



Islamabad POST

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North Korea will never surrender nuclear weapons

Detailed News On Page-05

Envoy lauds Pak Air Force capabilities

Detailed News On Page-03



CIA chief says Ukraine invasion is a failure

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Army Chief thanks US for support

DNA

RAWALPINDI: USAID Administrator Ms Samantha Power on Friday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ), Rawalpindi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and collaboration/partnership in humanitarian measures were discussed. The USAID administrator expressed grief over the devastation caused by ongoing floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of victims. She offered full support to the people of Pakistan. She also appreciated Pakistan Army's efforts for assisting civil administration and flood affected population in rescue and relief efforts in areas hit by recent floods. The army chief thanked for USA's support and reiterated that assistance from our global partners shall be vital in rescue/ rehabilitation of the victims. First of the two flights from the USA carrying flood relief assistance arrived at Nur Khan Base, Rawalpindi, on Friday.

62 flights with relief goods arrive

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has so far received sixty two flights from friendly countries and international organizations carrying relief goods for flood victims. According to Foreign Office Spokesperson, United Arab Emirates sent twenty nine flights, Türkiye eleven, China four, Qatar four, USA three, one each by France, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Jordan. United Nations Children's Fund has also sent two flights, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees three and World Food Programme dispatched two flights for flood the flood affected people of Pakistan. Meanwhile, first of the two flights from USA carrying flood relief assistance arrived at Nur Khan Base Rawalpindi. In a statement on Friday, Foreign Office spokesperson Asim Iftikhar Ahmad welcomed the humanitarian assistance from USA with warmth and gratitude. The second relief assistance flight from USA landed at Sukkur Airport.

UN Secy Gen urges support for Pakistan

The UN chief says that climate change has attacked the wrong targets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres has said that Pakistan was one of the countries most affected by climate change despite its minimal contribution to the phenomenon. "Pakistan has had little contribution to climate change but [it] is one of the most dramatically impacted by the consequences of climate change," Guterres said during a briefing at the National Flood Response Coordination Centre (NFRCC) alongside Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He is on a two-day visit to the country. The UN chief said that climate change has attacked the wrong targets and those who are more responsible for triggering global warming should be the ones facing the challenges. "There is an obligation of the international community to massively support Pakistan in this situation and an obligation to take the need to drastically reduce the emissions seriously, and at the same time, support countries that need to invest in resilience and recovery [...]," he said. Federal ministers Ahsan Iqbal, Sherry Rehman and officials from the Pakistan Army were also present on the occasion. Guterres expressed appreciation for all those working tirelessly to support the victims of this "unprecedented natural disaster" and

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'Pak greatly values ties with France'



A.M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday was called on by Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey, as the minister attached great importance to Islamabad relations with France both bilaterally and in the context of European Union. The defence minister further highlighted that Pak-France bilateral relations were based on principles of mutual respect, said a news release. Minister for Defence stressed that Pakistan was committed to stability and peace in the region with particular focus on its relations with Afghanistan and India.

Marriyum hopes Guterres visit to help

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday expressed the hope that the visit of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres will help in further mobilising international support for Pakistani flood victims. In a tweet, she said that UN Secretary General during his Pakistan visit will be briefed on the havoc wreaked by the floods. The minister said he will also visit flood affected areas. She said she would like to extend a warm welcome to UN Secretary General. "These devastating floods are a direct result of climate stress", she said adding "We hope the UN SG's visit will help highlight to the world how Pakistan is one of the top 10-vulnerable countries globally despite contributing less than 1 per cent of global emissions". The minister said that Pakistan greatly appreciated all international support in communicating this message to the world to work together with development partners to help reduce Pakistan's climate vulnerability, enhance adaptation capacity and rehabilitate the "Climate Refugees". - APP



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif receiving Secretary General United Nations António Guterres upon his arrival at Prime Minister's House. - DNA

USAID to provide additional \$20 million

The USAID administrator also shared the details of her visit to the flood-stricken Dadu district

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Samantha Power announced on Friday that Washington will provide an additional \$20 million in humanitarian assistance to Pakistan to mitigate the effects of the devastating floods. "I've announced an additional \$20 million for Pakistan. During my time here, I've seen the staggering devastation of the floods up close," said Power in a tweet. The USAID administrator also shared the details of her visit to the flood-stricken Dadu district, where she spoke with families "displaced by the floodwaters". "One man said that in his 60 years, he has never seen such a rainfall." Young children shared how their schools had been completely destroyed, and they didn't know when they'd be able to return," said the administrator. The statement issued by USAID said: "Today in Islamabad, Administrator Samantha Power announced that the (USAID), is providing an additional \$20 million in humanitarian assistance to support the people affected by severe flooding in Pakistan resulting from heavy monsoon rains, as well as landslides and glacial lake outbursts, that have been ongoing since June."

Imran to announce 'next critical phase' of 'haqiqi azadi'

Says that the govt, handlers "petrified that nation is standing firmly behind PTI"

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan announced on Friday that he will share the "next critical phase" of his party's "haqiqi azadi movement" (movement for real freedom) during his Gujranwala rally today (Saturday). "Tomorrow our Gujranwala jalsa will be the last of our present phase of Haqiqi Azadi Movement. I will announce the next critical phase at the jalsa," tweeted the PTI chairman. The former prime minister claimed that the incumbent government and "its handlers" are "petrified that nation is standing firmly behind PTI" which is why they are moving on a "minus 1 formula". Before Imran Khan's tweet, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry in a press conference said that the PTI will launch countrywide protests from tomorrow. Fawad said that the party's senior leaders

held a meeting today and expressed their confidence in the leadership of Imran Khan. "There are attempts being made to knock out Imran Khan politically. FIRs are being registered against him at a time when there are floods in the country," said Fawad, claiming that the incumbent government does not have a "public mandate". The former information minister claimed that the government wants to push Imran Khan out of the "political arena". "This government is a dummy and real decisions are being made somewhere else. There is only one political party that is in the opposition," said Fawad, adding that the ECP delayed the elections when there were no floods. "Keeping in view the political and economic situation, this government cannot be given much time. Pakistan's politics has also entered the final stages," claimed Fawad, adding that very soon a government elected by the people will come to power.

Over \$82,000 raised for flood victims in Turkiye

WEB DESK

ISTANBUL: More than 1.5 million Turkish liras (over \$82,400) was pledged Thursday to Pakistan flood victims during a virtual fundraiser by the country's diplomatic mission in Ankara. The embassy held the event to collect donations for Pakistan where more than 33 million are affected by unprecedented floods. Muhammad Syrus Sajad Qazi, Pakistan's top diplomat in Turkiye, said the fundraiser was held at a "critical juncture" as millions of Pakistanis were "facing grave danger on account of some of worst floods." He said that floods from rains killed 1,355 people and one million livestock,

damaged 1.7 million houses and affected two million acres of arable land. He thanked Turkiye for support during the difficult times and was emotional as he showed gifts and donations sent to the embassy by Turks, including children who gave their own money. Turkiye was one of the first responders to the situation in Pakistan and has sent 11 planes and three trainloads of rescue and relief material to help victims. Turkish lawmaker Ali Sahin offered condolences to flood victims for "my precious Pakistan" and said Turks feel the "pain of brothers and sisters from Pakistan". "People of Pakistan are very powerful to overcome these painful days," he said, adding that Turkiye is closely following the situation.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

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Britain mourns Queen as Charles becomes king

King Charles was greeted by cheering crowds outside Buckingham Palace on Friday as he returned to London ahead of a televised address to a nation mourning the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Bells tolled across Britain on Friday and mourners flocked to palace gates to honor Queen Elizabeth II as the country prepared for a new age under a new king. Around the world, her exceptional reign was commemorated, celebrated and debated. King Charles III, who spent much of his 73 years preparing for the role, planned to meet with the prime minister and address a nation grieving the only British monarch most people alive today had ever known. He takes the throne in an era of uncertainty for both his country and the monarchy itself. As the country began a 10-day mourning period, people around the globe gathered at British embassies to pay homage to the queen, who died Thursday at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. In London and at military sites across the United Kingdom,

special guns fired 96 shots in an elaborate, 16-minute salute marking each year of the queen's life. In Britain and across its former colonies, the widespread admiration for Elizabeth herself was occasionally mixed with scorn for the institution and the imperial history she symbolized. On the king's first full day of duties Friday, he left Balmoral and flew to London, where he was expected to meet Prime Minister Liz Truss, appointed just this week. He arrived at Buckingham Palace, the monarch's London home, for the first time as sovereign, emerging from the official state Bentley limousine to shouts from the crowd of "God save the king!" and "Well done, Charlie!" and the singing of the national anthem, now called "God Save the King." One woman gave him a kiss on the cheek. In the evening, he was scheduled to deliver his first speech to the nation as king, at a time when

many Britons are facing an energy crisis, the soaring cost of living, the war in Ukraine and the fallout from Brexit. As the second Elizabethan Age came to a close, hundreds of people arrived through the night to leave flowers outside the gates of Buckingham Palace and other royal residences. Some came simply to pause and reflect. Finance worker Giles Cudmore

said the queen had "just been a constant through everything, everything good and bad." At Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, mourner April Hamilton stood with her young daughter, struggling to hold back tears. "It's just such a momentous change that is going to happen," she said. "I'm trying to hold it together today." Everyday politics was put on hold,

with lawmakers paying tribute to the monarch in Parliament over two days, beginning with a special session where Truss called the queen "the nation's greatest diplomat." Senior lawmakers will also take an oath to King Charles III. Meanwhile, many sporting and cultural events were canceled as a mark of respect, and some businesses - including Selfridges department store and the Legoland amusement park - shut their doors. The Bank of England postponed its meeting by a week. Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said, "A part of our lives we've taken for granted as being permanent is no longer there." But while Elizabeth's death portends a monumental shift for some, day-to-day life in Britain went on in other respects, with children in school and adults at work, facing concerns about inflation. Later Friday, Truss and other senior ministers were expected to attend a remembrance

service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Charles, who became the monarch immediately upon his mother's death, will be formally proclaimed king at a special ceremony Saturday. After a vigil in Edinburgh, the queen's coffin will be brought to London, and she will lie in state for several days before her funeral in Westminster Abbey. Elizabeth was Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a symbol of constancy in a turbulent era that saw the decline of the British empire and disarray in her family. The impact of Elizabeth's loss will be unpredictable. She helped stabilize and modernize the monarchy across decades of enormous social change, but its relevance in the 21st century has often been called into question. The public's abiding affection for the queen had helped sustain support for the monarchy during the family scandals, but Charles is nowhere near as popular.



