



Islamabad POST

Monday, September 12, 2022

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 20

The SCO Summit: Dialogue and Co-op in Interconnected World

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US to bolster trade, security ties with Pak

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Aaron Finch retires from One Day Cricket

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Briefs

COAS visits far flung Sindh areas

DNA
RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Sunday visited far flung areas of interior Sindh in Dadu district. According to the ISPR, the Army Chief spent time with flood-affected people in relief and medical camps. COAS directed the formation for providing 5000 tents to flood-affected people of Dadu and surrounding areas. He also interacted with troops busy in rescue and relief activities. Later, COAS was flown for aerial reconnaissance of flood-affected areas of Dadu, Khairpur Nathan Shah, Johi, Meher and Manchar Lake.

Govt gives Rs70b for flood victims

SAIFULLAH
ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail has said that government had given 70 billion rupees for relief and rehabilitation of flood-affected people. He was talking to media persons after a meeting with office-bearers of All Pakistan Textile Mills Association in Lahore. Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique and APTMA Group Leader Dr Gohar Ejaz also accompanied him. Miftah said that another 50 billion rupees would be provided for the flood affectees.

Mushaal seeks world support

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Chairperson Peace and Culture Organization Mushaal Hussein Mullick blasted the fascist Narendra Modi led government for his nefarious and dangerous plan to efface Muslim identity and impose notorious Hindutva ideology in the IIOJK. Mushaal, wife of incarcerated senior hurriyat leader Yasin Malik, in a statement on Saturday said that the RSS-backed Modi regime has intensified its efforts to obliterate Muslim identity in their own majority state, seeking the world support to the foil the nefarious plan.

Sri Lanka Asia Cup champions

Outclass Pakistan; Pak batsmen fail to live up to expectations

NEWS DESK

DUBAI: Sri Lanka on Sunday beat Pakistan by 23 runs in Asia Cup T20 final, leaving millions of fans heartbroken. Pakistan failed to chase down the target of 171 as Sri Lankans never really lost the grip on the match during Pakistan's first two setbacks came on two consecutive balls, when captain Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman lost their wickets. Rizwan and Iftikhar held on to the crease but the run rate remained slow. During the final overs, Pakistan lost back to back wickets giving the match to Sri Lanka easily. Earlier, Bhanuka Rajapaksa and Windu Hasaranga de Silva stunned Pakistani bowlers with a match-saving partnership after the bowlers in green caused havoc in the early part of the innings. In a high-pressure final of the T20 Asia Cup 2022 here on Sunday, Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa and Hasaranga let the hosts make an impressive comeback after they lost five wickets for just 58 runs. The two batters scored 58 off

36 balls to help Sri Lanka post 170-6 in 20 overs against Pakistan. Naseem Shah provided the first-over breakthrough to Pakistan with a perfect in-swing. Kusal Mendis failed to read the delivery and was forced to walk off for naught. Haris Rauf followed Naseem to pick up two early wickets to dent Sri Lanka's tone to set a high total. Iftikhar Ahmed also showed in the final, picking up a wicket followed by Shadab Khan's wicket. Under pressure, Sri Lanka needed someone to put things on the right track. Rajapaksa and Hasaranga proved to be saviors for Sri Lanka. Hasaranga scored quick 36 off 21 balls laced with five boundaries and a six before getting out to Haris. But, Rajapaksa was unstoppable as he went out being not-out for 71 including six boundaries and three maximums. Rajapaksa also partnered with Chamika Karunaratne to score worthy 54 off 31 balls. For Pakistan, Haris picked up three wickets while Shadab, Iftikhar and Naseem bagged a wicket each.

Norway to provide further support for flood victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: 'Norway is providing an additional NOK 55 million to alleviate humanitarian needs in the wake of the catastrophic flooding in Pakistan,' said Minister of Foreign Affairs Anniken Huitfeldt. This brings Norway's humanitarian support in response to the recent floods to NOK 80 million. 'The situation is desperate for many millions of people, and our partners are working tirelessly to reach those who have been hardest hit,' said Ms Huitfeldt. Pakistan has been hit by the most devastating flooding it has experienced for many years, and vast areas of the country are under water. According to the UN, more than 33 million people are affected and over 1300 may have died. The flood has caused widespread damage to civilian infrastructure such as schools, health clinics and water and sanitation systems. Many roads and bridges have also been destroyed, making humanitarian relief efforts more difficult. 'The flooding highlights the urgent need to adapt to climate change and safeguard food

security, particularly in the countries most vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters,' said Minister of International Development Anne Beathe Tinnereim. Some NOK 13.5 million of Norway's support for the flood victims will be channelled through the World Food Programme (WFP) to be used for food security measures, including cash transfers. 'This funding will help to alleviate the immediate food needs of the most vulnerable people, and support efforts to establish more climate-resilient food production,' said Ms Tinnereim. The disaster has had a major impact on health needs, and has for example increased the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhoea. Already vulnerable groups are now facing even greater health risks, and the support Norway is providing will therefore be targeted towards protecting those most in need. Norway's support will be channelled through Norwegian Church Aid, Norcap, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and



ISLAMABAD: Duarte Pacheco, President of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) recording his comments on visitors book placed at Senate of Pakistan. - DNA

People won't respond to Khan's call: Marriyum



DNA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aungzeb on Sunday said the people would not respond to the call of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supremo Imran Khan for creating chaos, anarchy and violence in the country. 'Imran Khan's call for protest is another hoax as people do not pay heed to those who ridicule the Election Commission and hurl threats on judiciary,' Marriyum said in a news statement. Those involved in smear campaigns against Army martyrs and plotting to cause economic turmoil in Sri Lanka did not receive a response from the people, she added.

'UN Secy Gen overwhelmed by flood destruction'

PM says the UN chief's voice has become the voice of flood victims

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday thanked UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres for his unprecedented support to the flood victims in Pakistan. UNSG Antonio Guterres has left Islamabad after concluding his two-day solidarity visit to Pakistan. During the two-day stay, he visited flood-affected areas and stressed the need for developed nations to assist Pakistan, saying that the international body's help is "a drop in the ocean" compared to what is needed to rebuild. Taking to Twitter, PM Shehbaz said that during his visit to the flood-affected areas and camps under scorching heat, the UN secretary-general was overwhelmed by the scale of devastation that has engulfed Pakistan. He maintained that the UN chief's voice has become the voice of flood victims. Stressing the need for international support to deal with the natural

PM expresses gratitude to UAE, Turkish leadership

KHAYAM ABBASI
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday thanked United Arab Emirates Minister for Culture, Youth and Community Development Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan for his generous donation of \$10 for the flood victims of Pakistan. In a telephonic conversation, the prime minister said that the Pakistani nation would always remember his huge support as he had proved his immense

Imran fails to appear before JIT

DNA
ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan failed to appear before the joint investigation team (JIT) of the police in relation to a terror case filed against him despite being summoned for the third time. Following the orders of the Islamabad High Court (IHC), the head of the JIT issued a summons to Khan for the third time and asked him to

'Unelected bodies must respect political leadership'

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Fawad lashed out at the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for postponing scheduled by-polls just few days ahead of the election date on lame excuse of floods, adding that the decisions were being made in closed-room, which he said had neither quality nor durability. Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, Fawad stated that it was strange that Shahbaz Sharif was sworn

in as a prime minister of Pakistan, the day he was to be charged in the Rs. 24 billion corruption case, which has not been framed for last nine months. He said that the Ramzan Sugar Mill case has not been heard for the last two years, and now NAB pleaded that the law was amended; hence it now did

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Are we heading towards a final showdown?

COMMENT
ANSAR M BHATTI

WHILE devastating floods continue to take a heavy toll on the affected people in particular and the rest of the country in general, the political climate continues to turn rough with each passing day. Despite a number of court cases, including the terrorism one, PTI Chairman Imran Khan seems undeterred and hence moves on with his anti-government campaign. Albeit, the by-elections have been postponed, the PTI has decided not to stop its mass-contact drive. It has rather decided to give it further impetus by putting inflation at top of its agenda. The coalition government was desperate to get rid of Imran Khan's public rallies and that is why it sought to get the elections postponed, however it has not happened. The movement is likely to gear up further after this elections postponement. In his rally in Gujranwala on September

10, 2022 the PTI Chairman announced to give a final call to his workers in near future. Prima facie, Imran Khan appeared to be readying his workers for yet another long march, though many believe this call actually shall never translate into reality, because some under the table deal is already being mulled, which, analysts believe, is likely to bear some fruit. Imran Khan has been using his cards quite prudently or perhaps that is the impression his confidants or even he himself are giving to all and sundry. During his recent public gathering when he made a mention of the appointment of the next army chief, it was not without a purpose. Previously he was holding the view that this appointment does not concern him at all. It was up to the incumbent government to deal with this issue the way it likes. But now suddenly he has come up with a different view on the subject. His live speeches on the national hook-up were barred by the PEMRA after he said that he will not accept the army chief appointment if made by the coalition government. Not only this, he had demanded this appointment to be made purely on merit, which means the army chief must be picked up from the top two senior generals. Now that is the point where actually the shoe pinches. It has seldom happened

in the history of Pakistan that the army chief is picked on the basis of seniority principle. He is always picked up from a panel of five or six senior generals. Historically, candidates appearing in the last in the seniority list were most of the time picked up. The respective prime ministers appointed army chiefs with this hope that the person would serve their interests knowing the fact very well that once appointed the army chief then belongs to his institutions only. Various plans are under consideration right now. Since Imran Khan has tried to make the army chief appointment controversial by discussing it in a public rally therefore it is likely that the incumbent government tries to avoid making this appointment and leaves it to the caretaker government. In that case a caretaker government will have to be formed either by the end of September or in October. In this scenario, the general elections may take place in January or February next year, if everything goes well. PTI seems comfortable with this arrangement and would like to have it in place sooner rather than later. There is another scenario as well. The sitting government may appoint the army chief on merit as demanded by the PTI chairman, which means the top po-

sition will go to the second senior most general. The senior most ostensibly would become the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. The senior most may also be appointed as the COAS. If this happens, then obviously it shall be a big shift from status quo to a paradigm change. Hitherto, the forces of the status quo have not allowed any paradigm change to take place in Pakistan. The Nawaz Sharif camp, on the other hand, has its own plan ready. The PML N supremo is all set to return to Pakistan for that is the only option to keep the PML N vote intact and the party united. Maryam Nawaz has already approached the court to get her passport back. If she is able to get it back, then she departs to London and comes back with her father. There is no denying the fact that the PML N is in dire straits ever since it took over charge of the government after removal of Imran Khan. Realistically speaking, powers-that-be have realized that PML N led by Shehbaz Sharif cannot compete with the PTI. The by-elections in various constituencies proved this fact when PML N badly lost to the PTI despite the fact it was in power both at the Center and in the Punjab province. This defeat certainly had rung alarm bells within the ranks of PML N

making it incumbent upon Nawaz Sharif to earnestly think about his return and lead the party. That is the only way to stop the PTI getting two-thirds majority in the general elections. Regarding Imran Khan's cases, undoubtedly a sword is still dangling over his head because he refused to tender an unconditional apology in the contempt case. The Khan camp believes an unconditional apology would be tantamount to a confession, which means if the court would hand down punishment, Imran Khan shall have no option to challenge the verdict in the Supreme Court. People privy to this case still believe he can go scot free by tendering an apology at the time of the indictment. His legal experts nevertheless opine, an apology involved huge risks. Summing up, September and October may be crucial months in Pakistani politics. A future course is likely to be set in these months. It all depends on Imran Khan how serious he is in his long march commitment. If he gives a call then things might get complicated. The government has a plan to impose Governor's rule in Punjab or KP in order to avoid a long march. That move would further aggravate tensions. The saner voices, as reports suggest, are busy in finding an amicable way out.

IUCN launches Climate Change Gender Action Plan

GILGIT: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Pakistan) has launched the Climate Change Gender Action Plan in Gilgit Baltistan as part of its commitment to build gender responsive readiness, capacities and innovative approaches amid rising impacts of global warming and environmental degradation in the region. The IUCN Pakistan has launched its Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs) to strengthen the resilience of women and girls in the face of climate-related impacts, while aiming to accelerate progress and support gender-responsive climate action plan with new commitments and initiatives, an IUCN official news release said. The launch ceremony was held at the Chief Secretary's office; while the guests included senior government officials, members of civil society, local community based organizations, academia and media. The event opened with welcome remarks from Country Representative, IUCN Pakistan Mahmood Akhtar Cheema who provided an overview of IUCN Pakistan's work in Gilgit Baltistan and its key role in introduction of sustainable trophy hunting initiative which was

still continued by the local communities and the wild life department. The Gilgit Baltistan's conservation strategy and the State of Environment Report was also developed by IUCN in Past and it was currently involved in a major biodiversity related initiative under which over 10,000 youth were involved in research and field activities. Programme Coordinator, IUCN Pakistan, Fauzia Bilqis Malik during her presentation apprised the audience that "the ccGAPs is developed around the six priority sectors including; agriculture and food security, forest and biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, water and sanitation, integrated coastal management and mitigation: energy and transport." Primarily a multi-stakeholder, cross-sector capacity building process was led by Ministry of Climate Change and IUCN to develop national capacities and focal groups and a cross-sector national action plan, fostering innovative project design to strengthen national and provincial climate change adaptation, mitigation and resilience through gender-responsive strategies and activities, she added". She also mentioned that the action plan will further lead towards a gender-responsive

project pipeline of Pakistan. The presentation was followed by a Questions and Answers session which was facilitated by Head of Climate Change Programme, IUCN Pakistan, Dr Ghulam Rasul. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Chief Secretary and Secretary Planning and Development Department, Government of Gilgit Baltistan, Aziz Ahmed Jamali said, "This is a great achievement of IUCN and Government of Pakistan in multiple ways, particularly because it is the first ever Climate Change Gender Action Plan of Pakistan lead by Ministry of Climate Change and also because it is the first such initiative by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to ensure gender mainstreaming in the upcoming GCF funded projects". Secretary Forests, Wildlife and Environment Faisal Ahsan Pirzada added that the process has engaged representatives and practitioners from all the six priority sectors and across the country which is one of a kind provincial initiative in Pakistan hence this step is an example for the rest of the world. He appreciated IUCN's significant role in conservation initiatives at Gilgit Baltistan. - APP

