



Islamabad POST

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China's Xi Jinping to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan this week

Detailed News On Page-07

WHO warns of epidemics in flooded areas

Detailed News On Page-08



Alcaraz the youngest world number one

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Marrimum terms Imran 'dangerous'

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Marrimum Aurangzeb on Monday while taking a jibe on PTI chairman Imran Khan said that he was dangerous due to his arrogance and selfishness. In a statement, she said that Imran Khan did not feel any shame for abusing an institution, its head or a judge and she pointed out that the courts should know that Imran Khan has no regrets and no remorse. A person who was an embodiment of cowardice, selfishness and arrogance was dangerous, she remarked.

Harry calls Queen his 'guiding compass'

NEWS DESK



LONDON: Prince Harry on Monday paid an emotional tribute to his late grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, calling her his "guiding compass", and vowing to "honour" his father in his new role as king. In his first public comments since the queen's death last week aged 96, Harry said he was "forever grateful" to her and said she was "sorely missed". Harry, a former British Army captain who saw service in Afghanistan, said the queen was his commander-in-chief but also his "gran". He said he would cherish the memory of first time she met Meghan and hugged the couple's young children, Archie, aged three, Lilibet, one.

Economy heading in right direction

BUREAU REPORT



LAHORE: Finance Minister Miftah Ismael has said that the economy is heading in the right direction due to government's prudent economic policies. This he said during a meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman in Lahore on Monday. During the meeting, both discussed the economic and flood situation in the country.

Floods devastation PM thanks French govt for support

Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday underscored the scale and magnitude of losses in the recent floods were too big to be borne by Pakistan alone and said the international community's support was of vital importance. He expressed these views during a meeting with French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey, who called on him. The prime minister highlighted the extensive devastation caused by the recent floods across Pakistan and the government's response to address the dire situation. He said Pakistan despite having a negligible contribution to climate change, was among the most vulnerable to its devastation as manifested in the recent floods. In this regard, he expressed gratitude to the French president for solidarity and support for the flood-stricken people, and for sending a relief flight carrying tents, water pumps and a team of doctors and nurses for the flood affectees, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The prime minister underlined that besides the immediate relief assistance, France could contribute to the government's efforts in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase. He reaffirmed the importance Pakistan attached to its longstanding cooperative relations with France, both bilaterally and in the context of the European Union. In the bilateral context, he further said that Pakistan was committed to further deepen its relations with

PM extends wishes to King Charles III

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday conveyed his sincere good wishes to King Charles III on his accession to the throne of the British monarchy. "On behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, I wish to convey our sincere good wishes to His Majesty King Charles III on his accession to the throne," he posted on his Twitter handle. The prime minister said, "May the people of the United Kingdom continue to prosper under his benevolent reign." The council, made up of about 200 members, primarily current and former politicians and other dignitaries, proclaimed his accession to the throne in the State Apartments of St. James's Palace in London. - APP

France across all areas of mutual interest. He hoped that the ambassador would contribute towards strengthening the bilateral relationship as well as explore new areas for cooperation, such as IT, start-ups, agriculture, water management and energy. The prime minister said Pakistan looked forward to continued engagement with France to further deepen mutually beneficial relations.

Floods in Pakistan KSA starts national campaign for victims

SHUJAAT HAMAZ

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia has launched on Monday a popular national campaign to succor the flood victims in Pakistan. This was announced by Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, general supervisor of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KS Relief). "The campaign comes in support of the humanitarian efforts and delivery assistance being carried out by the Kingdom ever since the start of the natural disaster," he said. Dr. Al-Rabeeah called on philanthropists and benevolent people to extend their donations to support the Pakistani people through the Sahem platform via the electronic applications or through the KS Relief's accounts in various Saudi banks. "KS Relief is the body authorized to collect donations directed to send abroad. There is strict oversight by the center to ensure that the aid reaches its beneficiaries in the designated countries of the world," he added. Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Monday welcomed the KSA for the announcement of countrywide humanitarian campaign to help the flood affected people in Pakistan.

Govt kick starts digital flood dashboard

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The government launched on Monday the 'Digital Flood Dashboard' of the National Flood Response Coordination Center (NFRCC), in a bid to ensure transparency in the relief and rehabilitation efforts in flood-hit areas. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal said while speaking to the ceremony that this portal has been rolled out as per the special directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that the general public and development partners will be able to get information about the flood relief aid and funds being received from home and abroad and its distribution. "Pakistan faces an unprecedented calamity

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif exchanging views with French Ambassador to Pakistan Nicolas Galey. - DNA

Efforts on to save Dadu power station

Sindh received 466% more rain than average and all the flood waters passed through Dadu,

DNA

DADU: Authorities in Pakistan are scrambling to protect a vital power station supplying electricity to millions of people against a growing threat of flooding, officials said on Monday, taking steps such as building a dike in front of it. Floods from record monsoon rains and glacial melt in the mountainous north have affected 33 million people and killed almost 1,400, washing away homes, roads, railways, livestock and crops, in damages estimated at \$30 billion. Both the government and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have blamed climate change for the extreme weather that led to the flooding, which submerged nearly a third of the nation of 220 million. The electricity station in the district of Dadu in the southern province of Sindh, one of the country's worst affected areas, supplies power to six provincial districts. Troops were busy strengthening a dike built in front of the station, a visit to the site showed on Sunday. "All preventive measures have been taken already to save the grid in case any flooding happens," Syed Murtaza Ali Shah, a top district official, told Reuters on Monday. The comment followed orders from Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, reported by state broadcaster Radio Pakistan, to ensure the 500kV power station did not get flooded.

Imran Khan says may dissolve assemblies

Hints at a middle-way to appoint new army chief

ABID RAZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan on Monday has asked Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif several questions over PTI's media blackout. He said the PTI may dissolve Punjab and KP assemblies in order to pave the way for the elections adding that the PTI did not favour a change by force or through any violent moves. In a TV talk show when he was asked to comment on the appointment of the new army chief Imran Khan said appointment of new chief at the hands of Zardari and Shehbaz does not make any sense. He said it is up to the lawyers to find out middle way to settle this issue. The PTI Chief did not deny outright when he was asked if he were in favour of General Bajwa's extension. "We know your cabal of crooks & handlers are petrified of PTI popularity.

ATC extends Imran's interim bail

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Islamabad on Monday extended the interim bail granted to former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case of making threatening remarks against a lady magistrate and Islamabad Police officials until September 20, 2022. ATC judge Raja Jawad Abbas heard the bail application filed by the PTI chairman. Earlier, the judge directed

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

CM KP held Shahbaz gov't responsible for economic problems - Page 02

Rs. 25,000 cash assistance means a lot: Shazia Marri - Page 03

President for crop insurance system to protect farmers - Page 04

Queen Elizabeth; A glorious history - Page 05

Kyiv would no longer exist if it depended on Berlin - Page 06

Baltic nation to open trade office in Taiwan - Page 07

King Charles III, siblings escort queen's coffin - Page 08

Ukraine makes more gains, pushes back to border in places

"Do you still think you can intimidate, break us, force us to make concessions?" Zelenskyy asked

CENTRELINE REPORT

KHARKIV: Ukrainian troops reclaimed more territory from Russia on Monday, pushing all the way back to the north-eastern border in some places as part of a lightning advance that forced Moscow to make a hasty retreat from occupied land. As blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags fluttered over newly liberated towns, the Ukrainian military said its troops had freed more than 20 settlements in 24 hours. In recent days, Kyiv's forces have captured territory at least the size of greater London, according to the British Defense Ministry. After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, the momentum has lifted Ukrainian morale and provoked rare public criticism of Russian President Vladimir Putin's war. While Ukrainian cities began

emerging from Russian occupation, a local leader alleged that the Kremlin's troops had committed atrocities against civilians there similar to those in other places seized by Moscow. "In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation," said Oleh Syniuhub, governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region. Over the weekend, the Russian Defense Ministry said troops would be pulled from two areas in that region to regroup in the eastern region of Donetsk. There were reports of chaos as Russian troops abruptly pulled out. "The Russians were here in the morning. Then at noon, they suddenly started shouting wildly and began to run away, charging off in tanks and armored vehicles," Dmytro Hrushchenko, a resident of recently liberated Zaliznychne, a small town near the eastern frontline, told Sky News of the

quick withdrawal. It was not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz could signal a turning point in the war, although some analysts cautioned that fighting would likely go on for months. Momentum has switched back and forth before, but rarely with such a big and sudden swing. The mood was jubilant across the country. In Kharkiv, authorities hailed that power and water had been restored to about 80% of the region's population following Russian attacks on infrastructure that knocked out electricity in many places across Ukraine. "You are heroes!!!" Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov wrote on Telegram, referring to crews who restored utilities in Ukraine's second-biggest city. "Thanks to everyone who did everything possible on this most difficult

Continued on Page 06

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CM KP holds Shehbaz govt responsible for economic problems

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has said that the imported government has brought the country to brink of bankruptcy in a few months after coming into power adding that the imported government is unrepresentative of its people. He stated that the conglomerate of incompetent rulers have destroyed the economy of country besides making the life of people miserably with unprecedented inflation. He further said that high inflation has made access to basic needs impossible for majority of the population with con-

cerns running high over the absence of a clear roadmap to combat the current situation.

He expressed these views while addressing the Parliamentary Party Meeting of PTI held here on Monday. Mahmood Khan said that, relief and rehabilitation of flood hit people is our collectively responsibility but unfortunately the imported government is also politicizing this national cause adding that it is a regrettable and reprehensible act of the imported government to politicize telethon held for fund raising to mitigate the sufferings of flood affectees.

He said that Imran Khan is the only leader who has the ability to steer the

country out of the economic crisis and put the economy on the right track. He added that Imran Khan not only represents a particular area or province, he is the only leader that represents the entire federation due to which the popularity of Tehreek-e-Insaf and Imran Khan is increasing with every passing day. Mahmood Khan added that the corrupt mafia have now resorted to empty slogans and political victimisation void of any truth.

The Chief Minister made it clear that every worker of PTI stands by Imran Khan and will support leader on every front adding that PTI is the only national party which has deep roots in every province and region.



ISLAMABAD: Irani Parliamentary delegation headed by Majid Naseri Nejad, Member Islamic Parliament of Iran after his arrival at Islamabad Airport to participate in 3rd IPU Regional Seminar. – DNA

Electricity supply fully restored: Amir Muqam

PESHAWAR: Adviser to Prime Minister for Political and Public Affairs and National Heritage and Culture Engineer Amir Muqam on Monday said that electricity supply had been fully restored to all grid stations that were affected due to the devastating floods. Addressing a press conference here at WAPDA House, after presiding over a high-level meeting regarding flood damages to electricity infrastructure including grid stations, transmission lines and poles beside reconstruction operations of the Peshawar Electricity Supply Company (PESCO), he said that the top most priority of the government was provide relief to the flood affected people and

their rehabilitation.

He said that the restoration work on damaged grid stations was carried on the directives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who had directed power division to restore power supply to flood-affected areas on an emergency basis.

Engr. Amir Muqam said that Prime Minister was personally overseeing the restoration work.

Adviser to Prime Minister said that the electricity transmission system was badly damaged by the recent floods and power poles were washed away in some areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He stressed on collective work in this difficult time to overcome the situation being faced by people due to flash floods

in the entire country.

He said that all the damaged grid stations would be repaired. He said that TESCO has suffered a loss of Rs 60 million and PESCO Rs 500 million. Adviser to PM expressed the fear of spreading diseases due to recent floods. He said that this natural disaster was different from the past as the flood submerged the entire country.

The Adviser said that like other provinces, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was also affected by floods. He said that all government departments including Pakistan Army, NDMA, PDMA played crucial role in the flood rescue and relief operations.

Replying to a question, he said that people were in trouble due to floods and Imran Khan was doing poli-

tics. He said that it would be better for him to stand with the flood affected people in this difficult time.

Earlier, a meeting of PESCO's senior officials was held in Peshawar under the chairmanship of Adviser to the Prime Minister and President PML-N Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Engineer Amir Muqam. The meeting was also attended by PESCO chief Gul Nabi Shah.

During the meeting, the officials briefed the Adviser to the Prime Minister regarding the delivery of electricity to the flood-affected areas. Adviser to the Prime Minister Engineer Amir Muqam paid tribute to the WAPDA staff who rendered their services during the flood emergency.

Local production of seeds beneficial: Chairman PARC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Variety Evaluation Committee meeting on oil seed crops was held in two sessions. More than 30 candidate varieties/hybrids of canola, mustard and sunflower were selected. Proposals submitted for evaluation during the meeting session, 29 hybrids/varieties of local and imported origin were proposed for commercial cultivation according to their potential ecology. Out of these, 04 hybrids/varieties are Rape-seed/canola, 17 mustard varieties and 08 hybrids of

sunflower. Senior Technical Representative of Ministry of National Food Security and Research, Heads of Provincial Seed Council, Provincial Head of Agriculture and Allied Research, DG, NARC and representatives of private seed sector participated in the meeting. Chairman of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali has said that according to the instructions and vision of the Prime Minister, the work on alternative oil crops for the export of edible oil is going on rapidly and the successful experiments will lead to a record increase in production. In his opening remarks, Chair-

man PARC highlighted the importance of Variety Evaluation Committee and said that this forum ensures high production and availability of variety in the country by recommending different types of hybrids. He highlighted the importance of seeds of oil seeds and the efforts made to increase the domestic production of various oil seeds to ensure the availability of seeds. In this regard, he appreciated the efforts of PARC and NARS to introduce new types and hybrids of seeds in the country and said that local production of seeds of various species including oil seeds would help the government to import

batches on an annual basis. There will be savings in terms of expenses incurred. Chairman PARC urged the concerned experts and scientists to focus on local production of seeds, especially oil seeds and production of hybrids. He further encouraged the public and private sector working together with PARC to develop the seed sector in Pakistan. Dr. Intiaz Hussain, Member, Plant Sciences Division, PARC, appreciated the role of public and private sector in providing hybrid varieties for oil seeds to farmers, which are helping to improve seed productivity in Pakistan.



