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Turkiye calls on Armenia to choose peace with Azerbaijan

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Kenyan new President takes office

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Anthony Joshua accepts Fury's terms for fight

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Briefs

Pak wants arrest of Masood Azhar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has formally written a letter to Kabul, asking to locate, report and arrest Maulana Masood Azhar — the founding head of a militant organisation Jaish E Mohammad (JeM), which is banned in Pakistan. "We have written a one-page letter to the Afghan Foreign Ministry, asking it to locate, report and arrest Masood Azhar as we believe that he is hiding somewhere in Afghanistan," a top official privy to the development directly told this correspondent on the condition of anonymity.

Abbasi slams Imran's statements

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday called upon PTI Chairman Imran Khan not to make the appointment of army chief controversial as this selection happens every three years in the Pak Army. PML-N senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said that appointment of the army chief will be made following the procedure of the constitution. "I don't know, under which constitution and law, Imran Khan is talking about the army chief's extension. Imran Khan should stop the circus for his personal interest on the issue of the appointment of the Army Chief, he said.

Govt striving to help flood victims

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Amin-ul-Haque says government is taking all possible measures to rehabilitate all the rain hit people. He said this while addressing the inauguration ceremony of the 6th National Incubation Centre established in Hyderabad by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom with the cooperation of IJNITE Pakistan and the PTCL.

PM urges cabinet to help people

The Federal Cabinet quashes ministry's summary on price hike of 10 medicines

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged the members of cabinet to come forward to help address the miseries of flood-hit people and enhance the relief and rehabilitation efforts. Presiding over the federal cabinet meeting, the prime minister in his televised remarks urged the ministers to put more focus on helping the poor flood-stricken at this critical time besides fulfilling their official duties. "In this digital world, you can even do your official work through zoom. But you also have to help those [flood-affected] people as well," he remarked. The Prime Minister, while acknowledging the efforts of those cabinet members, who are active in flood relief activities, said those not active in such efforts should also come forward and help the affected people. He hoped that water in the flood affected areas will recede in two to three months and people will be rehabilitated. "Be it the philanthropists, doctors, police officers, bureaucrats, army, all know what is the situation. Your efforts will be remembered by the flood affected people." The Prime Minister lamented that the flood affected masses, who also knew the people doing politics at this critical time and were quiet, will respond when the time will come. He said that Pakistan despite its meager contribution in the global emission, was facing the huge effects of climate change. The Prime Minister appreciated

'No time for your allegations': PM tells Imran

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the government was busy rehabilitating flood victims and did not have time for PTI Chairman Imran Khan's "accusations and misunderstandings". A day ago, the PTI chief had asked the prime minister on Twitter if he was responsible for a string of recent alleged actions against the PTI, including silencing it on the media, registering cases against pro-PTI journalists, "blacking it out" on social media or stopping the telecast of the party's flood donation telethon. "We know that your criminal followers and their patrons are afraid of the PTI's popularity. If you are not responsible for usurping our constitutional rights and deviating from international commitments regarding freedom of expression and press, then it is your responsibility to tell the nation who is responsible for all this," Imran had said. Replying directly to Imran today, PM Shehbaz said:

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Use of Afghan soil against Pak slammed

3 soldiers embrace shahdat in Kurram fight

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Three soldiers were martyred when terrorists from inside Afghanistan opened fire across the border on Pakistani troops in Kharlachi, Kurram District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner. The military's press wing cited credible intelligence reports that the terrorists suffered heavy casualties due to the firing by army troops. During the firing exchange, Naik Muhammad Rehman (age 32 years, resident of Karak), Naik Maweez Khan (age 34 years, resident of Jamrud, Khyber), and Sepoy Irfanullah (age 27 years, resident of Dargai, Malakand), having fought gallantly embraced martyrdom. The ISPR said Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that the Afghan Government will not allow such activities in future. It added that the army is determined to defend Pakistan's borders against the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. Last week, a young army officer and four soldiers were martyred in an exchange of fire with terrorists that took place when security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in the Boyya area of North Waziristan