NHMP kicks off crackdown in Hazara motorway tunnels

ABBOTTABAD: National Highways and Motorways Police (NHMP) Sunday kicked off an operation against over speeding in Hazara Motorway Tunnel to avoid road accidents. This was told by Sector Commander Hazara Motorway Syed Saqib Shah while talking to media. He further said that crackdown against exceeding the speed limit in the motorway tunnels has been started to avoid accidents as some commuters are not following the speed limit and in this regard checking and action have been accelerated to make the implementation of the speed limit inside the tunnel more effective. Saqib Shah said that the speed limit inside the tunnel was 60 km per hour in dry weather conditions and 30 km per hour during rainy weather, adding exceeding the speed limits can be dangerous. He said that since there were no mobile phone signals inside the tunnel, therefore in case of any emergency, landline phones installed in the tunnel could be used to contact the administration. - APP



ISLAMABAD: European Union ambassador to Pakistan Riina Kionka visit an EU co-funded UNHCR exhibition "supporting livelihoods" and meets young Afghan refugees getting education. - DNA

Globally acknowledged capabilities of forest officers is great honor for Pakistan

Pakistani forest officers can bring green revolution in Middle East with professional skills, better strategy and hard work



MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Globally acknowledged capabilities of forest officers is great honor for Pakistan. Pakistani forest officers can bring green revolution in Middle East with professional skills, better strategy and hard work. Despite insufficient staff, vehicles and shortage of funds, the forest officers achieved all the targets. Now it is right to say that the forest officers of Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan, AJK and GB despite insufficient resources are performing better than the forest departments of developed countries. When the Billion Trees Tsunami Project was launched in KP, such a big project had never been started in Pakistan before and no one had any experience of such a big forest project. KP Forest Department started BTTP as a challenge and it was completed on time. When the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project (TBTP) was launched, it was a huge challenge for the Forest Departments of Punjab, Sindh, KP, AJK and GB. Despite insufficient staff, vehicles, drone cameras, laptops, low wages for skilled labor and Nigehbaans, flat rates for nurseries land, and shortage of funds, the forest officers achieved all the targets. At present, the excellent performance of forest officers of Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan, AJK and GB is being appreciated all over the world. The world has recognized that Pakistani foresters can play an ideal role in controlling the serious situation of climate change. At this time, the whole world is on the target of climate change disasters. Many countries in the Middle East already had

very high temperatures and now the temperature is increasing. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman used to have very little rains, but now, unexpected and heavy rains are happening. In these states, drains were designed for low rainfall, but now due to heavy rains, floods have started, causing huge loss of life and property. In the past, these states also did not focus on solid planning regarding forests. Most of the area of these states consists of land where plantation cannot be successful. The temperature and soil behavior of Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman are similar to many areas of Pakistan and AJK. Like Quetta, Khuzdar, Pashin, Nasirabad, Chaman, Nushki, Qila Saifullah, Zhob, Sibi, Jacobabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah, Larkana, Tharparkar, DI Khan, Bannu, Kohat, Karak, DG Khan, Bahawalpur, Multan, Rahim Yar Khan, Bhambhar and Mirpur. In all the four provinces and AJK, the forest officer has succeeded in planting in all those areas where it was not possible to succeed in plantation due to temperature and soil behavior. Some forest officers went to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj or Umrah, and were also busy thinking about the green revolution in Saudi Arabia. Several forest officers did deep research in this regard. Pakistani Forest Officers in Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman can best bring about green revolution because Pakistani Forest Officers are working in similar temperature, environment and soil as Middle East states. Pakistani Forest Officers have experience of working on big forestry projects too. There are many forest officers in the forest department of Punjab, KP, Sindh, Balochistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and GB who want to bring green revolution in all friendly countries and especially in Saudi Arabia so that in future these states will not suffer from climate change. Among the forest officers working in TBTP, there are officers who have extensive experience in forest departments and some are serving in TBTP after higher education from foreign countries. If we media persons criticize the forest officers for mistakes and negligence, then it is our duty to appreciate the best performing forest officers. Some senior and highly

qualified and experienced and best performing forest officers must be mentioned. In Punjab Shahid Rasheed Awan has worked in various senior positions in Forest Department of Punjab including PD TBTP now he is Chief Conservator Forest Central Zone Lahore, Muhammad Javed Gill has worked as PD TBTP now Chief Conservator South Zone Multan, Gauhar Mush-taq Conservator Forest Bahawalpur Circle, Muhammad Nawaz Sindhila is Conservator Lahore Circle, he has also worked as Conservator Gujranwala, Saeed Tabssum is the project director of TBTP Punjab, he has also been performing his duties as a conservator, Muhammad Azeem Bhango is the conservator of Gujranwala, he has also been the conservator of Sar-godha and DG Khan, DFO Asim Shah, DFO Azhar Abbas, DFO Agha Hussain, DFO Junaid Mumtaz. In KP Muhammad Tehmasip Khan has been the Project Director Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in Billion Trees Tsunami Project and Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project, now he is Chief Conservator Hazara Region, Conservator Malakund Shaikat Fayaz, Kifaiat Baloch Conservator watershed Abbottabad, DFO Sardar Farhaad, DFO Abrar Hussain, DFO Mohammad Amjad DFO Mudasir. In AJK Syed Gul Hasan Shah Chief Conservator Development, Sardar Naseer (R) Chief Conservator Principal, Rafiq Khan Conservator Rawalkot, Conservator Muhammad Sulaiman, DFO Sardar Farooq Khan, DFO Malik Ashraf Parwana, DFO Raja Imran Shafi, DFO Latif Khan, DFO Khalid Mehmood Khan, DFO Muhammad Irshad, DFO Shehbaz Khan. In Sindh Shahzad DDP TBTP Sindh, Tahir Latif DFO Karachi, Hosh Muhammad Shar DFO Sukkur, Syed Asif Shah DFO Sukkur. In Balochistan PD TBTP Syed Imran Shah, Conservator Farooq Kakar, DFO Maqbool, DFO Khalil Sabi and DFO Samudran Khan. All these forest officers, their teams and the skilled labor working with them have achieved all the plantation targets of the Ten Billion Tsunami Project and are determined to achieve all the targets in the future. These forest officers can perform best in forest projects in Middle East including the European countries.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. SM Shahzad, VC Minhaj University Lahore, Sohail Ahmad Raza, Director Interfaith Relations Minhaj University Lahore called on Dr. Mehmet Paçac, Turkish ambassador to Pakistan. - DNA

CM for promotion of sports culture tourism

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has said that promotion of sports culture and tourism in the province is one of the prime objectives of the incumbent government adding that development of this sector will not only promote healthy activities but will also contribute significantly to the provincial exchequer. According to details, a total of 124 projects including 90 ongoing and 34 new, worth around Rs.19.5 billion have been reflected in the current Provincial Annual Development Program (ADP) in Sports, Tourism, Youth Affairs, Archeology and Culture sector. These projects also include various development schemes of newly merged districts worth Rs. 2.5 billion. As many as 38 projects will be completed during the current financial year with the aim to provide modern

Sports and Tourism facilities to the people of the province. In a statement issued here from Chief Minister's Secretariat, Mahmood Khan said that as per the vision of Chairman PTI Imran Khan result oriented steps are being taken to promote Tourism and Sports sector on modern lines in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. New projects for the construction of Sports Complexes in Chitral, Lower Dir, Hangu and Abbottabad have been included in the current ADP alongside the rehabilitation and improvement of existing sports facilities across the province. The Chief Minister stated that various projects worth billions of rupees are part of the current ADP so as to boost the tourism potential of the province. Touching upon the government's initiatives during last four years in Sports and Tourism sectors, Mahmood Khan said that the incumbent provincial government established first of its kind Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture &

Tourism Authority to promote Tourism at international level and project the positive image of the country and province. Besides three new development authorities (Kalash, Kumrat and Upper Swat) have also been setup. Moreover, for the first time in the history of province Tourism Police have been launched for the protection and security of tourists. He remarked that the rehabilitation and construction of roads in the tourists spots of Malakand and Hazara region are also underway while at different tourist spots camping pods have been installed for the facilitation of tourists. Similarly, a project for the establishment of four Integrated Tourism Zones in Malakand and Hazara division has been incepted which on completion would boost tourism related activities in the province. Besides the provision of facilities at existing tourists spots discovery and development of new places is also underway.

Govt to provide relief to flood victims

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Sardar Faisal Amin Gandapur on Sunday said that all resources were being utilizing to provide maximum relief to the flood victims as well as restore the damaged infrastructure in the province especially in the worst hit district of Dera Ismail Khan. He expressed these views during a ceremony organized for the distribution of relief items among the affectees at different relief camps in Kulachi. On this occasion food packages were given to more than 1000 flood-affected families of Kalachi Tehsil. Ali Amin Gandapur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Dera Ismail Khan Mohammad Iqbal Khan Wazir, Assistant Commissioner Kulachi Ahad Yusuf were also present on the occasion. Faisal Gandapur said the KP government was sincerely engaged to carry out development works as well as working hard for welfare of the people in these backward and neglected districts so that the deprivations of the people in these districts could be redressed on priority basis. - APP

Quaid-e-Azam: A leader of unparalleled qualities

PESHAWAR: Praised by the world leaders owing to his unparalleled leadership qualities, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who changed the world map through his legal and democratic struggle, was remembered on his 74th death anniversary, observed with great respect and admiration in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Sunday. The day was dawned with special prayers in mosques for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan and eternal

peace of the departed soul of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. Besides functions, seminars, walks and debates competitions on the life, political and democratic services of the legendary leader, the speakers paid rich tributes to the founder of Pakistan and termed him a role model. "Few individuals significantly alter the course of history. Fewer still modify the map of the world. Hardly anyone can be credited with creating a nation state. Muhammad

Ali Jinnah did all three." These historic remarks were passed by Stanley Wolpert, a renowned US academics, historian and writer about Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his famous book 'Jinnah of Pakistan' published in 1984. Wolpert has made a praiseworthy endeavor to sum up different aspects of the life, personality and leadership qualities of the great Quaid who changed the world's map by creating a separate homeland. - APP

PR utilizes all resources to restore service

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways and district administrations of Sindh, Balochistan have utilized all available resources to restore the rail service in flood affected across the country. "On the direction of Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, the department is putting maximum efforts for rehabilitation of railway track in Sindh, Balochistan and other affected parts of the country shortly," an official in the Ministry told APP on Sunday. He said that Pakistan Railways was also

directed to complete the ongoing survey of the affected installations on a war footing and speed up the rehabilitation process. The official said that the technical and non-technical staff of the department was working in three shifts to restore the tracks once the flood water recedes. "The train service between Quetta and Karachi Divisions is suspended after railway bridges collapsed and rail tracks became submerged in water due to floods in the region," he added. He said that in the remaining divisions, around seven to eight bridges were damaged due to which the train operations were suspended in the flood hit areas. The official said the train service could not be restored until the bridges and tracks were cleared of the floodwater. - APP



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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

PIDE Research Brief on Gas Crises in Pakistan

OGDCL predicts Pakistan oil reserves to exhaust by 2025

National Think Tank briefly described that large areas in the country remain unexplored due to security concerns and the law-and-order situation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Gas is the third-largest energy source consumed around the world. However, Pakistan has less than a 1 percent share in world gas consumption. It meets its energy demand through imported and indigenous resources in the ratio of 44:56. Natural gas and imported LNG contribute more than 40 percent to the country's current energy mix, including gas resources used in electricity generation. In recent years, the demand for gas has increased rapidly in Pakistan. However, gas exploration and production have declined, and the LNG operational and regulatory framework is weak, leading to a nationwide shortage and increased supply costs. The latest research brief on "Gas Crises in Pakistan" was revealed by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE). According to a Press Release issued from the PIDE, a national think tank of the country, it stated that in upstream, 15 gas explorations and production companies work in 55 gas fields spread throughout the country. The gas distribution and transmission are mainly owned and operated by two state-owned companies Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL). The

gas exploration/production industry and gas distribution/transmission industry lack competition in Pakistan. It was said in the study that OGDCL predicts that Pakistan's indigenous oil reserves will be exhausted by 2025. However, current reserves will last a maximum of 15 years if demand is capped at present-day gas levels by 2030. PIDE research showed that 78% of households have no access to natural gas in Pakistan. Natural gas consumption in the domestic sector has grown by about 11% over the years. Supplying gas to households requires significant investments. The cost of gas supply to households is much higher than the cost of supply to the industry or power sector. Gas allocation policy has remained based on political priorities rather than on the objective of maximizing value addition. Low gas prices and inefficient gas allocations have encouraged higher demands. With 30.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas, Pakistan shares 0.8% of global production. There is a sharp increase in gas demand in Pakistan, but due to the inefficient distribution of natural gas resources, Pakistan has been facing a colossal gas shortfall, the brief revealed. National Think Tank briefly described that large areas in the country remain unexplored due to security concerns and the law-and-order situation. For instance, Baluchistan's

Pishin basin is considered a valuable block. However, no exploration activity in this basin because of the law-and-order problem.

According to the PIDE research, all the activities in the gas sector in Pakistan, directly or indirectly, are under government control. An independent regulator was established in 2002 to regulate mid and downstream activities. Still, it remained hostage to government decisions because of the extensive state presence in all activities in the supply chain. The OGRA law allows too much mandatory government involvement in the current oil and gas regulatory system. That has made the regulator powerless. Government interference in service providers' affairs has led to cross-subsidy and an overall deficit in the gas sector. The circular debt in the gas sector has crossed Rs 1.5 trillion, contributed by both the utilities SNGPL and SSGCL. Government irregularities in regulatory frameworks and poor policy formulation are hindering sectoral growth and creating inefficiencies in the supply chain. Politically influenced allocations and monopolistic business operations are all bottlenecks. The research brief recommends that ensuring reliable and high-quality uninterrupted natural gas supply and efficient services is one of the critical aspects of the regulatory process. The gas distribution companies

must maintain adequate pressure in the transmission pipelines and distribution networks and upgrade the system where necessary to ensure supply of contractual volume and pressure to its consumers. Gas resources are depleting, but these monopolies are expanding their transmission and distribution networks to maximize their financial returns. As a result, these companies, especially SNGPL, have earned enormous profits over the years.