Briefs

IESCO
suspension
notice

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 10th September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, NDC I, II, I-10/3, PHA-II, I-11/3, Metro, Islamic University, Bahria Enclave, Dr. AQ Khan, I -10/2, NUST University, U-Phone, PTCL, SES, Fazal Ghi, NISCOM, Raja Sultan, Eid Gah, Ali Market, Dhok Najo, TB Hospital, Mushtaq Shaheed, Jalala, Nawababad, P. MC Colony, Murt, Katas, Dalwal, Mayani, Manara, PAF Color Kahar, F-17/1 & 2, Nogzi, Shikria, Mandi Bhalwal, Mult Chowk Feeders, Nimble Feeders From 08:00 AM to 03:00 PM, Nimble Feeder From 06:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Beirut Gala, Darbar Mai Totti, Khoi Ratta City, Charohi, Dana Bhal, Charohi Dongi, Sri, City, Karijala, Jandrot Dabasi, Ditot, Mujahan, Feeders On 11th September From 08:00 AM to 03:00 PM Nimble Feeder, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Miani, Manara, PAF Kalerkahar, VIP, Rawalpindi, III, Museum, Hussainabad, Ahmednagar, Khanabad, Munirabad, Lalazar, Lalrukh, Industrial Estate, Pur Miana, Rashid Minhas, Shahia, Angoori Feeders and surroundings will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

Bahrain to
Kalam road
opened for
traffic

ISLAMABAD: The district administration of Swat, with help of Pakistan Army Corps of Engineers, Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) and National Highway Authority (NHA), have restored the Bahrain to Kalam road which was severely damaged by devastating floods in the country. Many roads, bridges were washed away in between the two cities from Bahrain to Kalam. However, on special instructions of Malakand Division Commissioner Shaukat Ali Yousafzai and with support of District Administration Swat, Engineers 11 Corps, Frontier Works Organization (FWO) and NHA, the road was restored and opened for traffic. The Commissioner during his visit to Bahrain, had promised to restore the road within two days and thus he fulfilled his promise. The Commissioner said the restoration of Bahrain to Kalam road would now speed up the relief operations to Mittalan, Gabral, Ariani and other areas. He also lauded the efforts of Pakistan Army, district administration, FWO, NHA and the people of the area. - APP

CTP launch
operation
against
Illegal sites

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) on Friday launched an operation against encroachments and illegal parking particularly to clear roads near Holy Family hospital in New Town Circle. According to a CTP spokesman, the New Town Circle incharge launched an operation and issued 107 challan slips to traffic rules violators including drivers of taxis, rickshaws and private ambulances besides issuing warnings to several encroachers. The operation was conducted on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer Naveed Irshad. The team also removed encroachments from surrounding area of the hospital to ensure smooth flow of traffic. The spokesman said that strict action would be taken against the encroachers and violators of parking rules. He said the CTP personnel had been directed to take indiscriminate action against those violating traffic rules and creating problems for other road users. - APP

Hunerkada, Pehchan provide
platform for inclusive co-op

Safia Cassim said "As educationists, we need to create acceptance for mistakes to allow creativity in our classrooms". We as parents and school are becoming so 'result oriented' that we are missing out the present moment of our children

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Hunerkada & Pehchan Pakistan provide platform for inclusive collaboration by gathering all educational leaders / Islamabad: Hunerkada and Pehchan Pakistan organised a Colloquy where all eminent educational leaders were present. The aim was to provide a platform for inclusive collaboration by gathering all educational leaders from different institutions. Particularly not forgetting children with special needs. Hunerkada would like to establish itself as a platform for collaborative activities that promote peace, harmony and creativity. Safia Cassim (Regional Director for The City School - Southern Region) said "As educationists, we need to create acceptance for mistakes to allow creativity in our classrooms". We as parents and



school are becoming so 'result oriented' that we are missing out the present moment of our children. Nasreen Iqbal (Executive Director for Grammar School Rawalpindi)

said, "We need to try to revive our heritage, our customs and treasure them. Despite adversity in the country, there are many success stories that need to be told."

According to Aamir Khan (Senior Regional Manager Communication - North Beaconhouse School System), "The younger generation today, are embracing

the digital platform in being enterprising individuals, hence it is extremely important that entrepreneurship skills are inculcated in them at a young age." These were followed by an inspiring talk by Jamal Shah about the value of giving kids early access to creative activities. He referenced Pehchan Pakistan as an example of a platform that may serve as a creative outlet for both adults and children. He also shed light on the value of having artistic outlets at this time when we are battling the effects of the pandemic. Hunerkada is holding an art auction to support flood victims soon. The event ended with a creativity workshop conducted by Jamal Shah. The activity was for all the educational leaders that were present at the event. It was wonderful to witness the energy in the room as these leaders held crayons after decades.

AKJDF Rawat holds speech
competition for students

KHAYAM ABBASI

MURREE: Al Khair Justice and Development Forum Rawat organized a speech competition among the students of Madrasas, Schools and Colleges of Union Council Rawat at Murree Meridian Hall Ausia Murree. A large number of students from participated in the competition. Senior Journalist Mr. Javed Siddique was the chief guest of the event. He said that there is no benefit in such education which merely distributes degrees, modern education should be mandatory along with religious education in institutions. Meanwhile, he paid tribute to the team of AKJDF for conducting the successful program. Among the other special guests were well-known writer and columnist



Professor Aslam Khokhar and Senior Professor Karol Residential College Qari Waqar Ahmed Abbasi, who also performed the duties of judges well. Well-known writer, poet and educationist Professor Ashfaq Kaleem Sahib, ex-Nazim MSO, Murree Hafiz Luqman Ghori, President Murree Press Club Sudhir Ahmad Abbasi, Secretary Finance Murree Press Club Hafiz Sajjad Sahib were included. In the senior section compe-

ditions, the first position was won by Abdullah Shams, a student of Himalaya College, while the second position was won by Iman Kanwal, a student of Paragon School System, Kashmiri Bazar, and the third position was won by Salar Rashid, a student of Government Boys High School, Rawat. In the junior section, the first position was won by Zohaib Chanzeb, a student of Government Boys High School, Rawat, while the second position

was won by Anna Shakeel, a student of The Preceptor School, and the third position was won by Aliza Shujaat, a student of Paragon School System, and Hasnain Jameel, a student of Madrasah Haq Char Yar Malot. The position holder students were awarded honorary shields, certificates, and cash prizes by Al Khair Justice and Development Forum. Rehman Basit, the founder of the Al-Khair Justice and Development Forum, presented the manifesto of the forum. Member Core Committee Raheel Anar Abbasi thanked the teachers and guests for their participation and emphasized education along with training in educational institutions and said that their forum will organize free career counseling sessions and training programs in educational institutions across the region.

EOC rolls out
another health
initiative

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Emergency Operations Center for Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) has rolled out another health initiative by launching health camps in the eight flood affected districts of the province that will ensure free healthcare and essential immunization services to the people. This was stated in an official statement issued by Provincial Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) here on Friday. A total of 400 health camps will be held in D.I.Khan, Tank, Peshawar, Nowshera, Charsadda, Swat, Shangla and Dir Lower districts from September 9, 2022 till 3rd October 2022 spanning over 25 days. During the health camps, vaccination against preventable diseases including measles, tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, pneumonia, meningitis, polio, hepatitis and diarrhea caused by rotavirus, anti-rabies, anti-snake venom vaccines will be ensured along with mosquito repellents, water purifying tablets and other necessary medicines for various infectious diseases. The statement said that the government was taking every measure to ensure better health services to the people in these hard and testing times and the health camps is one such initiative that can help provide these services at doorsteps.

Expensive
electricity
promotes theft
and corruption

DNA

ISLAMABAD: FPCCI's Presidential candidate Atif Ikram Sheikh on Friday said the burden on electricity consumers is being continuously increased fanning poverty and compromising the growth rate which is already dismally low. Costly power is promoting corruption and theft while it is eroding the purchasing power of the masses pushing many below the poverty line, he said. Talking to businessmen, Atif Ikram Sheikh said that power companies are breaking the back of the people that should be stopped. Mr. Sheikh said that Nepra has been increasing the price of electricity and this unstoppable cycle is increasing the cost of private and public projects, affecting industrial and agricultural production, while the quality of life of the people is at stake. Re-avoided for decades and a shortcut of tariff hike is being favoured which has not helped improve the power sector mounting circular debt, however it has deteriorated everything. He demanded that the government should immediately try to close the old power plants, reduce the price of electricity, resolve issues with IPPs, improve the recovery and distribution system and eliminate theft, otherwise the economy will sink due to its disastrous effects. He said that the power sector is paying the way for social chaos in the country. Instead of increasing the price of electricity on the orders of the IMF, seven hundred billion rupees can be saved annually by improving the recovery and eliminating corruption, but no attention is paid to this, he lamented. Atif Ikram said that 26% of Pakistan's population does not have access to grid electricity due to a lack of investment in transmission and distribution despite capacity additions in generation.