JEHLUM: Advisor Chief Minister Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Arif visits the district jail. District jail superintendent Aftab Ahmed and Deputy superintendent Mustafa welcomed him on his arrival. – DNA

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Madam Nasir Zadi Mehwish sahiba Civil Judge Jhelum

Title of case: Rahila Mehdi VS distic collector etc Respondent (Num7) Tanveer Ejaz kayani Husband Rahila Tanveer (8) Umar Ejaz kayani son(9)Aamna Tanveer(10)Asma Tanveer(11) Farzana Tanveer (12) sana Tanveer daughter's of Rahila Tanveer r/o 3 civil line tehsil & distt jhelum

Claim: Suit for Declaration

In each case, the respondent's are informed through advertisement As there is not possible to call the respondent through Sumon in the instant case so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear or legal advisor in the court on 14-09-2022 at 8:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Madam Sumaira Ashraf sahiba civil Judge Jhelum

Title of case: Mohammad Wasim VS Syed Arslan Haider etc Respondent (No1) Syed Arslan Haider s/o Mureed hussain shah r/o Muhla Aziz abad mohammadi chok tehsil & distt jhelum/present address abroad

Claim: Suit for Declaration Temporary and permanent injunction

In each case, the respondent's are informed through advertisement As there is not possible to call the respondent through Sumon in the instant case so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear or legal advisor in the court on 14-09-2022 at 8:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.

Govt ensures transparency in flood relief funds: CM

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Ehal on Monday said that the provincial government would continue to do whatever was possible for the rehabilitation of flood victims and ensure the transparent use of the donations, flood relief funds. He was talking to the delegation of Faizan Global Relief Foundation (FGRF) headed by Haji Abdul Habib Attari, a member of the Central Majlis Shura of Dawat-e-Islami, who called on him at CM's Office. The chief minister said that the houses of the flood af-

fectees would be constructed with the support of FGRF, adding that the resettlement of flood victims would be ensured with the joint coordination of the Punjab government and FGRF. He said that the government would provide financial aid amounting to Rs 400,000 for reconstruction of damaged concrete houses, and Rs 200,000 for mud houses. The Punjab government and FGRF would work together for the rehabilitation of the flood victims, adding that medical teams had been formed to prevent epidem-

ics in the affected areas. The CM appreciated the services of FGRF related to welfare works and assured his full support. He also presented a gift of framed Ayat and Hadith about the Finality of Prophethood (PBUH). The delegation apprised the chief minister about ongoing relief and welfare work in the flood affected areas carried out by the foundation. Both agreed to work jointly on the expedited rehabilitation of the affectees and a joint committee was formed regarding cooperation for the resettlement of flood victims. – APP

Young Pakistani win award at European Symposium

ISLAMABAD: A young Pakistani won the Young Scientist Award for Best Oral Presentation at the 1st European Symposium on Phytochemicals in Medicine and food (1-EuSPMF) held in Belgrade, Serbia recently. EuSPMF, held on September 07, aims to review the recent progress in the area of phytochemicals; and their implementation in medicine and food. It is organized by the IADNS and the Institute of Food Technology and Biochemistry of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade, and supported by the Serbian Chemical Society, and the Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE).

The demand for high-quality food products, that have beneficial effects on human health, encourages researchers to intensively study natural products. In light of this, scientists belonging to various fields (from 18 countries) were welcomed to present their latest research and provide an excellent platform for exchanging ideas, discussing challenges, and setting up new research collaborations. The young Pakistani, Dr. Hamid Ullah, belonging to Manki which is a small village in KP, presented his work in national and international conferences and is the 1st recipient of Young Scientist Award for Best Oral Presentation on 1st European Symposium on Phytochemicals in Medicine and food (1-EuSPMF). – APP

OctaFX, AWARD association to provide aid for flood-hit areas

DNA

LAHORE: OctaFX joins AWARD association in providing emergency aid to 250 families of the flood-hit Taunsa, Dera Ghazi Khan District, Pakistan. The global broker OctaFX joined efforts with Association for Women's Awareness and Rural Development to provide emergency aid to 250 families of the flood-hit Taunsa, Dera Ghazi Khan District, Pakistan, between 15 August and 14 September 2022. The unprecedented flooding has already cost the lives of more than 1100 people, affecting at least 33 million—one-seventh of the country's population—

according to UN estimates. With more than 700,000 heads of livestock swept away and 3.6 million acres of crops wiped out, Pakistan is already facing food shortages and soaring prices. In the Tehsil Taunsa of the Dera Ghazi Khan District in Punjab, eight mauzas (villages) were badly hit by the disaster. The flood destroyed up to 8000 houses, submerging the area under 5-6 feet of water. The locals and the government are evacuating people from the district and providing them shelter in the nearby schools and government camps. To combat the devastating effects of the ongoing flooding, AWARD prepared an emergency aid plan for distributing

food packages to 250 families from the eight affected villages. The packages include essential food items such as rice, flour, tea, biscuits, sugar, cooking oil, grains, and clean drinking water. 'When we heard about the disaster, we instantly tried finding ways to help those who suffered from the flooding in Pakistan. Our long-standing partner AWARD proposed an emergency plan to provide aid to those who lost their homes and livelihoods. Immediately we started cooperation, hoping to alleviate the dire situation 250 families—approximately 1500 people—found themselves in,' the OctaFX press office commented.

Flood devastation: Rs1.82ob losses inflicted to KP fishery sector

PESHAWAR: The unprecedented flash floods in the history of Pakistan had not only claimed losses of over 1,396 human lives and 12,728 injured besides damages to properties, infrastructure and agriculture sector across the country, had also inflicted about Rs1,820 million loss to fisheries sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Destroying and damaging 6,674.7 kilometers long roads, 269 bridges and 1,743,345 houses in the country, the devastating floods that started from Malatyan and Kalam valleys in Upper Swat

brought havoc to fisheries in Malakand and Hazara divisions where many government and private hatcheries as well as trout/carp fish farms were swept away by the gushing water. Chitral, Dir Upper, Swat, Shangla, Kohistan and Manshara were among the worst affected districts where many fish hatcheries and trout farms were either damaged or destroyed and caused about Rs1.820 billion losses to government kitty, Director Fisheries KP Zuabir Ali told APP. He said Swat was the worst hit district where Madain hatchery was completely destroyed incurring about Rs250 million losses. According to reports, about 5,000 kilograms trout fish of Madain were swept away by the natural calamity. 'The floods devastation was immense and most of fish farms on Cheel road in Swat were either damaged or destroyed.' – APP

NA Speaker for highlighting climate change fallout

The speaker expressed these views during a meeting with President, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Member of Parliament in Portugal Duarte Pacheco, said a news release

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Monday urged that issue of climate change fallout in Pakistan needs to be highlighted at all international forums.

The speaker expressed these views during a meeting with President, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and Member of Parliament in Portugal Duarte Pacheco, said a news release.

Speaker welcomed the President in the National Assembly of Pakistan and extended gratitude for the IPU's support in organizing the 3rd Regional Seminar of the Asia Pacific region on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

During the discussion, he highlighted that Pakistan was facing the worst climatic catastrophe of its history. The extent of damage due to the extreme climate breakdown was unimaginable.

He emphasized that Pakistan was not a contributor to emissions but among the most affected countries by excessive carbon emissions from developed countries. The Speaker urged that issue of climate change fallout in Pakistan needs

to be highlighted at all international fora. National Assembly wanted that the issue should be considered as an emergency item in the upcoming conference of IPU scheduled to be held in October 2022 in

Rwanda. Climate change is a global issue and warrants global support and cooperation for its adequate and timely resolution. The Speaker also underscored that now the biggest challenge was convales-

cence and rehabilitation of the flood-ravaged populace.

He insisted upon the President that the IPU should support Pakistan in overcoming the humongous challenge of

resumption of normal life in flood-torn areas. He emphasized that Pakistan was coping with the calamity but it would be not possible to undo the damage without the resounding backing of world parliaments. The IPU President lauded the efforts extended by the Speaker to the millions of distressed and distraught people of Pakistan in the wake of massive torrential rains and super floods.

He appreciated the Speaker's efforts in organizing the 3rd IPU Regional Seminar of the Asia Pacific region on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals. He termed that the event would hopefully prove pivotal in attracting support for flood victims of the country.

While discussing the promotion of bilateral relations, both insisted on regular exchanges and cooperation through Parliamentary Friendship Groups to further mutual interest, particularly in trade and tourism. The meeting ended with a commitment to work jointly through available diplomatic channels to promote peace and sustainability in the region. – APP



National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya
Revolution Day

Sept 01 / Tanzania
Defence day

Sept 01 / Uzbekistan
Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil
Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea
National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan
Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia
Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico
National Day

Sept 16/Papua New Guinea
Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile
National Day

Sept 21 / Malta
Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia
National Day



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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



ISLAMABAD: Chairman CDA Capt R Muhammad Usman Younis chairing a high level meeting at the CDA Headquarters. – DNA

Rs. 25,000 cash assistance means a lot: Shazia Marri

Today 22,527 flood affected families received cash assistance from different campsites established in flood hit areas of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. A control room has been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters to ensure smooth payments

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety/Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Ms. Shazia Marri has said that an amount of Rs. 25,000 under Flood Relief Cash Assistance means a lot to the flood affected families who have lost everything. Despite unusual circumstances BISP has so far disbursed over 23 billion rupees among 946 813 flood affected families in a short span of time. She said that it is a matter of honour that the Prime Minister has selected Benazir Income Support Programme for the cash relief disbursement. The monitoring teams of BISP have been formed

to ensure transparency in the cash disbursement process and the concerned officers are visiting the relief centers on regular basis to monitor the provision of cash assistance, she added. As of Monday evening a total amount of Rs.23,670,325,000 have been disbursed among 946,813 flood affected families under this programme. 116,753 affected families have received Rs.2,918,825 in Balochistan; 564,472 families have received Rs.14,111,800,000 in Sindh; 116,962 families have received Rs.2,924,050,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 148,626 families have received Rs.3,715,650,000 in Punjab. Today 22,527 flood affected families received cash assistance from different campsites established



in flood hit areas of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. A control room has been established at Benazir Income Support Programme headquarters to ensure smooth payments. On the other side, a recent by the

International Centre for Integrated Mountains Development (ICIMOD) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has revealed that the recent massive torrential rains had inundated the cropland of Southeastern province of Sindh that devastated commercial crops on large scale and incurred a combined loss of \$1.7 billion. The study titled "The 2022 Pakistan floods: Assessment of crop losses in Sindh Province using satellite data" by the ICIMOD and PARC used satellite imagery to assess potential crop production losses for major crops at the sub district-level to support the government's rehabilitation and compensation planning processes in Sindh Province. The Sindh province at the national level comprised of 42% of the rice,

23% of the cotton, and 31% of the sugarcane production. "The 2022 Pakistan floods caused unprecedented damage to agriculture crops, livestock, and infrastructure, including storage facilities with millions of tonnes of grain, posing the risk of an unprecedented food security crisis in the country. The floods struck before the harvesting stage of key crops, including cotton, rice, and sugarcane." The study showed that as per the flood extent mapping using Sentinel-1 satellite images acquired during August 22-28, flood waters directly inundated about 2.5 million hectares of land (over 18% of Sindh's total area), which resulted in obstructed access and mobility in around three-fourths of the province area.