The research further state that in both utilities, mismanagement and irregularities have affected their operational performance. Though private entities own 40% or more of their shares, these companies have no business model. There is no regulatory mechanism to link their financial returns to their operational efficiency. Underground pipeline leakage, poor maintenance, measurement errors, wrong billing, law & order, and theft have contributed significantly to Pakistan's unaccounted-for gas. The two integrated companies, SNGPL and SSGC, are over-regulated monopolies with no incentive to improve their inefficiencies and service delivery. Against the OGRA allowance of UFG at 4.5%, the gas losses in these companies remained relatively high. After 2017, this allowance increased to 7% and 8.5% for SNGPL and SSGCL to compensate for declining profits.

Railways incur Rs 90m losses per day due to floods

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways had been suffering losses of around Rs 90 million per day due to unexpected monsoon rains and flash floods across the country. "The relentless monsoon rains and floods have not only destroyed the many railway tracks, but also damaged the bridges which disconnected Sindh and Balochistan with other parts of the country," officials in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Sunday.

They said during the last month, Quetta was disconnected from the rest of the country after bridge collapse at Mach Station, which had resulted in the cancellation of seven important trains between Karachi and Quetta. Pakistan Railways had also announced suspension of operations of five express major trains on the Main Line-I (ML-I) a few days ago until the rehabilitation of railway tracks, they said.

They said the main line of Pakistan Railways was under the flood-water between Tando Masti Khan-Gambat and Mehrabpur-Lakhro sections. Similarly, the track was sub merged at various spots in Balochistan. The sources said that furthermore, Pakistan Railways had already asked the passengers who want their tickets refunded can contact the respective reservation offices. - APP

Rehabilitation of schools top priority: Tanveer

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain Sunday said that rehabilitation of schools and providing relief to students in the wake of recent flood disaster will be the government's top priority.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the assessment of damages caused by the recent flash floods is underway and once it is completed, immediate steps will be taken for the rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure of schools. Schools and damaged government property were on the priority list, he mentioned. Minister said PML-N government was fully aware of its responsibilities and it would never leave the affected people specially students alone in the difficult time. - APP



ISLAMABAD: CEO of Freeline Movers Alamgir presenting a souvenir to the High Commissioner of South Africa Mthuthuzeli Madikiza on the occasion of Nelson Mandela Golf Cup. Another picture on the Back Page. - DNA

Women labour participation can increase economic output

ISLAMABAD: Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that in countries with greater gender inequality, closing the gap in women's labour force participation could increase economic output by an average of 35 percent. Talking to delegation of women entrepreneurs led by renowned furniture designer Nida Ejaz, he said "we have to narrow gender gap which he added is harming national as well global growth".

He said locking women out of economic opportunities is non-Islamic, unfair and also harms growth and resilience for all. "Over time, gender-sensitive macroeconomic and financial policies will result in higher growth, greater economic stability and resilience, and lower income inequality—a dividend not just for women, but for everyone", he added. He said out of 190 countries surveyed, the world bank found that women were equal legal standing with men in just 12 countries which speaks of sorry state of affairs worldwide. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said according to organisation for economic cooperation and development, gender based discrimination in social institutions costs the world economy \$6 trillion but in recent years countries have reduced these costs through social and legal actions such as curbing underage marriages, criminalisation domestic violence and increasing the number of female elected officials.

He said macro economic and financial policies affect women and men differently, often unintentionally. He said policy makers must help identify and remedy those biases by applying a gender lens to our main activities focusing towards maximum participation of women in every sphere of life for quick economic prosperity. - APP

Govt urged for encouraging halal food exports till \$5 trl

ISLAMABAD: Chairman United Business Group in the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shahzad Ali Mali on Sunday urged the government to encourage the adoption of advanced technologies such as block chain and the internet of things (IoT) when developing halal economy master plans. With higher level of halal trade, the halal economy is poised to become more integrated with global trade and supply chains, which will swell to \$5 trillion by 2030 from \$2.30 trillion a couple of years ago, he added, while talking to a dele-

gation of industrialists and traders. The delegation led by Muhammad Umar from called on him and discussed areas to enhance halal food production and it exports from the country, said a press release. Shahzad Ali said the halal economy is witnessing an upward trend as the demand for halal products from Muslim and non-Muslim nations increases. He said the main factors driving the halal industry are favorable population demographic, government policies and private sector initiatives. He said growing non-Muslim demand for halal foods will

be driven by its association with safe and healthy eating. He said governments are strengthening regulatory and policy support through national master plans and certification scope expansion which will boost the halal industry's growth. Shahzad Ali Malik said transparency and traceability along the halal products value chain are crucial. He said to tap growth potentials of halal markets: global governments must seek to unify halal standards and accreditation process to help reduce the number of certification requirements and promote halal commerce. - APP

ANF recovers over 33 kg narcotics; arrests six accused

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting raids in different areas of the country, managed to recover over 33 kg narcotics and arrested six accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF in an operation conducted a raid on a passenger bus near Toll Plaza, northern bypass Karachi and arrested three women and a man on recovery of 32.400 kg charras. - APP

Teachers Association demands supplementary grant

ISLAMABAD: Federal Government College Teachers Association (FGCTA) has demanded immediate release of supplementary grant to the educational institutions at the earliest possible in order to clear the backlog of rental ceiling of the teachers. The association claimed that the authorities were not releasing the pending rental ceiling of the teachers, who have been struggling for the same for the last over one year. Teachers' body alleged that the authorities had abruptly reduced the funds of educational institutions in the head of occupancy cost (rental ceiling) in the current fiscal year 2022-23 without any settlement.

"While our teachers are facing threats of eviction from their house owners due to non-payment of rent, all other employees of ministries, divisions and departments in the same city are getting their regular rental ceiling in time without any problem. This completely disregards the teachers," asserted the president of FGCTA Dr. Rahima Rehman. Talking to APP, Professor Farhan Azam Vice president of the association said, "The relevant department has failed to release pending rental payments to the house owners of the teachers. The house owners demand the rent from our teachers repeatedly on daily basis and are getting on the teachers' nerves". "Teachers are compelled

to take loans to cover their rent obligation which is the responsibility of the government. The association has been struggling for the release of funds for rental ceiling for a long time but the authorities are not paying heed to the issue", he said. Vice president of FGCTA, Professor Tasnim Akhter Mir, "Teachers are suffering with no money to pay the rent. Inadequate funds allocation by the Finance Division has led to delay in rental payments. The authorities must understand that the financial problems faced by the teachers on account of non-payment of rental ceiling for over one year is an absolute infringement upon their fundamental rights being govern-

ment servants." Dr. Jabir Hussain, the press and information secretary of FGCTA said, "The teachers have been patiently and silently bearing the brunt of overdue payment of rental ceiling. They are paying their rent out of their own pockets, leaving them with insufficient money for other household expenses. Many of them gave testimonies about the hardships they have been facing owing to constant delay in rental payments." The association has urged upon the authorities to immediately release all pending payment of rental ceiling and warned that it would be compelled to resort to democratic way of attaining justice if there is no early release of pending rental ceiling. - APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WATER SUPPLY DIRECTORATE

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis on NIT cost from the contractors duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council in appropriate category, Code and valid PEC License along with valid NTN / GST number as applicable for the works as detailed below:-

S.#	Name of work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender fee Non refundable	Date & Time for receiving of tender	Date & Time for Opening of tender
1	Renovation of Room and Civil work of different Tube Wells NPA, Golf Course Poona Fajran and Model Village Islamabad.	Rs.4,013,288/-	Rs.120,399/-	Rs.5000/-	28-09-2022 11:30 AM	28-09-2022 12:00 Noon
2	Renovation of Room and Civil work of different Tube Wells F & G Series Islamabad.	Rs.3,812,852/-	Rs.114,386/-	Rs.5000/-	28-09-2022 11:30 AM	28-09-2022 12:00 Noon
3	Renovation of Room and Civil work of different Tube Wells H&I Series Islamabad.	Rs.4,228,101/-	Rs.126,843/-	Rs.5000/-	28-09-2022 11:30 AM	28-09-2022 12:00 Noon
4	Rehabilitation of different tube wells of H&I series, Islamabad.	Rs.3,831,600/-	Rs.114,948/-	Rs.3000/-	28-09-2022 11:30 AM	28-09-2022 12:00 Noon
5	Rehabilitation of different tube wells of NPA, Golf Course, Poona Fajran & Model village, Islamabad.	Rs.3,831,600/-	Rs.114,948/-	Rs.3000/-	28-09-2022 11:30 AM	28-09-2022 12:00 Noon
6	Rehabilitation of different tube wells of F&G series, Islamabad.	Rs.3,717,600/-	Rs.111,528/-	Rs.3000/-	28-09-2022 11:30 AM	28-09-2022 12:00 Noon
7	Fixing of 36" dia butterfly valves at Simly Conduction line & 36" dia PRCC line at 7 MGR/	Rs.7,081,171/-	Rs.212,435/-	Rs.5000/-	29-09-2022 11:30 AM	29-09-2022 12:00 Noon
8	Supply of Store Material	Rs.6,200,930/-	Rs.186,028/-	Rs.5000/-	29-09-2022 11:30 AM	29-09-2022 12:00 Noon
9	Construction of Additional underground water tank to control overflow at Darbar Sump G-6/1-1, Islamabad.	Rs.8,484,848/-	Rs.254,545/-	Rs.5000/-	29-09-2022 11:30 AM	29-09-2022 12:00 Noon
10	Rehabilitation work at Simly Filtration Plant.	Rs.14,832,469/-	Rs.444,974/-	Rs.5000/-	29-09-2022 11:30 AM	29-09-2022 12:00 Noon

- Tender forms can be purchased on cash payment (non-refundable) for the work mentioned at serial No. 1 to 6 from the office of Dy. Director Production -II, located at Room No.160 and for the work mentioned at serial No. 7 to 10 from the office of DD (P-I), located at Rom No.165, First Floor, Mayor Sectt. near Melody Sector G-6, Islamabad during working hours. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of tender.
- Application for issuance of tender documents shall be received upto 26-09-2022 till 02:00 P.M from the date of advertisement / publication of tender notice in the press which accompany the name, address (s), signature of contractor and valid enlistment / renewal of firm with PEC, NTN / GST Number as applicable.
- Authority letter in favor of person deputed by the Contractor to submit the application and collect the tender from is required from the enlisted contractors along with copy of the CNIC (subject to verification from the original CNIC).
- Earnest Money in the shape of deposit at call in favor of Deputy Director (Production-II), CDA for the work mentioned at serial No. 1 to 6 and for the work mentioned at Serial No. 7 to 10 in favor of Deputy Director, P-I must accompany with the application issued from local scheduled Bank of Islamabad. Without call deposit no application for issuance of tender will be entertained. Cash / Cheque will not be accepted.
- If any contractor wants to participate in tender opening process through their representative, then they should issue authority letter on letter head pad of the firm depicting complete valid address & contact numbers along with attested copy of CNIC.
- Tenders for the work mentioned, will be received and opened, on the date and time mentioned above, in the office of Director (Water Supply), CDA, located at Room No. 16, Old Naval Head Quarter G-6 Markaz, and Islamabad in presence of the contractors or their authorized representatives who cares to attend.
- In case the total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. That is required performance security= NIT amount-total bid amount -10% of NIT amount. This call deposit shall be in addition to the earnest money for the work and shall be deposited at the time of submission of bids. Bids not carrying the performance security shall be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of the project.
- The Security and earnest money of unsuccessful bidders will be returned upon award of works earliest to the successful bidder or on the expiry of validity of bid whichever is earlier in the favor of firm account only.
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Briefs

17 bids to smuggle wheat, flour foiled

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police while foiling 17 bids to smuggle wheat and flour seized 9,424 bags during last seven days. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with police conducted raids in different areas and rounded up 17 drivers who were allegedly trying to smuggle wheat and flour. The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq are strictly monitoring all the exit points of Rawalpindi district to foil wheat and flour smuggling bids. The administration succeeded to intercept 17 vehicles besides seizing 9,424 wheat and flour bags. The authorities had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq had instructed the authorities to monitor the movement of wheat round the clock and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators. The spokesman said that all the exit points of Rawalpindi division were being monitored 24/7 to control wheat smuggling as the administration had set up 14 check posts at exit points of the four districts of the division to check wheat smuggling. Rawalpindi district police and the Food Department on the special directives of Punjab government had also set up five special pickets at exit points of Rawalpindi district to control wheat smuggling. According to a police spokesman, special pickets were established in Naseerabad area, Hakla Interchange, Gangu Bahadur, HMC road and Brahama Interchange. - APP

Smurfs bag LACAS Futsal C'ship

ISLAMABAD: Smurfs team clinched the Lahore College of Arts and Sciences (LACAS) Futsal Championship 2022 Under16 (Boys) at LACAS DHA Campus on Sunday. The runner up team was outlaws. A total of 16 football teams from Islamabad and Rawalpindi football clubs participated in the championship. As many as four teams featured in under 12 championship. In under 12 Championship Model Town Fc stood first while Smurfs were the runner up. Addressing at the closing ceremony, Headmistress LACAS DHA campus, Sadia M. Mughal said this day at LACAS DHA Campus shows the commitment this school hold for sports. "Besides health and activity benefits, sports can benefit us in every walk of life. It teaches us about teamwork, how to get along with others, how to work together to achieve a common goal. Sports is also about trust and responsibility and how to deal with success and failure," she said. - APP