Head of peace team among five martyred

SWAT: The head of local peace committee Idrees Khan was among the five people martyred in a remote controlled blast in Barra Bandai area of Kabal tehsil here on Tuesday evening. The Kabal Police said that Idrees Khan, along with two personal bodyguards, and two policemen, was on his way to home when his vehicle was targeted with a remote controlled explosive device planted by unknown miscreants on Barra Bandai Road. As a result of the blast, Idrees Khan, two policemen and his two bodyguards were martyred. Soon after receiving information, Kabal police reached the site of the blast and collected evidence. Police later launched the search operation in the area to nab the perpetrators involved. — APP

tribal district on Monday, the military said. During the conduct of the operation,

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of federal cabinet. — DNA

Saudi Arabia sends 180 tons of aid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief), launched on Tuesday a relief airlift from Saudi Arabia to provide urgent assistance to flood victims in Pakistan. Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeeah, advisor to the Royal Court and general supervisor of KSRelief said that the first two planes in the airlift would depart Today from King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh carrying 180 tons of food, medical, and shelter assistance. He added that more than 19,000 people affected by the floods would benefit from this batch of aid. "At least ten airlift relief planes will be sent within the coming days, and that the airlift coincides with a relief land convoy that is being launched inside Pakistan in coordination with the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Islamabad and local authorities. "The convoy is carrying shelter, food and medical aid which will be distributed in affected areas." Al-Rabeeah stressed that this airlift reflected the leading global humanitarian role being played by Saudi Arabia, and underscored the Kingdom's ongoing commitment to alleviating the suffering of people in need around the world, Saudi Gazette reported .

Sindh: PMD forecasts rains

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) on Tuesday forecast another spell of rains in Sindh in continuation of the existing monsoon season, not long after Pakistan took a break from the torrential rains causing severe flooding across the country. As per the Met department, a low-pressure system located in Indian state of Gujarat has integrated into

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Imran Khan rejects suggesting extension of Army Chief term

Khan says will give final call for protest by September end

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Tuesday rejected suggesting the extension of the tenure of Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa till the next elections. A day earlier, the former prime minister, while speaking during an interview with a private TV channel, had suggested that the appointment of an army chief should be deferred until the government is elected, which should then choose the new military head. In a meeting with journalists, Khan said: "I never talked about the extension of the army chief's tenure, I just proposed to defer the appointment of the army chief till the new elections." During the meeting, the former premier said that the newly elected government should decide the army chief's selection on merit, adding that he never said who should be the military's head. "I did not say anything to elicit a statement from Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR)," Khan said, adding that the two families [Sharif and Zardari families] should never select the head of the armed forces."

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Imran Khan has enmity with none: Farrukh

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Central Secretary Information Farrukh Habib made it clear that PTI Chairman Imran Khan had no enmity with any country but he would never compromise on prestige of the country and wanted relations based on mutual respect. He said that Imran Khan always safeguarded and promoted the interest of Pakistan unlike the gang of thieves who held meetings with the American diplomats to hurt the country by toppling the well-performing PTI government through foreign collaborators. Farrukh Habib in a statement issued from PTI Central Media Department (CMD) here on Tuesday said that PTI Chairman worked tirelessly to restore the image and prestige of

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Mariyum slams Khan's lust of power

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday castigating PTI Chairman Imran Khan said that he was unable to see the country and people submerged in floods as he only wanted to see himself back in power. In a statement, the minister said that Imran Khan's real problem was his personal ego, arrogance, self-righteousness, lust for power and corruption. She said Imran Khan should first decide what was his problem foreign conspiracy, real freedom, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) or NRO for corruption? The minister alleged that the PTI leadership did not want real freedom, but an NRO for what she called their "real corruption". There was no foreign conspiracy, but they want NRO for their "real conspiracy of foreign



funding", she maintained. Mariyum Aurangzeb said Imran Khan's aim was not general election but closure of corruption cases against him. Imran Khan was asking for NRO by threatening and using abusive language, she said adding that the PTI chairman was also seeking NRO for Farah Gogi and Bushra Bibi. She said Imran Khan was a sick, defeated mentality and a corrupt person who was a liar, egoist and selfish bigot who was asking for NRO in foreign funding of the PTI. She said that the CEC had committed no sin, he only announced the verdict in the foreign funding case, which had been pending for 8 years. The minister opined that Imran Khan was asking the CEC for NRO in foreign funding case.