PSF invites entries for Descriptive Letter Writing Competition

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) in collaboration with the Embassy of China in Pakistan are organizing a competition titled "Descriptive Letter Writing Competition to Chinese Astronauts" for students interested in space and breeding of crops in space. According to an official, PSF being the premier organization for the promotion and popularization of science in the country conducts such competitions on regular basis to inculcate students' interest in various fields of science. Institute of Crop Sciences (ICS), Beijing is China's leading institute working under the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences for the development of new seed varieties for increased yield and enhanced resistance against diseases and viruses. ICS is also running "The

National Center of Space Mutagenesis for Crop Improvement" whose main function is to send seeds for short trips to space to help scientists in developing new crop varieties that can thrive in the changing climate and help feed the world's growing population. In May 2022 more than 12,000 seeds of several types of grass, oats, fungi, alfalfa and others including some from the University of Karachi were sent to spacecraft for breeding while orbiting our planet, where they are under microgravity and are bombarded by cosmic rays, which trigger the plants to mutate – a process known as space mutagenesis. After six months, the seeds and thus bred plants are coming back from space in Dec 2022. About the requirements for descriptive letter writing competition, the official in-

formed that the descriptive letter should be not more than 500 words (typed in Times New Roman on A-4 paper on 1.5 space and consist of Key words) Pak-China Friendship, Prevailing technologies about plant breeding, Space mutagenesis by plants, Effect of gravity on plant growth, Question and queries, Suggestion and any other related information. About the particulars of students, the official informed that it must include complete Name, father's name, school, class, date of birth, email, cell number, school and home address/complete information should be provided on a separate sheet, not included in 400 words/main letter. The medium of competition is English while the students from government and private schools of HSSC/SSC levels are eligible to participate. – APP

CTP accelerate operation against illegal parking

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) have accelerated their ongoing operation against encroachments and illegal parking particularly to clear roads near Holy Family Hospital and other areas in New Town Circle. According to a CTP spokesman, Incharge New Town Circle, on the directives of Chief Traffic Officer, Naveed Irshad lunched an operation and issued 202 challan slips to traffic rules violators including Taxis, rickshaws and private ambulances besides issuing warnings to several encroachers during last three days. The team also removed dozens of encroachments to ensure smooth flow of traffic in surrounding area of the hospital. The spokesman said that strict action would be taken against the violators particularly encroachers and parking rules violators besides all-out efforts to ease the traffic in the traffic circle. – APP

Monsoon floods cause loss of \$1.7 bln in Sindh: Study

ISLAMABAD: A recent by the International Centre for Integrated Mountains Development (ICIMOD) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) has revealed that the recent massive torrential rains had inundated the cropland of Southeastern province of Sindh that devastated commercial crops on large scale and incurred a combined loss of \$1.7 billion. The study titled "The 2022 Pakistan floods: Assessment of crop losses in Sindh Province using satellite data" by the ICIMOD and PARC used satellite imagery to assess potential crop production losses for major crops at the sub district-level to support the government's rehabilitation and compensation planning processes in Sindh Province. The Sindh province at the national level comprised of 42% of the rice, 23% of the cotton, and 31% of the sugarcane production. "The 2022 Pakistan floods caused unprecedented damage to agriculture crops, livestock, and infrastructure, including storage facilities with millions of tonnes of grain, posing the risk of an unprecedented food security crisis in the country. The floods struck before the harvesting stage of key crops, including cotton, rice, and sugarcane." The study showed that as per the flood extent mapping using Sentinel-1 satellite images acquired during August 22-28, flood waters directly inundated about 2.5 million hectares of land (over 18% of Sindh's total area), which resulted in obstructed access and mobility in around three-fourths of the province area. The most affected areas included northwestern districts of Jacobabad, Larkana, Shikarpur, and Kashmir. – APP

Federal Varsities participating in flood-relief activities

The IIUI President said on the occasion that the recent flood situation is unprecedented and it is our responsibility to come forward. The teachers and students of Federal Urdu University Islamabad collected the donations in form of edibles and clothes for the flood and rain affectees of Balochistan

ISLAMABAD: The universities of the federal capital are actively participating in providing assistance to the flood-affected people by collecting hefty amounts and offering free education/scholarships to the students of such areas. According to the sources, the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the universities have committed to further mobilize their resources for immediate, mid-term and long-term relief of the flood-affected areas of the country. HEC's IT division has created a web portal for mutual sharing of information among universities so that all activities of the higher education sector for flood-affected areas are executed in a coordinated manner, the sources told APP.

Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) has established relief camps in different parts of the country for flood affectees. It has also waived the fee for one semester (Autumn-2022 semester) for its students living in the areas affected by the recent catastrophic rains and floods. According to the details, the ongoing students admitted in matriculation and intermediate programs in Sindh (except Karachi), Balochistan, DI Khan, and DG Khan region will have a full fee waiver in the ongoing admissions of the Autumn-2022 semester. The students of Associate Degree (Arts) programs in these areas will get a 50% fee waiver. AIU Academic Staff Association (ASA) unanimously decided

to provide financial assistance, tents, and basic medical facilities to victims in flooded areas. The body has also collected more than 1.7 million rupees so far, from which 8 lac rupees are donated from the fund of the ASA and we are aiming to collect 2 million rupees at least. However, Quaid-e-Azam Alumni Association (QAUA) has decided that in close coordination with the QAU administration, a special scholarship programme will be launched for ensuring the continuation of studies of flood-affected students enrolled at the university. The Chancellor of Riphah International University-RIU, Muhammad Hassan Khan has announced Rs. 10 million to the

"Flood Relief and Rehabilitation Initiative (FRRI)" Program launched by the university to help flood affectees of Pakistan. The main objective of the FRRI Program is to start rehabilitation of the designated areas aiming to start with relief and will focus on the rehabilitation in the coming days, the university official sources informed. President, International Islamic University (IIU), has also established a flood relief camp at the university. The IIUI President said on the occasion that the recent flood situation is unprecedented and it is our responsibility to come forward. The teachers and students of Federal Urdu University Islamabad collected the donations in form of

edibles and clothes for the flood and rain affectees of Balochistan. The collected items were sent to Balochistan by a truck from Gulshan-e-Iqbal Campus on Friday with the coordination of the Edhi Welfare Organization, the university official told. National University of Science and Technology (NUST) has requested its students, faculty and staff as well as the general public to contribute to the Flood Relief Fund established by the university to support the flood-affected people. According to the NUST, hundreds of people have died and millions rendered homeless due to torrential rains and heavy floods in many parts of Pakistan while the government has declared a national emergency. – APP

Major Aziz Bhatti's martyrdom anniversary observed

RAWALPINDI: The 57th Shahadat (martyrdom) anniversary of Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed, Nisban-e-Haider was observed on Monday. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said General Officer Commanding, Major General Haroon Ishaq Raja laid floral wreath at Major Raja Aziz Bhatti Shaheed's mausoleum at his native town Ladian, Gujrat. The Pakistan Army contingent presented guard of honour where various people from different walks of life, civil and military officials and relatives of Shaheed (martyred) attended the wreath laying ceremony. – APP

Health expert stresses for 'dengue-prevention

ISLAMABAD: A health expert on Monday appealed to the government, NGOs and local philanthropists to donate mosquito nets and take appropriate steps for prevention of dengue cases as number of infections after flood is rising daily and people are spending their nights without adequate shelter. Specialist of Infection diseases, Dr Saeed Khan talking to a private news channel said that people in the flooded areas of Sindh, Balochistan, southern Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were likely to get diarrhoea, cholera, gastroenteritis, typhoid and vector-borne diseases like dengue. People were in dire need of preventive measures to protect themselves and their families from rising cases of Dengue, he added. – APP

Three drug peddlers held; 9 kg charras recovered

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers on Monday and arrested three accused besides recovering nearly nine kg charras from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Kahuta police arrested a record holder drug peddler namely Muhammad Waseem Alias Munshi for having five kg charras. Rattaamral police rounded up Zahid and recovered 2500 grams charras while Waris Khan police netted Afzar Ali with 1450 grams charras. The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against the suspects while further investigations are underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations and drug peddlers and bootleggers, he added. – APP

IESCO issues power suspension schedules

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 13th September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, NDC I, II, I-10/3, PHA-II, I-11/3, Metro, Islamic University, Bahria Enclave, Dr. AQ Khan, I-10/2, NUST University, U-Phone, PTCL, SES, Fazzal Ghi, NESCOM, Raja Sultan, Eid Gah, Ali Market, Dhok Najo, TB Hospital, Masryal Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Multabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, New Race Course, Askari XI, Race Course, Iqbal Road, Subhan Shaheed, Peer Suhawah, Mushtaq Shaheed, Jalala, Nawababad, PMC Colony, Darya Sharif, Musa, Shehanka, Shah, Dir, Hazro, Nad Topa, I-14/3, EME Complex, Jhangi, P&T Wini, Azharabad, CWO, P-17/1 & 2, Nogzi, New Kalliam, Old Kalliam, HPT-III, Industrial, Sarkal, Chakral, Al-Qadir Mill, Al-Rizwan Mill feeders and surroundings will remain closed.

Briefs

NDMA refutes misinfo regarding relief items

ISLAMABAD: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Monday issued a clarification on misinformation circulating on social media regarding the selling of relief items from the UK. The NDMA statement received here, said, "This is to clarify that there is no authenticity in the news circulating on Social Media about the selling of flour bags received from the United Kingdom." The government and NDMA had not received any relief or assistance from the United Kingdom containing or consisting of flour bags, the NDMA further said. - APP

Photography competition to mark Int'l Tourism Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) has invited entries for a photographic competition to celebrate World Tourism Day falling on September 27.

The themes for the competition include Tourist Attractions of Pakistan, Landscapes, Culture and Life, Adventure Sports and Flora & Fauna, said a news release on Monday. The last date for submitting the entries is September 15.

Winners will be awarded with cash prizes and certificates in a ceremony on September 27 at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA). The entry submission form and details are available on PTDC website and social media.

The activities of World Tourism Day also include a conference to discuss various topics related to tourism industry with experts and participants. World Tourism Day is commemorated each year on 27 September to foster awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value.

World Tourism Day was designated by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in September 1979, with the commemoration to commence in 1980. This date was chosen to coincide with an important milestone in world tourism: the anniversary of the adoption of the UNWTO Statutes on 27 September 1970. The theme for this year is "Re-thinking Tourism". - APP

NAVTTTC imparting to national development

ISLAMABAD: National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) under the Prime Minister's Youth Skill Development Programme was equipping youth with the latest market demand driven and technology oriented income generating technical skills. The Executive Director NAVTTTC, Mr. Sajid Baloch said that Pakistan is blessed to have a significantly large pool of talented youth which, no doubt, are a potential human resource and NAVTTTC as per the vision of Government is equipping youth with income generating skills for economic development & productivity. So far NAVTTTC under the guidance of Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training has imparted training to about 379,350 youth, he added, said a press release on Monday.

In Hi Tech skills training 98,000 youth has been trained in 989 institutes, as certified skilled professionals, with 71% employed, in AI, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cyber Security etc. NAVTTTC is contributing to national human resource development and has generated a large number of employments for the skilled youth, overseas and nationally, benefiting the individuals as well as the national economy. The government is focusing on imparting quality and demand driven skills among youth and NAVTTTC under the guidance of Minister for Education and Professional Training, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain, NAVTTTC has taken numerous steps to organize Skills and TVET system of the country on modern lines, and is delivering premium trainings, as per int'l standards. - APP

President for crop insurance system to protect farmers

Campaign should also be held through the launch of advertisement campaigns in conventional and social media for educating the farmers to voluntarily opt for crop insurance and to protect them from crop failure and destruction of crops during man-made or natural calamities

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday called for a user-friendly crop insurance system to protect the farmers against the crop failure and the losses, caused by man-made or natural calamities, especially in the wake of current global-warming-induced super floods in Pakistan. The president, chairing a meeting regarding crop insurance, said that comprehensive measures to prevent the adverse impacts of climate change should be adopted on a priority basis to save the agriculture sector. The president called upon the insurance industry to start a comprehensive nationwide consultation and discussion programme involving all stakeholders through seminars and workshops. He said that the best practices and successful crop insurance models of regional and international countries should be taken as benchmarks to get inputs for developing a comprehensive market-based and technology-laced self-sustainable crop insurance policy. He said that collaborations with the agriculture universities of the



country should also be developed in holding seminars and workshops and conducting relevant extensive research work to help the insurance stakeholders base their policy and products on solid research and authentic database. President Alvi asked the insurance sector and other stakeholders to particularly focus on 93% of farmers in Pakistan who had

land holdings of 12.5 acres or less while introducing their insurance products. He said that farmers' contributions should be linked, either with crop input or output as deemed appropriate, and the welfare and well-being of the farmers should be ensured. He said that in order to encourage farmers to voluntarily opt for crop insurance, the State Bank of Pakistan

may advise the banks to increase their portfolio of agriculture loans specifically targeting subsistence farmers, having land holdings of 12.5 acres or less. The president said that all stakeholders, like banks, insurance companies, and federal and provincial governments, should launch an awareness campaign, by holding seminars, workshops, fairs and

road shows, in the target areas. The campaign should also be held through the launch of advertisement campaigns in the conventional and social media for educating the farmers to voluntarily opt for crop insurance and to protect them from crop failure and destruction of crops during man-made or natural calamities. President Alvi said that satellite imagery for determining the weather patterns, authentic database, and sophisticated Artificial Intelligence-based technologies should be used to plan insurance products and for giving compensation to the farmers affected by crop failure and destruction of crops. This, he said, would help in creating resilience of farmers against crop failure and crop destruction due to man-made or natural calamities. The president appreciated the Government of Punjab for launching the Punjab Crop Insurance Programme to provide yield loss protection to the farmers in case of crop failure and crop losses due to calamities and disasters. - APP

IoU, IWMI plans media fellowship on Rainwater Harvesting

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Urbanization (IoU), and International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Pakistan have jointly planned to organize a media fellowship to build capacity of Eco-Journalists from metropolises of four provinces and capital city, Islamabad. "Titled as 'Rainwater Harvesting for Urban Flood Management'", the two days fellowship from Sept 13 to 14, 2022 will help in understanding of participating journalists about existing rainwater harvesting models and how they are benefiting the city dwellers," reads a press release issued here on Monday.

