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Islamabad POST

Liz Truss set to become new UK Prime Minister

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Famine is at the door in Somalia: UN

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Arshdeep gets trolled over dropped catch

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Briefs

Imran Khan waged war against Pak

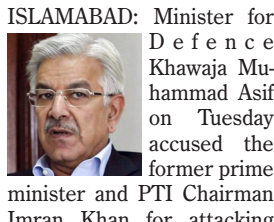
DNA



LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Monday lashed out at PTI Chairman Imran Khan, saying that he [Imran] has waged a war on the country by attacking its stability, economy, society, media and now its Armed Forces. Taking to Twitter, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz said, "Stop treating Imran like a political leader because he's not. He has been launched & funded to wreck & ruin Pak & plunge the nation into pits of misery & despair."

Imran Khan on foreign mission

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Tuesday accused the former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan for attacking the country's economy and defence institutions under the inimical designs of the enemies of Pakistan. Addressing the media briefing held here, the minister said after independence our perpetual enemy India had two main targets of economy and defence namely the armed forces to weaken Pakistan. Minister said, "Yesterday in Faisalabad Imran Khan made comments on COAS (Chief of Army Staff) appointment."

COAS issue should not be discussed

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday said the new Chief of Army Staff (COAS)'s appointment should not be the part of public and political debate as Pakistan Army had their own procedure to deal with such affairs. He while weighing in on the provocative remarks made by Imran Khan said all the ranks in Pakistan Army, from soldier to general, were true patriots.

Pakistan Army says...

PTI chief statement defamatory

ISPR says senior politicians trying to stir controversies over COAS appointment is 'unfortunate'

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistani Army Monday expressed displeasure over PTI Chairman Imran Khan's recent statement against the military and said it was "aghast" over it. In a public rally in Faisalabad, the PTI chairman called out the government, saying that it was delaying the elections to appoint an army chief of its own and that if a "patriotic chief of army staff comes in, he will not spare the incumbent rulers." The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), in a statement, said that the army was "aghast" at the defamatory and uncalled-for statements about the senior leadership of the military by the PTI chairman during a Faisalabad rally. The military's media wing said that regrettably, an attempt was made to discredit and undermine the senior leadership of the army at a time when the institution was laying lives for the "security and safety of the people every day". The army said that senior politicians trying to stir controversies over the appointment of the COAS, the procedure for which is well-defined in the Constitution, is "most unfortunate and disappointing".

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Alvi distances himself from Imran's statement

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: President Dr Arif Alvi distanced himself on Monday from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief and deposed prime minister Imran Khan's remarks concerning the army chief and said that he should "clarify the comments himself". Speaking to journalists at the Governor House in Peshawar the president said that he "did not want to cause any confusion" as he urged Imran to offer an explanation for his statements. Elaborating on his stance, President Alvi said "the entire military is patriotic including the army chief whose loyalty is beyond doubt". At the same time, he said that "the one who makes the comments should be the one to explain himself". "I am not working towards building a national

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PTI doesn't mean to harm institutions

Asad Umar says "There was never an intent to cause harm to the reputation of the institution"

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Following the Pakistan Army's anger over anti-military remarks issued by PTI Chairman Imran Khan, the party's secretary-general Asad Umar responded to the army and said that the statement did not mean to cause any harm to the institution. Speaking during a public rally in Faisalabad, the PTI chairman called out the government, saying that it was delaying the elections to appoint an army chief of its own and that if a "patriotic chief of army staff comes in, he will not spare the incumbent rulers." Taking to Twitter, the former planning minister said that the context of Khan's statement yesterday regarding the appointment of the chief of army staff (COAS) has already been clarified earlier. "There was never an intent to cause harm to the reputation of the institution or its senior leadership," he added. The former minister said that the party and its chairman have always appreciated the "professionalism and sacrifices" of the army personnel.

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PEMRA warns TV channels

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) Monday warned TV channels, directing them to refrain from telecasting any content against the state institutions. The regulatory body directed that any content either recorded or produced under the channels' banner or aired during a live speech or a press talk against institutions should not be aired. PEMRA, in its statement, said that despite repeated directives, TV channels continue to violate them. "There remains no ambiguity in our minds with regards to the laxity of the licensees in ensuring compliance with the Code of Conduct and of PEMRA as a regulatory authority in penalising licensees on account of any violations of the Code of Conduct," read the statement.

Kazakhstan braces for new political milestones

Ambassador Kistafin says early presidential election in Autumn; direct flights between Kazakhstan, Pakistan from November



ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin has said to achieve the goal of democratization and better facilitation of the people of Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has decided to call ear-

ly elections this Autumn. The President has decided to limit the term of the President to one time only, which will be for seven years. Ambassador Kistafin made these remarks while talking to media people, here on Monday. The ambassador further said, during his address to the nation a few days ago the President of Kazakhstan made it clear that he wanted to make the country a democratic state where people have a say in the decision making processes. He said that Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country and the biggest economy in Central Asia; hence, the potential for cooperation and development between both nations is enormous. Tokayev further called for the elections to the Mazhilis (lower house of Parliament) and Maslikhats (local representative bodies) to be held in the first half of 2023 if all relevant laws in the follow-up to the constitutional amendments approved in the June 5 national referendum are adopted by the end of 2022. Moreover, the role of Parliament, media, and civil society in Kazakhstan would be strengthened.

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LARKANA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is being briefed on flood relief activities and flood situation in flood-affected areas of District Qambar-Shahdadkot during his visit at a relief camp set up for flood affected people at Qambar bypass. – APP

Five soldiers embrace shahadat

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation in general area Boyya, North Waziristan District today. During the conduct of the operation, intense fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists. Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location. Resultantly, 4 x terrorists were killed. Weapon and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces and killing of innocent citizens. However, during intense exchange of fire, Captain Abdul Wali (age 26 years, resident of Wana / South Waziristan District), Naib Subedar Nawaz (age 45 years, resident of

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Saudi envoy meets Four-year-old boy

ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed Al-Maliki on Monday met four-year-old boy, Ahmed Mustafa, along his father who donated his money collected for the purpose of Umrah to the people affected by the torrential rains and flash floods in the country. According to the twitter handle of the Saudi envoy, the child's father, appreciating the Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's fraternal relations, expressed his sincere gratitude to the Saudi government, ambassador and embassy for standing by Pakistan and its people through thick and thin. In a video clip, the father expressed the hope that his

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PM Shehbaz for constructive ties with the US

The prime minister appreciated the flood relief assistance being provided by the US

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday expressing satisfaction at the upward trajectory in the Pakistan-US relationship, underlined the need for a constructive and sustained engagement between the two countries, based on mutual respect, trust and understanding. He was talking to a U.S. Congressional delegation (CODEL), which led by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee called on him here. Apart from Congresswoman Lee, the delegation included Congressman Thomas Souzzi and Congressman Al Green. While appreciating the delegation's visit to Pakistan at a critical juncture when flash floods have ravaged the country, the Prime Minister underlined that the government was fully engaged in the rescue and relief efforts. He added that over 33 million had been affected; more than 1,300 human lives lost;

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PM raises BISP flood relief aid over 2.5 times

The flood relief assistance increases from existing Rs28 billion to Rs70 billion

NAZIR SIYAL

QAMBAR SHAHDAD KOT: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said the government had decided to increase the flood relief assistance under Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) from the existing Rs28 billion to Rs70 billion. The 2.5 times increase in the volume of the assistance programme has been made in view of

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Truss to become UK's next Prime Minister

Johnson was forced to announce his resignation in July after months of scandal

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Foreign Secretary Liz Truss has been named leader of the governing Conservative Party, taking power as Britain's next prime minister at a time when the country faces a cost-of-living crisis, industrial unrest and a recession. After weeks of an often bad-tempered and divisive party leadership contest that pitted Truss against Rishi Sunak, a former finance minister, Monday's announcement triggered the beginning of a handover from

Boris Johnson. Johnson was forced to announce his resignation in July after months of scandal and he will travel to Scotland to meet Queen Elizabeth on Tuesday to officially tender his resignation. His successor will follow him and be asked to form a government. In a short victory speech at the announcement in a central London convention hall, Truss said it was an "honour" to be elected after undergoing "one of the longest job interviews in history". Truss has warned that she will push ahead to pass proposed UK legislation to tear up part of Britain's Brexit deal with the European Union.

Inside...

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US delegation expresses solidarity with Pakistan
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Speaker for creating national discourse on climate change
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EU to face 'very challenging' weeks amid Russian pressure
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Pak-China build lidar network to serve for forecast disasters
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Multiple dead, dozens hurt In Canada stabbing rampage
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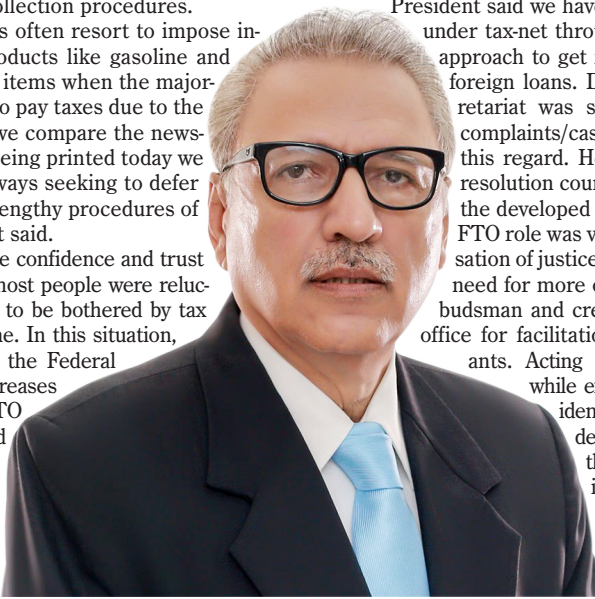
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Bringing rich under tax net imperative, says President Alvi

PESHAWAR: President Dr Arif Alvi here Monday said that economic prosperity of the country was linked with increasing tax collection and underlined the need for bringing rich people under tax-net to economically strengthen the poor segment of the society. Addressing an awareness seminar regarding role of Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Office for provision of prompt, quick and free justice to people at their doorsteps, the President said that in world, the state was responsible for providing uniformed education, quality health services and jobs on merit to people and it was only possible when well-off people were brought under the tax network by simplifying tax collection procedures. The President said the states often resort to impose indirect taxes on alternate products like gasoline and other expensive consumable items when the majority of people were reluctant to pay taxes due to the complicated tax system. "If we compare the newspapers of 1950 and the one being printed today we would find well-off people always seeking to defer taxes owing to complex and lengthy procedures of tax collection," the President said. Emphasizing upon building the confidence and trust of the people, he noted that most people were reluctant to pay taxes as they fear to be bothered by tax departments from time to time. In this situation, he said, the responsibility of the Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) increases as according to the law the FTO has to decide the tax related complaints against federal tax authorities within 60 days of time. The President expressed satisfaction that most of peoples' complaints were being addressed by



FTO. Countering smuggling, money laundering and finance related white collar crimes were among the major challenges of the present era, the president said, "We have to go towards speedy adaptation of digital technology for financial transparency and curbing these social evils." Dr Arif Alvi said today was an era of capitalism and most of poor countries were looking towards international monetary institutions for loans, adding Pakistan has all the resources that need to be exploited for the well being of masses and increase tax collection to bridge the rich-poor gap. Instead of confrontation, the President said we have to bring more well-off people under tax-net through a friendly and cooperative approach to get rid of obsolete tax culture and foreign loans. Dr Alvi said the President secretariat was speedily disposing tax related complaints/cases and no delay being done in this regard. He said that alternative dispute resolution councils (ADRC) exist in almost all the developed countries like England and the FTO role was very important for quick dispensation of justice. The President underlined the need for more outreach of the federal tax ombudsman and creation of awareness about this office for facilitation of taxpayers and complainants. Acting Governor KP, Mushtaq Ghani while expressing gratitude to the President for addressing FTO seminar despite his hectic schedule said that tax collection in KP has been increased to record Rs30 billion against Rs10 billion recorded before, adding reforms in tax collection were imperative to increase tax base. - APP



PESHAWAR: President Dr Arif Alvi meeting with the acting Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr Mushtaq Ahmed Ghani, at Governor House in Provincial Capital city. - APP

Welfare society dispatches relief goods for flood victims

STAFF REPORT

WAZIRABAD. Friendly Hands Welfare Society Under the supervision of Wazirabad President Col. (Rtd) Sufyan Saeed Dar, with the support of the society's foreign and local members, food and necessities of life are being provided for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people. In this regard, goods worth 9 lakh rupees including rice, sugar, milk, surf, tea leaves, dal chana, roasted gram, bath soap, mineral water, water cooler, anti-mosquito lotion, anti-mosquito jalebi, dry milk, Matches, biscuits are included and handed over to Subedar Altaf Hussain in the flood relief camp set up by Pakistan Army

under the supervision of Lt. Saad in Wazirabad. On this occasion, the officials of Friendly Hands Welfare Society Muhammad Tariq Toor General Secretary, Shehzad Fa-

rooq, Tariq Zaheer Finance Secretary, Pakistan Navy Lieutenant (ret'd) Syed Taqi Shah Tamgha Basalt, Muhammad Arif Raza, Arif Yusuf Mughal, Muhammad Asghar Soomro and Dr.

Khalid. Mahmood was also present. It is worth mentioning that the preparation of the third batch of goods is going on, which includes medicines and utensils etc.