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Ukraine piles pressure on retreating Russian troops

"Russians use you as cannon fodder. Your life doesn't mean anything for them. You don't need this war. Surrender to Armed Forces of Ukraine," the flyers read

CENTRELINE REPORT

KHARKIV: Ukrainian troops piled pressure on retreating Russian forces on Tuesday, pressing a counteroffensive that has produced major gains and a stunning blow to Moscow's military prestige. It was not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz in the northeast after months of little discernible movement could signal a turning point in the nearly seven-month war. But the country's officials were buoyant, releasing footage showing their forces burning Russian flags and inspecting abandoned charred tanks. In one video, border guards tore down a poster that read, "We are one people with Russia." Momentum has switched back and forth before, and Ukraine's American allies, for one, were careful not to declare a premature victory since Russian President Vladimir Putin still has troops and resources to tap. In the face of Russia's largest defeat since its botched attempt to capture Kyiv early in the war, Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said troops were hitting back with "massive strikes" in all sectors. But there were no immediate reports of a sudden uptick in Russian attacks. Late Monday,

UN nuclear chief for nuke plant safety zone

BERLIN: The head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said Monday that he has started consultations with Ukraine and Russia on his call for a "nuclear safety and security protection zone" around the Zaporizhzhia power plant, and the two sides appear to be interested. Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, made his proposal last week after leading a team of inspectors to the nuclear plant, Europe's biggest with six reactors, but gave few details at the time. "What we need here really is Ukraine and Russia to agree on a very simple principle of not attacking, or not shelling, at the plant," Grossi told reporters at the agency's Vienna headquarters. The IAEA has not assigned blame for recent shelling, for which Ukraine and Russia have blamed each other. The plant has been occupied by Russian forces but operated by its Ukrainian employees since early in the war. — Agencies

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his troops had so far retaken more than 6,000 square kilometers (2,300 square miles) — an area more than twice the size of Luxembourg — in a matter of weeks. Among the latest claims, Ukraine's border guard services said the army took control of Vovchansk — a town just

3 kilometers (2 miles) from Russia seized on the first day of the war. Russia acknowledged that it has withdrawn troops from areas in the northeastern region of Kharkiv in recent days. Reports of chaos abounded as Russian troops pulled out — as well as claims that they were surrendering en masse. The claims could not be

immediately verified. Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar said Kyiv is trying to persuade even more Russian soldiers to give up, launching shells filled with flyers ahead of their advance. "Russians use you as cannon fodder. Your life doesn't mean anything for them. You don't need this war. Surrender to Armed Forces of Ukraine," the flyers read. As dozens of towns and villages were liberated, authorities moved into several areas to investigate alleged atrocities against civilians by Russian troops. The Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office said four bodies bearing signs of torture were found in the village of Zaliznychne. It's not clear how many other places investigators have entered. In one indication of the blow sustained by Moscow, British intelligence said that one premier force, the 1st Guards Tank Army, had been "severely degraded" during the invasion and that "Russia's conventional force designed to counter NATO is severely weakened. It will likely take years for Russia to rebuild this capability." The retreat didn't stop Russia from pounding Ukrainian positions, however. Early Tuesday, it shelled the city of Lozova in the Kharkiv region, killing three people and injuring nine, said regional governor Oleh Synyehubov.