China-Pakistan youth
group acts as bridge
between donors and
floods' victims

ISLAMABAD: A civil group named China-Pakistan Youth Exchange Community is acting as a bridge between donors and disaster victims, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. It continues to provide assistance for those affected, improve their work efficiency, and pass on love and care," said Ma Bin, leader of the community. According to CEN, the community received messages from Pakistanis asking for help and started fundraising online since August. Now they have raised around RMB 2 million

to buy tents, food, daily necessities and other supplies for flood-stricken people in different districts of Pakistan. The group has provided 600 tents to flood victims in Multan which are urgently needed and mostly used by people displaced by floods. In the future, they will provide another 500 tents for those flood-affected residents in Multan, according to Ma Bin, leader of the community. Ma said that its Multan team had provided a complete set of rescue plan for 100 particularly poor families in flood-stricken areas. Each of the rescue packages contains a tent, two blankets, drinking water, food and daily necessities. Notably, they also bought PVC sheets used in the construction of animal shelters, forage and feed for animals. Ma told China Economic Net (CEN) that his volunteer witnessed a father who wanted to rescue both his son and a cattle from the water, but had to watch his cattle washed away. "Apart from houses and valuables, flash floods washed away local people's poultry and livestock, and completely damaged standing crops. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi being presented with the Annual Report of Federal Ombudsperson for Protection Against Harassment (FOSPAH), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. - DNA

Afghanistan; a collective responsibility for regional countries

Amina Khan, Director CAMEA at ISSI, remarked that Taliban's performance despite their claims, had been debatable particularly in the sector of human security. The extraordinary situation of humanitarian crisis and weak institutions was exacerbated by the global financial sanctions

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Inclusive government as well as a focus on ethnic, sectarian and gender inclusivity was important for the Afghan government in order to match its pace with the developed and the developing world, said Ambassador Aizaz Chaudhry, Director General ISSI. He was addressing a one-day conference, titled, "Future Prospects for Afghanistan and the Region" organised by Institute of Regional Studies (IRS), Islamabad. He added that good governance and international recognition was a major challenge for the contemporary Afghan government. Mr Salman Javed, Director General PAYF was of the view that there exists a resented mind-set among Afghans

against Pakistan, that Pakistan was a British legacy. He asserted that such propagandas hindered good relations between the two neighbours and that it was imperative to tackle them. He also recognized the fact that Pakistan had increased trade with Afghanistan which was good for bilateral relations. Mr. Hassan Khan, a senior journalist, elucidated the economic and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, people of Afghanistan were struggling to buy basic commodities whereas, women and children were specifically deprived of food, which would be impacting the next generation as well. He also added that with brain drain, people were also taking money out of the country leading to shortage of currency. Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA at ISSI, remarked that Taliban's performance de-

spite their claims, had been debatable particularly in the sector of human security. The extraordinary situation of humanitarian crisis and weak institutions was exacerbated by the global financial sanctions. She added on, that the biggest threat which permeated to the region, as well, was the presence of terrorist groups. Taliban must counter the terrorism assurances, otherwise, the frustration in the region amongst Afghanistan and its immediate neighbours would be consolidated, as the region seemingly expressed less patience for militant activities. Pakistan Afghanistan relationship was always seen from prism of security, therefore, bilateral ties had always suffered. Bilateral engagement would have been there, hence engagement would be necessary. Dr Salma Malik, Assistant Professor at

Quaid e Azam University, annotated that SAARC, as a regional body, was de-functioed not due to the infrastructural deficits but the fault line lied with the DNA of the region as the states were not willing to cooperate with each other. There were zero regional incentives for Afghanistan to do better, therefore, regional interdependence and cooperation of all the states via the establishment of a new regional body would be significant for a stable and secure Afghanistan. Pakistan did not have to choose between Afghanistan and the US, both states had been important and influential, therefore diplomacy was the only solution. Other eminent panellists of the conference included Ambassador Syed Abrar, Ambassador Dr. Major General Raza, Ambassador Inam ul Haq and Mr. Obaidullah Baheer.

AIOU waives
fee for flood
victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has waived the fee for one semester (autumn semester 2022) for its students living in the areas affected by the recent catastrophic rains and floods. According to the details, the ongoing students admitted in matriculation and intermediate programs in Sindh (except Karachi), Balochistan, DI Khan, and DG Khan region will have a full fee waiver in the ongoing admissions of the autumn semester 2022. The students of Associate Degree (Arts) programs in these areas will get a 50% fee waiver. It is to clarify that the students of matriculation and FA programs residing in these areas who have already paid the fees for the current semester, their paid fees will be adjusted in the next semester (semester Spring 2023).

It is pertinent to mention that on the directions of the Vice-Chancellor, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, the university has also established 30 relief camps in the flood-affected areas, medical assistance, daily use items, clothes, shoes, ration, etc. are being provided. Academic Staff Association and Employees Welfare Associations have collected approximately Rs 3.5 million and donated to the flood-affected in the form of tents, clothes, medicines, rations, and cash assistance.

Pre-arrest
bail extended
of Sheikh,
Murad

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday extended the pre-arrest bail of former federal ministers Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed and Murad Saeed till September 27, in a case registered against them on violation of Section 144. Additional District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal heard the bail petitions of former ministers. Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed appeared before the court while Murad Saeed was given a one-time exemption from appearance. The defence lawyer told the court that Murad Saeed could not attend the proceedings as the roads were closed due to the flood in his area. After listening to the arguments, the court extended the interim bail of the accused. - APP

Amin says
Pakistan is
investment
friendly
country

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecom Syed Amin-Ul-Haque has said the government was providing maximum support to the telecom sector for its growth as Pakistan was an investment friendly country. "Jazz's investment in Pakistan has crossed \$10.3 billion mark including around \$1 billion in the last four years alone on network expansion and upgradation," he said in a meeting with Chief Executive Officer of VEON Group Kaan Terzioglu. EXOR representative and CEO of Jazz, Aamir Ibrahim was also present in the meeting which discussed matters related to the telecom sector, import of essential telecom equipment and investment opportunities. The IT minister was also briefed on connectivity status in flood affected areas, said a news release. Amin told the delegation that there were vast investment opportunities in the fields of e-health, e-education, e-agriculture and e-commerce. "Healthy competition in the Telecom Sector is essential for providing better connectivity to consumers," he said vowing to resolve the issues of the sector on priority. He said the telecom committee had made recommendations regarding the problems it was facing and submitted them to Prime Minister Advisory Council on IT & Telecom. VEON Group CEO Kaan Terzioglu and Jazz CEO Aamir Ibrahim apprised the minister about Jazz's investment in Pakistan. They also reiterated that a healthy and stable telecom sector, the foundation of a country's digital ecosystem, fueled virtually all sectors of the economy, and was a prerequisite for consistent improvement in service quality for users. - APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya
Revolution Day

Sept 01 / Tanzania
Defence day

Sept 01 / Uzbekistan
Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil
Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea
National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan
Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia
Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico
National Day

Sept 16 / Papua New Guinea
Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile
National Day

Sept 21 / Malta
Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia
National Day



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

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



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

IHC orders to establish cell for missing persons' cases

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the court to solve the missing people case and said that he was answerable to people of Pakistan and Allah Almighty

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday adjourned hearing of the missing persons' case till November 14, and directed the Ministry of Interior to establish a cell regarding the matter. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case pertaining missing of Journalist Mudasir Naro and other citizens. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif appeared in the court while Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar and Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah were also accompanied him. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured the court to solve the missing people case and said that he was answerable to the people of Pakistan and Allah Almighty. During the hearing, Chief Justice Athar Minallah remarked that it was the responsibility of the

state to redress the sufferings of the victim families. The court had summoned the prime minister because it was a very serious issue and being heard by this bench for several months. The court noted that the response of the state into the matter had not been as per its responsibility. The court said a chief executive ruled this country for nine years, he admitted proudly in his book that he sold the citizens abroad. But if we talk about the constitution, there couldn't be a state within the state, he added. Justice Minallah said that the matter was sent to the federal cabinet and a cabinet committee was formed. This matter was not only about the formation of the committee, he said, adding that this court considered "it appropriate that you tell us what was the actual issue". The court further said that the commission on missing persons was set up but its proceedings that came out were very disappointing.