Art camp concludes at PNCA

ISLAMABAD: Two-month long Children summer art camp concluded at PNCA Monday in a ceremony organized to engage the young artists in healthy activities during their vacations. Around 50 children of twin cities aged between 6 to 12 years had participated in classes of different fields of visual and performing arts. During the summer camp students learnt the basics of painting, drawing, sketching, keyboard, guitar and violin playing, said a press release. Earlier, theme based puppet show was showcased to create awareness among community regarding rights and responsibilities of children and parents, help and support orphan children and their families by providing equal opportunities of quality education to girls and boys without any discrimination. The Director General of PNCA, Abdul Sattar Khokhar graced the closing ceremony to encourage the young artists. While speaking at the occasion he said these events would help students to enhance their artistic skills. He hoped that parents would keep engaging their children in such healthy and fruitful activities for their bright future. He also distributed appreciation certificates among all the students and teachers of the summer camp session. - APP

Imran behind all conspiracies hatched against state institutions

Musadik said it was almost the same thing that the PTI chairman's staff officer Shahbaz Gill uttered to create a divide within the state institution



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Monday said that PTI chairman Imran Khan was behind each and every conspiracy hatched against the country and state institutions. "All clues(hatching conspiracies against the armed forces) go against Imran Khan. He (PTI chairman) is the main source of where conspiracies were originated against the country and state institutions," he said while addressing a news conference. The state minister said Imran Khan in a public meeting, the other day, talked about the officers of the security departments in an extremely inappropriate way, commenting on their patriotism, meritocracy, and professionalism. Musadik Malik said it was almost the same thing that the PTI chairman's staff officer Shahbaz Gill uttered to create a divide within the state institution. He said Imran Khan by using the same tone and language about the officers of

the security departments had accepted the responsibility for whatsoever Shahbaz Gill had said in his controversial statement. "Now, it is clear that Imran Khan was behind Shahbaz Gill, but it is yet to unleash that who is behind Imran Khan." He said that Imran Khan in the past also used the same language against the security institutions in India and in the United Nations. "Every soldier and officer of the Pakistan armed forces are patriots," he added. Musadik said, "The person who is always ready to sacrifice his life for the country, can anyone question his patriotism." He said that a person who played cricket was a patriot, but the person who sacrifices his life for the country was not a patriot. The minister said that every soldier and officer of the Pakistan army is Major Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Major Tufail Mohammad Shaheed, Major Shabbir Sharif, and Captain Karnal Sher Shaheed who laid their lives to safeguard the frontiers of the country. The minister said that Pakistan's armed forces had rendered unmatched sacrifices for the security of the country. Musadik Malik said that it was unfortunate that PTI leadership and the workers had run a negative campaign against Pakistan armed forces' jawans and officers martyred in the helicopter crash in Balochistan. He questioned the top leaders of the PTI including Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Pervaiz Khattak, Asad Umar, and Pervaiz Elahi whether they were still supporting Imran Khan after hearing such language against martyrs, officers, and state institutions. - APP

EPI initiates vaccination in flood hit areas

PESHAWAR: Expanded Programme for Immunization (EPI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday initiated vaccination campaign on emergency basis to prevent the outbreak of communicable diseases in flood hit areas of the province. The vaccination campaign has been launched for twelve days and would also cover merged districts of the province, says a press statement issued here. The decision of launching of vaccination campaign had been taken by Director EPI KP, Dr. Muhammad Arif Khan during an emergency called meeting attended by all the District Health Officers and EPI staff. - APP

ANP demands resignation of KP finance minister Jhagra

PESHAWAR: Awami National Party (ANP) has reiterated its demand for the resignation of KP Finance Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra for making a conspiracy against the country through writing letters regarding the IMF agreement with the federal government. The demand was reiterated by the ANP leaders while addressing a protest demonstration in front of the Provincial Assembly here on Monday. A large number of ANP activists wearing traditional red caps on their heads with red flags in their hands participated in the demo. Addressing the protesters, central secretary general

ANP, Mian Iftikhar Hussain condemned the consecutive violations of the constitution by the PTI chief Imran Khan and vowed to continue the struggle for the supremacy of the constitution and parliament and will combat anyone in this movement. He said that since ouster from power, Imran Khan has been telling lies about the Pakistan-IMF agreement. He said that Imran Khan himself had signed the agreement while his finance minister Shaukat Tareen was defending it till the passage of the no confidence against their government. But, today he is out to fail that agreement. The veter-

an politician said that these intrigues of Shaukat Tareen and KP Finance Minister Taimur Saleem Jhagra were the violations of constitution and announced to register a treachery case against them. He asked the KP finance minister to tender resignation from his office in his own interest; otherwise, ANP will continue its protest against him. Mian Iftikhar Hussain also warned the PTI chief Imran Khan against interference in the constitutional institutions and vowed to continue war against the PTI chief Imran Khan to unmask his real face before the nation. - APP

Gov't will protect journalists' rights: CJ Islamabad High Court

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday adjourned the hearing on a petition of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) related to the grievances and cases of journalists till September 30. Chief Justice Athar Minallah, hearing the case, remarked that he had confidence in the Prime Minister and the federal government that they would end environment of fear in journalists and would take measures for protection of their rights. Chief Justice

Athar Minallah heard the case filed by PFUJ and Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Shaira Shahid, PFUJ's lawyer Shahkhan Advocate and Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Dogal appeared in the court. At the outset of hearing, the PFUJ's lawyer contended that ministry of information had given prompt response into the matter but it was still awaited from the interior ministry. Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked that one set

of journalists was targeted before the incumbent government came into power and now the other set of journalists became the target. He questioned that why an environment of fear and terror was there for journalists all the time. For the last few years it was seemed that the speaking was the biggest crime? Chief Justice Athar Minallah said that if someone talks wrong then he could be arrested, but shutting down the entire channel was not right act. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen, Chairman Senate standing committee on science and technology presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House Islamabad. - DNA

Chief Minister lays foundation of Gajju Khan Medical College

The Chief Minister on this occasion also visited the newly established emergency and burn unit in Bacha Khan Medical Complex, Swabi and inspected the facilities being provided to patients

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Monday formally laid the foundation stone for building of Gajju Khan Medical College in District Swabi alongside inaugurating the Administration Block, Faculty hostel and Academic block in Women University Swabi. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Mahmood Khan stated that the provincial government will launch education card for graduate colleges in the province under which free education will be imparted in graduate classes. Approximately 244000 students will benefit from the education card which is expected to incur Rs 1 Billion cost to the provincial exchequer. While briefing the Chief Minister regarding the construction of building for Gajju Khan Medical College, it was informed that the building will be setup over an area of 134 kanals of land and is expected to be completed in 2024 incurring an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 Billion. It was informed that the college was made functional in the hospital building for the past many years and the construction of a purpose built building for the medical college was direly needed. 150 students per batch and 750 students in total will be able to get medical education once the college is completed. The Chief Minister directed the authorities concerned to

279 people died in KP due to floods: PA told

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labour Shaukat Yousafzai on Monday told the provincial assembly that as many as 279 people died, 600,000 became homeless in the province due to flash floods while Rs 105 billion losses of infrastructure were reported. Responding to an adjournment motion of the opposition, the minister said that according to the preliminary survey, 1400 km of roads have been swept away by flood water while 87,000 houses, 1458 schools, 552 health centres, 549 water supply units, over 2,000 water channels were destroyed. Similarly, over 6,000 livestock died and 729,789 acres of crops were totally damaged, he said adding that rehabilitation work was the most challenging task in the wake of the floods' devastation. The Minister said that 13 districts of the province have been declared calamity hit and relief and rehabilitation work has been started there in coordination with UNICEF and other relief organizations. He said the two government helicopters were engaged in rescue activities in far flung areas and so far 400,000 have been rescued and shifted to safe places. New spell of monsoon rains have started in the province which would continue till September 7 and the government had provided mosquito nets and anti-rabies vaccines in the affected areas, he added. Meanwhile, PML-N member pointed out the quorum, on which Shaukat Yousafzai Sheikh stood up and the panel of chairman Idriss Khattak also expressed his regret over the move. Earlier, MPA Nighat Orakzai, PML-N's Ikhtiar Wali, Sahibzada Sanaullah, Malik Badshah Saleh and JUIF's Naeema Kishwar appreciated Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for paying visits to flood affected areas of KP and they assured all kinds of help and support to KP government for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people. - DNA

ensure timely completion of the project adding that the provincial government is spending a huge chunk of its budget on education and research activities. The Chief Minister on this occasion also visited the newly established emergency and burn unit in Bacha Khan Medical Complex, Swabi and inspected the facilities

being provided to patients. While addressing the inaugural ceremony at women university Swabi, Mahmood Khan clarified that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf is a reforms based government with the aim to introduce reforms in every sector in order to provide services to its citizens at their door steps. He add-

ed that certain laws and rules in the province date back to more than a 100 years ago which are direly in need of reforms in order to make them compatible with contemporary needs. The Chief Minister added that the provincial government is focused on promoting quality education that will enable our children to compete not only nationally but internationally. The Chief Minister stated that development projects should be preceded by needs assessment and feasibility study in order to ensure efficient utilization of taxpayers money. He added that the provincial government is not interested in announcement of projects merely for political gains. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also appealed to all Public and Private sector universities to collect donations for the rehabilitation of flood affectees in the province. The Chief Minister also planted a sapling in Women University Swabi as part of the Monsoon tree plantation campaign. Provincial Minister for Education Shahram Khan Tarakai, Minister for Health Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Provincial Minister for Higher Education Kamran Bangash, Ex-Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser and Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Industries Abdul Karim were also present on the occasion. - APP

National Defense day vital in history

QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo on Monday said that the September 6 was very important in the history of Pakistan and we have to maintain the same spirit and determination for the protection, integrity and defense of our beloved homeland which was demonstrated by the entire nation during the war of September 6, 1965. In his message on the occasion of Defense Day, he said "The day our armed forces and the entire nation came together to prove that arms or numbers are mean nothing in the face of the power of unity and faith." He said that it was a historic day when our forces uprooted the enemy's footholds and became a leaden wall to defend the motherland, despite being outnumbered and lacking in war equipment, our forces had showed great courage and bravery on the same day. - APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

AUGUST

Aug 01/ CHINA
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SWITZERLAND
National Day

Aug 01/ LEBANON
Armed Forces Day

Aug 01/ SYRIA
Armed Forces Day

Aug 4/ BUKINO FASO
National Day

Aug 09/ SINGAPORE
National Day

Aug 15/ DPR KOREA
Independence Day

Aug 15/ INDIA
Independence Day

Aug 15/ POLAND
Armed Forces Day

Aug 17/ INDONESIA
Independence Day

Aug 24/ UKRAINE
Independence Day

Aug 25/ URUGUAY
Independence Day

Aug 30/ TURKEY
Armed Forces Day

Aug 31/ KYRGYZ
Independence Day

Aug 31/ MALAYSIA
National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133

Marriott.....051- 2826121

Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.....1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police....9266044

Motorway Police..9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555864

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital..9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International.4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

US delegation expresses solidarity with Pakistan

US Congressional Delegation expressed condolences and deepest regret on loss of lives and commitment to helping Pak in these trying times and advocate for funding in US

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman met with the US Congressional delegation, headed by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, apprising them of the current relief efforts and the assistance required for rehabilitation of the flood affected areas and population. The delegation comprised of Congressman Tom Souzzi, Congressman Al Green and US Ambassador H.E Donald Blome. The delegation expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan and great concern on the devastation wreaked by the 'Monster Monsoon', promising full support to Pakistan in these trying times. Federal Minister, while explaining the ongoing relief efforts, said, "The devastation on ground is much more than we have ever encountered even in the 2010 floods. This time, however, we are unable to



find dry ground to land our helicopter sorties providing relief. We had a cataclysmic start to the year, with temperatures reaching 53 degrees in Sindh followed by heatwaves and 3 times the normal amount of GLOFs. The South remains inundated, posing danger to human health now. Despite relief

efforts from the government, NDMA, PDMAs and Pak Army, we are under-resourced. 33 million people have been impacted severely. We have appealed to our bilateral and multilateral partners in this time of need." While talking about the imminent health crisis, Minister Rehman remarked, "There are far-reaching impacts of these floods which have unleashed on Pakistan for 9 weeks now. The situation on the ground is still worrying in terms of relief and rescue. It is a national emergency. We are now heading towards a health emergency due to wa-

ter-borne diseases. We need urgent relief funds to deal with this emerging crisis. We really appreciate US assistance and support in this moment of great crisis. It reminds us of a strong partnership and of better times. Right now, we are looking at conducting risk assessment followed by building climate-resilient infrastructure and for that we would require your support." The US Congressional Delegation expressed condolences and deepest regret on the loss of lives and commitment to helping Pakistan in these trying times and advocate for funding in the US.

Imran wasted four years in pursuing false cases: Ahsan

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday said former Prime Minister Imran Khan wasted four years of his government in pursuing false cases against his political opponents. Addressing a press briefing here, the minister said Imran Khan had spent millions of rupees in baseless cases but could not prove corruption of even a single rupee against his opponents.