BISP distributed over 24 bn rupees

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The financial assistance of flood affected families through Benazir Income Support Programme is continue across the country. According to the latest figures Benazir Income Support Programme has so far disbursed Rs. 24,131,200,000 among 965,248 flood affected families. An amount of Rs. 25,000 per family under Flood Relief Cash Assistance is being provided to flood affected families of Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab. As of Tuesday evening 120,215 affected families have received Rs.3,005,375,000 in Balochistan; 576,682 families have received Rs.14,417,000,000 in Sindh; 118,940 families have received Rs.2,973,500,000 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 149,413 families have received Rs.3,735,325,000 in Punjab. Today 18,051 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.

Governance model vital to tackle cyber security

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Expressing concerns over the continuous occurrence of cyber security incidents in the national energy sector, NEPRA Chairman Tauseef H. Farooqi has stressed the need to develop a comprehensive cyber security governance model to deal with this challenge and promote security. He said this while addressing a session on "Cyber Security Challenge in Critical Infrastructure (Power Sector)" at the NEPRA Tower here on Tuesday. The event was organized by TechAccess Pakistan jointly with its industrial partner RTA Purpose of the event was to solicit awareness amongst national public and private sectors' energy power entities against the global risks of cyber-attacks. A large number of power sector's professionals, trade and business representatives and NEPRA members of the Authority and professionals attended the session. Highlighting the importance of the session, the NEPRA Chairman said, "Cyberspace is the 21st century's new warzone. Most of the cyber-attacks in 2021 and 2022 were focused on energy sector. Cyber security is more challenging within power sector due to dispersed geo-locations of generation plants and interdependence between OT and IT infrastructure.

50 more diagnosed with dengue in RWP

RAWALPINDI: As many as 50 more people tested positive for the deadly dengue virus in the Rawalpindi district during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 935. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood, Tuesday said that, among the new cases, 29 patients had arrived from Pothohar Town urban area, eight from Rawalpindi Cantonment, three from Chaklala Cantonment, Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi and Taxila Cantonment, two from Gujjar Khan while one each case arrived from Kotli Sattian and Pothohar rural area. Presently, 205 patients were admitted to three allied hospitals of the city, including 75 to the Holy Family Hospital, 66 to BBH and 64 to the District Headquarters Hospital. Dr Sajjad added that out of the total admitted patients, 122 were confirmed cases, and 86 belonged to Rawalpindi. He informed two patients were in critical positions and admitted to BBH and HFH each. The health officer said a full-scale fumigation drive was underway in different district localities, mainly where dengue larvae had been found. He advised the residents to use a mosquito net or repellents like mats and coils to prevent this fatal virus. - APP

Rotary Club donates relief goods for flood victims



ISLAMABAD: Rotary Club of Islamabad (Metropolitan) donated two truck loads of quilts, beddings, floor mats, clothes, shoes, Medicines worth half a million for flood victims. Goods handed over to the Station Commander Nowshera KPK. President of the Rotary Club of Islamabad Imran Ghaznavi along former Ambassador Fauzia Nasreen, Mian Shaukat, Advocate Tayyaba and Omar Nishtar along other members lead the delegation. Station Commander appreciated the efforts of Rotarians and their service above self for the people in need of help. President Imran Ghaznavi commended and highly appreciated the commitment of Station Commander, his team including Executive Officer, Vice President of Nowshera Cantt Board and district management for their untiring efforts in providing relief activities to flood victims. -DNA

PTDC explores ways to curb pollution on Baltoro, K2

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) Tuesday organized a consultative workshop of various organizations' representatives and tour operators to discuss the issue of increasing pollution on Baltoro and K2 Base Camp Trek. The PTDC's senior officials, Alpine Club of Pakistan, Himalayan Wildlife Foundation, Tour Operators Associations, Adventure Club, Karakoram Club, GB Tourism Department and others participated in the meeting, said a news release. PTDC Managing Director Aftab Rana said that Pakistan had the best season for K2 climbing this year, but poor solid waste management on the trekking route emerged as the

major issue. "It is a good news that Pakistan's name in the world of mountaineering was highlighted and climbers from across the world participated in this climbing season, but besides this, negative news on environmental issues were also reported that highlighted pollution and waste management issues on the trekking route to K2 base camp," he noted. He said it was challenging situation and there was a need to propose a strategy to the government to adopt ecofriendly management of expeditions on this route which was now part of Central Karakoram National Park (CKNP). This year, more than 3,800 trekkers and mountaineers were registered who used the trekking route.