IHC's CJ said that disappearance of people was the biggest form of torture and the court had no other option but to ask the executive. "What should we do when the state expressed ignorance as who made the citizens disappeared," he asked. Addressing to the prime minister, the Chief Justice said that you were working for the flood victims and came to the court by understanding this issue. The forced disappearances were a deviation from the constitution, he said, adding that the national security of this country was in your hands. He said that there were many issues of governance in the country, adding that the problems of this country would be solved only when the constitution was fully restored. He remarked that the civilians were under executive control and this court has confidence in you. The chief justice said when a little boy comes to the court for his father's recovery then to which the court should

declare accountable. The same child was also met with the then prime minister, you should tell this court the solution, he said. Who should be held responsible in the missing persons' case, the CJ IHC asked. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it was his duty to appear before the court. He said that the UN Secretary General was in Pakistan and I had a meeting with him but when I got the court order I said that I would go to the court. Shehbaz Sharif said that the son of the missing journalist asked in the court that make him (child) meet with his father. This sentence of the child was very disturbing for me, he added. The prime minister said I wouldn't waste any opportunity and assured you that I would make the missing persons meet with their families. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that I would leave no stone unturned to solve the missing persons' case. I am answerable to the people and Allah Almighty,

he said, adding that I went to the jail twice in last four years and my family also suffered the pain. He said that the committee formed on this issue had met six times, adding that he would submit the report of its every to the court. The report wouldn't be a story but would be based on the facts, he said. The Prime Minister said that implementation of court orders was his primary responsibility. He said he visited flood-affected areas and met the victim people. It was his duty and primary responsibility to listen to them and try to resolve their issue. He said the issue of missing persons had been standing for almost last 20 years. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said that I assured this court that as per my domain I would fulfill my duty. He said he formed a committee in this regard after he became the Prime Minister. The committee members have met the families of the missing persons in different areas.

BISP distributes Rs. 22.9 bln among beneficiaries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Program has distributed over Rs. 22,953,025,000 among 918,121 families in flood affected areas. 80 percent of the total identified beneficiaries have been served so far. 22,604 families withdrew the amount on Friday. Federal Minister Shazia Marri has said that one billion rupees have been allocated under the Benazir Nashonuma Program to meet the nutritional needs of millions of flood-affected pregnant women and children. As of Friday evening 111,680 affected families have received Rs.2,792,00,000 in Balochistan; 545,505 families have received Rs.13,637,625,000 in Sindh; 113,851 families have received Rs. 2,846,275,000 in KP and 147,085 families have received Rs.3,677,125,000 in Punjab. 80.8 percent of the total identified beneficiaries have been served so far through 377 special campsites established across the flood affected regions in the country. The administration of Benazir Income Support Programme has directed the concerned staff who is present at the campsites to fully cooperate and facilitate the people in their respective regions.

PAF relief operations continue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force was making continued efforts and had dedicated utmost resources for rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. The PAF helicopter operations were being carried out for airdrop of ration, medicine and critical supplies in the far-off areas cut from land routes, a PAF news release said. It added that the rehabilitation activities were further enhanced in the Flood Relief Camps to support maximum flood affectees. The PAF personnel were also engaged round the clock for provision of basic necessities to the flood victims including food, shelter, drinking water and health services. To provide much needed relief to the sufferings of flood affectees, the PAF Emergency Response teams had distributed 23,120 cooked food packs, 2,130 water bottles and 3,348 ration packs consisting of basic food commodities amongst the needy families during the last 24 hours. Moreover, in addition to the provision of free food and shelter, 2,140 patients were also attended by the medical teams of Pakistan Air Force in the field medical camps of PAF. - APP

Pak Railways retrieves 544 acres land

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways had retrieved as many as 544 acres precious land worth billion of rupees from the illegal occupants under its anti-encroachment operation across the country. "The encroachment operation was launched on the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique with the assistance of railway police and district administrations of the relevant province," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. Giving details, he said, the department had retrieved 274 acres land in Punjab, 135 acres from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 109 acres from Sindh and 26 acres from Balochistan province. The official said that out of the total retrieved land, 108 acres were commercial, 323 acres were residential and 113 acres were the agricultural land of the Pakistan Railways. He said the government was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including detailed survey was being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation of various government departments. - APP

Chinese Ambassador calls on Air Chief



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr Nong Rong, called on Air Chief Marshal Zahoor Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force in his office today. Several key areas of mutual interest along with regional developments were discussed.

Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours of

PAF's modernization drive to achieve operational capability in the contemporary warfare in air, space and cyber space domains as per the PAF's operational construct. The Air Chief also highlighted that both the countries enjoy unprecedented strategic partnership and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral ties in military to military cooperation and training do-

main between PAF and PLAAF. CAS further said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, defence relationship and time-tested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability". The visiting dignitary praised the professionalism of PAF personnel and the exceptional progress made by PAF over the years, es-

pecially through indigenization. He appreciated Pakistan's efforts in promoting regional peace. Both leaders vowed to further consolidate cooperation in various fields including emerging technologies and mutual cooperation in military industry. The honourable Ambassador also offered heartfelt condolences to the people of Pakistan over the loss of life and devastation caused by floods in Pakistan.

Kyrgyzstan Ambassador urges to strengthen trade ties

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to Pakistan Ulambek Totuaev has emphasized establishing stronger trade ties, enhancing cultural exchanges, and mutual collaboration in the educational and scientific sectors between both countries. He made these remarks during a seminar on "30 Years of Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan Re-

lations: Progress and Prospects," organized by Riphah International University. Addressing the seminar, Ambassador U. Totuaev announced the Pakistan-Kyrgyzstan trade house to establish and increase the strong trade linkages between the two countries. He added that both countries are also exploring the possibility of opening direct flights. The Ambassador told the audience that Paki-

stani students are studying in various educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan. He further stated that the bilateral ties between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan reflect that both nations are ready to build the subsequent decades of future cooperation. He also highlighted the important ongoing projects between the states and the region where both countries collaborate, especially building on the connectivity projects.

Chairman CM complaint cell meets with DC

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Chief Minister Punjab and Chairman Chief Minister Complaint Cell Punjab Zubair Ahmed Khan had a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq in his office on Friday. District General Secretary Pakistan Muslim League Rawalpindi Fayaz Tabasim was also present on this occasion. - DNA

Committee constituted to address Chinese IPPs' concerns

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail here on Friday formed a committee to hold meetings with Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on regular basis to address and resolve their concerns. The committee would comprise representatives from Finance, Power divisions and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), according to press statement issued by finance ministry. Presiding over a meeting on the issue of payments to Chinese IPPs, Miftah Ismail assured the Chinese IPPs authorities of addressing and resolving their concerns immediately. He shared that CPEC was a flagship project of friendship between Pakistan and China and expressed resolve of the government to provide all kinds of facilities to Chinese investors. According to the statement, the meeting discussed the issue of outstanding payments to Chinese IPPs in Pakistan and other hurdles faced by them. The CEOs of Chinese IPPs expressed satisfaction over addressing and resolving their issues. Among others, the meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir Khan, Special Assistants to Prime Minister Dr Muhammad Jehanzeb Khan, Tariq Fatmi SAPM, Zafaruddin Mehmood, Secretary Power, CEOs of Chinese Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and senior officer from Finance and Power Divisions, the statement added. - DNA

US military begins birlift of critical flood relief items to Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United States Central Command, in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has begun airlifting life-saving humanitarian supplies to support people and communities affected by ongoing, severe flooding in Pakistan. The supplies include nearly \$2.2 million worth of essential life support resources, including food preparation and shelter materials, which will be delivered over the course of the coming days in approximately 20 different shipments around the country. On September 2, USAID also deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the U.S. government's response efforts, which the U.S. military response is supporting. The total amount of the U.S. 2022 flood response to date is \$30.1 million, including these airlifted humanitarian supplies. The United States remains deeply saddened by the devastation caused by the catastrophic flooding throughout Pakistan. Our humanitarian donations are prioritizing urgently needed food, nutrition, multi-purpose cash, safe drinking water, improved sanitation and hygiene, and shelter assistance. This support will save lives and reduce suffering among the most vulnerable affected communities. The United States will continue to monitor the crisis in close coordination with local partners and Pakistani authorities. U.S. support for the people of Pakistan is unwavering. Our emergency flood relief aid and supplies are a continuation of decades of U.S. assistance to Pakistan, including programs designed to help prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural hazards.

ZTBL contributes to flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The Zari Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) on Friday contributed 10 percent of its net profit for the rehabilitation of flood victims as the bank registered Rs 514 million after tax profit. President ZTBL Muhammad Shahbaz Jameel handed over the cheque to Finance Minister Miftah Ismail and further assured extending all possible support for reviving agriculture sector in the country damaged due to the recent flash floods. He informed that the loss-making state-owned enterprise was thus converted into a profitable entity after years, adding that out of its earned profit in June 2022, ZTBL will earmark 10 percent about Rs 50 million of the net profit to flood-ravaged areas. In December 2020, the bank had sustained Rs 3.2 billion pre-tax losses and Rs 2.5 billion after-tax loss, he said, adding that in December 2021, ZTBL's after-tax loss was Rs 1.7 billion while the bank registered pre-tax profit of Rs 1.8 billion as compared to the corresponding period of last year. In a major development, ZTBL registered Rs 514 million after-tax profit and Rs 2.9 billion pre-tax income while the revenue generated by the agri-financing bank had met the entire operating expenses and taxation impact, he added. - APP



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The end of an era

NEWs of Queen Elizabeth's death was not wholly unexpected. She lived to the great age of 96. After enjoying markedly good health for so long, the oldest monarch in British history had recently appeared more fragile. She had understandably become a more private woman since the death of Prince Philip last year and had been less publicly visible, undertaking lighter duties. All of us knew that this moment was approaching.