As unsustainable urban water management has become a major challenge in many cities of Pakistan, both IoU and IWMI aim to amplify

voices around socially just and environmentally compatible water conservation policies and facilitate knowledge exchange around best practices for water-smart cities, adds the press release. Journalists participating in fellowship will visit a pilot project of artificial groundwater recharge well in Kachnar Park installed by IWMI in collaboration with WaterAid, and Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) to address water scarcity, reduce the climate shocks of flash flooding, and recharge groundwater. The project has demonstrated the application of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for sustainable groundwater management. Currently, PCRWR and Capital Development Authority

(CDA) is also in the process of establishing 100 rainwater harvesting wells at different sites in Islamabad. Similarly, in Lahore, the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) has installed an underground rainwater storage reservoir to recharge groundwater and reduce the chances of urban flooding. The establishment of groundwater recharge facilities in Lahore and Islamabad are contributing towards preventing water from getting wasted, recharging groundwater resources, and bridging the gap between water supply and demand. Like Islamabad and Lahore, other major cities of Pakistan, including Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta can also adopt and implement such NbS to tackle the twin

challenges of urban flooding and water scarcity. Such steps will also enhance the city's resilience to climate change impacts. Evidence-based policy advocacy could prove instrumental in this regard. Realizing critical role played by media in strengthening policy dialogue around sustainable urban development, IoU, and Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (hbs) are regularly engaging newsmen by establishment of Eco-Journalists' Cohort having several successes to its credit, pertaining to policy advocacy around the environment and climate change. Over the years, the cohort membership has increased to over 250 environmental journalists, while reporting on environmental issues has also increased manifold. - APP

AIU announced admissions of teachers training programs

ISLAMABAD: AIU in its second phase of admissions in Autumn 2022 semester has also offered admissions in teacher education programs including 2-year associate degree in education, one-and-a-half, two-and-a-half and four-year B.Ed. It is an excellent opportunity for students and teachers across the country to develop their professional skills for a career in teaching field. It is worth noting that Allama Iqbal Open University is the largest teacher training institution in Pakistan, the trained teachers from this university are teaching in schools, colleges, and universities across the country. The admission form and prospectus are also provided online on the university website and can also be obtained from the main campus, regional offices and prospectus sale points of the university. New students desirous of admission can apply online till 6th October while already enrolled (current students) can enroll themselves till 18th October at the link <https://online.aiou.edu.pk>. For more information students are advised to contact at 051-111-112-468 or email at admin@aiou.edu.pk. On the other hand, apart from Overseas Pakistanis, residents of other countries can also enroll in these programs. The programs offered for international students are under the online management system. All teaching activities from admissions to examinations will be online. Overseas Pakistanis can download prospectus and form from <http://online.aiou.edu.pk>. For more details about these programs. For more information, you can contact International Cooperation and Exchange Office on +92519057165, +92519250175. - DNA

27 projects of \$19 billion completed under CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Some 27 projects worth of \$19 billion have so far been completed under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) while 63 more projects with the investment of \$35.2 billion are scheduled to be completed by 2030. According to a report titled "Overview of Pakistan's Power Sector and its Future Outlook" issued by the China Three Gorges South Asia Investment Ltd (CSAIL), 27 projects are under implementation stages with the investment of \$7.7 billion that are scheduled to be completed by 2025. Some 36 more projects are in pipeline with the approximate investment of \$27.5 billion which would be completed 2030. According to details in Energy sector, 11 projects with an investment of \$12 billion have so far been completed while four projects with investment of \$6 billion are under the implementation process and are expected to be completed by 2025. Similarly seven more projects worth of \$7.4 billion are in the pipeline and are expected to be completed by 2030. The report highlighted that in infrastructure sector, seven projects with an investment of \$6.7 billion have been completed while six more projects of \$0.9 billion would be completed in 2025 and 12 projects of \$10.4 billion are expected to be completed by 2030. Likewise, in Gwadar, three projects of \$200 million have so far been completed while two projects of \$230 million would be completed in 2025 and two more projects of \$150 million are scheduled to be completed by the year 2030. The report added that four out of nine identified Special Economic Zones (SEZs) would be completed by 2025 with an investment of \$500 million while the rest five SEZs would be completed by 2030 with investment of \$1 billion. Some six socioeconomic projects have so far been completed with investment of \$10 million while 11 projects of \$90 million would be completed by 2025 and 10 projects of \$900 million would be completed by 2030. The report said that other sectors such as International Cooperation, Agriculture, Science and Technology and Information Technology are newly added sectors under the mega project of CPEC and are at planning stage for third party participation. - APP

Financial assistance of flood affectees, govt's priority

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Information Secretary Faisal Karim Kundi Monday said that rehabilitation and financial assistance for flood-affected families are topmost priorities of government for which Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) was playing a leading role. Talking to PTV news channel, he said that around 31,000 families in D.I.Khan were provided cash assistance under BISP program,

adding, further list was being updated and distribution of the assistance amount was started in Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and South Punjab on equal basis. He said rehabilitation of the flood affected people is a major challenge and federal government with the help of provincial governments will provide all possible assistance to the flood affectees. He said joint efforts at the national level were the need

of the hour to mitigate the suffering of the flood-affected people. He also called for collective efforts to sort out short and long-term solutions to tackle the challenges facing the country including economy, food security and climate change. Replying to a question about D.I.Khan, he replied that PDMA should pay more focus in D.I.Khan and its nearby villages which were badly affected due to recent flood disaster, adding, safe

drinking water, medicines and shelters are urgently required for flood survivors. He asked affected families of D.I.Khan that they should send their CNIC number to 8171 for registration in Flood Relief Cash Assistance program and upon receiving payment message they can visit their nearby campsite to receive their payment as a control Room has also been established at BISP headquarters to ensure smooth payments. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Deputy MD Asia and Pacific Department" at EEAS, Paola Pampaloni along with EU envoy to Pakistan, Riina Kionka met federal minister of law Azam Nazeer Tarar. Both sides exchanged views on Pakistan's legislative progress in the context of GSP+, democracy and human right priorities. - DNA

CSCEC contributes to Pakistan's flood relief efforts

The PKM project also has managers on duty 24 hours a day to patrol surrounding dangerous areas and help local victims out of trouble

DNA

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. 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. "Thank our Chinese brothers and sisters for providing machinery and equipment for the village, draining floodwaters, and clearing our roads, and thank those who helped us in this difficult time," he said. Xiao Hua, head of the PKM project, said

"the PKM project team will make full use of its advantages to ensure the unimpeded flow of the PKM highway during the floods, maintain a valuable rescue and escape route for the Pakistani people, and make every effort to support local flood fighting and disaster relief, and help the Pakistani people rebuild their homes." The PKM highway project stretches 392 kilometres from Sukkur in Sindh Province in the south to Multan, the economic centre of Punjab Province in the north. The CSCEC Representative Office has also donated Rs 600,000 to flood-affected people through the All-Pakistan Chinese Enterprises' Association to support the local government's flood relief efforts.

75 to get Ph.D scholarships

ISLAMABAD: On the auspicious occasion of celebrations of 75th Independence Day of Pakistan, the worthy Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan has desired to award 75 PhD Scholarships to Pakistani and Azad Kashmir nationals in the world's top 50 ranked universities. According to official sources of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), after obtaining degrees in advance technologies and cutting edge disciplines, these scholars would be proved as the national assets and help the country to enter a new era. Keeping in view the current HEC budgetary constraints, such an endeavor will require diversion of funds from Overseas Scholarship Project Phase-3 (OS-3). In the process, scholarship slots from OS-3 project will be slashed, the sources added. - APP

9 illegal arm holders held

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested nine illegal arm holders and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Monday, informed police spokesman. During course of action, Warris Khan police arrested two accused Imran, Islam and recovered 02 pistols of 30 bore from their possession. Similarly, Airport police held Taimoor and recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore from his custody. While, Taxila police recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore ammunition from accused Waqas. Following the operation, Mandra police recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore from accused Parvez Akhtar. Saddar Barooni arrested Imtiaz and recovered 01 pistol of 30 bore from his possession. Kalar Syedan police recovered 02 pistol of 30 bore from accused Ikhlas and Amroiz. Phagwari police arrested Ihtsham and recovered pistol 30 bore from his possession. Police have registered separate cases against all the accused and further investigation was in progress. SSP Operations Waseem Riaz Khan appreciated the performance of police team adding that operation against those possessing illegal weapons will be continued. - APP

Motorway Police working to help flood victims

ISLAMABAD: The Motorway Police is working along side Pakistan Army to help the victims in the flood-hit areas. According to motorway police spokesman, the patients who were brought in the boats of Pakistan Army were admitted to the hospital on time by the Motorway Police. He said on the instructions of Inspector General (IG) Khalid Mahmood, the Motorway Police was helping the flood victims in every possible way. "All institutions of Pakistan are working together in this hour of trouble. Our top responsibility is to get our people out of the flood-affected areas to a safe place," he said. - APP

Int'l housing real estate expo from December 8

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Housing and Works will hold first ever "International Housing and Real Estate Expo" from December 8 to promote real estate business in the country, besides ensuring safe and secure housing for the people. A three-day expo would be organized in collaboration with other relevant ministries, agencies, organizations and authorities to encourage the approved housing projects and uplift the construction sector in the country," sources in the ministry told APP. They said the people associated with the real estate and housing industry across the country would participate in the exhibition. The stall would be given to all real estate developers, housing societies, real estate consultants and construction material related industries. The objective of the expo was to create awareness among the masses on approved real estate, they added. They sources stated that the ministry would also allot the stalls of those whose housing projects and companies approved by the government, taxpayers and companies with No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from relevant authorities. - APP

Task facing King Charles III

As heir to the British throne, Princess Elizabeth addressed the Commonwealth in a radio broadcast on her 21st birthday. "I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be short or long shall be devoted to your service." In so doing, she accepted her destiny as a future monarch: a lifetime of duty and an identity for ever more indistinguishable from head of state.

It is a heavy burden for any one individual to carry. But it is one Queen Elizabeth II bore with grace, duty and humour over her 70-year reign. She was not perfect; she got some things wrong. But in the Queen, the UK benefited from a monarch who understood her role and its limits in a democracy and who for decades served her people unfailingly and without complaint. Her death marks a profound moment of transition for the UK; as the country celebrates her life and grieves her loss, her son Charles assumes the role of King at a time of great economic, international, political and constitutional uncertainty. How Charles III approaches his reign will undoubtedly shape the future of the UK as a constitutional monarchy.

Now the crown passes to Charles, who this weekend was formally proclaimed King. On Friday, in his first address to the nation as monarch, he paid a touching tribute to his mother. There is a good deal of public warmth towards him and many Britons are willing him to succeed.

The other challenge facing him is the modernisation of the monarchy. He has long been clear as heir to the throne that he views slimming down the royal family to a leaner institution, with fewer minor royals supported by the British taxpayer, as key to its survival. His son, Prince Harry, in many ways acted as a catalyst for this even before his reign started with the decision he and his wife made to step back from their duties as senior royals and move to the United States.

It is a difficult time for Britons to lose a Queen who was loved and cherished by people of all generations

The UK is struggling to understand its place in the modern world at a time of great global instability and after the hugely consequential decision to leave the European Union. The very integrity of the United Kingdom remains in question as the campaign for Scottish independence continues to press for another referendum. It is a difficult time for Britons to lose a Queen who was loved and cherished by people of all generations and it is a difficult time for her eldest son to assume her mantle. It is only right to wish him strength, courage and good fortune for the years of public duty that lie ahead.

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Legitimate cooperation with Russia

THE 7th Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) hosted by Russia kicked off in Vladivostok on Monday and will run through Thursday. The forum has attracted more than 5,000 visitors from 67 countries and regions. During the forum, Russia announced or discussed a number of bilateral and multilateral cooperation including energy and food with China, Vietnam, Myanmar and other countries. For such a normal occasion for discussing economic and trade cooperation, the US and Western public opinion has been using almost "blanket search" attempts to check whether there was any "criminal evidence" that "China secretly helped Russia," and even blaming that China "has not restrained from deepening economic ties with Russia." This is rude, domineering and ridiculous.

Against the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, Russia's "turning eastward" is certainly a result of the fact that the US has implemented severe sanctions, but it is more a result of a general trend. Since the first EEF in 2015, it has been defined as a window for Russia to integrate into the Asia-Pacific development. In recent years, the Russia-US ties had ups and downs from time to time, but Russia's general direction of further strengthening economic ties with the Asia-Pacific has not changed. The root is precisely that the Asia-Pacific is a high ground for peace and stability, and it is also a hot spot for cooperation and development. No major powers can go around the Asia-Pacific when it comes to development, nor can they avoid China. The trade volume including the one between the US and China has continued to hit new highs. As friendly neighbors, it is natural for China and Russia to ramp up their economic and trade exchanges.

The development cooperation between Asia-Pacific countries and Russia is endogenous and continuous, and is not subject to the anti-Russia will of some countries. China purchases energy and food from Russia in a bid to make domestic ordinary people's lives better. The same logic applies to other developing countries, including Thailand, India and Vietnam, that are boosting cooperation with Russia. Such mutually beneficial cooperation is a legitimate right of sovereign countries that do not require "restraint."

The US is paying closest attention to China-Russia cooperation, promoting the creation of the international public opinion that "binds" China and Russia. It wants to achieve the goal of simultaneously suppressing China and Russia at a lower cost. To put it bluntly, it wants to "kill two birds with one stone." However, China-Russia relations are not an alliance in the Western context, and China-Russia cooperation has never excluded or targeted a third party, but has always been open. The two independent powers seek harmony not uniformity and their relations are partnership rather than alliance. They can neither be forcibly "bound" nor is there any "struggle between two tigers." This is probably puzzling to the US and Western elites. We should be grateful that the world does not run on their will.

Queen Elizabeth; A glorious history

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Their family was no longer taboo and divorced in 1996. The family faced calamity, from the tragic death of Diana in 1997 and the marriages and legal disputes of Princes William and Harry. Everyone was in the news

ELIZABETH II was one of the most famous figures in world history; a queen whose reign surpassed all British monarchs and other world leaders. But although she stood for the continuity and tradition of the English monarchy, her reign was anything but prophetic. From her accession to the throne in 1952 until her death in 2022, the Queen has experienced tremendous change in her family, her country and the world.