It was the highest number so far and besides this, there was more of the support staff who handle the expeditions and trekking groups, he said, adding "We cannot afford to lose wilderness of this area as Baltoro is the prime wilderness of Pakistan and we have to maintain it its original form." Different stakeholders made different suggestions to improve the overall management of adventure in this regions with special focus on maintaining the nature landscape of this area. Participants suggested that a viable mechanism was needed in this regard. After identifying the problems, Participants suggested that a Cleanup operation should be started at earliest, all guides, high altitude porters, camp staff, expedition cooks should be

trained in hygiene standards and maintaining good cleanliness of camping sites, the alternate Thalle route to Bardomal should also be developed, a proper monitoring system need to be put in place to keep check on pollution left behind by the expedition members. Liaison Officers and Mountain Guides must also be trained. It was also suggested that trained and certified porters should be hired and disposal of litter on the trek can be ensured by providing waste collection bags to all groups going on this trek and these bags must be collected on their return. Participants agreed to hold next meeting to develop a joint action plan for better solid waste management at these sites. - APP

Forest dep. employees donated in flood relief

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has appreciated the resolve and determination of the employees of Forest Department in supporting the people affected by recent floods adding that the monetary contribution of the employees is proof that the sympathies of people are with the affectees and every possible step is being taken to rehabilitate them. As part of contributions to the Chief Minister Flood Relief Fund, a cash cheque worth Rs.5.086 million was presented to the Chief Minister by the Minister for Forest & Environment Ishtiaq Urmar and Secretary Forest & Environment department Abid Majeed. Chief Conservator Forest Ijaz Qadir and other officials were also present on the occasion. According to details, the amount has been contributed voluntarily by all the employees of Forest Department. Employees from BPS-17 and above have contributed 3 days salary, BPS-16 employees have contributed two days salary whereas BPS-15 and lower have contributed a days salary for the rehabilitation of flood affectees in the CM Flood Relief Fund. Touching upon the issue, Mahmood Khan reiterated that is our national and moral duty to help those who have been affected by this natural calamity adding that all individuals, philanthropists, civil societies and institutions should contribute as per their affordability. CM clarified that despite financial constraints, the compensation amount has been increased considerably and all available resources have been mobilized to ensure rehabilitation of the flood affectees on priority basis.

Pakistan, EU discuss matters of mutual interest

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Managing Director Asia and Pacific Department of European Union (EU) Paola Pampaloni Tuesday called on Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah and discussed matters of mutual interest including the promotion of bilateral relations between the European Union and Pakistan. The EU Ambassador Dr Riina Kionka and Additional Secretary Interior Momin Agha and other senior officials were also present in the meeting. During the meeting issues of human rights, enforced disappearances, illegal immigration, human trafficking and criminal law reforms were discussed in details. The meeting also reviewed the progress on the readmission agreement between Pakistan and the European Union.

The meeting also discussed action against elements involved in human trafficking and smuggling from Pakistan Paola Pampaloni appreciated Pakistan's role in the evacuation of Afghan nationals after 15 August 2021. The Minister said that the European Union is Pakistan's most important trading partner and the EU's GSP Plus status plays a key role in Pakistan's economic stability, he added. Sanaullah said the interior ministry has taken action against illegal immigration, human smuggling and trafficking. Paola Pampaloni said that Pakistan is an important partner of the EU and the constructive dialogue with Pakistan will continue in future. "Pakistan and European Union are very happy to complete 60 years of diplomatic relations" he added.