He said the person who enjoyed full power for four years, is now innocently doing speeches in public gatherings misleading the people about his intentions. During his power, he said, Imran Khan had followed the agenda of economic destruction and today he is still following the same agenda. "Imran Khan can not tell even a single project that was initiated and completed during his four years' term. I challenge him", he said adding that the PML-N government during its tenure (2013-18)

CDNS attains Rs 220 billion

ISLAMABAD: The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) on Monday collected the target of issuing Rs 220 billion fresh bonds in the current fiscal year 2022-23 from July 1st to August 31, 2022. The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has set a saving target of Rs1.5 trillion for the current financial year (2022-23) which will promote savings culture in the country, the senior official of CDNS told APP here. At this time, the current market trend in the country and the ambitious target has been set to further improve the savings culture, he said. Replying to a question, he said the CDNS surpassed its annual target in previous fiscal year 2021-22 and set a historic record of Rs1,250 billion savings till June 30, 2022. For the first time in its history, CDNS crossed Rs1,000 billion fresh deposits and achieved the target of Rs1,250 billion by June 30, 2022. He said the CDNS had attained the target of issuing Rs1,250 billion fresh bonds from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. It had set an annual gross receipt target of Rs 980 billion from July 1 to June 30 of the previous fiscal year 2020-21 to promote savings in the country. The senior official said the CDNS had set Rs 250 billion annual collection target from July 1 to June 30 for the year 2020-2021 as compared to Rs 352 billion for the previous year (2019-20) during the same period to enhance savings in the country. - APP

Railways utilize all resources to restore rail service

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways and district administrations of Sindh, Balochistan have utilized all available resources to restore the rail service in flood affected across the country. "On the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, the department is putting maximum efforts for rehabilitation of railway track in Sindh, Balochistan and other affected parts of the country shortly", an official in the Ministry told APP. He said Pakistan Railways also directed to complete the ongoing survey of the affected installations on a war footing and speed up the rehabilitation process. The official said the technical and non-technical staff of the department was working in three shifts to restore the tracks once the flood water recedes. "The train service between Quetta and Karachi Divisions is suspended after railway bridges collapsed and rail tracks became submerged in water due to floods in the region," he added. He said that in the remaining divisions around seven to eight bridges were damaged due to which the train operations were suspended in the flood hit areas. The official said the train service could not be restored until the bridges and tracks were cleared of the floodwater. The official said the floods and non-stop rains in the country had caused a loss of more than Rs 11 billion to the Pakistan Railways, including infrastructure damages worth Rs 8 billion due to collapse of the bridges and tracks, while ticket refunds, diesel and suspension of train operations had cost the department Rs 3.5 billion. - APP

850 teams working to restore services: PTA

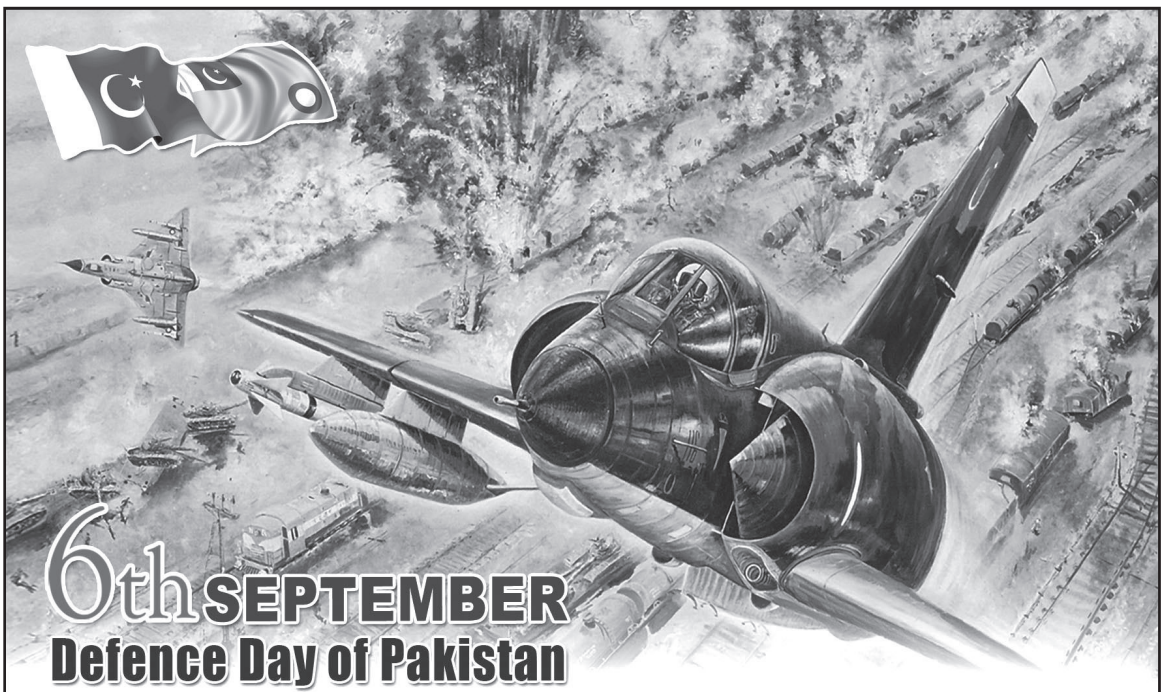
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has said that over 850 teams were working round the clock to restore and maintain telecom services nationwide. The relentless efforts of PTA and telecom operators to restore connectivity in flood-affected areas have resulted in further reduction of non-functional sites across the country, said a news release. Moreover, optical fibre backhaul to provide nationwide connectivity has been fully restored. PTA will continue to update the public about the restoration of left-over sites. Non-functional sites were inaccessible due to flood water but other operational sites in the vicinity ensure that there is no communication blackout. - APP

Message of the Air Chief on the Defence Day of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Defence Day is a symbol of passion, valour and sacrifice of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and our Nation at large. It provides us an opportunity to relive the memories of 6th September 1965. On this very day, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, backed by the whole Nation, foiled the evil designs of the aggressor and successfully defended their homeland. We pay rich tribute and acknowledge the supreme sacrifices of all the brave sons of the soil who remained resolute in defence of Pakistan. 2. My Dear Countrymen! Pakistan is currently facing multiple challeng-

es. To befittingly address them, we need the same spirit of patriotism and unity, as displayed in 1965. Alhamdulillah, we, as a Nation, have a proud history to draw inspiration from in such testing times. Let me assure you that Pakistan Air Force is ever-ready to rise to every occasion as per its glorious legacy. I am glad that PAF over the years has developed into a modern hi-tech Air Force equipped with niche technologies. It is heartening that PAF has been meaningfully contributing to nation-building efforts, particularly in the fields of Aerospace, IT, Health, Education and Sports etc. More so, PAF always provides full support to fellow countrymen during natural calamities such as pandemics, floods and earthquakes. On this day of national pride, let us renew our pledge to redouble our efforts for the defence, progress and prosperity of Pakistan. 3. On this occasion, we show solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers, who have been suffering and rendering supreme sacrifices for over seven decades. We stand by them in their indigenous and just struggle for self-determination. 4. May Allah Almighty guide our endeavours and give us strength to come up to the nation's expectations as always. Aameen! Pakistan Air Force Zindabad! Pakistan Paindabad!



Defence Day is a symbol of passion, valour and sacrifice of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and our Nation at large. It provides us an opportunity to relive the memories of 6th September 1965. On this very day, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, backed by the whole Nation, foiled the evil designs of the aggressor and successfully defended their homeland. We pay rich tribute and acknowledge the supreme sacrifices of all the brave sons of the soil who remained resolute in defence of Pakistan.

My Dear Countrymen! Pakistan is currently facing multiple challenges. To befittingly address them, we need the same spirit of patriotism and unity, as displayed in 1965. Alhamdulillah, we, as a Nation, have a proud history to draw inspiration from in such testing times. Let me assure you that Pakistan Air Force is ever-ready to rise to every occasion as per its glorious legacy. I am glad that PAF over the years has developed into a modern hi-tech Air Force equipped with niche technologies. It is heartening that PAF has also been meaningfully contributing to nation-building efforts, particularly in the fields of Aerospace, IT, Health, Education and Sports etc. More so, PAF always provides full support to fellow countrymen during natural calamities such as pandemics, floods and earthquakes. On this day of national pride, let us renew our pledge to redouble our efforts for the defence, progress and prosperity of Pakistan. On this occasion, we show solidarity with our Kashmiri brothers, who have been suffering and rendering supreme sacrifices for over seven decades. We stand by them in their indigenous and just struggle for self-determination.

May Allah Almighty guide our endeavours and give us strength to come up to the nation's expectations as always. Aameen

Pakistan Air Force Zindabad!
Pakistan Paindabad!

Air Chief Marshal
ZAHEER AHMED BABER SIDHU, NI (M)
Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force



PAKISTAN AIR FORCE
A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THE NATION

PID (I) 1396/22

Federal board announces HSSC Part-I results

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad on Monday announced the results of Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) Part-I Annual Examinations for the year 2021-22. According to the result details, overall success ratio was 66.92 percent in HSSC Part-I results. According to the details, the total regular enrollment of class eleventh in the federal board was 83,324 while 56001 students passed the examinations with the success ratio of 68.38 percent. However, as per details of ex-private enrollment, a total of 3,122 students appeared in the exams while 682 students passed with the success rate of 24.31 percent. Chairman Federal Board of Intermediate Qaiser Alam, has congratulated all the students who achieved success. APP

ABC cables being installed in electricity theft prone areas

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government continues to assist all power distribution companies (DISCOs) financially to improve its infrastructure and Aerial Bundled Cables (ABC) were now being installed in theft prone areas to counter direct hooking as well as for ensuring safety. Official sources told APP here that in narrow streets where cables could not be secured properly, 4-core cables were being installed after removal of individual cables. They said service cables from pole to meter in most of the urban areas were in good working conditions to limit the theft and losses within permissible limits. - APP

Briefs

CDA seals 39 buildings

ISLAMABAD: Directorate of Building Control of Capital Development Authority (CDA) sealed 39 buildings in Jinnah Gardens Housing Scheme on account of Non-conforming Use (NCU). CDA teams in a joint operation with Enforcement Directorate, CDA and ICT administration conducted operation on the directions of Director Building Control South CDA. Deputy Director Ashraf Shahid, Assistant Director Mazhar Abbas Bukhari, Building Inspector Rizwan, Building Inspector Saleem and other enforcement staff participated in the operation. Police contingent also accompanied CDA staff during the operation. CDA chief said the operations against illegal constructions would continue without any fear and pressure until the removal of all violations as per CDA byelaws. He said strict legal action would also be taken against violators in case of non-compliance and repeated offence. – APP

Sami Khan unveils teaser of 'Tinkay Ka Sahara'

ISLAMABAD: Celebrated Pakistani actor Sami Khan unveiled a gripping teaser of upcoming drama serial 'Tinkay Ka Sahara' alongside the gorgeous Rabab Hashim. Turning to his social media handle, the 'Lafangey' sensation shared the official teasers along with a caption "We have worked hard and I hope you all like it". Written by the lady with golden pen Zanjabeel Asim and directed by Zeeshan Ahmed, the most-anticipated serial is on everyone's radar due to its exceptional storyline and star-studded cast including Sonya Hussyn, Sami Khan, Rabab Hashim, Haroon Shahid, Saba Faisal, Ayesha Toor, Adnan Jaffer, Sana askari and Naveed Raza. According to the engrossing teasers shared on local televisions official YouTube channel, the story revolves around two married couples and their bittersweet relationship with their partners. The first teaser portrays Rabab Hashim in a toxic relationship with Sami Khan despite of all the wealth and luxuries, while the second teaser shows Sonya Hussyn and Haroon Shahid living an ideal married life in limited income. Produced under the banner of Moomal Entertainment and MD Productions, the story raises a few questions "Is money everything that really matters? Not the personality of the person you are marrying?" – APP

Man shot dead over personal enmity

WAH CANTT: A man was shot dead over alleged personal enmity in a day broad light at main bus stand on GT road in limits of Taxila Police station on Monday. According to the Station House Officer (SHO) Mirza Qammar Javid, the victim identified as Danish was going to attend the court proceedings in a case filed against him by his rivals at main chowk. On his way, he was intercepted by a masked man, near the camps established for flood victims, who allegedly shot him causing Danish to die on the spot. According to police, quoting the deceased family members, the alleged murder was a result of old enmity. Police after autopsy handed over the body to the deceased family and started investigating the matter. – APP

46 Corona's patients quarantine

RAWALPINDI: As many as 46 people having positive symptoms of Coronavirus were quarantined at home, while six more people were diagnosed with the deadly virus during the last 24 hours. According to new data released by the District Health Authority here Monday, among the recent cases, three arrived from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Potohar town and one from Rawal town. The report informed that a total of 47,605 infected cases, 43,990 from Rawalpindi and 3,615 from other districts. – APP

Speaker for creating national discourse on climate change

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday said that the formulation of national discourse on climate change was the obligation of intelligentsia and academia. He further said that Pakistan was vulnerable to climate change even though it contributed less than 1 percent of global Greenhouse Gases that warm our planet. He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural session of the First International Conference on "Climate Resilient Agriculture for Sustainable Development & Food Security" organized by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) in Islamabad. "We need to take preemptive measures to control global warming, universities and academia should step forward to play a role and give suggestions to the policy makers based on research," he suggested. He said that natural disasters, storms, volcanoes, earthquakes, or floods are not under human control, but with early preparation and timely measures, we can protect ourselves from the effects of these disasters. While talking about the damages to life and property in the country caused by recent devastating torrential rains and floods, he said that the agricultural lands had submerged and all major crops and livestock had perished across the country. The Speaker said the National Assembly of Pakistan was effectively highlighting challenges due to climate change through vibrant parliamentary democracy. The Parliamentary Task Force on SDGs oversees progress on the climate-related goal of SDGs while Standing Committee on climate change also actively scrutinizes government climate action and environmental response, he added. National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf also called on the global community to take action to tackle the climate crisis and come forward to help Pakistan as it had been



ISLAMABAD: Dean Faculty of Education AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood giving the university shield to the Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on the occasion of the international conference. – DNA

affected the most. He further informed that the National Assembly of Pakistan in collaboration with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) was hosting a regional seminar that would focus on the ongoing climate catastrophe and this seminar would also draw the world's attention to the economic and human losses faced by our people, for which we were not even responsible. While appreciating the efforts of the organizers for taking the initiative to hold a dialogue on the importance of introducing climate resilient agriculture in the country, the Speaker expressed hope that this conference would be fruitful for the formulation of a national discourse on agriculture and food security. Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad, Chairman Department of Agriculture Sciences, AIOU, expressed gratitude to Speaker

National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf for inaugurating the seminar.

This three-day international conference was organized by the Department of Agricultural Sciences, Allama Iqbal Open University. Prof. Dr. Azim Khalid of PMAS Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi was the keynote speaker, whereas other speakers include the Rector, Fast National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Dr. Aftab Maroof, Dean Faculty of Science, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad, Dean Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mehmood, Registrar, Raja Umar Younis, and Chairman, Department of Agricultural Science, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Sher. The speakers said that increasing the fertility and productivity of the land is the most important need of the hour. They said

that by relying on modern methods of irrigation, more production can be achieved with minimal use of water. Agriculture has special importance to meet the needs of the growing population, which can ensure food security only by developing it on modern lines. The speakers further said that ensuring food security and increasing agricultural production has become extremely important and this effort of AIOU will prove to be a milestone to raise awareness about the issue. Chairman, Department of Agricultural Sciences, Prof. Dr. Sher Muhammad while explaining the aims and objectives of the conference said that the aim of this conference is to bring about positive change in the regional and global food system and to find new solutions to the challenges of global food security.