RCB making efforts for flood-affected

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) is making efforts to dispatch relief goods for the flood-affected people of flood-hit areas. Cantonment Executive Officer, Imran Gulzar informed that the board had set up flood relief camps here at Mail Road, Chairing Cross and Haider Road Saddar to collect goods for the flood victims. Imran Gulzar said, "In this hour of trouble we are standing with our flood-affected brothers and sisters and we are trying to provide all possible support to them which is our religious and national responsibility." He urged the citizens to come forward to support their flood-affected brothers particularly in this hour of trouble and actively contribute to the relief camps. The goods collected here would be sent to the flood affected areas, he said adding, in the flood relief camps, clothes, blankets, medicines, dry ration, utensils, water bottles, juices and milk boxes, cash and other essential items were being received for the flood victims. - APP

Alvi urges banks to warn customers about scams

The President highlighted that as per SBP directives, the bank was bound to obtain the customer's consent before activating the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) facility and the bank had failed to submit any document/evidence to the effect that it had complied with the provisions of law, rules and regulations

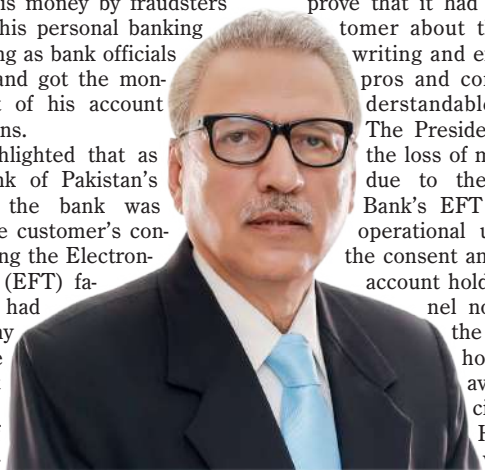
DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called upon all the banks of the country to regularly warn their customers and clients about banking scams, including banking frauds involving online funds transfers, and improve their regular communication with clients. He said that simple people were being frequently entrapped by fraudsters and swindled out of their hard-earned money through fake calls and sometimes even inside the banking premises. The President gave these remarks while writing his decision on a representation preferred by the Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) against a decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib. He rejected HBL's representation and further directed it to pay Rs 249,525 to a poor

cook from Rahim Yar Khan, who had been defrauded out of his money by fraudsters who had obtained his personal banking credentials by posing as bank officials on the telephone and got the money transferred out of his account through online means. The President highlighted that as per the State Bank of Pakistan's (SBP) directives, the bank was bound to obtain the customer's consent before activating the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) facility and the bank had failed to submit any document/evidence to the effect that it had complied with the provisions of law, rules and reg-

ulations. He added that the bank could not prove that it had informed the customer about the EFT facility in writing and explained to him its pros and cons in a clearly understandable manner. The President highlighted that the loss of money had occurred due to the reason that the Bank's EFT facility was made operational unilaterally without the consent and knowledge of the account holder. "Had this channel not been opened by the bank, the account holder could have avoided this financial loss", he noted. He held that gross violations of rules/

regulations of SBP had rendered the Bank non-compliant, and malpractice and maladministration had been established. He concluded that the bank had failed to discharge the burden and statutory liability cast upon it under the law, and no justification was presented to interfere with the original order of the Mohtasib, therefore, the representation was rejected. As per details, Mr Ali Muhammad (the complainant) was swindled out of his money by fraudsters and he approached the bank for getting a refund of his lost amount. After getting no results, he approached the Wafaqi Mohtasib for retrieval of his defrauded money. The Mohtasib, after investigating and hearing the case, directed HBL to refund the lost amount, but instead of implementing the decision, HBL preferred a representation with the President, which he rejected.



Pakistan Air Force continues Efforts for flood affectees



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force is actively involved in the rehabilitation process of flood affectees in KPK, Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. PAF personnel are taking unprecedented

initiatives for the well-being and timely provision of basic necessities of food, shelter, drinking water and medical assistance to the flood victims. To provide much needed relief to the sufferers of flood affectees, PAF Emergency Response teams have distributed 23,076 cooked food packs, 1103

water bottles and 1795 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, 3049 patients were also attended by the medical teams of Pakistan Air Force in field medical camps of PAF.

Shanghai Electric, Zonergy contribute to relief efforts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese solar energy conglomerate Zonergy and the electricity generation equipment manufacturer Shanghai Electric will contribute a total of Rs19 million for the people affected by devastating floods in Pakistan. Gwadar Pro reported on Saturday. Zonergy has donated RMB100,000 to the Pakistani Embassy in China for the flood relief efforts in Pakistan, according to a senior official of the Zonergy Solar Development Pakistan Ltd. The company will also provide Rs 6.4 million worth of portable solar energy devices and Rs 2.4 million worth of food supplies for the flood-hit people, the official said. The total package is worth Rs 12 million, he added. Zonergy is a major player in Pakistan's solar energy sector, having installed a 300 megawatts solar power plant in Bahawalpur Punjab. The company also intends to install another

300MWs solar power plant in Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park in Bahawalpur, according to an official of Private Power and Infrastructure Board (PPIB). Meanwhile, sources said that Shanghai Electric will also contribute Rs 7 million worth of relief goods for the people of Mitthi Sindh. The cheque has been drawn and relief goods are being put together by the company officials, the sources said. The company will make a formal announcement in this regard on Friday or Monday, the sources added. Shanghai Electric is the owner of Sino-Sindh Resources Ltd. (SSRL), a special purpose vehicle to operate a 7.8 million tons per annum lignite coal mine in Thar Coal Block-I in Tharparker district of Sindh. The firm also owns the Thar Coal Block-1 (TCB-1) Power Generation Company, another special purpose vehicle to operate the 1,320 MWs integrated mine-mouth power plant in Thar Block-1. The company has already excavated first layer of coal from their site and works of the power plant are also near completion.

WASA's staff remained high alert

RAWALPINDI: Managing Director, Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi Muhammad Tanveer here on Sunday directed the sanitation staff to remain alert particularly in low-lying areas to prevent water-logging. According to a WASA spokesman, the agency was put on high alert to cope with urban flooding following intermittent rain. He informed that heavy machinery of WASA had been shifted to low lying areas to provide quick response in case of any emergency. The agency was continuously monitoring the water level situation in Nullah Leh particularly during rain, he added. - APP

Chairman NADRA opens facilitation centre at RCCI

RAWALPINDI: Chairman of National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) Tariq Malik inaugurated the first-ever NADRA facilitation Desk for the business community at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). According to a statement here Sunday, speaking on the occasion, Chairman NADRA said that digitalization was being done for the convenience of the business class, aiming to ensure ease of business. He informed that NADRA had integrated its platform with One-Link, to administer and evolve an e-payment network in the country through Nadra's e-Sahulat franchise network. Malik added that the partnership would enable

more than 17,000 e-Sahulat outlets to perform fund transfers, cash-in and cash-out, and public-to-government (P2G), government-to-public (G2P), and public-to-public payments (P2P). A project called Nishan Pakistan was underway to identify the buyer and seller and bring more transparency in business transactions; adding a smart mobile app was also being launched. The Chairman assured that the organization would work with Rawalpindi Chamber to provide more facilities for taxpayers and the business community. President RCCI Nadeem Rauf, on the occasion, briefed the Chairman NADRA on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said that establishing the NADRA facility centre was a great success for the Chamber members and the public, adding that the NADRA passport office would also be opened soon at the Chamber. The Police Service Center was already functioning in the Chamber, he added. Group leader Sohail Altaf said that SMS, mobile app and chip machine services provided by NADRA to eliminate ID card verification and photocopying in various departments were commendable. - APP

BISP disburses Rs. 23 billion among flood hit families

ISLAMABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs. 23 billion among the flood-hit families in a short span of time under the Flood Relief Cash Assistance, to mitigate the sufferings of flood affected population. Emerged as the most effective and reliable social protection intervention during the recent floods devastation, the BISP is executing the challenging task of disbursing cash relief of Rs. 25,000 per family to the flood affected families in devastated areas. The task of disbursing Flood Relief Cash Assistance among the flood-hit people was assigned to the BISP by the Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif which is being carried out speedily. Under the leadership of

Federal Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson BISP, Shazia Marri, BISP rolled out its operations in the flood affected areas within no time and presently the flood relief activities are operational in 69 districts by establishing more than 400 payment sites. Since August 19 till September 11 (Sunday) 3:00 pm, BISP has disbursed a total amount of Rs. 23,063,125,000 has been disbursed among 922,525 affected families under this programme. A total of 112,301 affected families have received Rs.2,807,525,000 in Balochistan; 548,979 families have received

Rs.13,724,475,000 in Sindh; 114,029 families have received Rs. 2,850,725,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 147,216 families have received Rs.3,680,400,000 in Punjab. Azra Bibi from Qambary, Swabi said, "My husband is a factory worker. I have seven children, four sons and three daughters. My house is made of mud so rain is a big problem and whenever it rains, water gets inside our house. Now my house has been destroyed due to the rains." "I got a message from BISP to come and collect relief money from their center. I borrowed

some money for commute and reach BISP Center where they checked my CNIC and got my biometric. After all the clearance, they gave me the flood relief money of Rs. 25,000. With this money, we will fulfill our basic needs as we don't have the groceries at home. I thank Benazir programme with all my heart; May Bless her", she said. Razzaq Mehmood, Deputy Director BISP who is supervising the cash disbursement process at Flood Relief Camp set up in Government Boys School, Taunsa Sharif said the camp has been established on the directions of Chairperson BISP, Shazia Marri to disburse Rs. 25,000 among the flood affected families. - APP

Rs 45 mln for s'hips to minorities' students

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has allocated Rs 45 million to provide scholarships to minority communities' students for the financial year (FY) 2022-23. Talking to APP, Ministry's Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed that the ministry had sought applications from the eligible students from primary to university level particularly those who were enrolled in the government educational institutions and secured at least 50 percent marks in their annual examinations and their parents' income was not exceeding to Rs50,000. He said it was mandatory that the students must have bank accounts for smooth transaction of funds adding the underage students rather could open minor bank accounts or joint bank accounts with their parents for the purpose. He asked the students to fill in the application forms on the new prescribed proforma duly enclosed with an attested copy of mark-sheet of the last examination. In case of semester system, they should attach attested copies of mark-sheets of last two semesters with their parents or guardians' original income certificates, he added. He made it clear that the students taking financial assistance, stipend or scholarships from other sources would not be entertained. The students of private educational institutions' applications would be rejected at the initial level as they did not meet the criteria to get the scholarships, he added. Umar Butt said the applicants must mention their contact numbers or email addresses in the prescribed application forms to get possible queries resolved in time. He said the applications, completed in all respects along with documentary evidence, must reach the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony by October 6. - APP

Bangash's an Ode SaafHawa is out now

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Zeb Bangash announced the release of an anthem, titled SaafHawa (clean air), linked to the UN Breathe Life campaign On International Clean Air Day. The anthem is an ode to clean air and aims to reach out to South Asian audiences who live in some of the dirtiest cities in the world. The song is rendered beautifully in Zeb's melodic voice. Mir Ali Hussain has penned the poetry and award-winning music director Shantanu Moitra has composed and produced the track. Well renowned Arab violinist LaythSidiq is also featured on the track. This song has been created to drive an effort for awareness and eradication of conditions leading to the massive environmental pollution the world is struggling with today! South Asia is home to 39

of the world's 42 most polluted cities, making it the epicentre of the global air pollution crisis. 33 of these 39 cities are in India, three in Pakistan, two in Bangladesh, and one in Nepal. The UN estimates that over 9 million lives are lost globally each year, with over 1.5 million lost in South Asia alone. According to recent research, COVID 19 mortality rates are 15-20% higher in areas with the highest levels of PM2.5 air pollution. The same air is affecting the Gulf region. Furthermore, given the devastation caused by the floods and the global challenge of climate change, ensuring collective solidarity and accountability in efforts to make our air clean and breathable is critical. Given the importance of clean air and how polluted it is, we will only face severe consequences and a world in which our children will struggle to live and breathe.

Quaid-e-Azam conference held

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized the "Quaid-e-Azam Conference" in collaboration with the "Daira" literary organization on the occasion of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Jinnah's death anniversary here Sunday. The conference was presided over by the chairman of the Daira literary organization, Dr Ghazanfar Mehdi, and the Arts Council Director, Waqar Ahmed. Addressing the conference, Dr Ghazanfar Mehdi said that the teachings of Quaid-e-Azam were fol-

lowed, Pakistan would not have been divided. "By following the teachings of the founder of Pakistan, the problems and difficulties of the present day could be resolved", he added. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmed said in his address that Quaid-e-Azam fought for the rights of the Muslims of the Sub-continent based on a two-nation ideology. Pakistan emerged as an independent state under the leadership of the father of the nation, for which the nation paid tribute to

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said that the father of the nation's death anniversary reminds us of a great leader who gave a motto to the scared and desperate Muslims of the subcontinent. Eminent lawyer Muhammad Iqbal advocate said that Quaid-e-Azam had declared Urdu as an official language of the country. He added that the Supreme Court of Pakistan had instructed all government institutions regarding the national language. - APP

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UN Secretary General's visit

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who visited flood-ravaged Pakistan, says he has "never seen climate carnage" on such a scale, blaming wealthier countries for contributing to the devastation. Nearly 1,400 people have died and more than a million people have been rendered homeless in flooding that has submerged nearly one-third of Pakistan and destroyed crops in a country that has been facing high inflation and a balance of payment crisis.

"I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I have never seen climate carnage on this scale," Guterres said on Saturday in the port city of Karachi on his second day of a visit in Pakistan. "I have simply no words to describe what I have seen today," he said.

Taking to Twitter, PM Shehbaz Sharif thanked Guterres for his "unprecedented support" to the flood victims in Pakistan.

"During his visit to the flood-affected areas and camps under scorching heat, the UN secretary general was overwhelmed by the scale of devastation that has engulfed Pakistan," the premier wrote on Twitter. He said that the UN chief's voice has become the voice of flood victims.

More than a third of Pakistan was submerged by melting glaciers and record monsoon rains that began in June, causing colossal damage to homes, roads, bridges, rail networks, livestock and crops. While Minister of Finance Miftah Ismail estimated the total loss at \$10bn amid a continuing economic crisis, independent analysts put the figure between \$15bn and \$20bn, and fear it could further rise.