Elizabeth II's coronation in June 1953 had all the pomp and circumstance of a grand ceremony. But it was different from the coronations of many kings before it: it was televised. The decision to televise the coronation was a controversial one. The venerable, tradition-bound commission that planned the event was horrified at the idea of allowing cameras to be installed on such a solemn occasion in Westminster Abbey, and Elizabeth herself was camera-shy. But eventually he

overruled his advisers and decided to go ahead with the live broadcast. The decision revolutionized the monarchy's attitude towards the media, writes Radio Times. Soon, the Queen herself was a TV watcher.

Towards the end of its reign, the monarchy leveraged smartphones and social media to build its public image. It has a presence on platforms like Twitter and Instagram and has hired a digital expert to develop its live message. The monarchy may not be so private anymore, but its message is still impeccably controlled. When Elizabeth took the throne, Northern Ireland was ruled by Protestant Unionists who supported the rest of the United Kingdom for decades. But in 1968, tensions rose over whether Northern Ireland should become part of the Republic of Ireland, an independent state with which it shares an island. Meanwhile, despite protests and threats, the Queen annexed Northern Ireland in 1977. And finally, in 1998, the conflict ended with the Good Friday Agreement. In 2011, Elizabeth spoke publicly about the troubles during a visit to Dublin. "To all those who have suffered because of our troubled past, I offer my sincere thoughts and deepest sympathies," she said, "almost an apology."

At the height of the British Empire, it was estimated that one in four people were British subjects. When Elizabeth began her reign, Britain had more than 70 overseas territories. But he inherited an empire in crisis. The government had already begun to recognize that it would need to give more power to the colonies in order to survive, and during the 1960s it left one colony after another in an atmosphere of revolt and rebellion. From Africa to Asia, Britain gave up colonies like Kenya and Malaysia. At the time of her death, Elizabeth was the monarch of only 16 countries known as the Commonwealth realms.

"The Commonwealth bears no resemblance to the empires of the past," he said in 1953, fearing the collapse of the British Empire. It is a completely new concept, built on the highest qualities of the human soul: friendship, loyalty and the desire for freedom and peace. I will give myself wholeheartedly every day of my life to this new concept of equal partnership of nations and

racers. All families have ups and downs, but Elizabeth's family always tried to keep her scandals and controversies under wraps. Raised in an environment of near-privacy, Elizabeth witnessed her parents' public affair and the horrified reaction to her uncle's abdication. When she took the throne, divorce was forbidden in the royal family and the family did their best to hide scandals such as Princess Margaret's stormy love life. But over the years, the royal family learned that they could not be immune to scandal. Princess Margaret divorced in 1978, and Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in 1992, turning the strained family atmosphere into worldwide rumors that Queen Elizabeth had urged them to divorce.

Their family was no longer taboo and divorced in 1996. The family faced calamity, from the tragic death of Diana in 1997 and the marriages and legal disputes of Princes William and Harry. Everyone was in the news. When Elizabeth took the throne, the monarchy was at its most accessible - if you compare it to the days when monarchs simply hid inside their castles and rarely came in contact with their subjects. But the early days of Elizabeth's reign were also relatively hidden, and her subjects were more likely to catch glimpses of their queen in person from afar or on television. Although she went on tour as queen, she only interacted with dignitaries when Elizabeth visited New Zealand. The practice became a new tradition of limited meet-and-greets with enthusiastic crowds, putting Elizabeth in direct contact with thousands of subjects over the years. Elizabeth was only 25 when she took the throne, and was often the new kid in the room when she met foreign dignitaries, presidents and prime ministers. World leaders who were in power at the time of her coronation included Winston Churchill, Joseph Stalin and Dwight D. Eisenhower, who could not have been more different from the young queen. But during her more than six decades on the throne, Elizabeth surpassed them all, becoming a strong symbol of continuity while the world changed around her. At the time of her death, she was as strong a figure as the old schoolmasters who had come before her: the longest-lived British monarch ever.

The Israeli occupation must not be forgotten

Dr. Dania Koleilat Khatib

Every time a new settlement is built, it makes any political settlement more elusive. Seidemann thinks the occupation is as harmful to Israel as it is to Palestine

THE Jerusalem municipal planning and building committee this week approved the construction of new homes for Jewish settlers in the Givat HaShaked neighborhood, which will straddle the Green Line. The development will be built next to the Palestinian quarter of Beit Safafa. When I called my Palestinian friend Hani to inquire about the issue and how to stop it, he told me he was rushing to meet the lawyer who is "the man" to handle such delicate missions. Hani started talking about his friend Daniel Seidemann, an American Israeli in Jerusalem. Hani explained that Seidemann, the son of a young Jew who lived in Nazi Germany and fled to the US as the Second World War broke out, truly understands the concept of displacement, so he really understands what Palestinians are going through. The turning point in his life came in 1991, when the government of Israel approved a settlement in the neighborhood of Silwan, to the south of the Old City of Jerusalem, in the shadow of Al-Aqsa. He was asked by a member of the Knesset to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court. He then discovered that there was a covert illegal campaign to take properties from their lawful owners and give them to settlers. This is when Seidemann started his war against injustice - an injustice inflicted by his own people on the Palestinians.

Hani said: "Whenever he looks out of his window, he says '40 percent of the people I see are occupied by me, by my people, and have no political rights, while I do.'" Every time a new settlement is built, it makes any political settlement more elusive. Seidemann thinks the occupation is as harmful to Israel as it is to Palestine. Either Israel ends the occupation, or the occupation will end Israel. He is not only working for the Palestinians, but also for his own people and his own family. He wants his children to live in a decent society. The only way to have a reconciliation between the two peoples is for borders to be drawn and for Israel to no longer rule over Palestinian lives.

However, Hani laments that many people in Israel do not even think there is an occupation - the concept is slipping out of the public discourse, which is really dangerous. He also explains that, while the current government of Prime Minister Yair Lapid is less malicious than those headed by Benjamin Netanyahu, it

has less cohesion. Therefore, many things can happen, even if not approved by Lapid. Hani explained that, despite all Netanyahu's faults, he had everything under his control. This is not the case with the current government, which is more of a loose association of ministers, some of which are very pro-settlements, such as Ze'ev Elkin, the minister of housing and construction. Talking with admiration about his dear friend, Hani told me about Seidemann's struggle to prevent a family in Silwan from being evicted from their home. He fought for 19 years but ultimately the family was evicted. He also fought to have schools built for Palestinians in East Jerusalem. This is a fight Seidemann has been involved in for 10 years and he has partially succeeded. He added that Seidemann was now preparing for his biggest battle, which is to prevent the construction of the E-1 settlement. Every single American president and European leader has been against this settlement since it was first proposed in the early 1990s. If it is approved, then the two-state solution is finished, as this settlement will be deep in East Jerusalem and will fracture the West Bank in a way that means creating a Palestinian state will be impossible. However, now that the world is preoccupied with so many disasters, occupation is no longer a priority or even a subject of discussion. The extremists in Israel might take this opportunity to get the settlement approved. After he finished speaking about Seidemann, I asked my friend: "And we Arabs, what are we doing to help Daniel and his ilk?" Hani answered while sounding disappointed: "Nothing." But why nothing? Don't we have countries that have diplomatic relations with Israel? Weren't the Abraham Accords marketed as a step toward peace? Why don't we promote people such as Seidemann, and encourage and support him? Why don't we inject an end to the occupation in the process of normalization? Arabs should not forget to stress the end of the occupation because, if we forget about this issue, it will come back and haunt us. Promoting people such as Seidemann inside Israel would be the best way to prevent that. Now, with normalization, Arabs are on the Israeli chessboard, and this is their chance to make the right move. To do that, they need to engage with people such as Seidemann.

- Courtesy: Arab News

How Taliban instability is a risk to Central Asia

Luke Coffey

The broader region has also been affected. Weapons from Afghanistan are finding their way to the bazaars in Kashmir. There have been many reports of confrontations between the Taliban and the Pakistani military along the border. Islamabad has legitimate concerns that Kabul is allowing members of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, a terrorist group with the goal of overthrowing Pakistan's government, to seek a haven in Afghanistan. The Taliban is suspicious of any role Pakistan might have had in facilitating the American strike against Al-Zawahiri

MORE than a year after taking power, the Taliban are beginning to realize that fighting is far easier than governing. As winter approaches and Afghanistan faces a humanitarian crisis, the government has failed to gain international recognition and foreign aid has been reduced to a trickle. The economic situation remains dire with no prospect of improvement. The Taliban's problems continue to mount. All these problems are exacerbated by the division inside the Taliban's own ranks; they are too paralyzed by infighting to govern in any effective way. The security situation is hardly better. Even though their agreement with the Trump Administration said the Taliban would "prevent any group or individual, including Al-Qaeda, from using the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies," the Taliban's takeover has enabled terrorist groups. Daesh has been able to take advantage of the chaos that emerged in some parts of the country when the Afghan state collapsed. Mass casualty terrorist attacks, often aimed at the Shiite Hazara minority, remain common. Al-Qaeda also benefited from the Taliban's takeover. According to a recent report by the UN, "Al-Qaeda members reportedly remain in the south and east of Afghanistan, where the group has a historical presence... Al-Qaeda intended to establish a position in northern Afghanistan, mobilize new fighters and generate increased resources." The report said Al-Qaeda's leadership "plays an advisory role with the Taliban, and the groups remain close." Al-Qaeda's reestablished presence in Afghanistan was best highlighted when its leader, Ayman Al-Zawahiri, was killed in a US drone strike in Kabul in July.

The broader region has also been affected. Weapons from Afghanistan are finding their way to the bazaars in Kashmir. There have been many reports of confrontations between the Taliban and the Pakistani military along the border. Islamabad has legitimate concerns that Kabul is allowing members of Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, a terrorist group with the goal of overthrowing Pakistan's government, to seek a haven in Afghanistan. The Taliban is suspicious of any role Pakistan might have had in facilitating the American strike against Al-Zawahiri. With much of the international community's focus traditionally being on Afghanistan's southern border with Pakistan, another region to keep an eye on is its northern border. In recent weeks, the security situation near the Afghan-Uzbek border has been deteriorating, despite Tashkent trying to reach out and cooperate with the Taliban. In July, five missiles fired

from Afghanistan landed in the Uzbek city of Termez. Last month, a renewed border dispute erupted between the Taliban and Uzbekistan after Afghan civilians from Balk province arrived on Aral Paighambar - an island in the Amu Darya River that serves as the border between Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. Uzbek border guards opened fire, killing and wounding several Afghans. It is not clear which side now controls the island.

Another concern for Tashkent is the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. Founded in 1999, the IMU has well-established links to Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and fought alongside the militants during their takeover of Afghanistan in 2021. Traditionally, the IMU had its base in northern Afghanistan. However, soon after the Taliban were ousted in 2001 the IMU fled south to the porous and remote Afghan-Pakistan border region. In recent years, as the Taliban expanded their presence, the IMU started to back to its natural habitat in the north. Now, it can operate freely across all of northern Afghanistan. As the Central Asian country that shares the longest land border with Afghanistan, Tajikistan is also under renewed threat. There has been a history of extremist groups emerging from the region to threaten its security. Tajikistan's concerns are not unfounded. The Taliban have handed control of the Tajik-Afghan border to Jamaat-e Ansarullah, which was formed in 2010 and comprises Tajik extremists with the stated goal of overthrowing Tajikistan's legitimate government. Many Jamaat-e Ansarullah fighters received their training and combat experience in Iraq and Syria. A new group called the Tajikistan Taliban Movement is also operating in northern Afghanistan. While little is known about the group and its links to others such as Jamaat-e Ansarullah and the IMU, it opposes "Tajikistan's secular government." Central Asia has a new geopolitical reality on its doorstep. The region is nervously watching how the security situation in Afghanistan develops. As the Taliban allow more nefarious groups to operate in northern Afghanistan, there is a real chance of chaos and terror spilling into Central Asia. This is the last thing the region needs right now.

In the coming months and years, Afghanistan will increasingly become a place of instability, as it was in the 1990s. And just as in the 1990s, neighboring countries in Central Asia will have to decide what role they want to play to bring stability and peace to the region. Central Asia has been, is, and will continue to be an area of geopolitical importance. Pay attention to Pakistan, but keep an eye on Central Asia too.

- Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Imran Khan says may dissolve assemblies

FROM PAGE 01

But if you are not responsible for violating our constitutional rights & int commitments on freedom of press & speech, then it is your responsibility to inform the nation who is responsible for these actions?," the PTI chairman asked.

Imran Khan stated that the "imported government" consisting of criminals and their patrons has degraded to a new level by stopping the broadcast of PTI's flood fund-raising telethon organised last night, adding that the government also threatened the cable operators.

"This proves how much they are afraid of our growing popularity in the nation. They also know that due to the long history of looting, no one is ready to trust them in terms of money. So, to target me and my party, they tried to block the way of collecting donations for the flood victims," he said.

"Despite all this we managed to collect 5.2 billion rupees in just 2 hours. I am grateful to everyone who donated, including Pakistanis living abroad, and especially those living in the United States," Imran added.

ATC extends Imran's interim bail

FROM PAGE 01

the prosecutor to explain to the court why it took so long to constitute the police's joint investigation team (JIT) in the case. The judge asked Babar Awan, counsel for Imran, whether his client had joined the investigation. Awan replied in the affirmative. But Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi cut him short and said no he didn't.

Strongly rebutting Abbasi's statement, Imran's lawyer asserted that the PTI chairman had joined the investigation. "The investigation officer (IO) in the case has even with him Imran's written statement," he added.