Japan will continue supporting Pakistan, says Ambassador

He appreciated holding of Pakistan Japan Businessmen's Joint Dialogue in Islamabad on 29th of this month, which would be followed by a seminar on the bilateral trade and economic cooperation

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro Wada on Tuesday assured that his country will continue its support to Pakistan in various social and economic areas, especially in this very difficult situation emerging after the heavy rain and flood causing devastation in most areas of Pakistan. During his interactive meeting with members of Pakistan Japan Business Forum here, the Ambassador started with condolences to grieving Pakistani families who lost their loved ones in the recent flash rains and flood, and expressed deep concern over the huge material and human loss from climate change calamity. "Japan has always stood with the people of Pakistan and will continue its support," he said pledging that he would work hard to further strengthen the relationship and cooperation between Japan and Pakistan. As the Ambassador to Pakistan, Mitsuhiro said that he felt very happy to work with the people of Pakistan for promoting mutual interests of the two



countries. "We will have to work out the joint actions on social and economic fronts," he asserted. Mitsuhiro Wada assured his government's support to PJBF's members as it saw the forum a strong tool to promote bilateral trade, investment and overall economic cooperation. He appreciated holding of Pakistan Japan Businessmen's Joint Dialogue in Islamabad on 29th of this month, which would be followed by a seminar on the bilateral trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. These two events would help

voice the concerns and proposals by the representatives of the two business communities to their respective governments for boosting the bilateral trade and economic cooperation. PJBF, JETRO and Ministries of Commerce of the two countries would be the hosts. PJBF's Chairman Kaleem Farooqui said up to 60 leading Japanese businesspersons were expected to participate in Pak Japan Joint Dialogue of Sept. 29, 2022. He also informed that the forum's Board of Directors would meet on Oct. 15, 2022, most likely in Karachi, and on Oct. 25, 2022 a training session for the PJBF members would also be held. He said Pakistan Japan Business Forum was formed twenty years ago, with ten members from each side. He spoke of the past bilateral trade which had remained in Japan's favour and the future potential. He highlighted the cooperation between the two countries over last 70 years on social and economic fronts mainly in information technology, education and agriculture. Member of PJBF's BoD, Sohail Shams presented vote of thanks.

KP cabinet approves Climate Change Policy

The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial CS, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various govt departments

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet in a meeting held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair approved the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Climate Change Policy and Action Plan-2022, which focuses on reducing vulnerability of natural and human systems as well as lessening greenhouse gas emissions through technological or nature-based solutions. The new policy is in consonance with the objectives of the Revised National Climate Change Policy 2021 and will address as many as nine Agro-Ecological Zones of the province including the merged districts. The successful implementation of the policy will open new avenues to attract international climate financing in adaptation and mitigation sectors, allowing

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to achieve sustainable development and create resilience against natural disasters thereby securing the province's fragile economy in confronting future environmental challenges. The Chief Minister said that after 18th amendment, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa became the first province that devised Provincial Climate Change Policy and Action Plan 2022 in the context of changes taking place in the climate. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various government departments. Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & PRs Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while briefing media persons about the decisions of the

cabinet meeting at ITLA' Cell informed that the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to complete feasibility study within a month period for setting up a plant for producing energy from wastes/garbage. The bio-fuel plant will not only help in controlling environmental pollution but will also contribute towards making the province self-sufficient in energy. The Chief Minister, he said, further directed for bringing amendments in the relevant laws with regard to the acquisition of land for setting up universities and no more than 100 Kanals of land be procured for a university. This will ensure the protection of agricultural lands. The cabinet, he said, also accorded approval towards allowing the food department to sign MoU with the Bank of Khyber for Insaaf Food Card. The deserving households,