PARC to organize 2-day conference on productivity enhancement of wheat

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) will organize a two-day national conference aimed at enhancing productivity of wheat crop across the grain producing areas in the country. The conference titled "Efficient integrated nutrients management technologies for enhancing wheat productivity in Pakistan", will be held in collaboration with the National Agriculture Research Center from September 6-7. The other objectives of the conference is to maintain food safety and security, besides conservation of natural resources, including water, soil and fertility of the land with adaption of modern and innovative cultivation and irrigation technologies and making the local ag-

riculture produces more competitive and sustainable.

Besides the research scientists and agriculture experts, the event will be attended by the senior officials from the Ministry of National Food Security and Research, and PARC. The representatives of national and international organizations, research and development partners, progressive growers from all across the country will share their expertise to promote and enhance the productivity of major cash crop of the country. Incharge Wheat Enhancement Project Dr Sikandar Shaheen, in a statement, said the government had evolved a strategy to enhance per-acre output of all major crops

including wheat, rice, sugarcane, maize and cotton. He said in order to enhance the wheat produce, the NARC was tasked to develop new high-yielding, climate tolerant seed varieties to enhance per-acre output of the commodity to tackle with the growing demand of wheat and its by products. Under the project, he said, the government had provided 350 metric tons of wheat seeds. Some 15 training programmes were also conducted in the four provinces, including Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir to train about 1,500 farmers, while over 2,000 more would be trained during next season to achieve higher wheat production. – APP

Applying date for participating in IJSO-2022 extended

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) has extended the last date for submitting their applications to participate in the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO), to be held in December, 2022 at Bogota, Columbia, till September 15. According to the Science Popularization Wing of PSF, earlier the last date for participation in the IJSO was September 05 however the date has been extended till September 15 to give an opportunity to the maximum students for submitting application. The objective behind this programme is to promote science among young students and give recognition to their talents. The enthusiastic science students born on or after January 01, 2007 passed Secondary School Certificate (at least SSC-I) and obtained 80 percent marks or above can send their applications on prescribed Proforma available on PSF website www.psf.gov.pk. PSF is the premier organization of the country for promotion and popularization of science and is mandated to engage and encourage students towards excelling in the fields of science and technology. The applicant must be a regular science student in a public or private sector (Government recognized) institution having proficiency in written and spoken English. – APP

Govt instructed to public details of helicopter's use

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed the appeal against the decision of Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) to public the details regarding the helicopter's use during the elections of AJK prime minister. The court remarked that if the helicopter was used to bring someone's family members or other than the defence purpose then it was its misuse. Upholding the decision of PIC, the court ordered the federal government to share information with the applicant citizen as he wanted to know where the prime minister's helicopter was used. This was to be mentioned here that the PTI candidates for AJK prime ministerial were brought on a helicopter for an interview with the then Prime Minister Imran Khan. At the outset of hearing, Deputy Attorney General Arshad Mahmood Kayani adopted the stance that the information couldn't be shared as it was related to the defence. Chief Justice Athar Minallah, hearing the case, said that the information being sought was not related to the defence, adding that a citizen was asking for information related to use of public funds. If a defense helicopter was used for any other purpose, then it was the right of the citizen to know the information, the chief justice remarked. Justice Athar Minallah questioned that if I was using the helicopter, how could it be related to the defence purpose. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal meets US delegation comprising Congressman AI Green, Congressman Tom Suzzoi & Congress Woman Sheila Jackson. US ambassador Donald Blome was also present. – DNA

Govt parties condemn spread of hatred against Army

The conspiratorial elements will be dealt with according to the constitution and law and their every nefarious agenda aimed at weakening Pakistan will be thwarted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The ruling coalition parties have strongly condemned Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Imran Khan for spreading hatred against Pakistan Army and its leadership and creating controversies regarding sensitive professional matters. The political parties in a joint statement on Monday said that the entire nation was suffering from floods while Imran Khan was fighting against the national institutions including the armed forces and the people, due to his arrogance, hatred and revengeful nature. Coalition parties think that Imran Khan is following the agenda of turning Pakistan into Sri Lanka by affecting the process of economic recovery and creating conflicts between army and people as well as in 'rank and file' of the army. "We will thwart this nefarious conspiracy and deal with the conspirators according to the constitution and law", the parties said in the statement. The ruling coalition parties said that Pakistan would be run according to the constitution

and not be enslaved by the arrogance, fascism and dictatorial attitudes of any individual. The armed forces in collaboration with the federal and provincial governments and



institutions were rendering valuable services to help the flood victims in the country under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif on the one hand and fighting the war against terrorism with courage and bravery and sacrificing their lives, on the other. At a time when the entire nation is united on the agenda of rooting out terrorism from the country, ensuring economic stability and providing relief and rehabilitation to the flood victims, a single voice is spreading hatred through lies, propaganda and slanders every day to tear apart the national unity and spread hatred among the people, the statement reads. The coalition parties have shown consensus that they would not allow anyone to harm the national interests including the restoration of the economy, constitutional respect of the national institutions including the armed forces and their leadership and the relief and rehabilitation efforts for the flood victims. The conspiratorial elements will be dealt with according to the constitution and law and their every nefarious agenda aimed at weakening Pakistan will be thwarted.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued power suspension programme for Tuesday various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesperson, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, New Kalyam, Old Kalyam, HPT-3, Industrial, Moorat, Waheedabad, Burma, NDC-1&2, I-10/2&3, PHA-2, Metro, Islamic University, Bahria University, Dr.A.Q Khan, NUST University, U phone, PTCL, SES, Fazal Ghi, NESCOM, Raja Sultan, Eid Gah, Ali Market, Dhok Najo, TB Hospital feeders and surroundings. – APP

Upgradation of BHU, Kauntrila underway

RAWALPINDI: The 15 per cent work on the upgradation of the Basic Health Unit(BHU)Kauntrila, Tehsil Gujjar Khan, into a Rural Health Center(RHC) has been completed. Finance and Planning Coordinator District Health Authority Muhammad Zohaib told APP that the divisional development working party had approved the upgradation of the project in April 2022, which would be completed in 18 months at the cost of around 149 million. He informed that about Rs 35 million had been spent so far on constructing 20 beds health facility while the remaining work would hopefully be completed by September 2023. Zohaib said the provision of adequate health services, especially for mother and child health care to the people of the rural areas, was the top priority of the Punjab government. He said the health department was determined to upgrade the existing health facilities in rural areas of Rawalpindi and was utilizing all available resources to bring a visible change in the delivery of health services. – APP

38 more dengue patients reported in 24 hours

RAWALPINDI: As many as 38 more dengue cases were reported in Rawalpindi during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 570. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Monday said that among the new cases, 22 patients had arrived from Potohar town urban area, seven from Potohar rural, three from Rawalpindi Cantonment, two from Taxila Cantonment while one of each patient reported from Chaklala Cantonment, Taxila rural, and Kahutta. Dr Sajjad said 130 patients were admitted in the city's allied hospitals, including 51 in the Holy Family Hospital, 45 in District Headquarters Hospital, and 34 in the Benazir Bhutto Hospital. He added that out of the total admitted patients, 80 tested positives, with 64 belonging to Rawalpindi and 16 from outside districts. – APP

191 vehicles issued challan tickets

RAWALPINDI: On the special order of Chief Traffic Officer, Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad, in-charge Traffic New Town Sector Inspector Usman launched operation against using tinted glasses in vehicles. During checking at different places 191 vehicles were challenged during last month. On this occasion Chief Traffic Officer Rawalpindi Naveed Irshad said that the special campaign against black or tinted glasses in vehicles will continue. There were no legal permission in law regarding using the black or tinted glasses, nor will any excuse will be accepted by the citizens. He further said that along with maintaining the flow of traffic in the city without hindrance, the implementation of the law is being ensured. – APP

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Defense and Martyrs day

The nation will celebrate its 58th Defence and Martyrs Day, to revive the courageous which incurred a shameful defeat to a six times bigger enemy India, in solidarity with the flood victims of the country. The Defence and Martyrs Day is celebrated every year on September 6th to revitalise the national spirit, remember and eulogise the sacrifices of the martyrs, who spilled their blood for the security of the sacred motherland and marked an exemplary history of patriotism. The day will dawn with the 31-gun salute at the federal capital and 21-gun salute at the provincial capitals whereas a change of guard ceremony will be held at the Mazar-e-Quaid (Quaid's Mausoleum) whereas change of guards ceremony by Cadets of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Academy Asghar Khan will be held by the smartly turned out contingent.

However, the central Defence and Martyrs Day ceremony to be held at the General Headquarters (GHQ) was postponed by the Pakistan Army due to the prevailing floods that wreaked havoc in the flood affected areas of Sindh, Balochistan, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The Pakistan Armed Forces will continue serving their brothers and sisters struck by unprecedented floods, told the ISPR DG earlier. This year, the day needs a renewed resolve from the nation to overcome the difficult time like our countrymen did in 1965. The recent floods and rains have brought upon us perhaps the most challenging time since 2005 earthquake. The army, navy and air force planes made dozens of sorties to evacuate hundreds of stranded people from different parts of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces, separate statements from the three forces said. Floods caused by unprecedented rains have inundated a third of the country, prompting the government to issue an international appeal.



PAF – In the line of defence

Asma Ishaq

IAF is the 4th largest air force as in the quantity of personnel. Contrary to this, Pakistan Air Force is the one third the size of IAF. Nonetheless, the larger number of aircraft and personnel had not been successful to earn any good history vis a vis its confrontation with PAF

“Be it deserts or seas; all lies under our wings”

Pakistan is an accurately consecrated country on account of various reasons. From go-getting-tougher since the independence and then fronting the myriads of faltering-nature-challenges, Pakistan not only stood strong but also showed the aptness in countering any such testing situation. The cross-border-enemy imposed unannounced and announced wars. The defenders from all three Armed Forces came forward in the defence of country. Pakistan Air Force is in the lead for defending the Motherland. It has never failed the hopes of its Nation and has been guarding the air frontiers with zero dereliction.

Responding 1948 Tempest II Attack Over Dakota: Pakistan Air Force came direct in clash with the enemy when two Indian Air Force fighter jets: Tempest II attacked a PAF transport Dakota on November 04, 1948 in the valley of Kashmir. Flt. Lt. Mukhtar Dogar and his co-pilot Flying Officer Jagiwan proved the first two air warriors who were unarmed yet punched hard in the face of enemy. The unloaded fighters refused to capitulate and turned down the orders to surrender at Srinagar. Both chose to intimidate in the manner of maneuvering. The PAF immaculate pilot Flt Lt Mukhtar Dogar kept dodging IAF Tempest II for 25 minutes in the air. PAF lauds this thrilling episode of both air defenders. Flt.Lt. Mukhtar Dogar won the first Sitar-e-Jurat for PAF. IAF Canberra Attacked on Eid Day-10th April 1959.

IAF is the 4th largest air force as in the quantity of personnel. Contrary to this, Pakistan Air Force is the one third the size of IAF. Nonetheless, the larger number of aircraft and personnel had not been successful to earn any good history vis a vis its confrontation with PAF.

Every time, IAF conducted any air strike. It had gone deprived and even miserable to them. One such air strike from IAF was carried out on Eid day fell on 10th April 1959. IAF's miscalculation about PAF that there would not be any retaliation due to Eid turned into a nightmare. A PAF F-86 Sabre flew in an iota of second, Flt. Lt. M Younis shot 1200 bullets at IAF Canberra, and it went spiralling out of control. It fell down and the IAF Pilots were captured, adding in the Eid festive of PAF with this marvellous stunt of valour.

1965 War: IAF received the first deadly rejoinder from PAF fighter pilot Sarfaraz Rafique when it attacked at Chamb Jorian Sector-Lahore on 1st September 1965 to stop the Pak Army's XII Division offensive against Akhnoor, with three

became the massive defence life of the country. For all the feats shown by the PAF pilots, it earned 54 gallantry awards. The list goes; three Hilal-e-Jurat, 46 Sitara-e-Jurat and five Tamgha-e-Jurat. PAF supported Pakistan Army and the Pakistan Navy like any promising brother in line with their assigned missions. About the war of 1965 it is generally said, “the PAF played a true role of the saviour to save Pakistan.”

Arab War 1967: The Arab Allied countries: Jordan, Syria and Egypt had a full-fledged war aiming against Israel. The Arab states faced quite an embarrassing defeat. Of course, Israel had won. It was the time when Israel had altered the demarcation in 1n of Middle East.

Still, there is a festering wound in the heart of Israel that PAF pilots had left during the Six Days War. In November 1966, PAF had sent some of its pilots for the purpose of training of Royal Jordanian Air Force pilots. The instructions were clear and mainly to provide the advice to those RJAF pilots. However, the outbreak of war in 1967 compelled Pakistan Government to allow the PAF pilots to give the air defence assistance to their brother Muslim countries. Two PAF pilots got to be known as the most prominent one Flt Lt Saiful Azam and Flt. Lt Kaiser Tufail.

Flt.Lt. Saiful Azam had shot down three Israeli fighter jets. To date, Arab states celebrate the act of gallantry of PAF. Thus, PAF is the only air force whose pilots had flown from other country's air base and destroyed the common enemy fighter jets.

According to the Air Cdre (Retd) Kaiser Tufail TM (M) in his best seller-Against All Odds writes, “The gallantry action of Azam, unfortunately, turned out to be mere symbolic in terms of the ultimate results of the war. There was no question of ground support as all three countries' air forces were completely mauled on the ground by Israeli Air Force on the very first day.”

He writes further,

“While flying the single-seat Hawker Hunter, Azam shot down the Israeli Air Force's flagship transonic Dassault Mystere fighter-bomber aircraft in Jordan. Later, he brought down two state-of-art Israeli fighter aircrafts Vautour IIA and Dassault Mirage III.”

1971 War: PAF pilots had come defending the air frontiers with the

same enthusiasm in the 1971 war. Amidst conspiracies and cunning-plotting of certain traitor-kind-elements, the PAF fighter pilots were not oblivious from their duty. The young Flying Officer Shams-ul-Haq and Flying Officer Shams-shad intimidated three consecutive IAF air-to-air combat. Both the fighter pilots had kept engaged IAF in a dogfight for long and made them to escape.

For 1971 war, PAF flew 2,955 sorties and received 43 gallantry awards, these were two Hilal-e-Jurat, 24 Sitara -e-Jurat and 16 Tamgha -e-Jurat. In the same 1971, PAF had earned Nishan-e-Haider for pilot officer Rashid Minhas Shaheed.