Guterres has said he hopes his visit will galvanise support for Pakistan, which has put the provisional cost of the catastrophe at more than \$30bn, according to the government's flood relief centre. Shortly after his arrival on Friday, the UN chief called for "massive" global support.

The devastating floods have also caused significant damage to Mohenjo Daro, a famous 4,500-year-old archaeological site in the southeastern Sindh province which UNESCO has designated a World Heritage site.

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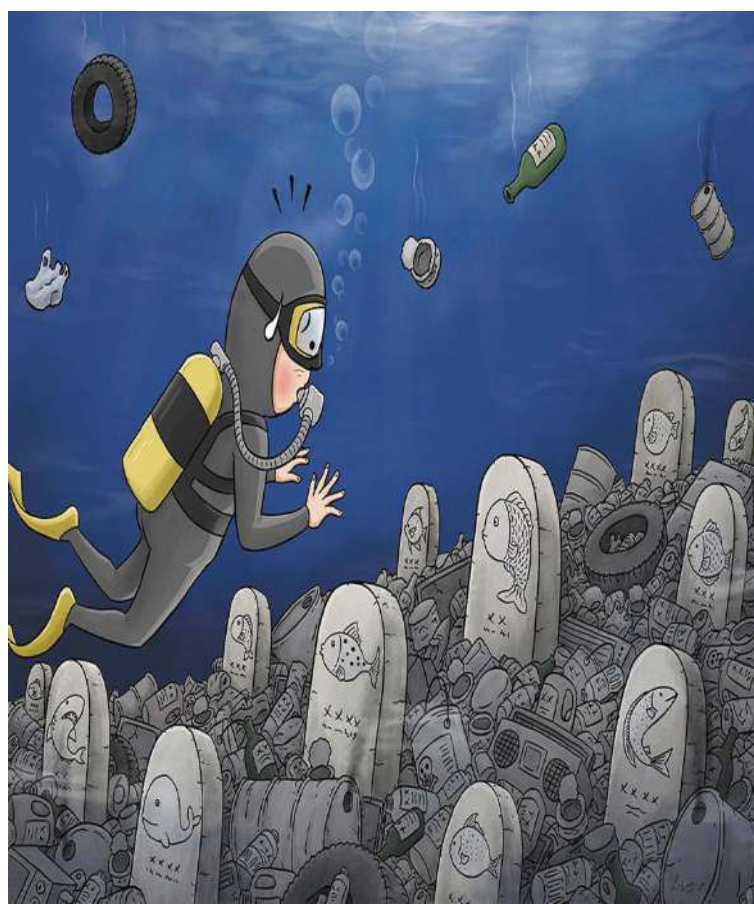
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 40

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

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War and its impact on the environment

MUHAMMAD OMAR IFTIKHAR

WARS and conflicts always end up destroying infrastructure. It eats up flora and fauna while hurting the environment. Russia's invasion on Ukraine in February 2022 was nothing short of an ultimatum to Ukraine and the world. It was a direct message to the European Union. According to a report, nearly 3,000 civilians have been killed in Ukraine with an equal amount or more to be injured. Russia's onslaught has been polluting Ukraine's environment. Residues from weapons and ammunition have been contaminating the water supply. The risk of illnesses and ailments is likely to emerge when people are exposed to toxic gases. Yevhenia Zasyadko, Head of the Climate Department of the NGO Ecoaction said, "This war can cause many deaths in the future due to polluted water. We record soil pollution and mining of our fields. Food security and our fertile soils are in great danger caused by the actions of the occupiers."

The Russia-Ukraine conflict is not the first time when the adverse impact of war is seen on the environment. The US covered nearly 4.5 million acres of rainforest in Vietnam with herbicides as a part of their tactical plan to fight against the Vietnamese soldiers. Similarly, almost 90% of the wild elephant population at Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park was destroyed during the civil war from 1977 to 1992. While wars adversely affect natural resources, the post-war times compel the citizens to fight with each other to get their hands on the resources that remain. This creates class differences and builds animosity among the citizens. Food shortages are also a result of the same when fields and crops are burned and the land is not suitable for agricultural purposes. Ukraine's 42 million hectares of land are used for agriculture. Time will tell how much of this land will be available for growing crops.

Putin makes civilisationalism fashionable, Dugin puts flesh on its skeleton

James Dorsey

Mr. Orbán recently took a leaf out of Mr. Dugin's book on geopolitics when he declared in his widely denounced speech in Romania that he doesn't want Europeans mixing with non-Europeans. "This is why we have always fought: We are willing to mix with one another, but we do not want to become peoples of mixed race," Mr. Orbán said

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has inspired civilisationalist leaders to emerge from the woodwork and publicly define their states as civilisational rather than national entities. These leaders speak of civilisational or ethnic worlds with borders that transcend national frontiers, not nation-states. How far they may wish to push claims that challenge the nation-state-based international order is likely to be heavily influenced by whether Mr. Putin achieves his civilisationalist goals in Ukraine. Last month, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán became the latest leader to redefine the nation-state he governs. Speaking on Romanian territory in the predominantly ethnic Hungarian town of Baile Tusnad in

Transylvania, a onetime Austro-Hungarian possession that is home to a Hungarian minority, Mr. Orbán left no doubt that his definition of the Hungarian motherland included Transylvania and other regions in the Carpathian Basin beyond Hungary's borders populated by ethnic Hungarians.

Serbian Interior Minister Aleksandar Vulin articulated a similar view of Serbia's borders a year earlier. "The task for this generation of politicians is to form a Serb world, that is to unite Serbs wherever they live," Mr. Vulin told a political gathering in Belgrade in 2021 attended by President Aleksandar Vucic. Widely viewed as 'Moscow's man in Belgrade,' Mr. Vulin said, "for the 'Serb world' to jell, Serbia needs to be economically successful, well-armed and have an army that is able to protect Serbia and Serbs, wherever they live."

Speaking the same day on television, Mr. Vulin went further by insisting that all Serbs should be united in one state. However, he later modified his statements by saying that unification would have to occur peacefully as it happened in post-Cold War Germany. Even so, the thinking of far-right ideologue Alexander Dugin reverberates in positions adopted by Mr. Vulin as it does in the civilisationalist framing of geopolitics by Messrs. Orbán and Putin. "This is a war of ideas. We are not part of the global civilisation. We are a civilisation by ourselves. ... We had no other possibility to prove that Huntington was right without attacking Ukraine," Mr. Dugin asserts. He was referring to the late Harvard University political scientist Samuel P. Huntington who controversially predicted a post-Cold War clash of civilisations that would be fought not between countries but between cultures.

The degree of Mr. Dugin's influence on Mr. Putin is a matter of debate. Often dubbed in the media as 'Putin's brain' and a Rasputin-like character, Mr. Dugin appears to be in and out of favour in the Kremlin's innermost circles. Similarly, Mr. Dugin has influenced Central European, but to what degree may be debatable. Nevertheless, even those

sceptical describe the far-right ideologue as one of Russia's foremost political theorists.

Mr. Dugin wrote a hugely influential ultra-nationalist tome, *The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia*, which Russian military academies use as a textbook. The book envisions a clash of civilisation between the West and a Eurasian bloc supported by Russia. It also insists that "Serbia is Russia."

"There is no doubt that especially that 1990s work on global geopolitics with its various distinctions profoundly influenced the Russian military and set the stage for a lot of the country's geopolitical ambitions going forward," said political theorist Matt McManus. While there is no or, at best circumstantial evidence of direct contact between Mr. Dugin and Messrs. Vucic and Orbán, it is clear that their political environments interact with one of civilisationalism's leading ideologues.

For example, Mr. Vulin hosted Mr. Dugin on his visit to Belgrade in 2019 at a moment when the Serb capital was rife with reports about Russian spying. Going back in history, journalist Predrag Popovic recalls meeting Mr. Dugin twice in Belgrade in the 1990s with the help of Mr. Vucic at the headquarters of the far-right Serbian Radical Party of which he was a member at the time.

Mr. Popovic quotes Mr. Vucic as describing Mr. Dugin as "the most important thinker and political strategist of modern Russia" and "Serbia's greatest friend." Mr. Popovic notes that recently Mr. Vucic refrained from sending Mr. Dugin his condolences when the ideologue's daughter, Darya Dugina, was killed in a car bombing in Moscow in August. Mr. Vucic has often used Mr. Vulin as his frontman in relations with Russia in an effort not to provoke US and European ire.

Ironically, Mr. Orbán, in his more liberal days, banned a 2014 far-right gathering in Budapest organized by the Montana-based National Policy Institute at which Mr. Dugin was scheduled to keynote. However, the Hungarian capital has since

become a hub for the European and American far-right. Akrtos Media, a key node in the far-right Budapest-based network, published the first full-text English translations of Mr. Dugin's books.

The threat posed by the civilisationalist ambitions of men like Messrs. Putin, Orbán, and Vulin, goes beyond the challenge to the rule of law and the notion of territorial integrity enshrined in the United Nations charter. It has fuelled racism and bolstered exclusionist ideologies like Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anti-Muslim Hindutava Hindu nationalism. It has also emboldened the Myanmar junta that, according to human rights group Fortify Rights, is waging "genocide by attrition" against the beleaguered Rohingya communities of Rakhine State.

Mr. Orbán recently took a leaf out of Mr. Dugin's book on geopolitics when he declared in his widely denounced speech in Romania that he doesn't want Europeans mixing with non-Europeans.

"This is why we have always fought: We are willing to mix with one another, but we do not want to become peoples of mixed race," Mr. Orbán said. Speaking days later at a news conference, Mr. Orbán insisted that "this is not a racial issue for us. This is a question of culture. Quite simply, our civilization should be preserved as it is now."

In his book, Mr. Dugin argued that "it is especially important to introduce geopolitical disorder...encouraging all kinds of separatism and ethnic, social and racial conflicts, actively supporting all dissident movements - extremist, racist, and sectarian groups." Mr. Orbán and Mr. Vulin's civilizational worlds apply the bill to countries that increasingly only nominally fall within the orbit of the United States and the European Union.

— Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar, an Adjunct Senior Fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and the author of the syndicated column and blog, *The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer*.

What Queen Elizabeth II's death could mean for Britain's global influence

Jonathan Fenton-Harvey

The Queen has also played an important role in increasing Britain's global soft power, and her death may play a role in any decline its influence may see. Throughout the last 70 years, the Queen has arguably acted as the most important diplomatic representative for London, having charmed various heads of state through state and diplomatic visits during her reign. Queen has been required to be apolitical, and this neutral approach has arguably been beneficial for Britain's foreign relations. Among them are US Presidents, of whom the Queen had met 13 out of 14 during her reign

IT IS up for question over whether the upcoming King Charles III can fill in Queen's shoes - as the 96-year-old monarch has left a historical legacy.

The United Kingdom and Queen Elizabeth II's lovers around the world have mourned her passing on September 8. Even Britons who are staunch anti-monarchy republicans might acknowledge that she was perhaps a kinder character than those within the institution of the Royal Family.

Yet the passing of the Queen could have more impacts on the UK than just losing a head of state and a Queen. More than just a mere monarch, the Queen was not only the longest ruling monarch in Britain's history, but she also ruled the UK from when Britain was an imperial power, having been crowned Queen in 1953, when Britain still controlled the Suez Canal and held protectorates and colonies in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Given the aging Queen's declining health, the death is no surprise and for years Buckingham Palace had planned for her passing. Throughout several days of the 10-day mourning period until the Queen's funeral, the UK's stock markets, banks and other services will be closed intermittently, costing the UK's GDP an estimated \$1.7 billion. Thus, it could do further damage to Britain's economy, which is already grappling with inflation, a cost-of-living crisis and risks tumbling into a recession.

The Queen's Soft Power

Britain's soft power abroad is one potential casualty of the Queen's death. Despite facing an apparent decline in global power, including a downsizing military and a shrinking economy, one aspect that has helped Britain maintain global influence is its soft power. This has been through institutions like the BBC and British Council, universities attracting top academic talent globally. Various cultural impacts, including musicians and series, have played a role too. Of course, the English language being a global language has also played a vital role in Britain's soft power.

The Queen has also played an important role in increasing Britain's global soft power, and her death may play a role in any decline its influence may see. Throughout the last 70 years, the Queen has arguably acted as the most important diplomatic representative for London, having charmed various heads of state through state and diplomatic visits during her reign. The Queen has been required to be apolitical, and this neutral approach has arguably been beneficial for Britain's foreign relations. Among them are US Presidents, of whom the Queen had met 13 out of 14 during her reign. Former President Barack Obama once remarked that "The

American people are quite fond of the royal family. They like them much better than their own politicians."

Interestingly, in 1982, then-US President Ronald Reagan made clear during a tour of European capitals that he was dead set on a horse ride with the Queen in her Windsor Estate, which Reagan later called a "fairy tale experience." This act of diplomacy was claimed to have helped then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher secure Washington's support in the Falklands War with Argentina that year.

The Queen also made a historic and 'joyous' visit to the Republic of Ireland in 2011, which was the first visit of a British monarch since the country gained independence from British rule. The Queen's interest in Irish culture and demonstrable support for British-Irish relations arguably bolstered ties between London and Dublin, following decades of low-level conflict with Northern Ireland included until 1998. There have been limits on the Royal Family's soft power abilities. For instance, during the Queen and other Royal Family members' visits to former colonies like Jamaica and Barbados in the Caribbean and India, there have been demands for Britain to apologize and even pay reparations for the British Empire's actions.

It is up for question over whether the upcoming King Charles III can replicate the Queen's charm abroad, with many sceptics saying he lacks the gravitas and charm of Elizabeth II to uphold the Royal Family's reputation. Although he has been in various shots, for instance joining a traditional sword dance with Saudi Arabian princes in 2014, this has arguably been a flashy episode within Britain's already strong ties with the Gulf Kingdom.

A Commonwealth in doubt?