The Queen's life spanned the entire history of modern Britain. She was born when Britain ruled a global empire of some 600 million people. She died when Britain was a medium-sized northern European country with an uncertain future. She came into the world before all British adults had the vote. At 10, she witnessed the abdication of her uncle that made her heir to the throne. At 14, she lived through the existential threat to the nation that followed the fall of France. As monarch, her first prime minister was Winston Churchill, who had participated in a cavalry charge at Omdurman in 1898, yet she had already been on the throne for 23 years before the current prime minister, her 15th, was even born. She was crowned Queen in the first televised coronation in 1953. In the early years of her reign there was heady talk of Britain entering a new Elizabethan age. That never quite happened, and in retrospect the idea can be seen as a characteristic post-imperial conceit. She adapted, cautiously and pragmatically, to change. She managed to combine in her person the remote sacramental dimension of the British monarchy with a realistic acceptance that her standing rested on more secular foundations. In this, she provided an undeniable source of stability as the country underwent epochal changes at home and in the world during her lifetime.

Hers was a reign marked far more by private milestones and, later, by private traumas. There were many notable family events. They included the births of her four children, their marriages, the investiture of her heir, Charles, as the Prince of Wales in 1969, the deaths of her uncle the Duke of Windsor in 1972 and her mother aged 101 in 2002, as well as her own jubilees: silver in 1977, golden in 2002, diamond in 2012 and sapphire in 2017 (the first by any British monarch). She died just months after her unprecedented platinum jubilee.

These challenges started in the 1950s, notably over Princess Margaret's wish to marry a divorcee. But they spiralled in the 1980s and 1990s with the divorces of three of the Queen's children and with the "annus horribilis" of 1992, and reached a climax after the death of Princess Diana in 1997, when there was much talk of the monarchy being irrevocably out of touch and a fresh and rare surge of republican advocacy. The royals steadied themselves in the early 21st century before fresh challenges emerged in the shape of the tabloid treatment of Prince Harry's marriage to Meghan Markle and in Prince Andrew's association with the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.



Arms sale to Taiwan dangerous

DESPITE Beijing's stern warnings, Washington is heedlessly escalating the tensions across the Taiwan Straits, as the scale of the latest arms sale to Taiwan shows.

The arms deal worth \$1.1 billion to Taiwan approved by the Joe Biden administration late last week, the sixth and the largest one since it took office, came one month after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's reckless visit to the Chinese island, which prompted the Chinese mainland to respond by conducting military drills around the island.

Not conducive to improving the well-being of residents on the island, the timing of the deal speaks volumes of the urgency with which the Biden administration is seeking to close the gap between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party in the approval ratings before the midterm elections.

The package, which consists of \$665 million for contractor support to maintain and upgrade a Raytheon early radar warning system in operation since 2013, \$355 million for 60 Harpoon Block II missiles and \$85.6 million for more than 100 Sidewinder missiles, is apparently customized for the island in response to the characteristics of the military drills conducted by the People's Liberation Army as a countermeasure to Pelosi's provocation.

With the new package, the administration says the island will be better able to warn itself about incoming attacks, track and sink incoming vessels, and further enhance its air-to-air firepower.

And since supporting Taiwan is a bipartisan consensus in Congress — where the deal won a quick nod to go ahead — the Biden administration is also trying to ease tensions between the parties after their conflict began to get nasty following the Federal Bureau of Investigation's search of a Florida property of previous US president Donald Trump on suspicion he stole classified documents from the White House on leaving office.

As such, the US dealing with the Taiwan question, the most sensitive part of the Sino-US relations, is being hijacked by the political strife in the US. That represents a dangerous trend as it risks the US side losing the proper perspective and the prudence required for the proper solution to the Taiwan question, as the politicians in Washington will be blinded by short-term partisan and personal interests.

That's why, although the Biden administration still claims that the US continues to support a "peaceful resolution of cross-strait issues", and it still recognizes "only Beijing and not Taipei", the world should be wary that the solution to the Taiwan question is being steamrolled onto the wrong track by the dysfunctional political system in the US. Since there is no sign of any functional self-correction mechanism in the US political system that might apply the brakes, that does not bode well for the future.

United Kingdom and the world mourn the end of a life of service

Dr. Azeem Ibrahim

The Second World War, in which Elizabeth served, instilled in her a sense of duty — one to which she referred in a speech to mark her 21st birthday: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family." The queen was head of state, but she was not in government. Constitutionally bound, she did not exercise executive power. But throughout her reign, she was in close contact with her prime ministers. She received state papers from her accession to the throne at the age of 25, and read them with close attention

THE death of Queen Elizabeth II of the UK and 14 other Commonwealth realms was not unexpected, but it was still a shock. Few of her subjects can remember a time without her. She reigned for 70 years, longer than any other British monarch. No living prime minister — from John Major, who took office in 1990, to Liz Truss, who did so only this week — has known anything in adulthood except her reign.

When Queen Victoria was dying, in 1901, a young Winston Churchill was on a lecture tour in Winnipeg, in frozen central Canada. Far from the heart of England, the effect of the queen's death, when announced, was immediate and immense. Churchill wrote that the Canadians felt that they had loved her, and they mourned her loss. When Victoria died, an era died with her — and everyone knew that this was true as it was happening.

The same must be said of Elizabeth, whose reign began with Churchill as prime minister and spanned a period of immense change. At 96, ever dutiful, her last official act was to appoint her 15th prime minister, Liz Truss, on Tuesday. It fell to Truss to announce the queen's death to the nation and the world. The queen was the last ruler to have known Churchill and Eisenhower. She met a host of other monarchs. She toured the Middle East and Asia extensively — sometimes as queen of countries that would later abolish their monarchies, at other times as a visitor and friend. When Elizabeth hosted Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia in 2018, he was only the youngest and latest of the royal family she had known well.

Her death marks the end of an era that began in the momentous mid-20th century, in which many of the conventions of international affairs and modern government were formed. Her reign, when it began in 1952, was recognized as a second Elizabethan age.

The Second World War, in which Elizabeth served, instilled in her a sense of duty — one to which she referred in a speech to mark her 21st birthday: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family." The queen was head of state, but she was

not in government. Constitutionally bound, she did not exercise executive power. But throughout her reign, she was in close contact with her prime ministers. She received state papers from her accession to the throne at the age of 25, and read them with close attention. She met her prime ministers every week until the COVID pandemic interrupted the practice in 2020. According to the constitutional historian Peter Hennessey, the prime ministers of the last century and this one each grew to depend upon her counsel.

In Walter Bagehot's seminal 1867 work "The English Constitution," the author summarized the monarch's political role as including the rights to be consulted, to encourage, and to warn. But this does not do justice to the dutiful way

Elizabeth carried out her role.

The monarchy is a lonely business. It is isolating, if allowed to be. But Elizabeth held true to the tradition of the "public service monarchy." It meant touring the country and the world, meeting people with power and those without it, always being prepared to engage with anyone, to talk with animation, or to know when not to talk. Bagehot called the monarchy a "magic" part of the British constitution, and the queen's dignity and poise in carrying out her duties maintained that magic — deep into an age where politicians and rulers in the Western world are supposed to carry themselves no differently from the ordinary people they meet. The queen was deeply loved by many in the countries she ruled, and she was respected by leaders and citizens across the world. This was not merely a product of her title and the length of time she wore the crown. Rather, it was the result of seven decades' dutiful work — to be visible and available, to be of help to leaders but apart from politics. As she herself once observed, with a typical flash of humor: "I must be seen to be believed." When the COVID pandemic struck the world, and isolated so many across the planet in their homes, the queen made a rare broadcast on a specific issue. When she — a nonagenarian great-grandmother — spoke of being apart from those she loved, she spoke to and for so many.

And when she, a living link to the past, said: "I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge. ... And those who come after us will say the Britons of this generation were as strong as any," she summoned the spirit of another age as no one else could. That broadcast was watched by over a billion around the world. She spoke to the sense of duty in everyone, as only she could have done.

— Courtesy: Arab News



A silent invasion: How Hindutva infiltrated US politics

CJ Werleman

The Indian American Muslim Council called the attack "unprecedented", while warning that the rise of Hindutva in the US is no longer a problem law enforcement can afford to ignore. Last year, the Hindu right-wing groups in the US fiercely opposed an academic conference on Hindutva.

American journalists, human rights activists and academics, who participated in the first ever major online conference on Hindutva in the US — were targeted with rape and death threats, while universities, including Harvard and Stanford, were subjected to nearly one million emails and thousands of spam messages

ORGANISATIONS affiliated to India's ruling BJP are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to mainstream a controversial political ideology that draws its strength from dehumanising and vilifying Muslims. Fascism has arrived in the United States, but from an unlikely source — a growing segment of the Indian migrant community, specifically those who have become radicalised by the far-right, ultranationalist political ideology of Hindutva.

It's a scourge that had gone largely undetected until the Indian Business Association (IBA) organised an India Independence Day rally in Edison, New Jersey, which featured a bulldozer adorned with the posters of leading Hindu nationalist figures, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The bulldozer not only symbolises the unlawful demolition of Muslim homes and businesses, but also the newest weapon in the Indian government's quest for Hindu supremacy. This so-called "bulldozer justice" has been described as a tool of genocide, and now it's being feted by Hindu nationalist forces on American streets.

Attendees at the rally in Edison also witnessed Indian expatriates chanting, "Jai Sri Ram", a pious veneration of Lord Rama which has been weaponised by Hindu nationalists to intimidate and threaten India's religious minorities, as the bulldozer rolled through the streets. "Jai Sri Ram" are typically the last words a Muslim hears before being assaulted and even lynched. We are witnessing the infiltration of the Hindutva ideology among the Indian diaspora in the US, an ideology that borrows its hateful and genocidal beliefs from European fascist movements of the 20th century, including the Nazi Party. But this infiltration of the country's political and civic spaces is happening totally undetected.