During both the wars, 1965 and 1971 PAF confronted in an unbelievable way to the enemy with a larger air force. There, PAF materialized one phrase, “What matters is quality not the quantity!”

War Against Terrorism: Pakistan Armed Forces have proven to be the only Forces who won the war against terrorism. Of-course, PAF continued its prime position in conducting all the operations against the terrorists. Starting in 2008, almost a decade was spent in the operations, and the PAF's fighter-jets made another remarkable history while going into the crisscrossed formed around ravines. If those evil-intended terrorists got fully equipped with the weapons provided by the foreign agents so as our fighter pilots were impeccably skilled to shoot in the darkest of those dens hidden in mountains. Working in collaboration with the Army Intelligence Corps, PAF has performed unbelievably during a number of Intelligence Based Operations. All these air strikes had never gone missing a single target.

Operation Swift Retort 2019: The dream for IAF to make a lead over PAF has always brought a shameful reality. Taking an inspiration of a religious figure of Hinduism, IAF called the 26th Feb 2019 covert air strikes Operation Bander. Contrary to their religious saga, IAF made the most humiliated history where it got completely failed in providing any concrete evidence for the imaginary air strikes on the ground. PAF response was the swiftest-Operation Swift Retort on 27th September 2019. PAF shot down two IAF aircraft and caught one IAF pilot. Consequently, all this childish episode run by IAF resulted more in disgrace.

It has been mentioned several times by many veteran air officers that PAF enjoys a psychological superiority over IAF. It is not just the 'say' rather has been demonstrated always. PAF adheres to as well materializes the line, 'sleep tight because we stay awake.' The history of courage of PAF needs more and more space to write on and it is not enough! Excellence, impeccability, and genuineness, all these combine in the PAF fighter pilots. From Sarfaraz Rafique legacy to keep covering the wingman during the nerve-wrecking dogfight with the enemy to the rightful defiance of Rashid Minhas Shaheed given to his envious and betrayer of land instructor, PAF fighter pilots have made the nation proud! The Rafiqi spirit still propels in the hearts of PAF fighter pilots and the unmatched love of Minhas for Motherland pushes them to do the incredible deeds. PAF is testimony to the fact, it celebrates the Defence Day round the clock and throughout the year. It is always on the duty-alert!

Asma Ishaq is a Lecturer.

New UK leader

Liz Truss, the United Kingdom's next prime minister, will have to hit the ground running, as the country faces myriad challenges due to the changing geopolitical landscape and previous governance failures. The most pressing issues are the UK's ailing economy and cost of living crisis, which have been exacerbated by skyrocketing inflation and the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Inflation is forecast to almost double to 18.6 percent by the beginning of next year, while prohibitively high energy bills risk causing a humanitarian crisis as winter approaches. The ruling Conservative Party, whose members decided the outcome of the leadership contest, seem enthralled by the notion that they can summon up the spirit of Margaret Thatcher's heyday – ring-wing, small-government economics and an aggressive foreign policy with the UK happy to play the role of junior partner in a “special relationship” with the United States – rather than actually demand solutions to the country's worsening woes. But with the country effectively drifting aimlessly without a government since former prime minister Boris Johnson was forced to resign after caroming from one scandal after another and subsequently going AWOL, the country needs pragmatism and practical policies, not outdated ideology.

That extends to its China policy. Having designated China as a threat to the UK's national security while promising to reshape foreign policy when talking the talk to become the latest leader of the party and the country, holding to that stance when in office will not be in the UK's best interests. A lot has changed since 2015, when there was optimism on both sides that “a golden age” had just begun for Sino-UK relations. The glow of that once bright picture has conspicuously dimmed since then as a result of the Johnson government toeing Washington's confrontational China line. In the hope of securing a trade deal with the US to help extricate the UK from the jaws of the monstrous Brexit mess the country brought upon itself, being tough on China was seen as a way to curry favor with Washington. With the golden-era optimism dashed on the rocks of the UK mimicking Washington in word and deed, there is little hope of a change in fortune for the UK's relations with China unless remedial reflection is forthcoming from the new government in London.

A perpetual war for an impossible peace

Marwan Bishara

“The Popular Mobilisation Forces” – were armed and financed by both Iraq and Iran to fight the so-called Islamic State (ISIL/ISIS). ISIL was destroyed after three years of fighting, but the war has left its ugly marks on Iraq, further bruising its society and devastating its attempts at recovery

The scenes of violence and chaos at the heart of Iraq's capital Baghdad earlier this week were terribly disturbing but hardly surprising. Tensions have been building throughout this bruised nation over the past year; a formidable nation that has been deformed by war and violence over the past two decades and more, with no end in sight. The immediate crisis began after the October legislative elections. Some of the Iran-backed parties blamed their losses on a “fraudulent election” engineered by “America and its clients”. They tried to paralyse the government and parliament until their demands were met, but when the prime minister ordered security forces to break their siege of the Green Zone that hosts the government buildings, he was targeted by a drone attack in a failed assassination attempt. It backfired. The decision of the country's Supreme Court to certify the elections allowed their rival, the populist cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, whose party won the most seats, to build a broad coalition along with predominantly Sunni and Kurdish parties in order to form a majority government. However, the constitution stipulates that the parliament must first elect the president, which requires two-thirds of members to be present, allowing the Iran-backed Coordination Framework to block government formation simply by absenting itself from parliamentary sessions.

ISIL itself had come out of a decade of war and sectarian violence following the US invasion and occupation in 2003, which left the country in utter shambles. The American failure has also enhanced the influence of Iran, its nemesis in Iraq. As the US rushed to exit the country after more than a decade of blunder, Iran doubled down, expanding its influence at the expense of Iraq's stability and prosperity. The last two decades of imperial, sectarian and civil wars were preceded by two other decades of regional war and violence. It started with the horrific Iraq-Iran war in the 1980s, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the US-led war to liberate it, followed by crippling sanctions throughout the 1990s. In Iraq and much of the Middle East, this has meant people – especially the young – finding shelter in their clan, tribe, sect or faith; joining the local militia, gang or shady racket; basically, doing anything to overcome that dreadful feeling of constant fear and insecurity. Soon enough, new and more violent faultlines are drawn, as societies flounder, and armed militias form political parties, paving the way to more vengeful conflict and violence. It is a perpetual war for an impossible peace, let alone a peace of mind. These are the true “birth pangs of a new Middle East”, which US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice celebrated in 2006. That was after the US global War on Terror and its invasion and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq began to spill over to other parts of the Middle East, starting with Israel's aggression first against Palestine and later against Lebanon. Gory and gruesome. Indeed, Iraq and much of the region – including Syria, Yemen, Libya, Lebanon, Palestine, Afghanistan, Iran and Sudan – continue to suffer from a variety of wars driven and shaped mostly by violent Western cynicism and rogue Middle Eastern authoritarianism. It is heart-wrenching to see Iraqis turn against each other again and again, as if politics is war by other means. It is not. If anything, politics is and must be the antidote for war and violence in the region and beyond.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Pakistan is at the mercy of the Monsoon

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



An ineffective response to major flood events can lead to public discontent or a loss of confidence in agencies or state and national governments. Lack of development in flood-prone areas can lead to social inequality and even social unrest, threatening peace and stability in the region

This year, the monsoon season in South Asia has brought heavy rains to Pakistan, with disastrous results and catastrophic flooding in the countries. On August 28, the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan reported that nearly 1,000 people died, more than 1,500 people were injured and at least 580,000 homes were destroyed during this monsoon season. Critical infrastructure such as bridges and roads were also submerged, uprooted and washed away. Much of the country is under water, complicating rescue and evacuation efforts for hard-hit areas like Balochistan and Sindh provinces. The main reason for the current situation in Pakistan is climate change. Increased warming due to more absorbed solar radiation in the Indian Ocean and subcontinent is the main reason for the intensity of the monsoon season this summer as sea surface temperatures create scenarios for generating multiple precipitation events (e.g. thunderstorms, monsoons and storms). In both countries, the challenges so far from the impact and the remainder of the monsoon season through the end of September are worrisome. With the possibility of more heavy rains and flash flooding, relief and rescue efforts are being reduced as both countries try to cope with the current crisis and any future events that could result in deaths, injuries, displacement and infrastructure damage. The displacement of tens of thousands of people faces other logistical difficulties, the need for shelter in some areas where there is no shortage of

water. Where floods persist at considerable depths, low water also has consequences. Access to food and clean water is limited by crop damage from flooded fields and contamination of water resources by sediment, debris and pollution displaced by flooding. International aid and support has started pouring into Pakistan to help the many victims of this crisis. But despite this additional support, the countries still have a long way to go to recover. The immediate effects of flooding include loss of life, damage to property, destruction of crops, loss of livestock and deterioration in health due to waterborne diseases. As communication links and infrastructure such as power plants, roads and bridges are damaged, some economic activities may grind to a halt, people are forced to leave their homes and routines are disrupted. The high costs of aid and rehabilitation can adversely affect investment in infrastructure and other development activities in the region and in some cases harm the region's fragile economy. Frequent flooding in a region can discourage long-term government and private sector investment. Loss of livelihoods, combined with brain drain and inflation, can have a negative impact on the economic development of the region. The loss of resources can lead to higher prices for goods and services and delays in development programs.

An ineffective response to major flood events can lead to public discontent or a loss of confidence in agencies or state and national governments. Lack of development in flood-prone areas can lead to social inequality and even social unrest, threatening peace and stability in the region. Floods can traumatize victims and their families in the long term. The loss of loved ones has a profound impact, especially on children. Being displaced from home, losing property, and disrupting business and social affairs can all create constant stress. For some people, the psychological effects can be long-lasting.

Briefs

PTI chief statement defamatory

FROM PAGE 01

The ISPR said the senior leadership of the army has decades-long impeccable and meritorious service to prove its "patriotic and professional credentials beyond any doubt". Politicising the senior leadership of the Pakistan Army and scandalising the process of selection of the COAS is neither in the interest of the state of Pakistan nor of the institution, it noted. "Pakistan Army reiterates its commitment to uphold[ing] the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the military's media wing added. In his speech at a jalsa in Faisalabad this Sunday, the PTI chairman said the coalition government was stalling the elections as they wanted to "appoint an army chief of their own choice." The PTI chairman said that PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and former premier Nawaz Sharif "feared" a strong and patriotic army chief, who could hold them accountable for the looted money they had stashed abroad.

Alvi distances himself...

FROM PAGE 01

government, rather I hope to bring everyone to the same table," he continued. "I meet the prime minister regularly. If we are not in communication then there is no distance either," he added. "If we achieve transparency then the mistrust between the provinces will also end," he added. The president also reiterated the coalition government's stance that the country had managed to "escape economic pressures" and the deal with the international money lender – the IMF was "better". He also remained optimistic that "the other institutions will cooperate now" and hoped "inflation will end soon".

Kazakh president believes...

FROM PAGE 01

Commenting on the rule of law, President Tokayev announced that the independence of the judiciary would be strengthened by systematically reducing administrative and government pressure on the legal system, principally by reforming the Supreme Court and increasing its power over judicial review. He said that direct flights between Kazakhstan and Pakistan shall be resumed in the month of November, 2022. The flights would be operated from Kazakhstan's city Nur-Sultan and Almaty to Pakistan's major cities including Lahore and Karachi, adding that it will help out to bring the communities of both countries closer and create a better understanding of each other's culture. This initiative of flights will enhance people-to-people contacts and the exchange of delegations, ultimately bringing both the brotherly countries closer. Ambassador further said that President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is also planning to visit in the first half of next year. This year both countries are also holding inter-governmental joint mission meetings to enhance further bilateral economic and regional co-operation. Moreover, both countries will also collaborate in media exchanges. The ambassador further said that after the June referendum it has become easy for anybody to establish a political party and take part in the political process. Thus, parties have a chance now to promote their own agendas. He added his country was keen to have access to the warm waters of Pakistan for which he would soon visit Gwadar and explore various business opportunities there. He said the Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani has invited him to visit Gwadar and on his invitation he will soon go there. He also mentioned the single country exhibition organized by Pakistani businessmen in Almaty, Kazakhstan adding that the exhibition went quite well and provided businessmen from both countries with an opportunity of exchanging views and exploring business potentials.

EU to face 'very challenging' weeks amid Russian pressure

EU's winter energy supply has become uncertain amid recent decisions by Moscow to curb gas exports to the bloc and record-high market prices for fossil fuels, prompting inflation

NEWS DESK

BRUSSELS: The EU must prepare for "very challenging" weeks ahead due to the pressure exerted by Russia's "hybrid war" on the bloc's economy and energy supply, its foreign policy chief warned on Monday. "The next weeks will be very challenging, first of all, for Ukrainians by paying with their lives a high toll to this war, but also for other Europeans with the economic and energy stress," Josep Borrell said via video link at an inter-parliamentary event hosted by the Czech Republic's legislature in the capital Prague. Accusing Moscow of waging a "hybrid war" against the bloc and weaponizing the energy crisis, Borrell said at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference for Common Foreign and Security Policy that Europe faces "difficult prospects." He also underlined that the rest of the world, especially African countries, would also suffer from the consequences of the war, stressing that it was not the bloc's sanctions against Russia that caused the economic crisis but the conflict itself that

EU signs deal with Ukraine for aid

FOREIGN DESK

BRUSSELS: The European Union signed a deal with war-torn Ukraine on Monday to release a further 500 million euros (\$497 million) in planned aid, this time to support housing, education and agriculture. The European Commission – the EU's executive arm – announced the package as senior officials hosted a meeting in Brussels of the EU-Ukraine Association Council with Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal. "This EU grant funding will help ensure housing and education for internally displaced persons and returnees and support Ukraine's agriculture sector," spokesman Eric Mamer said. In addition to the latest slice of aid – part of a larger support programme begun in April – Ukraine will also be able to apply to the EU digital economy fund to develop high-tech training and industry. Monday's meeting of the association council will be the first since Ukraine, which was invaded by Russia in February, was accepted as a formal candidate to join the EU. The Brussels meeting was being chaired by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and EU enlargement commissioner Oliver Varhelyi, and seek to advance Ukraine's participation in EU programmes. Full membership may be years away but the EU and most of its member states are backing Kyiv's struggle with Moscow by providing weapons, economic aid and sanctions against Russia.