Another consequence of the Queen's death could be the future of the Commonwealth, in which former British Crown Colonies have retained the Queen as their head of state. In countries like Australia, the Queen had remained popular, with 45 percent of adults saying they preferred the Queen as their head of state as opposed to 31 percent, according to a national poll last year. Support for Australia becoming a republic has steadily declined in the last two decades, the Green Party leader Adam Bandt immediately called to renew the debate over Australia severing its ties to the British monarchy. Other movements like the Australian Republic Movement may also seek to renew the debate over republicanism, with leader Peter FitzSimons saying, "it is unlikely we will ever see a monarch as respected or admired by the Australian people again."

Even last year, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ard-

ern said she thinks the country will become a republic in her lifetime. Both cases highlight how the Queen's death may ignite future debates within other Commonwealth countries over ties to the British monarchy, particularly in the Caribbean, where anti-British sentiment runs deeper than that of countries like Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

Future of the monarchy Another smaller benefactor of the Queen's soft power has been the economy. The Royal Family and Buckingham Palace have played a role in attracting tourism to the UK. Estimates from 2021 show that the Royal Family brings in around £19 billion (\$22 billion) per annum, most of which comes through tourism. Although many people visit London and the UK for reasons other than the Queen, this would likely contribute to a loss of income from the UK's perspective.

As with Commonwealth countries, divisions within the UK could possibly seek to be exposed. Despite Scotland's failed independence referendum in 2014, support for independence has continued. Since Brexit has been finalised - despite the Scottish public mostly seeking to remain a member of the European Union, and now the Queen has passed, Scottish nationalists may begin once again to raise questions about the future of the Union.

Britain's future influence in the world does depend on other factors. Brexit has impacted Britain's global reputation, and with the nomination of hard-headed Prime Minister Liz Truss, who took the helm of London's foreign policy just two days before the Queen's death, her potentially assertive foreign policy could look to bolster Britain's influence.

However, whether this can compensate for the Queen's passing is certainly up for question. London will still hope to use its prominent cultural, economic and diplomatic links to maintain its clout in the world.

Few can remember what life was like prior to Queen Elizabeth II's reign, so it would be too soon to make bold predictions about what her passing could mean for Britain's future. While the British monarchy may continue to exist into the future, it would certainly need new reforms as Britain looks to find its feet in the 21st century and in a post-Queen Elizabeth II world. Some have suggested the British monarchy may lose relevancy and appeal following the Queen's passing. Yet should King Charles III continue to make such changes to the monarchy, including modernizing it and adapting it to modern-day Britain, it may be able to maintain its soft power, albeit likely to a lesser extent.

— Courtesy: TRT World

Briefs

'UN Secy Gen overwhelmed by flood...

FROM PAGE 01 catastrophe and control over carbon emissions, the prime minister said that the world should pay heed to what he said about climate change. The UN chief's visit has been critical in raising awareness about the human tragedy, he said. "Deeply touched by his empathy and leadership, Pakistan needs global support to overcome this challenge," he added.

PM Shehbaz expresses gratitude...

FROM PAGE 01 affection for the people of Pakistan and expressed compassion for humanity. On the individual level, so far, it was the biggest financial assistance provided by any person for the flood-affected people of Pakistan, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister observed that the amount would be of great help in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts. He also informed the UAE minister about the historic devastation caused by the recent floods and the government's steps in response to the natural disaster. UAE minister Sheikh Nahyan expressed his grief over the human and financial losses and expressed his solidarity with Pakistan in this difficult situation. Prime Minister Sharif also spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Expressing his gratitude to President Erdogan and the people of Türkiye for extending humanitarian relief assistance to Pakistan in form of immediate dispatch of tents, emergency food items, and medicines via 12 Turkish military aircraft, 04 'Goodness Trains' and 02 Turkish Red Crescent Trucks, the Prime Minister exclaimed that this is in the truest tradition of Pakistan-Türkiye exemplary relationship.

'Unelected bodies must respect...

FROM PAGE 01 not fall under its jurisdiction. However, Fawad stated that they could not comment anything because it might be contempt of court. Fawad said that the closed-room decisions have neither quality nor durability; hence interest of the country lies in the decisions made by the people. So let the people decide, he added. Talking about massive public participation in solidarity rallies across the country, Fawad Chaudhry said that the millions of people showed solidarity with Imran Khan, which was unprecedented. About ECP's decision of postponing by-polls, he said that the flood has been going on for two to three months, the situation was getting worse in front of you, you did not get the idea, and three days ago you are saying that there will be no election. "Besides being biased, the ECP is also suffering from an administrative crisis and incompetence, be it constituencies or declaring 40 lakh voters dead or now postponing the elections by spending billions of nation's rupees," he added. He made it clear that the PTI would get a landslide victory in the elections and that was why the nation saw how they run away from the elections.

Imran fails to appear before JIT

FROM PAGE 01 report to the Margalla Police Station, Islamabad, today at 6pm. Khan, however, did not show up. A case was lodged against Khan for allegedly threatening a lower court judge, Zeba Chaudhry. Last week, the IHC asked the former prime minister to ensure that he cooperates with the police in the case's investigation. According to the notice issued to Khan, he must appear before the JIT and answer questions related to the charges levelled against him. The notice further stated that despite the orders of the IHC, Khan neither appeared before the JIT nor presented his position regarding the case.

US govt officials reaffirm shared goals with Pakistan

"This has been a very productive visit to Pak, and I'm honored to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of US-Pakistan bilateral relations," said Counselor Chollet

ISLAMABAD: Counselor of the U.S. Department of State, Derek Chollet and a delegation of senior U.S. government officials from the Department of State, Department of Defense, U.S. Agency for International Development and the White House National Security Council visited Islamabad and Karachi Sept 7-9 to meet with senior government officials, civil society members and private sector leaders to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Pakistan, highlight the importance of bilateral partnership, and reaffirm shared goals.

While in Pakistan, Counselor Chollet discussed a wide range of issues, including strengthening trade and investment ties, cooperating to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis, advancing the bilateral health partnership, expanding our people-to-people connections, and conveying U.S. solidarity with the Pakistani people in addressing the humanitarian crisis caused by destructive flood-



ing throughout the country. Counselor Chollet serves as a senior policy advisor to U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, said a press release issued by the U.S.

Embassy in Islamabad on Sunday. "This has been a very productive visit to Pakistan, and I'm honored to help commemorate the 75th anniversary of U.S.-Pakistan bilateral

relations," said Counselor Chollet. "The United States and Pakistan have a robust partnership based on decades of bilateral cooperation and support. We look forward

to strengthening our relationship in trade, investment, clean energy, health, security, education, and other shared priorities." During his meetings, Counselor Chollet offered condolences on behalf of the United States on the devastation caused by widespread flooding in Pakistan and emphasized U.S. sympathy and support for people who have lost loved ones, livelihoods, and homes. In his meeting with Foreign Minister Bhutto-Zardari, Counselor Chollet discussed the \$53.1 million dollars in humanitarian assistance provided by the United States this year to support disaster resilience and flood response, with \$50.1 million for emergency flood relief in addition to \$3 million in programming provided earlier to bolster disaster resilience. This funding from the United States will provide Pakistani communities with urgent humanitarian supplies for those most affected, while also building resilience against future natural disasters and helping to mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis. - APP

English football shutdown slammed

LONDON: English football chiefs have been criticised for postponing all matches this weekend following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, with the decision labelled a "missed opportunity" to pay tribute to the nation's longest-serving monarch. After the Queen died aged 96 on Thursday, the Premier League opted to cancel this weekend's fixtures in consultation with the British government. Football chiefs were told by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on Friday that there was no obligation to cancel or postpone sporting fixtures during the national mourning period. But the Premier League felt it was the right move to honour the Queen for her "extraordinary life and contribution to the nation". The second tier Championship, as well as Leagues One and Two, followed the Premier League in postponing this weekend's matches. It was not just professional football as all amateur Saturday and Sunday leagues across the UK, including youth football, were called off. However, the England and Wales Cricket Board started England's third Test against South Africa on Saturday after the first day's play was rained off and the second postponed due to the Queen's death. Other sports also resumed, with Premiership rugby union fixtures, Super League games, the PGA Championship golf tournament and Great North Run. Horse racing, the sport the Queen was most closely associated with, also resumed on Sunday with the St Leger, one of the five English classics and which her horse Dunfermline won in 1977, the feature race at Doncaster. Former Liverpool and England striker Peter Crouch questioned football's temporary shutdown, tweeting: "I know it's only a game and some things are much bigger but imagine all our games went ahead this weekend. "Black armbands, silences observed, national anthem, Royal band playing etc to the millions around the world watching? Isn't that a better send off?" Manchester United, West Ham and Arsenal had all paid tribute to the Queen by wearing black armbands and holding a minute's silence in their European matches on Thursday evening. - DNA

No. 1 Swiatek beats Jabeur to win US Open

SPORTS DESK

NEW YORK: She complained that women use different, slightly lighter, tennis balls than the men do at Flushing Meadows, where she'd never been past the fourth round. She was trying to grow accustomed to the noise and distractions, the hustle and bustle, of the Big Apple. And she arrived with a record of just 4-4 since her 37-match winning streak ended in July. None of that matters now. Cementing her status as her sport's new dominant figure by winning what is expected to be the last tournament of Serena Williams' career, the No. 1-ranked Swiatek outplayed No. 5 Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6 (5) in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday to claim her first championship at the US Open and third Grand Slam title overall. "It's something that I wasn't expecting, for sure. It's also like a confirmation for me that the sky's the limit,"



Swiatek, who is 55-7 in tour-level matches with seven trophies in 2022, both best in the WTA. "I'm proud. Also surprised little bit." She acknowledged harboring concerns about the US Open after a couple of shaky showings at hard-court tune-up tournaments. It turned out OK: She is

the first top-seeded woman to win the US Open since 23-time major champion Williams in 2014. "I feel like on court, I can just do my job," Swiatek said, "and I'm happy about it, that I kind of can make these doubts go away." Swiatek, like Jabeur, travels with a sports psychologist, and it took some

fortitude to finish this one off. At 6-5 in the second set, Swiatek held her first championship point. Right before Jabeur served, Swiatek jogged over to the sideline to change rackets - an unusual choice at that moment. When action resumed, Swiatek missed a backhand. That could have been tough to recover from. Indeed, Jabeur pushed things to the tiebreaker, which she then led 5-4. But Swiatek steered herself, took the last three points and soon was accepting the silver trophy and a \$2.6 million winner's check, joking: "I'm really glad that is not in cash." The 21-year-old from Poland won the French Open for the second time in June and is the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to collect two major titles in a single season. "She's really set the bar very high. It's great for our sport," said Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia who will rise to No. 2 in the rankings on Monday.

Finch retires from ODI after series win



CAIRNS: Captain Aaron Finch bowed out of the game with a 3-0 whitewash over New Zealand in the ODI series as Australia clinched a thriller by 25 runs at Cairns. The win takes Australia to the second spot on the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League table with 120 points. They are now five

points off England, who sit on top of the standings with 125 points. Aaron Finch bid farewell to the ODI cricket in the final game against New Zealand. His stay at the crease in his final game lasted only 13 balls, with Tim Southee shattering his stumps as the Australian captain walked off the

field to resounding applause from the crowd at Cairns. Finch called time on his career ahead of the final game, with a poor run of form affirming the decision to hang his boots. Australia now have enough time to find a replacement at the top of the order as well as a skipper to lead them in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup next year. The 35-year-old will however be available to lead his side in the T20 World Cup at home next month where Australia will be looking to become the first team to defend their title. Though he missed out with the bat ODI, he bows out of the 50-over format having captained Australia to a 3-0 whitewash over New Zealand in his final series. In the final ODI, Australia managed to recover after they lost their openers in the Powerplay. Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne stepped up with a 118-run stand for the third wicket. While Labuschagne fell soon after his fifty, Smith converted it into a hundred, his first in ODI cricket in almost two years. - DNA

Israeli drone crashes in West Bank over 'technical malfunction'

TEL AVIV: An Israeli UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) has crashed in the occupied West Bank over what the Tel Aviv regime claims to be a "technical malfunction." Palestinian media cited the Israeli military as saying that the incident took place near the city of Qalqilya early on Sunday when the drone was conducting reconnaissance flights over the area for a future campaign of arrests by the occupying regime. The Israeli military also announced that the crash was "under investigation." The Tel Aviv regime had earlier said it would use drones in the occupied West Bank for the first time when carrying out the arrests. Last month, an Israeli Skylark drone was shot down by Palestinians in the north of the occupied West Bank city of Nablus. The military drone, which was overflying clashes between Palestinians and Israeli regime forces, was claimed by Tel Aviv to have crashed due to a technical fault. The Israeli regime's military has stepped up its deadly raids on the local population in and around the flashpoint cities and towns of the West Bank. Israeli forces continue their near-daily raid-and-arrest operations in various parts of the West Bank, wounding or killing Palestinians. Such raids are carried out while Israeli settlers also conduct acts of violence against Palestinians and their property. - APP

Norway to provide further...

FROM PAGE 01 the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the Norwegian Red Cross, in addition to funding provided through the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Norway is one of the largest donors of core support to UN organisations working to provide assistance to flood victims in Pakistan. Core support enables these organisations to prepare for emergencies and to respond as soon as a disaster strikes. In addition, Norway is providing support for education efforts via the UN Children's Fund (Unicef) and the World Food Programme to ensure that children affected by the flooding can continue to attend school. The impacts of the flooding have been most severe in the southern and western provinces of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. According to UN reports, over a million homes and 18,000 schools have been completely or partially destroyed. The flooding has caused widespread damage to agricultural land and infrastructure in the affected areas. 'Both the immediate and the longer-term needs are enormous. Effective follow-up by the Pakistani authorities will be crucial to build more resilient livelihoods for the people in these areas,' said Ms Huitfeldt. The UN estimates that over 16 million children are affected by the flooding. The long-term psychosocial impact of the flood disaster in Pakistan is cause for great concern.