One can only imagine the public outcry, from all levels of American society, that would follow a rally held by Nazis, who chanted, "Heil Hitler," while marching to the goose step, but not a single national-level political leader has condemned the celebration of Muslim persecution and dispossession by Hindutva radicalised Indian migrants in Edison. In fact, the rally was attended by state- and national-level political leaders, including New Jersey Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin and Democratic Congressperson Frank Pallone, despite the rally constituting an overt celebration of religion-based persecution in India, and despite the US government recently expressing concern over the rise in human rights abuses against religious minorities by government functionaries in India.

Moreover, the ugly scenes witnessed in New Jersey cannot

be dismissed as the actions of a fringe minority, but rather a reflection of the same kind of hateful and discriminatory policies espoused and enacted by the far-right, Hindu nationalist government in Delhi, given the event was supported by Overseas Friends of BJP (OFBJP) — the foreign agent of India's ruling party — with the motormouth BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra appointed grand marshal of the parade. It's self-evidently obvious that both the event's organisers and supporters intended to send an unmistakable and chilling message to Indian-American Muslims, Christians, Dalits, and other minorities: that you are not safe from persecution even here in the US.

The Hindutva project pursues exclusion because its adherents in government aim to transform India's secular and multicultural identity into one of absent non-Hindu minorities, and no tool is being left off the table to achieve this aim, including the bulldozer. Hindu nationalists are legislating discriminatory laws, while encouraging violence in the streets to fulfill this objective in both India and abroad, as illustrated by an attack committed by Hindu nationalists against Indian American protesters in Anaheim, California, who were raising awareness about the persecution of Muslims and Dalits in India on August 15. "We were shoved and called 'stupid Muslims' and 'terrorists,' and asked questions like, 'Are you Pakistani?'," said one of the protesters.

The Indian American Muslim Council called the attack "unprecedented", while warning that the rise of Hindutva in the US is no longer a problem law enforcement can afford to ignore. Last year, the Hindu right-wing groups in the US fiercely opposed an academic conference on Hindutva. American journalists, human rights activists and academics, who participated in the first ever major online conference on Hindutva in the US — were targeted with rape and death threats, while universities, including Harvard and Stanford, were subjected to nearly one million emails and thousands of spam messages. This email campaign was driven by the Hindu Education Foundation (HEF), a US-based affiliate of the far-right, paramilitary organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), to pressure the state's education department into adopting Hindu nationalist talking points for school textbooks, including the characterisation of Muslims as external invaders. This aggressive outreach and lobbying is backed with

tens of millions of dollars, as evident in a recent report, which found that seven US-based Hindutva groups have spent more than \$158 million on various projects in the US during the past two decades, including influencing members of Congress to support the policies of India's far-right Bharatiya Janata Party.

These groups have also recruited and funded several national- and state-level lawmakers in recent times, including former congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI), congressman Raja Krishnamurthy (D-IL), Michigan state representative Padma Kuppia, and former Texas state representative Sri Kulkarni. Notably, these recent events in the US take place in the same year marking the 20th anniversary of India's Gujarat pogrom, in which more than 2,000 Muslims were hacked, burnt, and shot to death by radicalised Hindu nationalists, who took their cues from the state's Hindu nationalist government, led then by current Prime Minister Narendra Modi. But for the past two decades, Modi and his supporters have not only distorted his role in inciting the genocide, but also downplayed and denied the violence that took place during a three-day orgy of rape and murder.

Today, however, Hindu nationalists openly celebrate the Gujarat Genocide, even showering public praise on the 11 convicts who were given early release from their life sentences, after gang raping a pregnant Muslim woman twenty years ago, a move that's not only meant to erase and deny their genocidal crimes, but also triumphantise them. The early release of her attackers is also aimed to make the rape and murder of Muslims a source of national pride.

In this sense, Hindu nationalist forces are taking their cues from Serb nationalist forces in Bosnia Herzegovina, today, where denials of the Srebrenica genocide are being replaced with the celebration of those who mass murdered more than 8,000 Bosniak Muslims in 1995.

In India today, we are witnessing an orchestrated effort to make Modi a national hero for his undeniable role in the Gujarat Genocide, and to exclude Muslims from legitimate victimhood, an effort now playing out on American streets in full view of the American public. Fascism has come to America, but not in an easily recognisable form. The country's political and civic leaders must respond to this new and emerging threat to democracy, plurality and the wellbeing of millions of Indian American migrants. Hindutva draws its ideological DNA from Nazism, and must be confronted, accordingly.

— Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

France mourns queen's death

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron led an outpouring of French tributes on Friday to Queen Elizabeth II, saying that "we all feel an emptiness" following her death. Despite France's revolutionary history which saw republicans behead the king in 1793, the country has long been fascinated by the British royal family and particularly attached to its longest-serving monarch.

Her death obscured, perhaps only briefly, recent political tensions between the two over Brexit, migrants trying to cross the Channel and fishing. "With her, France and the United Kingdom shared not just an 'entente cordiale', but a warm, sincere and loyal partnership. To you, she was your Queen. To us, she was the Queen," Macron said in English in a video message posted on Twitter.

"We are grateful for her deep affection for France: Elizabeth II mastered our language, loved our culture and touched our hearts," he added. Macron later travelled to the British embassy, a short distance from the French presidential palace, where he left a hand-written message of condolence, calling her a "queen of courage and fortitude". French newspapers cleared their front pages for news of the death on Friday, with the headline on the Parisien newspaper reading "We loved her so much." Well-wishers placed flowers outside the British embassy where two giant portraits of the Queen dating back to celebrations marking her 70 years on the throne earlier this year still hung on the walls. - APP

Hungary to introduce heating cap

DNA

BUDAPEST: Hungary has introduced a heating cap for public buildings in the wake of an expected energy crisis in Europe. In a press briefing on Thursday in Budapest, Gergely Gulyas, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's chief of staff, said, "In all public institutions heating restrictions will be introduced, according to which it cannot be warmer than 18 C in offices."

By doing so, the government expects to reduce the country's natural gas consumption by 25%, he added. Gulyas added that the country currently has enough fuel reserves for 80 days. Claiming that the economic sanctions on Russia have so far failed to yield the intended result, Gulyas noted Hungary also aims to boost brown-coal production. Hungary, an EU member which shares a border with Ukraine, has repeatedly said it is unwilling to support the bloc's sanctions on Russian gas imports saying it will undermine its economy. In the wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has floated a plan to introduce a price cap on Russian gas imports. Russia has threatened to block all gas supplies to the EU if such a plan goes ahead. - APP

Margrethe now Europe's longest serving monarch

COPENHAGEN: Denmark's popular Queen Margrethe II is now Europe's longest-serving monarch and also its only reigning queen after the death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II.

The artistic and chain-smoking 82-year-old, always impeccably coiffed with her white hair swept up in a bun and hailed for unifying and modernising the Danish monarchy in her 50 years on the throne, has scaled back golden jubilee festivities this weekend following the death Thursday of Britain's head of state. Margrethe came to the throne at the age of 31 in January 1972 on the death of her father, Frederik IX, becoming the first woman to hold the position of reigning queen in Denmark. She took her reign name Margrethe II in recognition of Margrethe I, who ruled Denmark from 1375-1412 but never formally held the title. At the time of her accession, only 45 percent of Danes were in favour of the monarchy, most believing it had no place in a modern democracy. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Two experts from Sweden have arrived Pakistan to be part of Team Europe, in order to assist in the flood relief activities. Both experts posing for a picture with the Ambassador of Sweden. - DNA

Ahsan inaugurates ICCI Pak property, housing Expo 22

Ahsan Iqbal congratulated ICCI for organizing property, housing and construction expo as it would contribute to improving the economy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Development inaugurated as Chief Guest the 3 days ICCI Pakistan Property, Housing and Construction Expo 22 being organized at the Pak-China Friendship Centre, which will continue till Sep 11, 2022. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Works, Ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Romania and South Africa, Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Zubair Ahmed Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Zafar Bakhtawri, Baser Daud former Presidents ICCI and others were also present at the occasion. About 100 companies of property, housing and construction sector including many big brands like Park View, J7 Group, 5G, Star Marketing, Elaan Marketing, Nova City, Crescent Lake, Mumtaz City and others have put up their stalls in the Expo to display their pro-



jects. Ahsan Iqbal visited various stalls and appreciated the projects displayed in the Expo. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Ahsan Iqbal congratulated ICCI for organizing property, housing and construction expo as it would contribute to improving the economy. He said that due to the recent flash floods and financial constraints, the government

was facing great challenges and the private sector has to take the leading role in developing the economy. He said that the government wanted to make Pakistan an export-led economy and the role of the private sector was more important to promote productivity and exports. He said that he has already held a recent meeting with Islamabad,

Karachi, Faisalabad and other Chambers of Commerce and Industry and added that the private sector should highlight the key hurdles being faced by it in promoting business and economic activities and assured that the government would take measures to address them. He said that the government would facilitate the business community in all pos-

sible manner and they should produce more and export more to improve the economy.

Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Works lauded the effort of ICCI for organizing the Expo and said that the real estate sector has great potential that should be explored to realize its benefits for the economy. He said that his Ministry would also organize a Housing Expo in December this year and would like to work with the private sector on a public-private partnership basis to promote this sector. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the purpose of organizing ICCI Property, Housing and Construction Expo 22 was to boost the business activities of this sector to revive the economy. He thanked the Ministry of Housing & Works and Naya Pakistan Housing Authority for supporting ICCI in this initiative and said that if given better focus by the government, the real estate and construction sector has the potential to put the economy on a fast track of growth.

