents. Martyr colonel Shukur Hamidov. National Hero of Azerbaijan.

to our martyrs and the Patriotic War also shows the importance of the fund's materials. The fund includes the materials of the First Karabakh War, the martyrs of the April 2016 bat-

les, those who died for the Tovuz region in July 2020, and more than 250 martyrs who lost their lives in the 44-day Patriotic War, and this process is ongoing.

In the Patriotic War Fund, the military uniforms of

wallet, etc.) are handed over once by the relatives



Fragment from the exhibition "Karabakh is always the mother of dreams". Photographer: Mirnaib Hassanoglu (Azerbaijan)

our martyrs (headgear, kitel, pants, military boots, etc.), color copies of the honorary decrees, letters of thanks, medals and diplomas they received, as well as personal belongings (watch, bracelet, compass, lighter, rosary,

of our martyrs. Among the materials included in the fund are the military education and training years of our martyrs, as well as photos related to the war path. Among those exhibits are photos and certificates taken from the mili-

tary training and courses of Azerbaijani servicemen in Turkey, Pakistan and

2021 to February 2022. In total, the personal belongings of 205 martyrs and 10



Mothers of martyrs at the exhibition at National Museum of History of Azerbaijan.

other countries. On the basis of the mentioned exhibits, an exhibition called "Karabakh is always the mother of dreams" was organized at the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan from May

veterans were displayed at that exhibition. In addition to the exhibits, this exhibition, which consisted of 30 showcases, included 12 information panels, 7 large-scale banners, and 58 pieces of military booty captured by our army from Armenians. This exhibition was visited by local citizens as well as foreign tourists. Among the foreign visitors, tourists from Pakistan were the majority. Based on the fund materials, scientific articles were written, reports were made at international conferences, interviews were given to local television channels, websites and newspapers. Each of these materials are extremely valuable exhibits and will be displayed in future exhibitions.

The writer is Head of the Patriotic War Fund. National Museum of Azerbaijan History



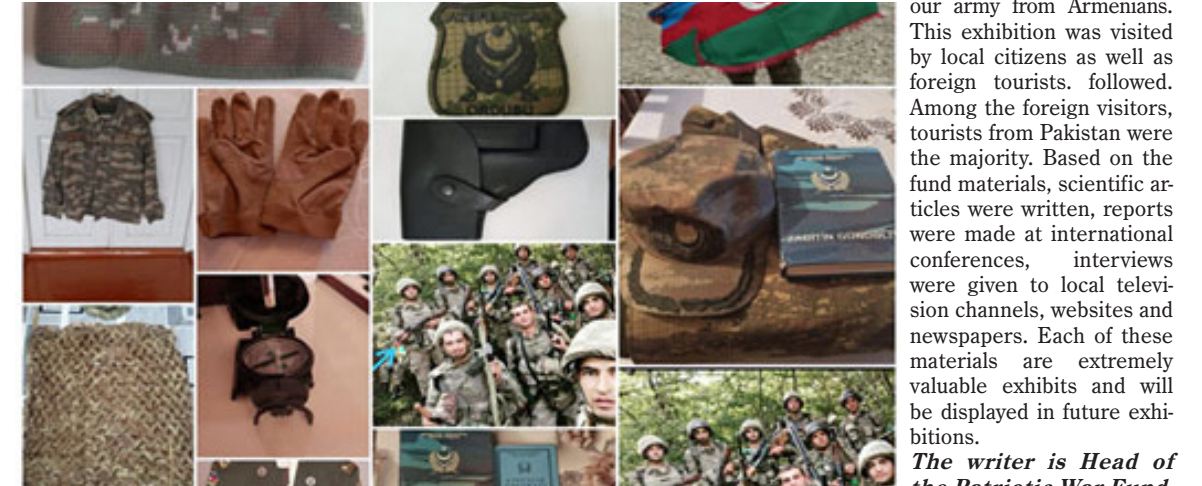
Martyr Subhan Jabrayilov's material at the exhibition.



Martyr Rauf Suleymanov



Martyr Elshan Muslimov



Materials related to martyrs

Briefs

PM expresses gratitude to Saudi Arabia

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has expressed gratitude to the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia for extending strong support to Pakistan for relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people. He was talking to Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy, who called on him in Islamabad Tuesday. The Prime Minister conveyed his cordial greetings to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman. The Prime Minister recalled his recent telephonic conversation with the Crown Prince and stated that there was a shared desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse fields. To sustain the upward trajectory in bilateral relations, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of regular bilateral exchanges at various levels. Shehbaz Sharif also appreciated the important contribution of the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia in relief efforts, who personally visited flood-affected areas.