Canadian Conservative party elects new leader

OTTAWA: Nearly a year after a defeat in parliamentary elections, the Canadian Conservatives elected a new leader on Saturday, choosing right-wing Pierre Poilievre to lead the opposition to premier Justin Trudeau. Poilievre won 68 percent of about 400,000 votes cast by party members in the first round, putting him well ahead of his main competitor, centrist former Quebec premier Jean Charest, with 16.07 percent. Poilievre, 43, beat out five contenders for the top Tory job by railing against inflation and Covid-19 vaccine mandates, promoting cryptocurrencies and pipelines, as well as backing the trucker-led protest convoy that occupied the capital Ottawa in February. "Tonight begins the journey to replace an old government that costs you more and delivers you less with a new government that puts you first," Poilievre said in a speech in Ottawa after his win. "By tackling Liberal inflation, we'll put you back in control of your life and your money," he said, hitting out at Trudeau's government as "the most expensive" in the country's history. Trudeau congratulated Poilievre on his win on Twitter, calling for collaboration "to deliver results for people across the country." A veteran politician, Poilievre twice served as a junior minister before Trudeau took office and has been elected seven times to represent a suburban district of Ottawa. - APP

Diaz submits Ferguson to end UFC tenure

LAS VEGAS: Nate Diaz scored a fourth-round submission win over Tony Ferguson at UFC 279 on Saturday, winning the last fight of his UFC deal in a wild bout that capped off an extraordinary week for the UFC. A backstage brawl caused Thursday's press conference to be cut short, and the card was thrown into disarray on Friday morning when Khamzat Chimaev missed the welterweight limit for his proposed main event fight against Diaz. That miss forced a reshuffle that saw Ferguson step up to meet Diaz while Chimaev took on Kevin Holland and Li Jingliang faced off against Daniel Rodriguez, but the rescheduled main event did not disappoint. The 37-year-old Diaz picked Ferguson apart for the first three rounds before grabbing a guillotine choke in the fourth to end the fight

in front of a sold-out crowd at the T-Mobile Arena. The fan favourite from Stockton, California opened a cut above Ferguson's right eye in the second as his pinpoint boxing started to tell. Ferguson fought back, chopping at the lead leg of Diaz to slow him down, but Diaz was still able to land his combinations to force his opponent back and he played with the crowd, strolling around the cage and leaning against it to take a break. Ferguson shot for a take-down in the fourth round but Diaz, who submitted Conor McGregor to hand the Irishman his first loss in the UFC in 2016, circled his arm around Ferguson's neck and dragged him to the ground to secure the win. "I want to get out of the UFC for a minute and show these UFC fighters how to take over and own another sport. - APP

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Briefs

Pakistani traders to participate ASEAN Expo

BEIJING: Pakistan, like previous years, will participate in the 19th China-ASEAN Expo and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit to be held in Nanning, Capital of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region of China, from September 16 to 19. The relevant authorities have completed all the arrangements in this regard, a senior official said on Sunday.

Pakistani traders and industrialists will display handicrafts, furniture, auto parts, gem stones, carpets, sports goods, agricultural machinery and surgical instruments during the expo.

Themed in sharing new opportunities of the RCEP and jointly advancing version 3.0 of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, the events will showcase the new achievements and highlights of the economic and trade cooperation between the two sides.

Covering an area of 102,000 square meters, this year's exhibition for the first time will feature several sections on new energy vehicles, culture and tourism, healthcare and cross-border e-commerce. - APP

Survey: 27% Ukrainians want to stay in Finland

HELSINKI: About 27 per cent of Ukrainians who have fled to Finland viewed that they no longer plan to return to Ukraine while one-third (33 per cent) have decided to return to Ukraine after the war has ended or sooner, according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of the Interior.

Almost 40 per cent of the respondents said that their plans were still open; finding employment in Finland and the development of the military situation in Ukraine are the key factors impacting their plans, said the survey result conducted in June-July through interviewing 2,136 people, said the ministry in a press release on Wednesday. - APP

Pakistan strains to tackle climate challenges

"Two-stroke engine rickshaw is now replaced by four-stroke engine rickshaw. Similarly, in the transport sector, no vehicle, from bus to car, imported or manufactured in Pakistan, is not of Euro standard," he added

DNA

BEIJING: "Pakistan's contribution to climate change is less than one percent, but it is among the top ten countries most affected by climate change," said Naseem ur Rehman, secretary at Pakistan's Environment Commission, in an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). Regarding how climate changes affect Pakistan, he told CEN that there was a set pattern of fog four or five years ago. It used to happen from Dec. 21 and last a period of time until Jan. 10. However, due to climate changes, the same fog came in the first week of Nov. and its arrival caused smog.

"Where it used to be very cold, the weather has

changed and it has started to get hot; where it was hot, the weather has become more severe," he said, adding that "recently, there are heavy floods."

Official figures released on Sept 6 showed that the death toll in Pakistan from this season's monsoon rains and floods that started in mid-June has risen to 1,325 with 12,703 injuries. Multiple factors have been affecting the environment.

Pakistan is a forest poor country. "The international standard is that 25% of the area should be covered by forests, but our forest (coverage) are less than 5%," he said, adding that "old-technology power plants are running in the power sector, and stubble burning

comes in winter."

However, "be it transport sector or any other industrial sector, efforts are being made everywhere to bring about green revolution by introducing environment-friendly technologies," he noted.

In the past, two-stroke engines used to drive rickshaws and there were no emission control systems. Brick kilns used to emit black smoke, he said.

"Two-stroke engine rickshaw is now replaced by four-stroke engine rickshaw. Similarly, in the transport sector, no vehicle, from bus to car, imported or manufactured in Pakistan, is not of Euro standard," he added. Currently, control systems and treatment plants are be-

ing installed in industries, and zigzag technology has been introduced for brick kiln as its combustion system has improved, he told CEN. Apart from improvement in industrial sectors, there are some soft solutions as well, such as trees. "For many years, all the departments and all the industries have been told to plant trees," he said, adding that "our main issue right now regarding the environment is that our particulate matter level is rising, exceeding the international quality standards.

So, the only way to control it is that we control industrial emissions or kiln emissions or vehicle emissions, and the infrastructure we have should be state-of-the-art,

and good sanitation system should be in place."

Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas, are by far the largest contributors to climate change. Regarding this, he mentioned something different about coal. "If engine technologies are good, emissions will be lower even with fuel like diesel, as I said the emission of Euro 2 standard diesel engine bus is the same as CNG bus emission, though fuel is different," he said, adding that "it is our wish that we move towards e-vehicles. If there are electric vehicles, they will be more environment-friendly."

On collaboration between China and Pakistan in improving the environment, he referred to the state-of-

the-art Orange Line project. "There cannot be a better and more ideal transportation system. Due to this, thousands of old and diesel vehicles, wagons and buses will be replaced.

Those who used to travel in a motorcycle rickshaw now travel in an air-conditioned electric train, which has no negative impact on the environment," he said.

As it is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, stemming from its dependency on climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture and water, Pakistan has officially begun the process of creating a National Adaptation Plan for building resilience to climate change. "The trend now is for improvement," he said.

CPACT holds fund raiser in Canada for flood victims



DNA

OTTAWA: CPACT held an urgent fundraiser in Montréal at Dera Restaurant to assist with Flood Relief efforts in Pakistan. It was a somber evening attended by the High Commissioner

of Pakistan to Canada Zabeer Aslam Janjua, Councillor General Montréal Ishtiaq Ahmed Akil, Red Cross Quebec Lead Ramzi SFEIR, Mary Deros City councillor, Journalist-City News Montréal Faraha Naqvi-Mohamed. The pleas by the speakers

relayed the message of compassion and the reality that Pakistan is bearing the brunt of climate change crises. One-third of Pakistan is underwater and the Damage is set to hit \$10 billion. This is just the first step...funds will be needed for relief, recovery and

resilience activities. The event was attended by the Pakistani business and professional diaspora of Montréal who were determined to make a difference and over \$45,000 was raised towards flood relief efforts at the event with more donations still being received.

CSCEC contributes to Pakistan's flood relief efforts

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A team of Peshawar-Karachi Motorway (PKM) led by China State Construction Engineering Group Co., Ltd (CSCEC) is massively contributing to Pakistan's relief efforts, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday. After knowing the devastating flood situation in different parts of Pakistan, the team promptly purchased a large number of local necessities such as rice, grain, oil and sugar, and distributed the relief food to 800 nearby poor victims free of charge, thus relieving the urgent needs of local people. The PKM project team prepared about 500 boxes of various kinds of drugs for treating post-disaster epidemics, organised medical teams to visit nearby villages for free diagnosis, and carried out free medicine delivery activities to equip local villagers with the knowledge of post-disaster disease prevention, thus avoiding the occurrence of infectious diseases, and ensuring the physical health and food safety of the people in the flood-hit areas. The first and second divisions of the PKM project, while completing their own rescue and relief efforts, and figuring out the local flood situation, sent a disaster relief team of 25 people, carrying 11 sets of large machinery and equipment, including loaders, dump trucks, excavators and pumps, to help nearby villages repair roads and divert floods. After several days of emergency repairs, 30 kilometres of water-damaged roads were opened in four nearby villages to ensure unimpeded access to local disaster relief channels. The PKM project also has managers on duty 24 hours a day to patrol the surrounding dangerous areas and help local victims out of trouble. Amanullah, a flood victim, was extremely touched to see the busy figure of the relief team.

Hamas delegation visits Russia for high-level talks

DNA

MOSCOW: The head of Hamas's political bureau, Ismail Haniyeh, arrived in Moscow on Saturday to hold high-level political talks with Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. According to a statement by the Palestinian movement, Haniyeh was accompanied by Hamas deputy chief Saleh Arouri and members of the political bureau Mousa Abu Marzouq and Maher Salah. A Hamas spokesman said that Moscow had invited the movement to visit Russia to discuss mutual ties and the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. The trip follows a visit to Moscow in May by a Hamas delegation, headed by Abu Marzouq, amid heightened tensions and violence surrounding Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. Moscow has previously attempted to help reconciliation efforts between Hamas and Fatah, the leading party of the Palestinian Authority, hosting both sides in Moscow in March 2020, in what was seen as a Russian bid for regional influence.

Italy's far-right eyes easy victory

ROME: Italy's Giorgia Meloni looks unstoppable: with two weeks to the election, final polls show her heading for a thumping victory to lead the country's first far-right government as its first female prime minister. The right-wing coalition, which includes Meloni's post-fascist Brothers of Italy party, Matteo Salvini's anti-immigrant League, and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, is forecast to pocket 46 percent of the vote. The left, led by the Democratic Party (PD), looks to win 28.5 percent, while the populist Five Star Movement (M5S) could take 13 percent, according to a YouTrend poll before a pre-voting embargo. In a startling move, PD head Enrico Letta admitted defeat this week, but urged undecided voters to choose his party or risk handing the right the landslide victory that would allow it to change the constitution. - APP

The SCO Samarkand Summit: Dialogue and Cooperation in an Interconnected World

SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV

UZBEKISTAN'S chairmanship in the SCO has fallen on a dynamic period, fraught with various events and trends - the period of the «historical rift», when one era comes to an end and another begins - thus far unpredictable and unknown. The modern system of international cooperation, based on the universal principles and norms, begins to falter. One of the main reasons for this is a deep crisis of trust at the global level, which, in turn, provokes a geopolitical confrontation and the risk of reviving the bloc thinking stereotypes. This process of mutual alienation complicates the return of the world economy to its former course of development and the restoration of global supply chains.

The ongoing armed conflicts in different parts of the world destabilize trade and investment flows, exacerbate the problems of ensuring food and energy security. Along with this, global climate shocks, growing scarcity of natural and water resources, decline in biodiversity, spread of dangerous infectious diseases have exposed the vulnerability of our societies as never before. They lead to destruction of existential common goods, threatening the basis of people's life and reducing sources of income. In these circumstances, it is obvious that no country alone can hope to avoid or cope with these global risks and challenges.

There is only one way out of the dangerous spiral of problems in an interconnected world where we all live today - through a constructive dialogue and multilateral cooperation based on consideration and respect to the interests of everyone. It is exactly at the time of crisis, when all the countries - whether they are large, medium or small by size - must put aside their narrow interests and focus on such mutual interaction, unite and multiply the common efforts and possibilities to counter the threats and challenges to peace, security and sustainable development that are related to each of us.

The effective international cooperation makes the world more stable, predictable and prosperous. This is the most viable, accessible and closest way to solving common problems of our time as well as a universal

insurance policy against the future challenges and shocks.

A Model for Successful Regional Cooperation

The international cooperation that lays in the interest of everyone is impossible without multilateral institutions. Despite the certain shortcomings, they continue to serve as the most important agents of interaction between the countries - at the regional and global levels. The international and regional organizations help countries to overcome the differences and strengthen mutual understanding, to develop political and economic cooperation, to expand trade and stimulate cultural and humanitarian exchanges.

These are the goals and objectives that are pursued by one of the youngest multilateral institutions - the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In fact, it is a unique interstate structure that has managed to unite countries with different cultural and civilizational codes, their own foreign policy guidelines and models of national development. In a relatively short historical period, the SCO has come a long way, becoming an integral element of the modern global political and economic world order.

Today, the SCO family is the world's largest regional organization, which has united a huge geographical space and about a half of the population of our planet. The basis for the SCO's international attractiveness is its non-bloc status, openness, non-targeting against third countries or the international organizations, equality and respect for the sovereignty of all participants, refusal to interfere in the internal affairs, as well as prevention of political confrontation and unhealthy rivalry. The SCO's success concept is the promotion of multifaceted cooperation through ensuring regional security. In fact, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is called upon to become a pole of attraction without dividing lines, in the name of peace, cooperation and progress.

Therefore, the number of states that are ready to cooperate with the SCO is growing every year, and this is especially noticeable in the context of the transformation of the modern system of international and regional relations. The economic value of the SCO is enhanced by the self-sufficiency of its space, where there are dynamically developing economies of the

world with huge human, intellectual and technological potential, and the existence of large volumes of unused natural resources.