Azerbaijan, Iran, Russia ink Baku Declaration

The foundation of the Int'l North-South Transport Corridor was laid on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement signed between Russia, Iran, and India on Sept 12, 2000

BAKU: Azerbaijan, Iran, and Russia have signed the Baku Declaration on the development of the international transport corridor North-South, Azernews reports. The document was signed by Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev, Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, and Iran's Roads and Urban Development Minister Rostam Ghasemi during the first trilateral meeting held in Baku on September 9. The parties stressed the importance of creating a working group to address transport and transit issues and procedures through the territories of Azerbaijan, Russia, and Iran in the context of the development of the corridor and expressed the intention to hold the first meeting within a month. Moreover, the parties intend to prepare a draft agreement on the Resht-Astara railroad project within a month, and a document that welcomes the involvement of Iran's Chabahar port in the corridor. The foundation of the International North-South Transport Corridor was laid on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement signed between Russia, Iran, and India on September 12, 2000. In total, 13 countries have ratified the agreement, including Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Russia, Türkiye, etc. The purpose of creating a corridor is to reduce the delivery time of cargo from India to Russia, as well as to northern and western Europe. - DNA

Yemen: 2.5mn children suffer from malnutrition

LONDON: In Yemen, some four million women and children are suffering from malnutrition due to the Saudi-led war on the impoverished country, a human rights organization has said. In a statement on Thursday, cited by Yemen's Arabic-language al-Masirah television network, the Yemen-based Entesaf Organization for Women and Child Rights said more than 2.3 million children under the age of five as well as 1.5 million pregnant and lactating mothers suffer from malnutrition. According to the report, acute malnutrition is threatening the lives of some 632,000 children across Yemen. The rights organization said over 3,850 children have been killed and more than 4,230 others wounded since the onset of Saudi Arabia's imposed war in 2015. - APP

Tailored meteorological services provided to Pak

DNA

BEIJING: Meteorological departments from China and Pakistan are gearing up to respond to flood disaster in Pakistan, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday quoting China Meteorological Administration (CMA). On CMA's World Meteorological Centre Beijing website, Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD)'s user account is tailored with global model products in real time for reference. Zhuang Guotai, Administrator of CMA, noted that CMA attached great importance to the flood situation in Pakistan and has worked closely with the Pakistani meteorological department to tackle floods. He reinforced CMA's commitment in enhancing cooperation with PMD to jointly ramp up the capacity of

disaster preparedness and response to climate change. Since mid-June 2022, Pakistan has been drenched by extreme monsoon rains that have led to the country's worst flooding in a decade. As per CMA, it has been paying close attention to the monsoon floods in Pakistan since June and collaborating with PMD in meteorological satellite monitoring (in particular FY-3 and FY-4 satellites) and remote sensing for flood monitoring and analysis, meteorological information application, weather forecast, etc. "As a long-term partner, CMA will step up cooperation with PMD," Zhuang told CEN. On top of that, on CMA's World Meteorological Centre Beijing website, PMD's user account is tailored with global model products in real time for reference, assisting the weather service for disaster re-

sponse. Besides, the CMA Cast system in Pakistan has been upgraded with new equipment and up-to-date application platforms. Also, the reporter learned from CMA that meteorological departments from both countries have held consultation, calling in meteorologists from technical bodies from both sides to jointly analyze the weather and climate factors of rainstorms battering Pakistan since June. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Pakistan is facing one of the worst flooding events in its history. As of 27 August, rainfall in the country was equivalent to 2.9 times the national 30-year average. In March to May this year, Pakistan was gripped by a devastating heatwave, which impacted water supplies, health, agricultural output and the economy, and caused rapid glacier melt.

UN Secy Gen urges support for Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

pledged to do his best in raising awareness in the international community. Speaking at the briefing, PM Shehbaz Sharif said that the UN chief's empathy and support was great encouragement for Pakistan, as he expressed gratitude towards the visiting dignitary. "The government of Pakistan, along with the provincial governments and all stakeholders [...] are working together to provide relief and rescue to millions," the premier said.

He said food and shelter are being offered but the challenge is huge. He thanked different countries and organizations for extending support to Pakistan in this difficult hour. Shehbaz Sharif said Pakistan's floods are a glaring manifestation of climate change and it is high time to take notice of the situation. Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said damage assessment studies in the flood hit areas will soon be completed. Alluding to the devastation caused by the floods, the minister for planning and development said the floods also affected economic growth.

We are also working simultaneously to prepare a plan to build a resilient infrastructure, he said. National Flood Response and Coordination Center Coordinator Major General Zafar Iqbal gave a detailed briefing to the UN secretary-general about the flood situation and the ongoing rescue and relief efforts.

Earlier, the UN chief called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad to discuss the situation in the wake of catastrophic floods in the country. The two focused on joint efforts to carry out relief, rescue and rehabilitation at the international level to mitigate the sufferings of the flood-affected people. The UN Secretary-General, who has also launched a global appeal to raise \$160 million as flood assistance for Pakistan, arrived in Islamabad early this morning to highlight the catastrophe at the international level and express solidarity with Pakistan. Guterres in a tweet said, "I have arrived in Pakistan to express my deep solidarity with the Pakistani people after the devastating floods here."

Earlier, the prime minister welcomed the UN Secretary-General as he arrived at PM House along with his delegation. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Information Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb and senior officials were present. The UN chief will travel to areas most impacted by the climate catastrophe. He will interact with displaced families in the field and oversee the UN's humanitarian response work in support of the government's rescue and relief efforts for millions of affected people.

Iran among world's top three drone powers; Commander

DNA

TEHRAN: Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Major General Gholam-Ali Rashid has lauded the Islamic Republic's outstanding drone power. The Iranian commander also underscored what he labeled a significant leap in the ways of confronting outside threats to the country. General Rashid was speaking on the sidelines of his visit on Friday to an exhibition in Isfahan province, where the latest achievements of the Army Ground Force are displayed.

"Iran is now undoubtedly among the world's top three drone powers," he said. "Focusing on the field of drones should not prevent us from operational planning and progress in the area of ground combat since a powerful ground force is essential to the armed forces in the face of threats." The Army Ground Force started two-day 'Authority 1401' exercises in the central Iranian province on Wednesday. An invaluable point that needs to be taken into consideration is the limited time between receiving an order and manufacturing the desired product, the commander said, referring to the achievements of the Ground Force demonstrated in the exhibition.

Will never surrender nukes, says North Korea

Tensions between the two estranged neighbors have heightened in recent years, fueled by South Korea's growing alliance with the US and Washington's sanctions against Pyongyang

AGENCIES

PYONGYANG: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has stressed that his country will never surrender its nuclear arsenal or use it as a bargaining chip for denuclearization with the US, state media said on Friday. The remarks came during a key parliamentary meeting, where legislators passed a new law governing the use of nuclear weapons, as reported by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). Kim described it as a move to bolster the country's nuclear status and make clear that such weapons will not be bargained, accusing the US of pushing hard to weaken the

North's defenses. "(We will) never give up nuclear weapons and there is absolutely no denuclearization, and no negotiation and no bargaining chip to trade in the process," Kim was quoted as saying in the KCNA. The new law passed by the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) rules out the resumption of any talks regarding Pyongyang's denuclearization. It also includes a provision that requires North Korea's military to "automatically" carry out a nuclear strike if the command and control system of the nuclear force is threatened by "hostile forces". Kim pointed out that legalizing the nuclear weapons policy has "great significance in drawing a line so

that we can no longer bargain over our nuclear power." He lashed out at the US for pressuring his country through sanctions to give up its nuclear weapons, calling it a "misjudgment and miscalculation" that won't materialize even in a "hundred years." The North Korean leader added that the "political and military conditions of the Korean Peninsula," as well as the global political environment, must change for any adjustment in Pyongyang's nuclear policy. The legislation comes amid reports that the country is gearing up to conduct a new nuclear test. In late July, Kim revealed that Pyongyang had made full preparations to use nuclear weap-

ons in any military confrontation with arch-foes, the United States, and South Korea. He said Washington was continuing "dangerous, illegal hostile acts" with South Korea against the North some 70 years after the war, adding that it sought to justify its behavior by "demonizing" the country. He also accused the United States of double standards over its military activities in the region. "The duplex act of the United States, which is misleading all the routine actions of our armed forces as 'provocation' and 'threat' while holding large-scale joint military exercises that seriously threaten our security, is literally a robbery," he said at the time. South Korea on Thursday made an

offer of talks with North Korea on reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean war, in a move to de-escalate tensions. Pyongyang, however, rejected the overtures, saying the US and its allies maintain "hostile policies" such as sanctions and military drills that undercut any efforts to make peace. Tensions between the two estranged neighbors have heightened in recent years, fueled by South Korea's growing alliance with the US and Washington's sanctions against Pyongyang. North Korea has carried out many weapons tests this year, including the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) for the first time since 2017.