Outcome will follow illegal referenda: EU official

DNA
BRUSSELS: There will be consequences for those who assisted in the illegal referenda in four regions of Ukraine on joining Russia, an EU official said on Tuesday. "The European Union considers these so-called referenda illegal," Peter Stano, the lead spokesperson of the EU's diplomatic service told reporters at the European Commission's daily news briefing. He explained that the referenda on joining the Russian Federation were "organized in Ukrainian territory amid military control from the aggressor." According to the position of the EU and the G7 group representing the world's most advanced economies, these elections prove that Russia is interested in escalating the conflict with Ukraine instead of seeking peace, Stano added. "We will react to this escalation in an adequate way," he said. Stano declined to comment on the details of the upcoming sanctions package while it is under negotiation, but asserted that "there will be consequences for all people who assisted in these illegal referenda." EU ambassadors held a meeting on Monday to prepare a new set of sanctions against Russia after top EU diplomats mandated them last week to work on restrictive measures and a new military aid package in response to the partial mobilization in Russia.

Referendum: China calls for 'respect to sovereignty'

DNA
BEIJING: China reiterated on Tuesday that the sovereignty of all countries should be respected in view of Russia's referendum in four regions of Ukraine. "China has always maintained the sovereign and territorial integrity of all countries should be respected," Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a news conference in Beijing. "The purposes and principles of the UN Charter should be abided by, the legitimate security concerns of all countries should be taken seriously and all efforts to resolve any crisis peacefully should be supported," Wang was quoted as saying in the Chinese daily Global Times. "On Ukrainian issue, China has always stood on the side of peace and committed to promoting peaceful dialogue," he added. Separatist-controlled Luhansk and Donetsk, as well as partly Russian-controlled Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, are holding referendums on joining Russia. The decision has been widely condemned by the international community, with European countries and the US calling the referendums "shams" and declaring that they will not be recognized.

Indonesian humanitarian relief assistance arrives

The Head of Delegation Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi conveyed deepest condolences and sympathies to the flood victims in Pak from the Govt and people of Indonesia

DNA
KARACHI: The Coordinating Minister of Indonesia for Human Development and Cultural Affairs Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi handed over the flood relief aid from the Government of Indonesia to Minister for Labour of Sindh Province Mr. Saeed Ghani and Minister for Social Welfare Mr. Muhammad Sajidd in a brief ceremony held at Jinnah International Airport Karachi today. The humanitarian aid package weighing around 90 tons has been sent by two chartered national Garuda aircrafts carrying logistics such as medicines, tents, clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, mosquito nets, and generators for the victims of devastating flood victims in Pakistan. Speaking on the occasion, the Head of Delegation Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi conveyed deepest condolences and sympathies to the flood victims in Pakistan from the Government and people of Indonesia. He said that both the countries enjoy special historic and brotherly bilateral relations and this humanitarian aid reflects the spirit of friendship and mutual cooperation to support each other in difficult times. Noting the scale of destruction because of the floods, he said that Indonesia will also help Pakistani Government in next phase. The Minister of Labour of Province Sindh, Mr. Saeed Ghani expressed his gratitude to the people of Indonesia for showing solidarity and extending humanitarian relief assistance to Pakistani people. The Head of National Disaster Management Agency of Indonesia Lt. Gen. Suharyanto, Chairman of Commission 8 of House of Representatives Mr. Ashbul Kahfi, and Director of South and Central Asia Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs were also present on the occasion representing the delegation from Indonesia. The visiting delegation also received by Secretary of NDMA of Pakistan. Coordinating Minister Prof. Dr. Muhajir Effendi and delegation accompanied by Minister Labour of the Sindh Province Saeed Ghani and Minister Social Welfare Muhammad Sajidd visited a shelter camp located



in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi to distribute relief packages to 75 families who took temporary refuge in a boys school Madu Ghod. As the two most populated Muslim majority countries, Indonesia and Pakistan have strong bonds of brotherhood and friendship. The two countries have always supported each other at the time of natural calamities whether its tsunami in Indonesia or massive floods of 2010 in Pakistan. It is hoped that Indonesian assistance will reduce the sufferings of flood affected communities and support the ongoing efforts of Pakistan government to quickly overcome the impact of large scale damage across the country".