Awan argued that nowhere it was written in the law that the defendant would have to appear at the police station in person. He asked why the police were insisting that the former prime minister would have to appear in person. "First decide whether the police want to probe my client or harass him," he said angrily.

"Submitting a reply in writing is sufficient," he opined. He told the court that Imran received threats daily. "The former prime minister has been told several times that some banned outfits are after him," he said, adding, "The greatest threat is from the police."

Ukraine makes more gains, pushes back to border in places

FROM PAGE 01

night for Kharkiv to normalize the life of the city as soon as possible." The buoyant mood was also captured by a defiant President Volodymyr Zelenskyy late Sunday on social media.

"Do you still think you can intimidate, break us, force us to make concessions?" Zelenskyy asked. "Cold, hunger, darkness and thirst for us are not as scary and deadly as your 'friendship' and brotherhood."

In the end, he exclaimed: "We will be with gas, lights, water and food... and WITH-OUT you!"

Meanwhile, in Russia, there were some signs of disarray as Russian military bloggers and patriotic commentators chastised the Kremlin for failing to mobilize more forces and take stronger action against Ukraine. Russia has continuously stopped short of calling its invasion a war, instead describing it as a "special military operation" and relying on a limited contingent of volunteers instead of a mass mobilization that could spur civil discontent and protest.

Kyiv would no longer exist if it depended on Berlin

Mr Morawiecki believes that Germany's role as one of Europe's leading countries will be adversely affected by the current war in Ukraine

DNA

WARSAW: In an interview for the German 'Der Spiegel' weekly, Polish PM Mateusz Morawiecki spoke of the Poles' disappointment with German assistance to Ukraine, how the country's climate policy made Europe dependent on Russian energy resources, and Warsaw's trouble with Brussels.

The Polish Prime Minister said that the German government's position immediately after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine was "disappointing". He brings up oft-reiterated points, that Ukraine "is fighting not only for its survival but for Europe's freedom" and that Ukraine's defeat would be an invitation to further conquests, which is why Poland, a possible target, is so vocal about supporting Ukraine.

By the end of the interview, PM Morawiecki revisits the matter and goes so far as to say that "If Ukraine were dependent on Germany within the framework of a European defence policy, it would no longer exist today," and that the US has proven to be the best guarantor of Europe's security.

He also says that Germany's failure to quickly acknowledge the follies of its energy policies, such as becoming so strongly dependent on Russian natural gas is another reason for Polish disappointment.

"Putin uses pipelines as weapons. For him they are an instrument of warfare," said Mr Morawiecki, adding that "Ukraine drove the

Germany refuses to give battle tanks to Ukraine

BERLIN: German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht rejected demands to supply Kiev with Leopard 2 main battle tanks during a keynote speech at a German Society on Foreign Relations event on Monday. The minister noted that no other countries have delivered Western-built infantry fighting vehicles or main battle tanks so far to Kiev, and insisted that Germany "will not take such action unilaterally," as quoted by Reuters. Her comments came after the head of Germany's Defense Committee, Marie-Agnes Strack-Zimmermann, insisted that Berlin had an obligation to help preserve democracy in Ukraine. "Germany must immediately play its part in Ukraine's successes and supply protected vehicles — the Marder infantry fighting vehicle and the Leopard 2 main battle tank," she told the DPA news agency on Sunday. Lambrecht earlier said Germany's military aid to Ukraine has reached its limit, and that Berlin will now look for other ways to support Kiev's forces. "We will keep up our support for Ukraine, and we have handed over an unbelievable amount from the reserves of the Bundeswehr. But I say at this point quite clearly that we have reached the limit," Lambrecht told Germany's parliament last week. She noted that Germany cannot give away any more of its weapons if it wants to retain its ability to defend itself. The minister added that there are other ways Berlin can assist Ukraine, namely by using the so-called circle exchange, through which Germany provides other EU countries with new weapons in exchange for old ones, which are then sent to Ukraine. Lambrecht said Germany has already made progress in this regard, having concluded such exchanges with the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Germany has been supplying Kiev with various weapons since the onset of the conflict in Ukraine in February. Berlin has delivered Stinger anti-aircraft missile systems, Panzerhaubitze 2000 self-propelled howitzers, Gepard anti-aircraft gun tanks to Ukraine, and other weapons. — Agencies

enemy back faster than the Germans were able to make decisions." The Polish PM also says that despite a deal between Warsaw and Berlin, according to which the Ger-

man Bundeswehr was to send weapons to Poland to replace the weapons Poland sent to Ukraine, no German arms have been transferred so far, despite Poland having

supplied Ukraine with weapons "well over \$2 billion [ca. EUR 2 bn] already, 300 tanks and other heavy equipment".

"What counts is not what is written on paper, but what is implemented. [...] Berlin's hesitation, its inaction, seriously calls into question the value of the alliance with Germany. And we are not the only ones saying that. I am hearing this from quite a few other heads of government in Europe, as well," Morawiecki stressed. As he points out, Germany's position in the EU is vital, and Berlin dragging its feet affects the pace at which the entire bloc functions.

"I understand that some things take time, but others should also be quite simple," said Morawiecki, pointing out that the EU has agreed to give Ukraine EUR 9 bn back in June to ensure that the country is at least capable of continuing paying salaries to employees of vital state sectors, while the war disrupted the collection of taxes. He juxtaposes the slow process of transferring the money to Kyiv to the 2016 refugee crisis when the EU was swift to send money to Turkey to support the Syrian refugees and migrants from other countries.

Mr Morawiecki believes that Germany's role as one of Europe's leading countries will be adversely affected by the current war in Ukraine. Primarily by the fact that German energy policy has proven a complete disaster. And not just for Germany. He says that it "inflicted tremendous damage on Europe" as a whole.

Govt kick starts digital flood dashboard

FROM PAGE 01

which has affected 33 million people across Pakistan," the minister said. He further stated that the damage caused by the floods is being assessed on a daily basis with the cooperation of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the United Nations and the provincial governments. The final estimates of damage will be available only after water recedes from all parts of Sindh and Balochistan provinces, he added.

Efforts on to save Dadu power station

FROM PAGE 01

UN agencies have begun work to assess the South Asian nation's reconstruction needs after it received 391 mm (15.4 inches) of rain, or nearly 190% more than the 30-year average, in July and August. Sindh received 466% more rain than average and all the flood waters passed through Dadu, a district with a population of 1.5 million, thanks to its location.

UN sounds alarm over modern slavery

NEW YORK: There are 50 million people trapped in modern slavery, as one in every 150 people are "either forced to work against their will or in a marriage that they were forced into," a UN report revealed on Monday. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Walk Free, an international rights group, jointly released the report named the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. The 2021 global estimates showed that much more men, women, and children have been forced to work or marry in the period since the previous estimates released in 2017. It said 27.6 million people, or 3.5 people in every 1,000 worldwide, are in situations of forced labor. While women and girls share were 11.8 million, more than 3.3 million children also face forced labor, according to the report. It said the figure rose by 2.7 million versus the previous report.

Out of the total, Asia and the Pacific host more than half with 15.1 people facing forced labor in the region, while 4.1 million people are forced to work in Europe and Central Asia, 3.8 million in Africa, 3.6 million in the Americas, and 900,000 people in the Arab States. In proportion to population, however, forced labor is highest in the Arab States with 5.3 per thousand people. It was followed by Europe and Central Asia with 4.4 per thousand, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific — both at 3.5 per thousand and Africa with 2.9 per thousand. — APP

'No rush' for retaliation to 'another stupidity'

MOSCOW: Moscow won't be in any hurry with its response to the new visa restrictions imposed on Russian citizens by the EU, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said on Monday. The comment comes on the day when the bloc fully suspended its visa facilitation agreement with Russia. Talking to journalists, Grushko said "there is no rush" in taking retaliatory measures to what he described as "yet another stupidity" of the EU. The senior diplomat accused Brussels of attempting to divide Russian society into the "right and wrong" people, and of "undermining the principles of international cooperation." "What kind of response can there be to stupidity? Let's see how this will affect contacts between people. We have never been supporters of restrictions on contacts," the deputy minister said. On Sunday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov also said that Moscow considers it inappropriate to introduce retaliatory visa restrictions for citizens of EU countries. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Harjit Sajjan, Canadian minister for international development arrives in Pakistan for relief activities. Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Wendy Gilmour receives him upon his arrival. — DNA

Top eight teams will compete in National Women's Basketball C'ship

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Top eight teams from around the country will be in action in the National Women's Basketball Championship starting from October 3rd at Pakistan Sports Complex, Islamabad announced by Pakistan Basketball Federation (PBBF) on Monday. According to the championship organizing secretary and Federal Basketball Association (FBA) General Secretary Uj-e-Zahoor said that all arrangements have been completed for the successful five-day championship where top eight teams taking part in the event have been divided into two pools. He said that Pool "A" comprises defending champion Pakistan Wapda, Karachi, Rawalpindi and Quetta while Pool "B" includes teams from Pakistan Army, Lahore, Islamabad and Peshawar.

Ouj-e-Zahoor said that four matches will be played on a daily basis in the championship to be played from October 3 to October 8 at Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. The opening match of the championship starting from October 3 will be played between the teams of Islamabad and Lahore, while defending champion Wapda and Quetta, Army and Peshawar, Karachi and Rawalpindi will compete on the first day.

The semi-final round of the championship will be played on October 6 while the final will be played on October 7.

Schedule:
October 3 (Day-1): Lahore vs Islamabad; Karachi vs Rawalpindi; Wapda vs Quetta; Army vs Peshawar.
October 4 (Day-2): Wapda vs Rawalpindi; Army vs Islamabad; Karachi vs Quetta; Lahore vs Peshawar.
October 5 (Day-3): Wapda vs Karachi; Rawalpindi vs Quetta; Islamabad vs Peshawar; Army vs Lahore.
October 6 (Day-4): Semi Finals
October 7 (Day-5): Final



Verstappen wins Italian Grand Prix to close in on F1 title

DNA

MONZA: Max Verstappen won the Formula One Italian Grand Prix on Sunday to leave himself in touching distance of his second straight Formula One title. Championship leader Verstappen claimed his first win at Monza and his fifth GP in a row after fighting from seventh on the grid to finish Charles Leclerc on another difficult day for Ferrari. The race ended

with jeers from the crowd and Ferrari frustration as the drivers had to finish the final six laps with the safety car after Daniel Ricciardo lost his engine and ended up at the side of the track. However Red Bull's Verstappen is 116 points ahead of Leclerc in the drivers' standings and can retain his crown in Singapore next month after winning his 11th race of the season, one he largely controlled despite being hit with a grid penalty on Friday.

"It was unfortunate, everyone wants to finish under a green flag, but unfortunately we were short of laps," Verstappen told reporters. "But I had new softs so I wasn't too worried." The massed ranks of red in the stands loudly voiced their disapproval when the cars came over the line as they were denied the chance to see their man Leclerc try to overtake dominant Verstappen, who was also booed on the podium by Italian supporters. "The end was frustrating,

I wish could have had a bit of racing at the end, unfortunately we were second because of what happened before," said Leclerc. The Monegasque lost out to Verstappen despite starting on pole but said after the race it had been "a positive weekend overall" despite Ferrari's plan of changing from soft to medium tyres during an early virtual safety car backfiring. "I think we all had the doubt, I think if I hadn't done it, Max would have done it," said Leclerc.

Wolves sign former Chelsea and Atletico Madrid striker

LONDON: Wolves have signed former Chelsea striker Diego Costa on a free transfer until the end of the season. The 33-year-old has been without a club since leaving Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro in January. Costa completed his medical on Thursday last week as cover for new signing Sasa Kalajdzic, who suffered a cruciate injury on his debut. "It [my signing] wasn't in the best terms possible on accounts of a player's injury," Costa said. The former Spain international added: "I can only wish him nothing but the best for him. "But when he [manager, Bruno Lage] told me about returning to the Premier League since this a championship I have related to quite a bit, always liked it and followed. "No matter how much I enjoyed playing in Madrid, I felt discouraged, but this motivated me. It lit that fire within me." Costa, who is closing in on 500 career appearances, won the Premier League twice with Chelsea and claimed several trophies with Atletico Madrid in two spells for the Spanish club. — DNA

Alcaraz, teenage trailblazer with eye on '30 Slams'

"If he manages to win 25 Grand Slams, it will be fantastic for him and for our country. But let him enjoy his career." Despite Nadal's reluctance, making comparisons is unavoidable

DNA

NEW YORK: Carlos Alcaraz's stunning triumph at the US Open marked another record-setting episode in a story predicted to end with "30 Grand Slam titles". The 19-year-old's 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/1), 6-3 victory over Casper Ruud in New York on Sunday saw him become the youngest winner of a men's major since Rafael Nadal at the 2005 French Open. He is now the youngest man to ascend to the world number one ranking and the youngest champion in New York since Pete Sampras in 1990. The modest, muscular star from the small Murcian town of El Palmar in Spain's south-east is no stranger to breaking records, never more so than in 2022. Five of his six career titles have come this year while Sunday's triumph saw his on-court earnings already nudge close to \$10 million.