US Open: Gauff beats Shuai

NEW YORK: Coco Gauff reached her maiden US Open quarter-final with a straight-set victory over China's Zhang Shuai. The American 12th seed, competing at her home Grand Slam, won 7-5 7-5 on Arthur Ashe Stadium. Gauff, who is yet to drop a set at Flushing Meadows this year, will play France's 17th seed Caroline Garcia in the next round. "It feels insane," said the 18-year-old. "Ashe Stadium chanting my name, I was trying not to smile." Speaking to Amazon Prime, she said: "It was really physical, it felt like a three-setter. I really think my mentality helped me today. I'm so happy, being in my home Slam and finally getting to a quarter-final. This tournament has always been special for me, growing up watching it. I'm just so excited to continue to play and experience this atmosphere." Like Gauff, this is the furthest Garcia has progressed in New York, after she comfortably defeated American Alison Riske-Amritraj 6-4 6-1. It is only the second time Garcia – now unbeaten in her past 10 singles matches – has reached the last eight at a Grand Slam, previously doing so on the clay of Roland Garros in 2017. – DNA

FIH Hockey Nations Cup schedule revealed

ISLAMABAD: The International Hockey Federation has revealed the pools (two groups of four teams each) and match schedules of both upcoming FIH Hockey Nations Cups, Men's and Women's. The FIH Hockey Nations Cup ushers a new dawn of promotion and relegation in the FIH Hockey Pro-League with the winning team of the first FIH Hockey Nations Cup having the chance to be promoted to the 2023-24 FIH Hockey Pro League (provided they meet the necessary requirements for it), said a press release. The FIH Hockey Men's Nations Cup would run from November 28 to 4 December 4, in Potchefstroom, South Africa. The hosts South Africa, would play in Pool A with France, Ireland and Pakistan; while Canada joins the Asian triumvirate of Korea, Japan and Malaysia in the Pool B. The opening match would see two Asian powerhouses go head-to-head as Malaysia take on Korea on November 28 at the North-West University of Potchefstroom to start the new era of international hockey. – APP

Arshdeep trolled for dropped catch in Pakistan clash

NEW DELHI: A torrent of online abuse hit Indian cricketer Arshdeep Singh on Monday after he dropped a catch against Pakistan, with much of the vitriol focusing on the fact that he is from the Sikh minority. Singh missed the easy but crucial chance in the closing stages of the arch rivals' dramatic Asia Cup clash on Sunday won by Pakistan in Dubai in the final over – when the 23-year-old was the bowler. Singh's Wikipedia entry was briefly altered to link him to the Khalistan Sikh separatist movement, reportedly prompting the government to summon executives from the open-edit online encyclopedia. "He is a Khalistani and has secret ties with Pakistan,"



said one Twitter user. "Arshdeep Singh has taken money as a Khalistani agent," wrote another. After the match, star Indian player Virat Kohli backed Singh, saying that "anyone can make a mistake". The hashtag #IndiaWithArshdeep, supporting the young player, was trending on Twitter. It is not the first time that cricketers from Hindu-majority India's religious minorities have faced such attacks. Last year Muslim player

Kohli, at the time India captain, also vigorously backed Shami, saying: "Attacking someone over their religion is the most pathetic thing that a human being can do." The Super Four match on Sunday was the second time India and Pakistan have played against each other in the ongoing Asia Cup. India won the first game and they may meet again in the final on Sunday. – Agencies

Mohammed Shami became a target of abuse after India were thrashed by Pakistan in the T20 World Cup. Thousands of hate messages flooded social media, including Shami's Instagram account, calling him a traitor and alleging he had taken money to throw the game.

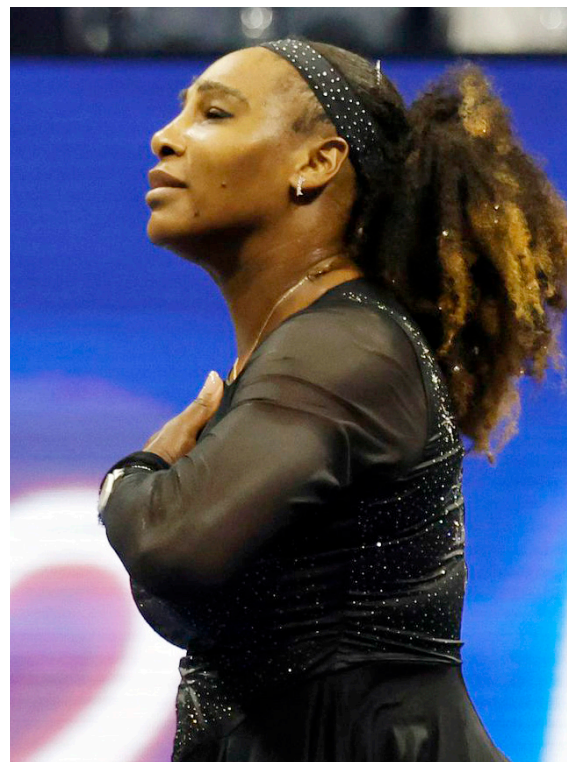
Court Williams hits out after Serena salutes

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Australian Margaret Court believes she does not get as much credit as she deserves for her 24 Grand Slam singles titles from anyone in the tennis world these days, least of all Serena Williams. Williams was feted in many quarters as the greatest tennis player of all time when she retired after her third-round loss at the U.S. Open on Saturday, one title shy of the record Court set from 1960 to 1973. "Serena, I've admired her as a player," Court, 80, told Britain's Daily Telegraph in a rare interview. "But I don't think she has ever admired me." Court said she has become a persona non grata in the tennis world because of her Christian beliefs, which led her to oppose same-sex marriage when it was proposed in Australia. The 80-year-old defended her achievements against suggestions they were not comparable to those of Williams because she played mostly in the amateur era. "Serena has played seven years more than I

did," Court added. "I finished in my early 30s. People forget that I took two years out. I first retired ... when I was 25, thinking I would never return to tennis. "I got married, had a baby, but then had one of my best years, winning 24 out of 25 tournaments." Court reminded her critics that she also had a superior record to Williams after they became mothers during their careers. "I came back after two babies," she said. "After having the first baby, I won three out of the four slams. And Serena hasn't won a slam since" she had a baby. Court also hit out at suggestions that her 11 Australian Open singles titles had less value than Williams's seven. "I often hear Billie Jean (King) saying that people didn't come down to Australia in my early years," she said. "But Maria Bueno, the world number one, came down. So did Christine Truman, Ann Haydon, Darlene Hard. Plus, Australia had some wonderful players. We had five girls in the top 10. Lesley Bowrey won two French Opens." Court said she thought the life of a top tennis player

was actually harder in her day. "I would love to have played in this era. I think it's so much easier," she said. "How I would love to have taken family or friends along with me. But I couldn't. I had to go on my own or with the national team. People don't see all that. "We didn't have psychologists or coaches with us. It's a whole different world. That's what disappoints me – that players today don't honour the past of the game." Court said she was disappointed that Williams made little mention of Australian Ajla Tomljanovic after the final match of her career. "I thought it was bad that Williams didn't mention her opponent more when she spoke," she says. "We were taught to honour our opponent. We respected one another." Court said she lost no sleep over the snubs from the tennis world but did find it sad. "A lot of the press and television today, particularly in tennis, don't want to mention my name," she said. "The honour has not been there for what I did do. In my own nation, I have been given titles, but they would still rather not mention me."



Kyrgios ends world No. 1 Medvedev's reign at US Open

DNA

NEW YORK: Nick Kyrgios ended Daniil Medvedev's defence of the US Open title as he earned a thrilling four-set win on an entertaining night in New York. The 27-year-old Australian demonstrated all of his shot-making – and propensity for creating drama – in a 7-6 (13-11) 3-6 6-3 6-2 win in the last 16. Medvedev, 26, will lose his ranking as world number one after the defeat. Wimbledon runner-up Kyrgios goes on to play another Russian, 27th seed Karen Khachanov, in the quarter-finals. Khachanov reached his third Grand Slam quarter-final by outlasting Spanish 12th seed Pablo Carreno Busta in a 4-6 6-3 6-1 4-6 6-3 win. "It was an amazing match. Daniil is the defending champion and a lot of pressure on his shoulders, but I've been playing great recently," said 23rd seed Kyrgios, who will move back into the world's top 20 after the win. "People were really starting to doubt my ability to pull out matches like this at majors. I'm really proud of myself because it hasn't been easy dealing with all the criticism." Kyrgios has regularly demonstrated over the years he has the talent to win one of the major tournaments, but said he had been in some "really scary places mentally" which had stopped his progress. Reaching the Wimbledon final, where he lost to Novak Djokovic, showed he had figured out what he needed to do on and off court to be successful. His form has been transferred to the North American hard courts – winning the Washington title and now going further at Flushing Meadows than before.



"I just feel like I'm playing for a lot more than myself. I've got a lot of motivation in the back of my mind," said Kyrgios. "I've been away from home now for four months. My whole team has. We don't get to see our family like other tennis players do the majority of time. "I'm trying to make it worthwhile, trying to make it a memorable ride for all of us. Hopefully we can get it done, go back home and really celebrate." Kyrgios and Medvedev deliver the show which they promised. Apart from Serena Williams' farewell, this was the biggest blockbuster of the tournament so far and a match-up between two characters which would have befitted the latter stages. The pair have been two of the stand-out players on the ATP Tour in recent months, with Kyrgios winning the

most four matches since the start of June after 25 victories and Medvedev next behind him – and alongside Britain's Cameron Norrie – on 18. Both players promised beforehand to "put on a show" on the Sunday night of a holiday weekend in New York. They did not disappoint. Almost three hours of ferocious serving, baseline blows, momentum swings and bizarre moments entertained a near-capacity 24,000 crowd on a sticky night in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "It was a really high-level match," said Medvedev, who compared Kyrgios' level to that of Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. "If he plays like this until the end of the tournament, he has all the chances to win it. But he's going to get tough opponents, so it's not sure."

Sastaticket.pk lauds aviation industry's role in rating restoration

ISLAMABAD: The leading online e-ticketing platform Sastaticket.pk congratulated the aviation industry and lauded it's role amid FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) news that Pakistan's safety rating would be restored soon. This achievement will further help the country in achieving new goals as a nation and prospering in other areas such as tourism. It would be easier for passengers interested in traveling to the USA to check the availability of PIA schedule for direct flights and booking online PIA tickets without any hassle of connecting flights. On this occasion the CEO of Sastaticket.pk Shazil Mehkri commented, "We want to congratulate the aviation industry as well as the government; this is yet another achievement for Pakistan as a nation. As a part of the aviation industry, it is our responsibility to work towards its betterment in order to prosper and we are looking forward to play our part where needed." Sastaticket.pk has been created to empower the Pakistani traveler with instant bookings and comprehensive choices. It aims to deliver value by offering a range of travel products with the highest standard of service along with cutting edge technology. Based in Karachi, Pakistan, Sastaticket.pk is a one-stop shop for all travel related services. A leading consolidator of travel products, Sastaticket.pk provides reservation facility for domestic and international flights, domestic and international hotels, UAE visa and religious tours. – DNA

PM Shehbaz for constructive ties with US

FROM PAGE 01

and extensive damage was caused to agriculture, live-stock, property, and critical infrastructure. The Prime Minister underscored that rehabilitation and reconstruction would pose serious challenges and entail commitment of enormous resources. Continued support, solidarity and assistance from the international community were critical in that context, he added. The prime minister underscored that despite being one of the lowest emitters of carbon emissions, Pakistan was facing the brunt of climate catastrophe. He stressed that the developed countries must step up their climate ambition, including towards the provision of predictable climate finance for mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change in the developing world. The prime minister appreciated the flood relief assistance being provided by the U.S., adding, that the Congressional delegation's visit would help enhance global awareness of the scale of destruction caused by the super floods in Pakistan and mobilize greater support.

PM raises BISP flood relief aid...

FROM PAGE 01

the gross damages of infrastructure and crops in the wake of flash floods. Speaking during his visit to the relief camp set up in Qambar Shahdad Kot, he said the country witnessed unprecedented loss due to floods. PM Sharif mentioned that the compensation amount of Rs25,000 was being given to each flood-affected family to help them recover their financial losses. He expressed concern that the cotton crop in the flood-hit areas of Sindh, which was means of livelihood for locals, was entirely damaged by floods. He said joint efforts at the national level were need of the hour to mitigate the suffering of the flood-affected people. He said provision of shelter to the displaced persons was direly needed, adding that the government had placed the order for the purchase of seven million tents. Medical camps, he said, had also been set up at the relief camps to avert the spread of diseases. The prime minister expressed gratitude to the friendly countries for extending assistance to Pakistan following the flood losses. He said the magnitude of the disaster was bigger than the capacity of the country to effectively cope.

Five soldiers embrace shahadat

FROM PAGE 01

Abbottabad), Havaladar Ghulam Ali (age 34 years, resident of Sargodha), Lance Naik Ilyas (age 33 years, resident of Mianwali) and Sepoy Zafar Ullah (age 29 years, resident of Mianwali) having fought gallantly, embraced shahadat. Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area. Pakistan Army is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers will not go unpunished.

Saudi envoy meets Four-year-old boy

FROM PAGE 01

son would be nurtured with great moral ethics and serve the country with national spirit. On this occasion, the Saudi ambassador said after the national day of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, he would proceed Ahmed Mustafa to the holy land for performing Umrah along with his father and mother and also arrange a tour to Madina Munawara to pay homage at the Mausoleum of the Holy prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). – APP

PTI doesn't mean...

FROM PAGE 01

"The emphasis on upholding the principle of merit is consistent with the desire to protect the professionalism of the force which provides security to the nation," he wrote on Twitter.

Briefs

Deadly tremor rocks Chinese Sichuan city

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: At least 21 people have been killed after a 6.6 magnitude earthquake hit southwestern China, state media said. The quake struck at 13:00 local time (05:00 GMT) in Sichuan province at a depth of 10km (6 miles). The impact severed telecommunications lines and triggered mountain landslides that caused "serious damage", local media reports say.