NA speaker for exploring Pak-Kazakh trade potential

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Tuesday emphasized the need to explore immense economic potential between Pakistan and Kazakhstan. The Speaker shared the remarks in a meeting with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin who called on him here. The matters related to enhancing trade, relaxing visa policy, expanding parliamentary cooperation and support for National Assembly (NA) call for global funds through Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to combat climate catastrophe were discussed in the meeting. Speaker while welcoming Ambassador remarked that Pakistan attaches great significance to its ties with Kazakhstan, a key Central Asian country which share mutual vision of regional cooperation. He said that parliamentary diplomacy could play a vibrant role in expanding mutual cooperation, adding he said parliamentarians on both sides can promote existing bilateral ties through a mutual contact. He mentioned that Pak-Kazakh Friendship Group in NA is actively working to expand relations between parliaments of both the countries. He added that business communities of both countries should promote trade and investment by exploring investment opportunities to further improve trade relations. Speaker highlighted that Pakistan was witnessing unprecedented climate challenges and to combat this colossal challenge NA has moved an emergency item for 145th IPU Assembly in Rwanda from Oct. 11-15, 2022. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf exchanges views with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin. - DNA

CII says transgender law 'not in line with Shariah'

ISLAMABAD: The Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) said on Tuesday that the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act is "not in line with the Shariah", as "several provisions of the act are inconsistent with Islamic principles. The CII, in a notification, warned that the act may lead to "new social problems" and asked the government to form a committee to review the law related to the transgender community. It added that the committee should include CII members, religious scholars, and legal and medical experts. Separately, the council also appreciated the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) amendment laws and urged the government to incorporate other recommendations made by the CII in the law. The CII's statement on the bill comes a day after Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani said the committee formed to consider the recently submitted amendments to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act would duly consult religious scholars and the CII, if required. "The Senate will never do anything against the Islamic laws," Sanjrani said. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed has filed the amendments to the act which are currently being weighed by the Senate committee. Strongly advising against unnecessarily politicising the issue, he stressed that in case of any controversy, the government was resolved to take the course of the consultation. - DNA

Millions of Brits forced to take 2nd jobs

LONDON: Millions of British people are being forced to take second jobs to make ends meet amid an escalating cost-of-living crisis, the BBC reported on Tuesday. It cited a report compiled by Royal London, an insurer, that surveyed 4,000 British adults. The cost-of-living in the UK is rising rapidly due to surging inflation and rising energy prices, with wages failing to keep up. The study found that 16% of those surveyed had taken on second jobs to

pay for increases in living costs - some 5.2 million people if that percentage were applied across the UK. Another 30% said they would need to do so as living costs continue to rise. The report said even this would not be an option for many, as 28% of full-time employees are already working over 48 hours per week. Of these, 20% were working over 56 hours per week. Almost a third, 31%, of those surveyed said they were still having to borrow or use their bank overdraft to make ends meet, according to the report, which added that 64% of those surveyed said that they were overwhelmed. Sarah Pennells, Royal London's consumer finance specialist, said: "We know that many households started reining in their spending six months ago as costs first started to rise, but with bills continuing to climb, it could be an incredibly tough winter ahead." She said many have sought to make spending adjustments, while "others, despite working all the hours they can, just can't keep their heads above water." - Agencies

US envoy calls on Governor Punjab

DNA
LAHORE: US Ambassador Donald A. Blome called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman and discussed flood situation and ways to promote bilateral trade during a meeting at the at the Governor's House, here on Tuesday. US Consul General in Lahore William Makaneole was also present during the meeting. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said Pakistan values the long-standing relations with the United States, adding that the US cooperation in various fields including education, health and trade is admirable. The Governor Punjab also talked to ambassador Blome about increasing Fulbright and other scholarships for Pakistani students. He said many Pakistani students are pursuing higher education in the United States on Fulbright scholarships. Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said Pakistan is currently going through difficult times due to floods.

Sessions court extends Imran Khan's bail till Oct 13

ISLAMABAD: The Sessions Court of District and Sessions Judge Kamran Basharat Mufti on Tuesday extended the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan till October 13 in the case registered at Kohsar police station regarding long March vandalism. During the hearing, Imran Khan did not appear before the court, while his lawyer Babar Awan and the investigating officer of the case appeared in the court along with the record. Babar Awan, while filing a request for exemption from Imran Khan's appearance, said that the PTI chief could not appear because he was in Lahore. The court granted the exemption on the said request and extended the interim bail till October 13. It is to be noted that several PTI leaders including Imran Khan, Asad Umar, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Fawad Chaudhry and others were booked by police in various FIRs related to Azadi March. - APP