When he broke into the world top five in July, he was the youngest man to do so since 2005. Alcaraz then hit the giant-killing jackpot at Madrid in May when he became the only man to defeat both Nadal and Novak Djokovic at the same clay-court event. For good measure, he achieved it on back-to-back days on his way to the title. "Carlos' intensity and speed is something you rarely see," said Rafael's uncle and former long-time coach Toni Nadal. "His game follows the same path as Rafa; he never gives up until the last ball and has that characteristic intensity." Nadal was also 19 when he won the first of his record 22 Grand Slam titles at Roland Garros in 2005. However, the 36-year-old has pleaded with fans not to put pressure on the teenager by making bold comparisons. "I forgot what I was like at 19," said Nadal. "The

only thing we can do is enjoy the career of an extraordinary player like Carlos. "If he manages to win 25 Grand Slams, it will be fantastic for him and for our country. But let him enjoy his career." Despite Nadal's reluctance, making comparisons is unavoidable.



Nadal won the first of his 92 titles at Sopot at the age of 18 in 2004. Alcaraz, who learned the game at a tennis school run by his father, was also 18 when he captured his maiden ATP trophy at Umag in 2021. Both men are fiercely protective of their private

lives, enjoy passionate crowd support and build their games on steely defence and thrilling, flamboyant attack. Nadal famously fought out a five-hour and 53-minute Australian Open final in 2012 only to lose to Djokovic. Four years earlier, he won his first Wimbledon crown in a four-hour 48-minute epic against Roger Federer in a match widely hailed as the greatest Slam final of all time. Fast forward to the 2022 US Open and Alcaraz needed to negotiate three five-setters and more than 13 hours just to get to Sunday's final. For good measure, he saved a match point in his five-hour 15-minute quarter-final with Janik Sinner. "I know that I am a very competitive kid. I compete whenever I play anything — golf, petanca," said Alcaraz after winning the Madrid Masters this year. "I don't like to lose." At his side is coach Juan Carlos Ferrero,

the 2003 French Open winner who also took the number one ranking at the US Open later that year. "I would love for Carlos to win 30 Grand Slams. There will be a lot of chances," Ferrero, who began working with Alcaraz when he was just 15, told Spanish radio. Alcaraz was already winning junior European and Spanish titles in lower categories under the guidance of Albert Molina, an agent with IMG. Molina established the Alcaraz-Ferrero partnership. Ferrero then brought Alcaraz into his academy in Valencia, 120km from El Palmar. His raw potential soon attracted sponsors with marquee brands such as Nike and Rolex rushing to sign up Nadal's heir apparent. The tennis team around the prodigy was also expanding and soon included a physical trainer, a physiotherapist and the support of psychologists and doctors.

Briefs

New Zealand drops mask and vaccine mandates

DNA

AUCKLAND: Jacinda Ardern has declared it "time to safely turn the page" on New Zealand's Covid-19 restrictions, scrapping all but a handful of remaining rules. New Zealand, which once eliminated the virus through the toughest pandemic rules in the world, has made relaxations similar to Australian or European conditions.

Mask-wearing will no longer be mandatory in public places, and the last vaccine mandates will be ditched in two weeks under sweeping changes announced by the prime minister on Monday. New Zealand suffered a major Omicron wave during winter that killed more Kiwis than any other outbreak of the pandemic.

The death toll is now 1500 people, growing from about 50 at the turn of the year, and 500 four months ago.

However, both case numbers and the government's key metric - hospitalisations - have dropped sharply in recent weeks, giving the government confidence to move past onerous restrictions. "Today marks a milestone in our response. Finally, rather than feeling that Covid dictates what happens to us, our lives, and our futures, we take back control," Ardern said.

"The most recent health advice now tells us that with the lowest cases and hospitalisations since February, our population well vaccinated, and expanded access to anti-viral medicines, New Zealand is in a position to move forward."

Israel's spy chief warns Iran

DNA

JERUSALEM: The chief of Israel's foreign intelligence service Mossad said any deal with Iran over its nuclear program will not "provide immunity" from Israeli operations.

"The deal is based on Iranian lies, Iran has sought to build a nuclear weapon that endangers Israel's existence," David Barnea said in his first public speech since he became spy chief in June 2021 at a conference in the Reichman University in the central city of Herzliya.

"We will not close our eyes to the proven truth, the [Iranian] regime will have no immunity," he said, adding that "the nuclear talks are not a restraining factor in any way."

Barnea said Israel foiled "dozens of Iranian terror attacks against Israelis and Jews abroad" before being carried out.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid termed his country's campaign against the Iran nuclear deal as "successful."

The Iran nuclear deal - officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - was signed in 2015 by Iran, the US, China, Russia, France, the UK, Germany, and the EU.

Baltic nation to open trade office in Taiwan

The Chinese government perceives any change of status in Taipei's relations to foreign nations as an infringement on China's sovereignty

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Lithuania is set to open a trade office in Taiwan this week, according to media reports. A trade delegation from the Baltic state landed on the self-governed island at the weekend, Taipei's foreign affairs department said on Monday. It is believed that the officials will take part in the long-promised opening of a Lithuanian trade office in Taiwan, likely prompting anger from Beijing. Lithuanian officials previously said that the office would be opened on Monday this week, news outlet South China Morning Post reported on Sunday. The initial plan voiced by Vilnius was to have the body operational before autumn, but the launch was postponed until early September.

Lithuania allowed the administration of Taiwan to establish a "representative office" in Vilnius last November, against the objections of Beijing. The Chinese government perceives any change of status in Taipei's relations to foreign nations as an infringement on China's sovereignty. Beijing retaliated against Lithuania by downgrading diplomatic relations with the Baltic state and imposing economic sanctions. The EU is trying to overturn this through the dispute resolution mechanisms of the World Trade Organization. Vilnius defied Chinese ire by moving its ties with Taiwan forward. In August, its government announced

Spain doubles Russian gas imports

OVIEDO: The makeup of Spain's natural gas suppliers has radically shifted over the last year, according to data released by the operator of the country's national gas grid on Monday. The most striking difference has been the US rising to become Spain's top natural gas supplier. Its liquefied natural gas (LNG), shipped to Spain overseas by maritime tankers, now makes up around one-third of the gas consumed in Spain. So far this year, Spain has bought nearly 97,000 gigawatt hours from the US - up 269% from the same time in 2021, Enagas data showed. That increase comes to make up for plummeting imports from Algeria, which have fallen by around 40% in 2022 compared to the last year. In a major blow to Spain's gas supply, Algeria turned off the Maghreb-Europe pipeline in November 2021, following the breakdown of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria. The Maghreb-Europe pipeline used to transport natural gas through Morocco to the Iberian Peninsula, but now only a single direct pipeline transporting gas from Algeria to Spain remains in operation. Despite discussing ramping up LNG supplies from Algeria to compensate for the pipeline's closure, LNG imports from Algeria have also dropped to just one-third of what they were in 2021. In June, the government in Algiers suspended its cooperation treaty with Madrid after the Spanish administration backed the Moroccan position on the independence of Western Sahara. As a result, Spain has increasingly turned to other nations for its energy security. Despite the war in Ukraine, Spain's natural gas imports from Russia increased 23% this year compared to 2021. Imports from Nigeria have also surged to meet 14% of Spain's gas demand, up from 10.7% in 2021. This August, natural gas accounted for 32% of all of Spain's energy mix - double the figure from the same month in 2021. It is partially explained by Spain experiencing its hottest summer on record and widespread drought. Consequently, hydropower generation dropped from 9% to 4% in Spain's energy mix. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar meets British High Commissioner, Christian Turner to condole the demise of Queen Elizabeth II and extends solidarity with the UK. - DNA

Türkiye warns Greece against adventure on others' behalf

ANKARA: Emphasizing continuing provocations by Greece, Ankara on Monday warned Athens against undertaking an adventure on behalf of others. "As we try to respect our neighboring rights on both sides of the Aegean, Greece still continues its provocations. If you embark on an adventure on behalf of others, you will suffer the consequences today as did in the past. This is a warning to our neighbor Greece," said Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu at a symposium on the Battle of Sakarya. The Battle of Sakarya took place on the banks of the Sakarya River, in close proximity to Turkish capital Ankara. The battleground, Polatli, is only 80 kilometers (50 miles) from Ankara. After the battle, Atatürk was awarded the rank field marshal of the army by the parliament, as well as the title of Gazi (Veteran) for his efforts and victory on the battlefield. The Turkish foreign minister called on Greece to not be a "tool" of others, and to end its provocations. Türkiye, a NATO member for more than 70 years, has complained of repeated provocative actions and rhetoric by Greece in the region in recent months, including arming islands near Turkish shores that are demilitarized under a treaty, saying that such moves frustrate its good faith efforts for peace. - DNA

UN sounds alarm over modern slavery

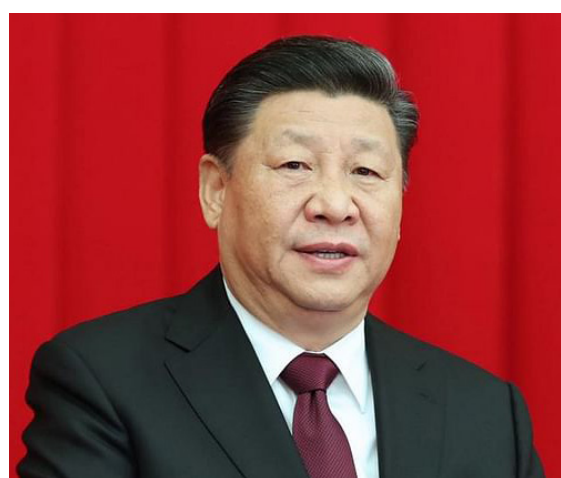
ISTANBUL: There are 50 million people trapped in modern slavery, as one in every 150 people are "either forced to work against their will or in a marriage that they were forced into," a UN report revealed on Monday. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Walk Free, an international rights group, jointly released the report named the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. The 2021 global estimates showed that much more men, women, and children have been forced to work or marry in the period since the previous estimates released in 2017. It said 27.6 million people, or 3.5 people in every 1,000 worldwide, are in situations of forced labor. While women and girls share were 11.8 million, more than 3.3 million children also face forced labor, according to the report. It said the figure rose by 2.7 million versus the previous report. Out of the total, Asia and the Pacific host more than half with 15.1 people facing forced labor in the region, while 4.1 million people are forced to work in Europe and Central Asia, 3.8 million in Africa, 3.6 million in the Americas, and 900,000 people in the Arab States. In proportion to population, however, forced labor is highest in the Arab States with 5.3 per thousand people. It was followed by Europe and Central Asia with 4.4 per thousand, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific - both at 3.5 per thousand and Africa with 2.9 per thousand. The report also showed that migrant workers face higher risks in forced labor than other people. - APP

China's Xi to visit Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan this week

BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping will make state visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan this week, Beijing said Monday - his first trip abroad since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. Russia had already announced last week Xi will meet with President Vladimir Putin at a leaders' summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Uzbekistan, as Moscow seeks to bolster ties with Beijing after being slapped with unprecedented Western sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine.

Beijing on Monday confirmed Xi's attendance at the summit in the Uzbek city of Samarkand.

The Chinese president will also "pay state visits to Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan" from Wednesday to Friday at the invitation of Presidents Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the foreign ministry



said in a statement.

The SCO is made up of China, Russia, India, Pakistan, as well as four Central Asian countries - Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The summit in Samarkand, a stop on the ancient silk road, will take place on Thursday and Friday. Putin and Xi last met in early February in Beijing

the summit in Samarkand, the Indian government said Sunday, without saying whether Modi would hold bilateral talks with Putin or Xi. India's relations with China have been frosty since fighting in 2020 on their disputed Himalayan border left at least 20 Indian and four Chinese soldiers dead. Modi and Xi have not held bilateral talks since 2019.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, who took over as leader in April, will also attend the summit, a foreign office official who asked not to be named told AFP. China is Pakistan's closest economic ally, although relations have strained recently over the scaled-back CPEC project and attacks by separatist militants on Chinese nationals and interests. The trip will be Xi's first outside China's borders in more than two and a half years. - APP

Tigray rebels ready for truce

DNA

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopia's Tigray rebels have said they are willing to halt fighting and take part in peace talks led by the African Union (AU). "We are ready to abide by an immediate and mutually agreed cessation of hostilities in order to create a conducive atmosphere," the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), the rebel group leading an insurgency in northern Ethiopia for nearly two years, said in a statement on Sunday. The TPLF said it was "prepared to participate in a robust peace process under the auspices of the African Union," adding that it expects a "credible AU-led peace process" with "mutually acceptable" mediators and international observers.

As the statement did not mention any preconditions for talks, it remains unclear whether the TPLF will retract its previous demands for resumption of basic services such as electricity, telecommunications and banking, as well as the withdrawal of Eritrean forces. The TPLF, which ruled Ethiopia for almost three decades until 2018, has been engaged in conflict with Ethiopian forces since November 2020.

After a months-long truce was shattered in late August, the Ethiopian military has been making significant inroads into Tigray, taking over strategic areas and towns that were under TPLF control for the past year, according to military sources. The TPLF was previously opposed to AU mediation, accusing its special envoy for Horn of Africa, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, of having close ties with Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The Ethiopian government, which has been adamant on AU involvement in any peace talks, is yet to comment on the rebels' announcement. The development comes a week after Mike Hammer, the US special envoy for the Horn of Africa, met Ethiopian officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen, as well as African Union Commission chief Moussa Faki Mahamat and Obasanjo in Addis Ababa.

Egyptian president set to visit Qatar this week

DNA

DOHA: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi is set to visit Qatar this week, a high-level source told Anadolu Agency on Monday.

"He will meet during his two-day visit with Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani for talks on bilateral ties and a number of regional and international issues," the source said.

The visit will be the first by al-Sisi to Qatar since he came to power in 2014.