Some 21 million people in Sichuan's capital Chengdu were earlier ordered to stay home because of Covid rules. The epicentre of the quake was at Luding, a town in a remote mountain region located about 226km southwest of Chengdu, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. Tremors shook buildings in Chengdu and the neighbouring mega-city of Chongqing, leaving roads blocked and cutting telecommunications lines in areas home to more than 10,000 residents, according to broadcaster CCTV. The shocks also forced some power stations to shut down in the areas of Garze and Ya'an, the Chinese broadcaster said. "But because Chengdu is currently under epidemic management, people aren't allowed to leave their residential compounds, so many of them rushed out into their courtyards," Chengdu is the latest city to be locked down by Chinese authorities on Friday, in an attempt to stem the rise in Covid cases.

Kenya's SC upholds Ruto's win in presidential elections

WEB DESK

NAIROBI: Kenya's Supreme Court has upheld the victory of former Deputy President William Ruto in the August 9 presidential election, after ruling on a number of petitions brought by his closest challenger Raila Odinga. The unanimous verdict was delivered on Monday by Martha Koome, the chair of the seven-member court.

"We declare the election of the president-elect to be valid," she said. On August 15, Ruto had been declared the winner of the ballot by Wafula Chebuka-ti, the head of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) with 50.4 percent of the vote to Odinga's 48.8 percent. In a dramatic split just before the announcement of the results, four of the seven commissioners disowned the result. But Koome said that "apart from their eleventh-hour denunciation of the verification process ...the four commissioners have not shown any evidence that the election was compromised". She also said the court found no evidence that the results had been tampered with via hacking of the IEBC servers, as was alleged by Odinga's camp.

Trial opens over 2016 Nice truck attack

AGENCIES

PARIS: Eight suspects go on trial Monday over the July 2016 attack in the Mediterranean city of Nice, where a radical killed 86 people by driving a truck into thousands of locals and tourists celebrating France's national day. The attacker, a 31-year-old Tunisian named Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlel, was shot dead by police following the more than four-minute rampage down the seaside embankment of the Promenade des Anglais.

The seven men and one woman who will go on trial in Paris are accused of crimes from being aware of his intentions to providing logistical support and supplying weapons. Only one suspect, Ramzi Kevin Arefa, faces the maximum penalty of life imprisonment if convicted as a recurring offender. The others risk between five and 20 years in prison. The trial, which gets underway at 1:30 pm (1130 GMT) and due to last until mid-December, is the latest legal process over the attacks that have hit France since 2015.

Pak-China build lidar network to serve for forecast disasters

These are supportive for the accurate forecasting of extreme weather events

DNA

BEIJING: The Peshawar Station under "The Belt and Road" Lidar Network initiated by China's Lanzhou University has been set up in Pakistan, according to China Economic Net (CEN). The Peshawar Station, the first atmospheric lidar observation station in Pakistan, will serve for the forecast of weather and environmental disasters and researches on global climate change by providing basic data. In late July 2022, Li Wuren, an engineer and Li Meishi, a post-graduate both from College of Atmospheric Sciences of Lanzhou University, paid a visit to University of Peshawar, Pakistan. They helped the Pakistani team conduct the installation and trial run of Raman-Polarization lidar, multi-band sun photometer, system of intelligent monitor and UPS stabilized voltage supply at Peshawar station. At present, all instruments and equipment at Peshawar Station run smoothly and collect a lot

of important parameters, including the backscattering and extinction coefficients of atmospheric aerosol and cloud, Angstrom exponent, aerosol boundary layer height, as well as spectral distribution of aerosol optical depth. These are supportive for the accurate forecasting of extreme weather events. Therefore, its establishment will significantly ease the lack of observational data on air pollutants, dust aerosols, water vapor and meteorological elements in the areas along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Li Wuren told China Economic Net that Peshawar station is one of stations of Lanzhou University's "The Belt and Road" Lidar Network. "In addition to Peshawar station, we are going to set up another station in Gwadar. Now we are preparing for it," Li added. The lidar network runs from Lanzhou in the east, through Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region of China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Israel to Algeria in the west. Stretching across over 8,000 kilome-

ters, it is planned to set up 14 ground-based observing stations to obtain the atmospheric monitoring data in arid and semi-arid regions all over the world. According to Li, the lidar network is along the Silk Road Economic Belt, which is also the world's main dust belt in arid and semi-arid regions. "Lanzhou University is actively engaged in the construction of lidar network and carried out joint monitoring and research on atmospheric composition with partners to serve the countries and regions along the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)," said Bi Jianrong from the Key Laboratory of Semi-Arid Climate Change, Ministry of Education, Lanzhou University.

Now Pakistan's rain-triggered flash floods have inundated one-third of the country. According to Abid Qaiyum Suleri, a member of Pakistan's Climate Change Council, Pakistan has received the highest rainfall in at least three decades and the rain is running at more than 780% above average levels. The

rain is brought by the Asian Summer Monsoon, essentially a colossal sea breeze. It usually brings South Asia 70-80% of its annual rainfall between June and September every year. As for the ongoing flood, Bi Jianrong advised the Pakistani side to expedite early warning and monitoring and strengthen staff training to have more forecasts and prediction methods.

In addition, Bi Jianrong pointed out that to enhance the early warning capacity, countries and regions should cooperate with each other. "Only by cooperation, can the analysis and forecast be more accurate," he added. "International cooperation is essential for combating climate change. It is about the fate of all mankind," said Huang Zhongwei, a professor of Lanzhou University and team leader of China's self-developed multiband Raman-fluorescence lidar. Lanzhou University will build the "the Belt and Road" lidar network into a platform for talents training, scientific research and international cooperation, said Huang.

Serbian PM visits northern Kosovo after unrest

MITROVICA: Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic travelled to northern Kosovo Monday, marking the first trip by a senior official from Belgrade to the former breakaway province in years following a recent bout of unrest. The visit comes just over a week after Serbia and Kosovo signed a landmark arrangement that will allow for the free movement of their citizens between the long-time rivals' territories. The deal followed weeks of negotiations in Brussels after northern Kosovo was rocked by unrest this summer with Serb protesters blocking border crossings and firing at police over a plan by Kosovo authorities to introduce a new set of travel documents for people entering the territory with Serbian IDs. In the ethnically divided city of Mitrovica, about a thousand local Serbs greeted Brnabic, waving Serbian flags and holding signs that read "We have only one prime minister" and "Welcome to Serbia, holy land of Kosovo". "I sincerely hope that the temporary institutions in Pristina become genuinely committed to dialogue and finding a certain compromise needed for long-term normalisation of ties between Belgrade and Pristina," said Brnabic during a press conference, referring to Kosovo authorities. "That is something we need - not just for our European integration - but for ourselves," she added. Serbia has been a candidate to join the European Union since 2012. - Agencies



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus, Sajjad Haider meets First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus, Sergei Aleinik, and discussed bilateral relations, including further development of political dialogue, expansion of trade and economic cooperation. - DNA

Post-study work rights for international students to boost skills

DNA

CANBERRA: The Australian Government will increase the duration of post study work rights of international students to strengthen the pipeline of skilled labour. Post study work rights for select degrees in areas of verified skill shortages will be increased from:

- Two years to four years for select Bachelor's degrees
- Three years to five years for select Masters degrees
- Four years to six years for select PhDs.

A working group will be established to advise the Ministers for Home Affairs and Education on the development of

this and other relevant issues. Members of the working group will include representatives from the Council of International Education, the National Tertiary Education Union, Universities Australia, and the Departments of Home Affairs and Education. The group will report to Ministers by 28 October 2022. International education will also benefit from the \$36.1 million the Government will invest in visa processing to support 500 surge staff over the next nine months. Minister O'Neil also announced today that work hours for international students will be capped again in June next year following feedback from stakeholders. The number of hours will be subject to consultation with a view to striking the

right balance between work and study. Quotes attributable to Minister for Education Jason Clare At the moment, only 16 per cent of international students stay on after their studies end. This will mean they can stay on longer and use the skills they've gained in Australia to help fill some of the chronic skills shortages we have right now. Quotes attributable to Minister for Home Affairs Clare O'Neil International education is an important Australian industry that has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. The outcomes from the Jobs and Skills Summit are geared towards supporting international education and giving the students who earn degrees in Australia the chance to contribute to the productivity of our economy.

Iraq powers agree to work towards snap elections

AGENCIES

Baghdad (AFP) - Iraq's top executive powers and major parties agreed Monday at a meeting boycotted by powerful Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to work towards holding early elections, a week after deadly unrest, the prime minister's office said. The president, prime minister and parliament speaker met with representatives of political parties to chart an exit from an 11-month-long political paralysis. They "agreed to form a technical committee comprising the various political forces... to bridge differences with the aim of reaching early elections", Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi's office said in a statement. Early elections have been a key demand of Sadr and his supporters who have called for the dissolution of parliament. Sadr's rivals in the pro-Iran Coordination Framework want a new head of government appointed before new polls are held. Under the constitution, parliament can only be dissolved by an absolute majority vote in the house, following a request by one-third of deputies or by the prime minister with the approval of the president.

Participants at Monday's meeting "renewed their invitation for brothers in the Sadr movement to take part in technical and political meetings... to reach a solution," the statement said. The dialogue was the second of its kind following an initial meeting last month, also boycotted by Sadr. It came a week after Sadr supporters clashed with the army and Iran-backed factions after they stormed government headquarters in the capital's fortified Green Zone. More than 30 Sadr supporters were killed and hundreds injured in nearly 24 hours of violence that ended when Sadr called on his supporters to pull out. Sadr's bloc emerged from elections last October as the biggest in the legislature, with 73 seats, but far short of a majority. Since then the country has been mired in political deadlock that has left Iraq without a new government, president or prime minister. In June, his lawmakers quit in a bid to break the logjam. Last month, Sadr said "all parties" including his own should give up government positions in order to help resolve the crisis.

Chinese company provides more solar panels to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese company will provide more solar panels on roof to Pakistan to ease power, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Monday. "After entering summer, many areas in Pakistan suffered prolonged power outages, driving up people's demand for solar panels on roof. In the future, we will focus on the distribut-

ed solar power in Pakistan, providing more solar panels on roof for residents as well as industrial and commercial buildings", said Mr. Li Xiaopeng, Regional Sales Manager of Longji Solar. The Chinese solar giant, which has rolled out the first one-stop solar solution in its home country, has signed an MoU with the largest bank in Pakistan HBL to provide financial support to potential solar panel users. Responding to the recent flood in

Pakistan, Mr. Li said the company is planning to provide assistance to locals through free distribution of clean drinking water and solar systems. "In addition, we are working with our Pakistani partners to donate a 20KW solar energy system to a local school for the hearing-impaired. We will also roll out a scholarship program in Lahore this month to cover the tuition fee of 20 primary school students for a year", Mr. Li told CEN.

Famine 'at the door' in Somalia: UN humanitarian chief

Humanitarian agencies have been ringing alarm bells for months

AGENCIES

NAIROBI: The UN's humanitarian chief warned on Monday that drought-ravaged Somalia was on the brink of famine and time was running out to save lives. "Famine is at the door and we are receiving a final warning," Martin Griffiths, head of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), told a press conference in Mogadishu. "We are in the last moment of the 11th hour to save lives," he declared. An upcoming food and nutrition report on Somalia has concrete evidence that famine will strike two regions between October and December, Griffiths said. "I've been shocked to my core these past few days at the level of pain and suffering we see so many Somalis enduring," said Griffiths, who began a visit to the country on Thursday. Somalia and its neighbours in the Horn of Africa including Ethiopia and Kenya are in the grip of the worst drought in more than 40 years following four failed rainy seasons that have wiped out livestock and crops.

Humanitarian agencies have been ringing alarm bells for months. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) last month said the number of people at risk of starvation across the region had increased to 22 million. In Somalia alone, the number of people facing crisis hunger levels is 7.8 million, or about half the population, while around a million have fled their homes on a desperate quest for food and water, UN agencies say. In 2011, famine in parts of Somalia, one of the poorest countries on the planet, cost the lives of 260,000 people, more than half of them children under the age of six. Griffiths described scenes of heart-rending suffering during his visit to Baidoa, one of the two areas at risk of famine, saying he saw "children

so malnourished they could barely speak" or cry. The conflict-ravaged country is considered one of the most vulnerable to climate change but is particularly ill-equipped to cope with the crisis. A deadly insurgency by the radical Islamist Al-Shabaab group against the fragile federal government is limiting humanitarian access to many areas. A long-running political crisis also diverted attention away from the drought, but new President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud used his inauguration speech in June to appeal for international help to stave off looming disaster. In recent years, increasingly extreme droughts and floods have added to the devastation caused by a locust invasion and the Covid-19 pandemic. "Somalia is facing unprecedented levels of drought which have particularly hit rural communities, alongside other impacts like conflict, Covid-19, macroeconomic challenges, and a recent desert locust upsurge," the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said in a statement on Friday. It said people's means to produce food and earn income were "stretched beyond breaking point". The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has said the Horn was likely facing a fifth straight failed rainy season over the months of October to December. At the start of this year, the WFP had put the number at 13 million, and appealed for donors to open their wallets at a time of great need. Funds were initially slow in coming, with Russia's invasion of Ukraine among other crises drawing attention from the disaster in the Horn, humanitarian workers said.

Chile rejects new progressive constitution

NEWS DESK

BOGOTA: Chileans rejected on Sunday a new constitution that would have replaced the charter drawn up during Gen. Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship in 1980. With counting nearly complete, the rejection camp has 62% of votes compared to 38% in favor of approval. The drafting of the new constitution began in 2019 after massive protests resulted in a first plebiscite where 80% of the population supported the move.

Over 12 months, 155 elected individuals, representing a variety of voices, worked to draft the new constitution. The result, presented to President Gabriel Boric in July, was a 178-page progressive document that embodies gender equality and Indigenous rights, expands social protections and prioritizes the environment. While the rejection was expected as latest polls suggested 58% would vote against the document, the margin for the rejection camp was wider than anticipated.