Pakistan envoy briefs European Parliament

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Pakistan to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Dr Asad Majeed Khan on Tuesday participated in European Parliament's Development Committee (DEVE) debate on "humanitarian situation in Pakistan following the monsoon floods" and apprised them on the prevailing devastating situation in the country. The debate was chaired by Vice Chair DEVE Committee, MEP Pierrette Herzberger-Fofana at the European Parliament in Brussels on September 26, 2022, said a press release received here. Ambassador Asad underscored that the climate-induced catastrophe has caused an economic loss of over US\$ 30 billion and pushed the country's development agenda back by years. He highlighted the mammoth scale and size of the calamity and said that the flood disaster was turning into food, health and livelihood crises. Expressing gratitude for the support from the EU and its member states as well as the proposal by President of France to hold an international donor conference, he highlighted that Pakistan needed additional support for not only relief and rescue but also for rehabilitation and reconstruction of the flood affected areas. He said despite producing less than one percent of the global carbon emissions, Pakistan was one of the most vulnerable countries to the affects of climate change and faced extreme weather conditions, including soaring high temperatures, forest fires and accelerating glacial melt. - APP

Imran Khan can't evade punishment, says Sherry

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday said PTI Chairman Imran Khan could not evade punishment in Toshakhana Disqualification Reference by leveling blames against constitutional institutions. The minister in a tweet responded to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman's statement. Sherry Rehman said, "The PTI is persistently targeting the Election Commission of Pakistan after the Toshakhana Disqualification Reference. The PTI leaders including Imran Khan continued to raise questions on the jurisdiction of the constitutional institution." She added that the PTI Chief had now turned to be an astrologer and predicting about the audio leak issue. The minister alleged that the PTI leadership was trying to avoid punishment by making the institution controversial. "Imran Khan is clearly guilty in Toshakhana disqualification case. If other political leaders continue to suffer punishment in similar cases, is Imran Khan above the law and institutions?" Sherry Rehman queried.

Vladimir Putin faults West for global food crisis

Food imports in the US currently exceed exports by \$22.3 billion, which means Washington buys more food than it sells, he explained. On exports of Ukrainian grain

NEWS DESK
MOSCOW: The global food crisis is a result of the West's "predatory policies," Russia's President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday. "The West is provoking a global food crisis... The cost of food on the world market has returned to the levels of the beginning of the year, but it is still 40% higher than in 2020," Putin said at a meeting in Sochi on Russia's agriculture sector. He said the global food crisis was triggered by developed countries with their actions during the COVID-19 pandemic "This is a direct consequence, without any exaggeration, of the predatory policies of the richest countries in the world," Putin said. He said these countries are printing money to buy food supplies, which has led to inflation. Putin said the US' food imports this year have already reached \$218 billion, well over last year's figure of \$185 billion. Food imports in the US currently exceed

'Russia can use nuclear weapons to defend itself'

MOSCOW: Moscow can use nuclear weapons to defend itself, former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Tuesday, days after he asserted that all means could be used to protect territories incorporated into Russia from Ukraine. According to the country's military doctrine, Russia can use its nukes if the country itself or its allies are attacked with the same weapons or if Russia's existence threatened, Medvedev, the deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council, wrote on Telegram. He also warned the West against helping Ukraine to get nuclear weapons, stressing that it may have severe consequences. "If the threat to Russia exceeds the established danger limit, we will have to respond," he wrote. Medvedev doubted that NATO will interfere in the Russia-Ukraine conflict even in a nuclear scenario, suggesting that for Washington, London and Brussels their own security is more important "than the fate of dying Ukraine." "The supply of modern weapons is just a business for Western countries based on hatred of us. No more. - DNA exports by \$22.3 billion, which means Washington buys more food than it sells, he explained. On exports of Ukrainian grain, Putin reiterated that an overwhelming majority of shipments have gone to rich nations. As of Sept. 23, only four of 203 ships that have left Ukrainian ports went to developing countries, he said.

"Of the 46 ships that departed from Monday to Friday last week, 14 indicated Türkiye, the intermediary country, as the destination. Of the remaining 32 ships, 25 were sent to the European Union. Are they the poorest countries?" he said. Paused since the war began in February, Ukrainian grain exports were restarted after Türkiye, the UN, Russia, and Ukraine signed an agreement in Istanbul in July. A Joint Coordination Center with officials from the three countries and the UN has been set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments. On the export of Russian grain and fertilizers, Putin said the situation was complicated because of sanctions against Moscow, warning that this could further aggravate the worldwide food crunch. He said Russia is "fully guaranteed to cover our own needs," with 138.7 million tons of grain already harvested this year and the figure expected to rise to 150 million tons over the remaining three months.