In June, Sheikh Tamim visited Cairo where he held talks with al-Sisi on promoting relations between Egypt and Qatar. There was no confirmation of the visit yet by Egyptian or Qatari authorities. Egypt and Qatar restored diplomatic ties in January 2021 following the signing of a reconciliation agreement in Al-Ula, Saudi Arabia, which brought down the curtain on the Gulf crisis that broke out in the 2017 summer.

Indonesia, Norway ink deal to reward rainforest protection

JAKARTA: Indonesia and Norway signed a deal Monday to reward deforestation reduction months after the collapse of a similar \$1-billion agreement that was part of a UN-backed global initiative criticised for its ineffectiveness.

Protecting trees is key to meeting climate goals but environmentalists blame Indonesia - home to the world's third-largest rainforest area - for a deforestation free-for-all by allowing companies to clear land for new plantations. Jakarta claims it has made progress by reducing the rate of primary forest loss for five straight years and Oslo will now reward it with "results-based contributions" for cutting emissions, Norway's ministry of climate and environment said in a statement.

"Today we are proud to embark on a new partnership to support the Indonesian government's impressive results and ambitious plans," said Norwegian Minister for Climate and Environment Espen Barth Eide

in a statement. But environmental activists say the deal will not change the situation in Indonesia with vast swathes of rainforest still being destroyed to make way for palm and timber plantations that threaten endangered species and push indigenous people off their lands.

"The agreement does not solve existing problems, including recognition of indigenous people," Greenpeace Indonesia forest campaigner Iqbal Damanik told AFP. "The point made is 'successfully reducing deforestation', not zero deforestation. It means there is still deforestation in Indonesia going forward." The countries had signed a landmark deforestation deal in 2010 with Norway offering Indonesia \$1 billion to slash its emissions.

But Jakarta cancelled it last year saying it didn't see enough of the money, while research showed it only made a small dent in Indonesia's carbon-cutting targets. Critics of the United Nations-backed REDD+ mechanism under which the deal was struck said it was ineffective and trampled on indigenous communities' rights. Under the new agreement Norway will send Jakarta an initial \$56 million payment for its deforestation reduction in the year 2016 to 2017, the statement said.

It will then pay Indonesia for years of reductions that followed after verifying the drops in deforestation, meaning it could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Jakarta. Indonesia has an ambitious goal to reach a net carbon sink - storing more carbon than it releases into the atmosphere - by 2030 but its vast forests are still shrinking. The country's tree cover has decreased by 18 percent since 2000, a loss that accounts for 6.5 percent of the global total since then, according to Global Forest Watch, a monitoring programme of the environmental research group World Resources Institute. - APP

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Briefs

4 terrorists killed in Lakki Marwat operation

DNA

LAKKI MARWAT / KARACHI: At least four terrorists of a proscribed group were killed during a joint operation conducted by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and police in Lakki Marwat city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the details, the agencies conducted the operation in the Takhti Khel town in the jurisdiction of Naurang police station during which militants hiding in the area opened fire on the reading team. The personnel returned the fire, killing four. Meanwhile, a CTD spokesperson informed the press that automatic weapons have been recovered from the slain militants. He further said a few accomplices of the dead managed to escape the scene. The law enforcement agencies have also launched a search operation in the area to arrest them.

On the other hand, Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and a federal agency in a joint operation arrested a terrorist affiliated with a banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) from Metroville, SITE.

Sweden's far right makes strong gains

STOCKHOLM: Sweden on Monday began a days-long wait for the final results of its too-close-to-call general election, with an unprecedented right-wing and far-right bloc in position to wrest power from Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's Social Democrats. The Scandinavian country has seen mounting political instability in recent years as the gradual rise of the far right has upset the traditional balance of power in parliament. Sweden again found itself in a delicate parliamentary situation after Sunday's legislative election, with the right seen holding a razor-thin lead over Andersson's outgoing left bloc.

"The close result in parliament suggests Sweden is heading for yet another messy mandate", newspaper of reference Dagens Nyheter wrote on Monday.

Election authorities said a final result would only be ready at the earliest on Wednesday, once the last ballots from abroad and from advance voting had been counted". - APP

By-polls in 4 constituencies on Oct 9: ECP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The by-elections in one national and three provincial assembly constituencies would be held on October 9, 2022, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday announced. This was decided in a meeting chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja to conduct by-elections in NA 157 Multan IV, PP 139 Sheikhupura, PP 241 Bahawalnagar V, and PP 209, Khanewal on October 9, 2022. The meeting also expressed hope that the services of law enforcement agencies including Police, Pakistan Army, Rangers, FC would be available for smooth conduct of bye elections.

Regarding the suspension of ECP's de-notification of PTI members of the National Assembly by Islamabad High Court (IHC), the meeting was apprised that the IHC had clarified that the verdict regarding suspension of de-notification would only apply on the petitioner, PTI MNA Abdul Shakoor Shad. The meeting directed ECP Secretary to get copies of IHC's verdict, and necessary clarification, so that the elections' date could be decided in these constituencies. The next meeting of ECP would be held on September 14 in this regard. The commission directed provincial governments of Sindh and Balochistan to submit a report regarding Local Government elections in some of the remaining districts within a one week.

King Charles III, siblings escort queen's coffin

King Charles III, dressed in army uniform, and Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward walked behind as the hearse traveled to St. Giles' Cathedral, flanked by a bearer party of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and a detachment of The King's Body Guard in Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers

EDINBURGH: As Queen Elizabeth II's four children walked silently behind, a hearse carried her flag-draped coffin along a crowded street in the Scottish capital on a solemn journey to a cathedral for a service of thanksgiving for her 70-year reign. Four days after the 96-year-old monarch died at her beloved Balmoral Castle in the Scottish Highlands, a military bagpiper played as her oak coffin, draped in the royal standard, was borne from the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh and placed in a hearse.

King Charles III, dressed in army uniform, and Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward walked behind as the hearse traveled to St. Giles' Cathedral, flanked by a bearer party of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and a detachment of The King's Body Guard in Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers. Once inside St. Giles, the coffin was placed on a wooden stand, and the Duke of Hamilton and Brandon placed the Crown of Scotland on top. Even the crown is steeped in history - it was made in 1540 for Scottish King James V from an earlier version that was damaged. It is crafted from Scottish gold encrusted with 22 gems and 20 precious stones along with freshwater pearls from Scotland's rivers.

Overnight queue, strict rules

LONDON: Britons have a reputation for patiently waiting in line but the queue for Queen Elizabeth II's lying in state is likely to be unprecedented even by their standards. A huge queue is expected to stretch through the night as people pay their respects to the queen in parliament's Westminster Hall in London this week, the British government warned. Mourners will also face airport-style security and obey strict rules, including an edict to wear appropriate clothing and a ban on filming, taking photographs or using mobile phones. They will be allowed to file past the late monarch's coffin non-stop from 5:00 pm (1600 GMT) on Wednesday night until 6:30 am on the morning of her state funeral on September 19. "Please note that the queue is expected to be very long. You will need to stand for many hours, possibly overnight, with very little opportunity to sit down, as the queue will keep moving," said the government guidelines issued on Monday. "Please consider this before you decide to attend or bring children with you." Around 750,000 people are expected to descend on the queen's lying in state. The queue could stretch for five miles (eight kilometres) and the waiting time last for up to 20 hours, The Times newspaper said. The numbers are expected to be "far more" than the 200,000 people who filed past the coffin of the queen's mother when she died in 2002, Prime Minister Liz Truss's spokesman said on Monday. He declined to give the overall anticipated. Like her mother's, Queen Elizabeth II's closed coffin will rest on a raised platform known as a catafalque, and people will file past on both sides to pay their respects. But it is likely to prove something of an endurance test to get that far. The government advised people to wear "suitable clothing" for the weather conditions, including either warm clothing or an umbrella if it is wet, or sunscreen if it is hot. They should also bring food and drinks to consume in the queue as there will only be limited places to buy refreshments in line. - APP

"And so we gather to bid Scotland's farewell to our late monarch, whose life of service to the nation and the world we celebrate. And whose love for Scotland was legendary," said the Rev. Calum MacLeod. The coffin will remain at the cathedral until Tuesday so members of the public can pay their respects. People lined up hours ahead of the service to catch a glimpse of the coffin. "I just wanted to be here, just to show... last respects. I cannot believe she is dead," said Marilyn Mclear, a 70-year-old retired teacher. "I know she was 96, but I just cannot believe the queen's dead. So I think it will be a nice, well, it's not nice to see (a) funeral, but I think it will be a thing to remember if I see it passing by," she added. One man appeared to shout angrily at the passing hearse, while others called out: "God save the king!" But the procession was greeted mostly with a respectful silence under blue skies flecked with white clouds. Charles, Anne and Edward all wore military uniforms during the procession, but Andrew did not. The Royal Navy veteran was stripped of his honorary military titles and was removed as a working royal over his friendship with the notorious U.S. sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. - Agencies

Norway 'sceptical' about gas price cap

NEWS DESK

OSLO: Norway, which has replaced Russia as Europe's leading supplier of natural gas, on Monday dashed the hopes of EU member states who wanted a cap on gas prices. Following his second phone call with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in the space of a few days, Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said he was "sceptical" about the idea of a gas price cap. "We agree to have an even closer dialogue with the EU in the future on the various proposals on the table", he said. European energy ministers who met Friday in Brussels said they were in favour of a series of measures aimed at combatting soaring gas and electricity prices, with some calling for a cap on the price of gas imports in the EU. With European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen expected in her annual State of the Union address on Wednesday to focus on energy, bureaucrats are trying to find common ground between the 27 member states to prevent blackouts and financial pain for businesses and consumers this winter.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (military) on Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza bin Mohd Sany at a special investiture ceremony. - DNA

President Alvi confers NI (M) on Malaysia's royal navy chief

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday conferred Nishan-e-Imtiaz (military) on Chief of Royal Malaysian Navy Admiral Tan Sri Mohd Reza bin Mohd Sany at a special investiture ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The president adorned the Malaysian Naval Chief with the prestigious award in recognition of his valuable contribution to strengthening the defence ties between the two countries. The ceremony commenced with the national anthem and the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran, and was attended by senior officers of the Pakistan and Malaysian navies. - APP

LHC to hear Maryam passport plea on Sep 14

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz's application for obtaining a passport has been set for hearing on September 14 (Wednesday). A three-member new full bench headed by Chief Justice Lahore High Court has been constituted on Monday to hear Maryam Nawaz's application. The bench consisted of Justice Ali Baqar Najafi and Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh, while the full bench will hear the petition of Maryam Nawaz on Wednesday. After the approval of the Chief Justice of the LHC, a new three-member full bench was formed on the separate application of Maryam Nawaz Sharif. Earlier, the two-member bench was dissolved on September 8, 2022, as LHC Justice Anwar-ul-Haq recused himself from the bench to hear the case. - DNA



CJP terms SCBA's role in Punjab CM's poll case 'biased'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial Monday termed the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) role in the Punjab chief minister election case "biased". Addressing a full court reference on the eve of the beginning of the new judicial year, CJP Bandial recalled the Punjab CM election case, which drew criticism from political parties. The CJP said that the federation requested a full court bench which was not in accordance with the law, while the role of the SCBA was also "biased". In July, the SC had termed the ruling of the former Punjab Assembly deputy speaker, Dost Mazari, "illegal" and announced Pervez Elahi as the new CM of the province.



The ruling coalition had demanded that a full bench hear the case and the government's demands were also backed by the top court's bar association. "Patience was shown despite the political parties' strong reaction to the annulment of the ruling of

the then Punjab deputy speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari," the chief justice said. CJP Bandial added: "We are aware that the country is facing a serious economic crisis, but the law is equal for all." Referring to the Judicial Commission of Pakistan's (JCP) meeting in which the body had rejected Bandial's nominated judges of high courts for their appointment to the Supreme Court, the CJP asked, did the federal government's response respect the judiciary? CJP Bandial said that when he assumed the office, there were challenges related to the provision of inexpensive and speedy justice, a backlog of cases and usage of suo motu power. Highlighting the achievements, the CJP said that the number of cases pending with the judiciary reduced to 50,265 from 54,134. "The respected judges sacrificed their yearly vacations and decided 6,458 cases during a short period of June-September." Stressing the need for new appointments to the top judiciary, he urged the SCBA to assist the court.

WHO strives to safeguard flood affectees from epidemics

MUZAFFARGARH: World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Pakistan Dr Palitha Mahipala said the organization had been focusing on safeguarding the flood-affected population from epidemics, especially malaria, dengue and cholera after the recent calamitous floods in the country. Presiding over a meeting with Commissioner DG Khan Liaqat Ali Chatha and district administration officers, he informed that WHO was extending basic health facilities to flood-stricken people. He maintained that WHO would reach to the flood-hit people and set up medical camps for them in every affected area. Dr Mahipala said floods had played havoc in the country and the steps taken by the district administration were appreciable.



Earlier, Commissioner Liaqat Chatha, while briefing the WHO representative, informed that the district recorded 389 millimetre while Rajanpur received 249 mm rain, resultantly 49 people lost lives in DG Khan and 13 in Rajanpur. In total, as many as 112 cattle head died, he said, adding that about 0.6 million acres standing crops were washed away due to recent floods. He heaped praise on Rescue 1122 for rescuing a large number of flood victims. Later, Dr Palitha Mahipala handed over a mini ambulance for Rajanpur and multi-purpose tents and essential medicines for flood affectees. The meeting was also attended by deputy commissioners Ali Anan Qamar, M. Anwar, Arif Rahim. - APP

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