Criminal barristers in England launch strike over

AGENCIES

LONDON: Criminal barristers in England and Wales launched an indefinite strike on Monday over low pay and cuts to legal aid. The unprecedented strikes by the Criminal Bar Association will bring criminal courts in England and Wales to a standstill. This will only add to the growing backlog of cases waiting to be heard by courts, which stood at 58,973 in June 2022. Though the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the backlog, it initially swelled due to persistent cuts in funding to the justice system during the fiscal austerity that began in 2010 when the ruling Conservative Party came back into power. Discontent among barristers, who are self-employed, has been rumbling for some time now, with walkouts having previously been staged in July and August. The government has offered a 15% increase in legal aid fees for new cases, but the barristers are asking for 25%. Barristers only get paid once a case is finished, so cases that are already booked will be paid at the lower rate under the government's plans, meaning it could take two or three years until barristers feel the impact of the proposed increase in rates. Low pay is forcing junior barristers out of the profession, they claim. "This is an irresponsible decision that will only see more victims face further delays and distress," Justice Minister Sarah Dines said. "The escalation of strike action is wholly unjustified considering we are increasing criminal barristers' fees by 15%, which will see the typical barrister earn around £7,000 (\$8,000) more a year," she added. An escalating cost-of-living crisis has triggered a wave of industrial action in the UK, with the transport sector being particularly restive. Britain's new prime minister will be announced on Monday and invited by the queen to form a new government on Tuesday, following a vote by Conservative party members.

South Korea halts flights

FOREIGN DESK

SEOUL: South Korean authorities halted dozens of flights across the country and recommended closing schools and businesses in the coastal areas as a powerful Typhoon Hinnamnor is gradually moving toward the southern island of Jeju, local media reported on Monday. Super Typhoon Hinnamnor is expected to reach waters off Jeju Island later today, and could cause heavy landfall. Yonhap News Agency reported. This is the 11th typhoon this year but the country's weather agency warned it could be the most powerful storm moving with high wind speed. After brushing past Jeju, Typhoon Hinnamnor is forecast to gain momentum to make landfall 80 kilometers (50 miles) north-northwest of the southern port city of Busan by 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Briefs

Russia
postpones
referendum
in occupied
region

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: The Russian occupation authorities in Ukraine's strategic southern city of Kherson have postponed a referendum on joining Russia, on security grounds. "This is being paused because of the security situation," said Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-appointed administration there.

The Ukrainian army has launched a long-awaited counter-offensive in the south, where Russia plans referendums in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. A key Kherson bridge has been shelled. Speaking on Russian state TV, Mr Stremousov said Ukrainian shelling had damaged the Antonovskiy Bridge to such an extent that vehicles could no longer cross it. He said barges transporting civilians across the Dnieper (Dnipro) river were also coming under Ukrainian fire, as was the city's infrastructure. The Russians have relied on the bridge to bring troops and hardware in and out of Kherson.

Russia blames
Europe for
Nord Stream
1 halt

FOREIGN DESK

MOSCOW: The Kremlin blamed European politicians for keeping shut the Nord Stream 1, one of its main gas supply routes, saying their economic sanctions on Russia had hindered Gazprom's maintenance of the pipeline. "If the Europeans absolutely absurdly make a decision to refuse to service their equipment, or rather, equipment that belongs to Gazprom, but which they are contractually required to service, this is not Gazprom's fault," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with Russia's state television on Sunday, according to the Interfax news agency. "It is the fault of those politicians who made decisions on sanctions." State-controlled Gazprom announced on Friday that main pipeline to Germany would remain closed indefinitely, delivering a shock to customers who had expected it to reopen on Saturday after three days of maintenance work. The announcement from Moscow came hard on the heels of an agreement among US-led rich nations to seek ways to cap the prices paid for Russian oil exports, and raised fears that parts of Europe could be forced to ration energy.

Multiple dead, dozens hurt
in Canada stabbing rampage

Police responding to emergency calls found 10 dead in the remote Indigenous community of James Smith Cree Nation and the nearby town of Weldon, Saskatchewan, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore told a news conference

NEWS DESK

OTTAWA: A stabbing spree in an Indigenous community and a nearby town in Canada's Saskatchewan province left at least 10 people dead and 15 wounded on Sunday, police said, as they launched a manhunt for two suspects in one of the nation's deadliest incidents of mass violence. Police responding to emergency calls found 10 dead in the remote Indigenous community of James Smith Cree Nation and the nearby town of Weldon, Saskatchewan, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore told a news conference. She said at least 15 other people had been wounded and transported to hospitals. "It is horrific what has occurred in our province today," she said. "We are actively looking for the two suspects." The alleged attackers fled in a vehicle and have been identified as Myles and Damien Sanderson, aged 30 and 31 respectively, both with black hair and brown eyes. The James Smith Cree Nation, with a pop-

ulation of 2,500, declared a local state of emergency, while many residents of Saskatchewan province were urged to shelter in place. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau called the attacks "horrific and heartbreaking" in a tweet, offering condolences and urging residents to heed authorities' instructions. Blackmore said authorities believe "some of the victims were targeted by the suspects and others were attacked randomly."

"To speak to a motive would be extremely difficult at this point in time," she added. No information was released about the victims. Television images showed a few rural homes in fields of tall grass and trees, cordoned off with police tape, while on social media locals shared images of the attacks' aftermath, such as the broken door handle to a burgled home. Weldon resident Diane Shier told local media her neighbor, a man who lived with his grandson, was killed in the attack. "I am very upset because I lost a good neighbor," she told the Canadian Press news agency.

In recent years, Canada has witnessed a rampaging gunman masquerading as a po-

liceman kill 22 people in Nova Scotia, another kill six and wound five worshippers at a Quebec City mosque, and a driver of a van mow down pedestrians in Toronto killing 10 and injuring 16. The death toll from the van attack rose to 11 when an injured woman who had spent more than three years in hospital also succumbed to her injuries. There are no words to adequately describe the pain and loss caused by this senseless violence," said Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe after Sunday's attack. A "dangerous person" alert had been issued in the morning in Saskatchewan, as police responded to multiple stabbings in multiple locations in the Indigenous community and Weldon. Police received a call at 5:40 am (11:40 GMT) about a stabbing at the James Smith Cree Nation, followed quickly by more calls reporting further stabbings, at a total of 13 separate locations, Blackmore said. The callers identified the suspects, she said. "Maximum" police resources were deployed for the search for the suspects, she said, but added that "their location and direction of

travel is unknown." After reported sightings of the two men in Regina, the provincial capital that is more than 300 kilometers (185 miles) to the south, the alert and search expanded to include neighboring Manitoba and Alberta provinces – a vast region.

In Regina, police chief Evan Bray said authorities were on high alert with additional officers deployed as sports fans descended on the city for a sold-out Labour Day weekend match between the Canadian Football League's Saskatchewan Roughriders and Winnipeg Blue Bombers. The Saskatchewan Health Authority told AFP in a statement it had activated emergency protocols to deal with "a high number of critical patients." "We can confirm that multiple people are being triaged and cared for at multiple sites and that a call for additional staff to help respond to this situation has occurred," it added. Three helicopters were dispatched from Saskatoon and Regina to the remote northern communities to transport stabbing victims and bring a doctor to the scene.

Russia
blacklists 25
US citizens

DNA

MOSCOW: Moscow on Monday blacklisted 25 US citizens including actor Sean Penn in response to Washington's "constantly expanding sanctions" against Russian citizens. According to a statement by the Russian Foreign Ministry, the group put on the "stop list" includes members of the US Congress, high-ranking officials, representatives of the business and expert communities, as well as public figures. "The hostile actions of the American authorities, which continue to follow a Russophobic course, destroying bilateral ties and escalating confrontation between Russia and the United States, will continue to receive a decisive rebuff," the statement said.

Revival deal
hinges on
West political
will: Iran

AGENCIES

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman says an agreement on the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal hinges on the political will of the West. Speaking at a weekly news conference on Monday, Nasser Kan'ani said Tehran has acted "responsibly" to reach an agreement that secures the country's national interests. He said Iran presented its opinion on the US's response to the European Union's draft text for the revival of the deal to the EU. Tehran's response was "logical and constructive," adding, "If the other side has the political will and acts constructively..., reaching an agreement will be possible."

The United States unilaterally withdrew from the landmark deal in 2018, and reinstated crippling sanctions under the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign, despite Iran's full compliance with the deal. Since last year, the Austrian capital has been hosting multiple rounds of talks between the signatories of the deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in order to examine the prospect of the deal's revival and removal of the illegal economic sanctions. The negotiations have seen many interruptions due to Washington's obdurate refusal to respect Iran's red lines.

Afghanistan
earthquake
kills eight

NEWS DESK

KABUL: An earthquake in northeastern Afghanistan killed at least eight people early on Monday, and the toll could rise, the state news agency quoted a regional official as saying. The quake of magnitude 5.3 struck near the eastern city of Jalalabad in the early hours, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) said. "Sunday night's earthquake has caused financial and human losses in Kunar province," Mawlawi Najibullah Hanif, the spokesman for the provincial governor, told the Bakhtar News Agency, adding that casualties could rise. Initial reports put the toll from the quake at six, with nine injured, said disaster ministry spokesman Mohammad Nassim Haqqani. Afghanistan is still recovering from a strong earthquake in June that killed more than 1,000 and wiped out villages in its east.

Russian embassy staff
killed in Kabul bombing

KABUL: Two Russian embassy staff are among at least six people killed in a suicide bombing in the Afghan capital Kabul, Russian and Taliban officials say. Guards shot the attacker dead as he approached the entrance to the consular section, officials said. A number of other people are reported to have been wounded. No group has said it carried out the bombing. The attack is the first on a foreign mission in Afghanistan since the Taliban swept to power in August 2021. Earlier, a Taliban official said at least 10 people had been injured. Russia's state-owned news agency RIA reported that a diplomat and an embassy security guard had been wounded. Other media reports put casualty figures higher. It was not immediately clear who would target Russia's interests in Afghanistan, or whether the bombing - the latest in a spate of attacks in Kabul and elsewhere - may have been aimed at undermining Taliban security reassurances. "This morning, an explosion took place at the Russian embassy in Kabul - four people and two employees of the Russian embassy were killed, and a number of Afghans were injured," a statement from the Taliban police chief's spokesman in Kabul said. It added the suicide bomber had been spotted by Taliban personnel guarding the embassy as he approached people gathered in front of the building. "He was identified by security and targeted, which caused a blast," the spokesman said. Russia's foreign ministry said "an unknown militant set off an explosive device near the entrance to the consular section".



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin calls on Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani. – DNA

China accuses US of
massive cyberattack

Beijing has demanded an explanation from Washington

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China on Monday accused the US of launching a massive cyberattack primarily targeting a Chinese university. "China has lodged strong opposition to the US over its intelligence agency, the National Security Agency (NSA), for launching a cyberattack on the email system belonging to a leading Chinese university," said Mao Ning, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson. Beijing has demanded an explanation from Washington, said Mao, who appeared first time to address the daily briefing by the ministry. In a joint report by National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center (CVERC) and the cybersecurity firm 360 Company, Beijing said the email system of Northwestern Polytechnical University was hacked by the US' National Security Agency (NSA). Identifying Robert Edward Joyce as

the NSA official in charge of the cyber activities, known as Tailored Access Operations (TAO), it said he was "in direct command" of the situation concerning the university. Northwestern Polytechnical University is known for its faculty's research in aviation, aerospace and navigation. The alleged cyberattack was reported by the university on June 22, when it said it had uncovered hackers "from abroad caught sending phishing emails with Trojan horse programs

to teachers and students at the university, attempting to steal their data and personal information," said the report. "This investigation found that in recent years ... TAO has carried out tens of

thousands of malicious network attacks on network targets in China, and controlled tens of thousands of network devices (network servers, Internet terminals, network switches, telephone switches, routers, firewalls, etc.), stealing over 140GB of high-value data," it claimed. "As the most powerful country in cyber technology and capability, the US must immediately stop abusing its tech strength for cyber theft and attacks," said Mao.

Israel says 'high possibility'
its army killed Shireen Abu Akleh

MONITORING DESK

RAMALLAH: Israel has said that there is a "high possibility" that slain Al Jazeera's journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was "accidentally hit" by Israeli army fire but added that it would not be launching a criminal investigation. Israeli authorities released on Monday afternoon the results of their own investigation into the killing. Witnesses, Al Jazeera, and numerous investigations by the United Nations, human rights groups, and media organisations had all said that an Israeli soldier killed Abu Akleh. The Israeli investigation claimed that Israeli soldiers had come under fire from Palestinian fighters at the scene, a claim that has not been corroborated by footage of the incident.

"It is not possible to unequivocally determine the source of the gunfire which hit and killed Ms. Abu Akleh," the report said, adding that it remains a "possibility" that she "was hit by bullets fired by armed Palestinian gunmen". "After a comprehensive examination of the incident, and based on all the findings, the Military Advocate General found that under the circumstances of the case, there is no suspicion of a criminal offense that justifies the opening of a Military Police investigation," the report said. In a background briefing for journalists prior to the release of the results, senior Israeli army officials said that they had met the soldier, and that "if he did it, he did it by mistake". They also repeatedly said that they were "very proud of the conduct of our soldiers," and that the soldiers "were briefed and acted according to procedure". Abu Akleh, a 51-year-old Palestinian-American,



was shot dead by Israeli forces on May 11, while covering an army raid on Jenin, in the northern occupied West Bank. Multiple detailed investigations including by the United Nations, the Palestinian Authority (PA), and several media outlets including CNN and the Associated Press (AP), found that Abu Akleh was definitively shot by Israeli fire and that there were no Palestinian fighters at the scene when she was killed. The journalists who were standing next to her and witnessed the killing also said that no Palestini-

an fighters were present. Palestinian witnesses told Al Jazeera's The Take podcast that they were never contacted by Israel as part of the investigation. In a statement on Monday, Abu Akleh's family said Israel tried to "obscure the truth and avoid responsibility for killing Shireen Abu Akleh". "As expected, Israel has refused to take responsibility for murdering Shireen. Our family is not surprised by this outcome since it's obvious to anyone the Israeli war criminals cannot investigate their own crimes," the statement read.

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