Today, the total GDP of the SCO member states has reached about a quarter of the global figure. This is already a very solid contribution to the global sustainable development from a regional organization that has just crossed its 20-year threshold. In a world with the new challenges and opportunities, the SCO has excellent prospects for transformation and growth, not only through quantitative replenishment, but also through the opening of new strategic vectors. These are transport and connectivity, energy, food and environmental secu-



ity, innovations, digital transformation and green economy.

Uzbekistan's Chairmanship: towards Common Success through Joint Development

Accepting responsible mission of Chairmanship in the SCO, the Republic of Uzbekistan has relied on the strategy of advancing the development of the Organization by opening up new horizons for cooperation and launching usage of untapped reserves that each of its members has. Our slogan is «The SCO is strong if each of us is strong». Implementing this, we have made serious efforts to make the Organization even stronger from the inside and more attractive from the outside to our international partners.

At the platforms of more than eighty major events held during the year, a comprehensive agenda was formed for the SCO - starting from the issues of further expanding cooperation in the security, strengthening transport and economic connectivity and positioning the Organization in the international arena up to the search for new ways and points for development. All these promising directions of cooperation for the SCO at the new stage of its historical development are reflected in more than thirty conceptual programs, agreements and decisions prepared during our chairmanship period. I would say even more. Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO is a logical continuation of an active and open

stan. This country is an integral part of the larger SCO space. The Afghan people need good neighbors and their support now more than ever. It is our moral obligation to extend a helping hand, to offer them effective ways of overcoming the years-long crisis by promoting socio-economic growth of the country, its integration into regional and global development processes. Afghanistan that has played for centuries the role of a buffer in the historical confrontations of global and regional powers, should try on a new peaceful mission of connecting Central and South Asia. The construction of the trans-Afghan corridor could become a symbol of such mutually beneficial inter-regional cooperation. It is also important to understand that by implementing joint infrastructure projects such as the Termez - Mazar-i-Sharif - Kabul - Peshawar railroad we are not just solving socio-economic, transport and communication problems, but also making a significant contribution to ensuring regional security.

By bringing our positions closer to each other, together we can develop a new SCO agenda for a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Only in this way can we create a truly stable and sustainable SCO space with an indivisible security. **Samarkand Spirit** - the Embodiment of Cooperation, Mutual Understanding and Friendship After a three-year pandemic pause that has caused serious disruption in trade, economic and industrial ties, the countries and peoples of the SCO need to communicate directly. The ancient city of Samarkand, the jewel of the Great Silk Road, is ready to welcome the leaders of fourteen countries with new breakthrough proposals and initiatives designed to serve for good and prosperity of the SCO and each of its members. There is no doubt that this legendary city will open another chapter of the SCO success story. Glorious historical heritage of Samarkand will contribute to this. For many centuries, this city has been threading together countries from Europe to China, merging North and South, East and West into a single node. Historically Samarkand has been a melting pot of ideas and knowledge, that was "cooking" a common goal of living better, being more successful

and becoming happier. And everybody has known that the friendly neighbors are half of your wealth, you yourself are a blessing for them, because you know that cooperation, trade, oeuvre, science, art and the best ideas do good, enrich and bring nations together. These unique qualities of Samarkand, which today has a modern and dynamically developing infrastructure, turning it into the most suitable and demanded platform for joint discussions, searching for necessary responses to regional and global challenges. The integrity and interconnectivity of mankind are such that most challenges require joint work not only at the regional level, but also at the global arena. Relying on the experience of our many years of joint work, we are confident that the Samarkand SCO summit will set an example of how we can launch a new, inclusive dialogue based on the principles of mutual respect, trust and constructive cooperation for the sake of common security and prosperity. Samarkand can become the platform that can unite and reconcile states with different foreign policy priorities. **Historically, the world looked upon from Samarkand has been seen as single and indivisible, rather than fragmented. This is indeed the essence of the unique phenomenon of the «Samarkand spirit», which can serve as the basis for a fundamentally new format of international interaction, including within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.**

The «Samarkand spirit» is designed to naturally complement the very «Shanghai spirit», thanks to which more than 20 years ago our countries decided to create a new and eagerly sought organization. Therefore, we are confident that in Samarkand we shall witness the birth of a new stage in the life of SCO - the number of its members will grow, and its future agenda will be formed, and this is highly symbolic. We are full of optimism and are convinced that the decisions of the upcoming summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will make a feasible contribution to strengthening the dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation both at the regional level and on a global scale.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev is the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Briefs

Queen's death: Pak to observe day of mourning

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Monday will observe a day of mourning over Queen Elizabeth's death, announced Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday. Aurangzeb issued a news statement to confirm, "Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has given approval to (a proposal) of observing a day of mourning over the demise of the Queen of the United Kingdom. September 12 (Monday) will be observed as the day of mourning in Pakistan."

The cabinet division has been directed to take further necessary steps for the proceedings over the recommendation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It came after Britain's longest-serving monarch breathed her last at Balmoral Castle, Scotland on Thursday. The Queen, who ascended the throne in 1952 after the demise of her father king George VI, passed away aged 96.

Militants linked to banned AQIS, TTP arrested

DNA

KARACHI: Law enforcement agencies in Karachi on Sunday claimed to have arrested two militants belonging to the outlawed Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) and the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The arrests were confirmed by the District Central Police and the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) in separate press statements.

According to District Central Police, the law enforcement personnel in collaboration with "federal sensitive institutions" carried out an operation in the Super Market area of the city's Liaquatabad locality and arrested a suspect, Sohaib Tariq alias Usman, allegedly linked with AQIS. During interrogation, the suspect revealed that through a man named Talha, he allegedly came in touch with AQIS camp in charge in Afghanistan's Bramcha in 2019, the statement said. Later, he went to Afghanistan where he allegedly got one-month military training in the said camp. He also met with two Indian citizens, namely Abdul Rehman and Taha, who were also linked with AQIS and living in Bramcha, the statement said.

After receiving training, he remained in touch with the AQIS leadership in Afghanistan and subsequently, he became associated with the publishing/media section of the banned group.

Five dead in 'massive' Papua New Guinea quake

AGENCIES

PORT MORESBY: A 7.6-magnitude earthquake shook Papua New Guinea on Sunday, damaging buildings, triggering landslides and killing at least five people, with several more severely injured. Residents in northern towns near the epicentre reported intense shaking mid-morning that cracked roads and sheared cladding off buildings. Local member of parliament Kessy Sawang said at least two people had died in remote mountain villages, with at least four others airlifted to hospital in critical condition. "There has been widespread damage," she told AFP, adding that a landslide had buried homes and "split" one village where people had "lost their houses". In nearby Wau, Koranga Alluvial Mining said three miners had been buried alive. There are limited communications in the area, little government resources and few paved roads, making assessment and rescue efforts difficult. Small aviation companies and missionary groups were involved in airlifting some of the injured across the rugged jungle landscape.

NELSON MANDELA GOLF CUP



ISLAMABAD: CEO of Freeline Movers Alamgir Shah hosted a Golf Cup in order to pay homage to South African leader Nelson Mandela. Ambassadors and high commissioners of various countries took part in the event. High Commissioner of South Africa Mthuzuzeli Madikiza thanked the host for arranging the event. The high commissioner said Nelson Mandela was not just a hero of South Africa but the whole world as well. - DNA

Iraq to increase no. of visas for Pak devotees

Iraq assured to allow 5000 Pakistani pilgrims stranded on Iran-Iraq border to enter Iraq and to issue special visa to pilgrims wishing to visit Iraq for Chehlam Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A)

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Iraq has assured to increase the number of visas for Pakistani Zaireen and open all entry points for them. The announcement was made by Iraqi Interior Minister Othman Ali Farhood Moshir Al-Ghanimi on Sunday during a telephonic conversation with Pakistani counterpart Rana Sanaullah which lasted around forty minutes. Iraq assured to allow 5000 Pakistani pilgrims stranded on Iran-Iraq border to enter Iraq and to issue special visa to pilgrims wishing to visit Iraq for Chehlam Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A) Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah had requested his Iraqi counterpart to allow five thousand stranded Pakistani Zaireen at Iran border to enter Iraq which was agreed by the Iraqi counterpart. Iraqi Interior Minister

Othman Ali Farhood Moshir Al-Ghanimi welcomed all suggestions of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah and assured prompt implementation on them. It was also agreed to form a Pakistan-Iraq joint committee for a sustainable solution to other problems including pilgrims.

Both the Interior Ministers also agreed to take steps to promote Pakistan-Iraq relations and improve coordination between the Interior Ministries. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah also thanked his counterpart for speedy processing of visa applications and increasing the number and issuing special visa permits for devotees.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah invited Iraqi Interior Minister Usman Ali Farhuda to visit Pakistan soon. Iraqi Interior Minister expressed good wishes for his Pakistani counterpart and accepted invitation to visit Pakistan.

President, PM pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan observed the 74th death anniversary of the founder of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who died in 1948 - just 11 months after achieving an independent country for the Muslims of the Indian subcontinent. President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, among other leaders and people, paid tribute to the contributions and sacrifices of Jinnah. They called for adherence to the golden principles of unity, faith, and discipline as manifested by the father of the nation to fight the challenges faced by the country. In their separate messages on the occasion of the 74th death anniversary of the father of the nation, they said the entire nation pays homage to the Quaid's tireless struggle

and visionary leadership in the fight for the rights of Muslims of the subcontinent. "We pay rich tribute to our founding father for his vision, unwavering commitment, untiring hard work, and charismatic leadership to in a separate homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent," President Alvi said. Meanwhile, PM Shehbaz, in a tweet, said by dint of our strong faith, unity and brotherhood, we will bring such discipline in our ranks that will help us achieve the goal of a great Pakistan by overcoming all the challenges. He said this path is difficult, but the destination is not impossible at all. "Today, the nation needs to adhere to the eternal golden principles of faith, unity, and discipline in order to cope with the challenges being faced by the country - which is reeling with the economic problems along with natural calamity of flash floods," he wrote on Twitter.

Ukraine reclaims swathes of east in shock offensive

KHARKIV: Ukraine said Sunday that its forces were pushing back Russia's military from strategic holdouts in the east of the country after Moscow announced a retreat from Kyiv's sweeping counter-offensive. In another hotspot of the conflict in recent weeks, Ukraine's nuclear energy agency said the final reactor at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia plant, Europe's largest nuclear power station, was shut off as a safety measure. The speed of Ukraine's fight back against Russia's invasion has apparently caught Moscow's military off-guard, bringing swathes of territory Russia had controlled for months back into Ukraine's fold. Crates of dumped munitions and abandoned military hardware were seen scattered in territory left by the Russian forces, images posted by the Ukrainian military showed. "The liberation of settlements in the Kupiansk and Izium districts of the Kharkiv region is ongoing," the Ukrainian military said in a general battlefield update Sunday, 200 days into Russia's invasion. These are key supply and logistics hubs that

Russia depends on to restock its frontline positions in the east and military observers have said their capture by Ukraine would be a serious blow to Moscow's military ambitions in Kharkiv. The head of the Ukrainian military announced early Sunday that as much as 3,000 square kilometres (1,158 square miles) had been wrested from Russia since the offensive began at the beginning of this month. That figure is already around one-third larger than the total area announced by President Volodymyr Zelensky late Saturday. On Sunday, he announced that Ukraine forces had taken a village of around 4,000 people between Kharkiv and Izium. "The great Ukrainian flag has been returned to Chkalovske. And it will be like that everywhere. We will cast out the occupiers from every Ukrainian town and village," he said in a video online. Ukrainian officials this weekend hailed the "astounding" pace of the counter-offensive and on Sunday, the country's foreign minister used the momentum to appeal to Western allies for more stockpiles of sophisticated weapons. - APP

Putin warns Macron about attacks at nuclear plant

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin on Sunday warned his French counterpart of the potential "catastrophic consequences" of what he said were Ukrainian attacks on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in a Russian-controlled area of Ukraine. During a telephone call with Emmanuel Macron, Putin "drew attention to regular Ukrainian attacks on (Zaporizhzhia nuclear) facilities, including a radioactive waste storage facility, which is fraught with catastrophic consequences," the Kremlin said in a statement. The largest nuclear power plant in Europe has been a focal point of fighting in recent weeks, raising concerns of a potential nuclear incident. Putin said Russian specialists at the plant were taking steps to ensure its safety and said Moscow was ready to continue work with the UN's atomic agency to agree on "non-politicised" solutions to problems at the facility. - APP

Operations at Zaporizhzhia halted: Kyiv

KYIV: Ukraine on Sunday said operations at Europe's largest nuclear power plant have been completely halted. The last of the Zaporizhzhia plant's six reactors was disconnected from the power grid early at 3.41 a.m. (0041GMT), according to a statement by Energoatom, Ukraine's atomic power operator. "Preparations are underway for its cooling and transfer to a cold state," the agency said. Under Russian control since March, the plant in southeastern Ukraine was disconnected from the country's power grid last Monday, amid growing concerns of a nuclear disaster as Moscow and Kyiv accuse each other of attacks on the nuclear facility. - APP

Greece coastguard fires on 'suspicious' Turkish cargo ship

ANKARA: Greek coastguard ships opened fire on a cargo vessel sailing in international waters in the Aegean Sea, escalating tensions with Turkey that have mounted in recent weeks. There were no casualties in the shooting 11 nautical miles (20km) southwest of the Turkish island of Bozcaada on Saturday, a Turkish coastguard statement said. After "harassment fire" from two Greek vessels, two Turkish coastguard ships went to the area and the Greek boats left, it added. The Greek coastguard confirmed it fired "warning shots" at a ship "moving suspiciously" in Greek territorial waters off the island of Lesbos. The captain of the cargo ship refused to allow an inspection and was later escorted to nearby Turkish waters, said Greek coastguard officials, noting they informed maritime authorities in Turkey about the incident. The area is known for many ships bringing migrants from Turkey to the European Union countries of Greece and Italy. The Greek coastguard says it regularly checks ships behaving suspiciously in the Aegean. The neighbouring countries have been embroiled in disputes for decades and friction has ratcheted up in recent weeks, with both sides alleging airspace violations. Greek officials have raised concerns about another outbreak of conflict in Europe following Russia's war in Ukraine. - DNA

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