Briefs

India, China to withdraw troops from border area

DNA

NEW DELHI: Indian and Chinese soldiers are pulling out of one of three key border areas that have been a focus of bilateral tensions. Some border regions have seen deadly clashes in recent times. Defense ministries from India and China have said troops from both countries are withdrawing from the Gogra-Hotsprings area, known in China as Jianan Daban, in a bid to reduce tensions along a disputed Himalayan border. "The Indian and Chinese troops in the area of Gogra-Hotsprings have begun to disengage in a coordinated and planned way, which is conducive to the peace and tranquility in the border areas," the Indian ministry said in a statement Thursday. The Chinese Defense Ministry confirmed the withdrawal in its own statement. The withdrawal is to be completed by September 12, according to the Indian ministry. The pullout comes following a 16th round of commander-level talks between the two nuclear-armed countries in July and ahead of a meeting in Uzbekistan next week that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi are expected to attend. The area is one of three key points of friction between the countries, the two others being Depsang and Pangong.

Economic loss from floods in Pak reaches \$18b

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The rapid assessment cost on projected economic losses following floods as calculated by the Centre and endorsed by the provinces has gone up further to the tune of \$17-\$18 billion. The economic losses have further increased mainly because agricultural crops have been destroyed across 8.25 million acres as compared to an initial assessment of 4.2 million acres. Cotton, rice, and minor crops have been damaged severely and if de-watering is not done properly, it can cause serious problems for wheat sowing. Cotton crop has evaporated in most parts of the country and now wheat sowing is under threat. The Ministry of National Food Security has been assigned to come up with a summary to increase the minimum support price of wheat for the coming crop. The authorities have held meetings with international donors and assured them that Pakistan would place an effective monitoring and evaluation system to utilise each and every penny to mitigate the flood losses in a transparent manner. "The UN secretary-general is due Friday (today) for a three-day visit and Islamabad is going to share the rapid assessment cost with him.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of the Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa signing the condolence book to condole sad demise of Queen Elizabeth, at the British High Commission. – DNA

Dastgir launches Energy Policy report, thanks China for CPEC

Mushahid says Ukraine War underlines need for 'Energy Security'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL), in collaboration with Pakistan-China Institute (PCI), invited the international top industry consultants, social and environmental experts, power industry enterprises, officials of Government of Pakistan (GOP), students and scholars, to a Forum on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Power Projects and launch of a Report on "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook". More than 150 people attended the event, including the Federal Minister for Energy Khurram Dastgir Khan, Shahjehan Mirza, Chairman of PPIB, Director of the Political & Information Office of the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad, Wang Shengjie, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman Senate Defense Committee & PCI, I and other senior executives of Chinese enterprises in Pakistan. CSAIL actively implements the



Belt and Road Initiative and participates deeply in the construction of CPEC Projects and has 3 CPEC projects including the Karot Hydropower Project. With more than 30 years of experience in the development and utilization of clean energy projects, such as hydropower, wind power and solar energy, China Three Gorges Corporation (CTG) has accumulated valuable practical experience in the Pakistan's electricity market, conducted in-depth studies and research on Pakistan's Power Sector, and accumulated

The report "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" was jointly prepared by CSAIL with the assistance of relevant think tanks such as PCI, National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), and other relevant think tanks and dozens of senior experts and scholars from Pakistan's Power Sector. The report systematically summarizes the practical achievements

in the construction of CPEC Power Projects, analyzes the current situation of Pakistan's Power Sector, highlights the achievements of CPEC Power Projects, and looks forward to the future development direction of the industry. Participating Pakistani experts and scholars said that in the past, there were serious shortages in the electricity supply in Pakistan, so CPEC was launched and it has helped alleviate this problem of power shortage. The Chinese government strongly making great

contributions to the energy security of the Pakistani people. While attending the launch ceremony of the report, Federal Minister for Energy (Power Division), Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan said that since the launch of the CPEC, related projects are progressing smoothly. In terms of energy, China has launched a series of power projects under the CPEC to help Pakistan meet its residential and industrial electricity demand. Pakistan's energy shortages have been greatly alleviated. Electricity has always been one of the constraints on Pakistan's development, and China has been able to enhance Pakistan's energy supply capacity not only through the efficient use of various energy resources, but also by helping Pakistan to build various types of power projects. He said the report is beneficial to deepen the understanding of Pakistani people on the current situation and future development of Pakistan's power sector, as well as the contribution of the CPEC to Pakistan's Power Sector.

Germany seeks witnesses of Russian war crimes

DNA

BERLIN: Berlin is investigating war crimes committed by Russian soldiers in Ukraine. Witness accounts by Ukrainian refugees are crucial, regardless of whether the perpetrators will eventually be tried in Germany or elsewhere. "We barricaded the windows with bricks when we heard shelling nearby," said Tetjana Kun, remembering the start of the Russian invasion. Six months later, the 65-year old is a refugee in Berlin, tearfully recounting the days of the occupation of Bucha near Kyiv. "One day – I think it was March 10 – I saw through a crack in the window a convoy of cars driving down the street with white flags and a sign that read 'children,'" she said. The next day, she ventured into the city for the first time in weeks as the convoy had raised her hopes of evacuation. But what Kun saw shocked her. "The convoy I had seen the day before was completely shot to pieces," she said. She recalls seeing overturned cars, engines, wheels with burnt tires, pillows, blankets and children's clothes full of holes, backpacks and suitcases everywhere. "There was a lot of blood on the cars," she said. A Russian soldier standing at a roadblock came over and she asked what had happened to the convoy. He told her they'd shot at them "because they didn't know who was in the cars," she said. Until her escape on March 19, Kun witnessed many crimes being committed by the Russian occupiers, crimes that soon afterwards shocked the entire world when the Ukrainian army liberated Bucha in early April.

CIA chief says Ukraine invasion is a failure

WASHINGTON: The head of the CIA has said Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine can already be judged as a failure, as Ukrainian troops continue a counteroffensive against Russian occupying forces in the north-east of the country. William Burns said Putin had underestimated Ukrainian resolve when he decided to invade in February and was now making the same mistake when it came to international support for Kyiv. "Putin's bet right now is that he is going to be tougher than the Ukrainians, the Europeans, the Americans ... I believe, and my colleagues at CIA believe, that Putin is as wrong about that bet as he was profoundly wrong in his assumptions going back to last February about Ukrainian will to resist," Burns said at a conference in Washington, in comments reported by the New York Times. "Not only has the weakness of the Russian military been exposed ... but there is going to be long-term damage done to the Russian economy and to generations of Russians," he said. – DNA

United Nations says Moscow preventing access to POWs

MOSCOW: The UN's human rights mission in Ukraine has said both Russian and Ukrainian forces have abused prisoners of war. Meanwhile, a Russian airstrike struck a hospital in Ukraine's northeast. The head of the UN's human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, Matilda Bogner, said Friday that Russian forces were preventing international monitors from meeting Ukrainian prisoners of war. "The Russian Federation has not provided access to prisoners of war held on its territory or in territory under its occupation," Bogner said. "This is all the more worrying since we have documented that prisoners of war in the power of the Rus-

sian Federation and held by the Russian Federation's armed forces or by affiliated armed groups have suffered torture and ill-treatment," she said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian authorities did not have enough information to comment on Bogner's statement. "We do not know who approached the military and whether they did," he told a news briefing. Bogner added that the mission had also documented cases of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners of war by Kyiv. Kharkiv's city center was hit by Russian rocket fire, wounding 10 people, regional Governor Oleh Synehubov said. Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said that

rockets hit a children's arts center and a school, as well as private homes. Also on Friday, Russian state news agency Interfax cited Moscow's Defense Ministry as saying that Russian forces had destroyed a Ukrainian HIMARS rocket launcher vehicle in the Kharkiv region. Ukraine's Presidential Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak claimed that the attack was revenge for reported Ukrainian gains in a counter-offensive in the northeastern region, which hosts Ukraine's second-largest city. "For every success of Ukraine's armed forces, for every victory, Russians... answer with strikes on innocent people," Yermak said. – DNA

Queen's death brings UK to a standstill

DNA

LONDON: From politics to sports and culture, events have been canceled or rescheduled as the national mourning period for the queen begins. Here are some of the major activities that have been called off. Business as usual has been put on hold, as government activities are scaled back during the 10-day mourning period. The usual government press releases, announcements and visits will be paused. Friday's House of Commons sitting has been moved to 12 p.m. instead of the planned 9:30 a.m. starting time. Both Houses of Parliament, the Commons and the Lords, will come together to allow members of parliament and peers to pay tribute to the queen in a session due to last until 10 p.m. New Prime Minister Liz Truss will lead the tributes. Parliament will gather for a rare sitting on Saturday to pay further tribute. The session will end with a "formal humble address" to King Charles III, "expressing the deep sympathy of the House" on the queen's death, according to a statement from the House of Commons. Once these sessions have concluded, Parliament is set to adjourn for the 10-day mourning period. However, given the severity of the impact of the energy crisis on UK households, ministers are

reportedly working behind the scenes to assess whether the legislation needed to act on the government's plans should be tabled during the mourning period. Other decisions on further postponements and changes are pending. Planned strikes by rail and postal staff over a protracted dispute concerning pay and working conditions have been postponed. The Communication Workers Union, which represents postal workers, has canceled a planned strike, while the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union has suspended its strikes planned for next week. The day of the queen's funeral, mooted as being September 19, will be a day of national mourning and a nationwide bank holiday. This means shops and banks will be closed. The London Stock Exchange will also close for trading on that day and possibly beyond, which could potentially have a major impact on the economy. The Bank of England, which was due to announce its next interest rate decision next Thursday, has now pushed back that meeting by a week to September 22. The English Football League (EFL) has already canceled two Friday games, one in the Championship, the second-highest league after the Premier League, the other in League Two, the third tier of the Football League. The Premier League and the EFL have now called off all weekend fixtures.

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