he said, will receive rupees 2100 monthly under the Insaaf Food Card for which billions of rupees will be borne by the government as subsidy. The SACM further informed that the cabinet while reviewing some of its earlier decisions taken during the special budget meeting held on June 13, 2022 accorded approval to reduce the Ad-hoc Allowance 2022 from 16% to 15% to be granted to all provincial government employees on running basic pay, with no immediate pay-as-you-go deduction towards the Defined Contribution Pension Program. Similarly, the decision regarding calculation of pension emoluments on the basis of last three years' average basic pay with effect from 1st July 2022 was also held in abeyance. He said that the cabinet also approved the extension of Water and Sanitation Services Company (WSSC) Bannu's jurisdiction to 11 village

councils and 5 neighborhood councils falling within the ambit of the Assistant Director Local Government Bannu to benefit a population of 89, 596 persons. Barrister Saif further said that the cabinet also accorded approval for lease agreement between the Local Government, Elections & Rural Development Department and Sports, Tourism and Culture Department for giving 100 Kanal land, located on Mardan bypass road, on lease basis to the latter one for the establishment of a Cultural Complex in Mardan. The cabinet, he further informed, also approved the inclusion of Patwar Halqas of Sulatanr and Jarogo valleys in the jurisdiction of Upper Swat Development Authority to enable the Authority to carry out its functions regarding promotion of eco-tourism and environment friendly development effectively.

ICRC regional Director visits KMU

PESHAWAR: The Regional Director International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) Patricia Escalone Guiote on Tuesday visited Khyber Medical University (KMU) here and praised the performance of the institution. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of the University Prof Dr Zia ul Haq welcomed her and gave a detailed briefing about various departments of the University, while on this occasion Jamal Khan, Head of Delegation of ICRC Pakistan, Head of Sub-Delegation Peshawar. Jihad Nabhan, Deputy Head of Sub-Delegation Peshawar Zaratash Qaiser Khan, Head of Health Care in Danger Initiative Pakistan Dr. Mirwais Khan and heads of various institutions of KMU were also present at the occasion. Patricia Escalone praised the performance of KMU and especially the quality of programs here from BS to PhD level in various fields and said that the progress that KMU has made in a short period of time is an example to follow for other institutions.

She said that she was extremely happy to know that KMU-PHRL has not only provided excellent services during the Corona pandemic but now more than forty other diseases are also being diagnosed here. He said that the role played by KMU in collaboration with ICRC in the completion of the Health Care in Danger project is expected to bring encouraging results regarding the protection of health care service providers in society. She said that it will be a great success for all of us in the near future. - APP

AJK PM for creation of monitoring unit

MIRPUR: Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has sought establishment of a separate unit on modern lines to identify defects and monitor the development projects being executed under the supervision of the Communication and Public Works Department (C&P-WD) of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. While addressing the C&PWD meeting in the State metropolis on Tuesday, the AJK PM said that besides the identification of flaws the unit should ensure prevention of defects, quality assurance/quality control and timely completion of projects. The AJK PM also directed that the QA/QC and Value Engineering must be taught as a subject in all engineering universities of the state. The prime minister directed that ongoing development projects should be completed within the stipulated time frame. "In case of negligence in the performance of duties, strict disciplinary action will be taken against those responsible under E&D Rules," he said. In order to enhance the capability of engineering staff, the AJK PM said that a 6-month departmental training should be made mandatory for the newly appointed engineering staff. - APP

Two held for displaying weapons

MUZAFFARGARH: City police have arrested two youngsters for uploading videos on social media while holding weapons on their hands. In line with special directives of the District Police Officer (DPO) Ahmed Nawaz Shah, the City Police arrested two youngsters Bilal and Muhammad Asif. The arrested accused uploaded their videos on social media application Tiktok while holding weapons in their hands. The police recovered the weapons from their possession and registered separate cases against them. The DPO has directed police officials to continue action against those who displaying weapon on social media under zero tolerance policy. He urged masses to inform police through emergency helpline 15 in case of any suspicious person or activity around them. He said that protection of public lives and properties was top priority of the police, adding that no negligence would be tolerated in this context. - APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya
Revolution Day

Sept 01 / Tanzania
Defence day

Sept 01 / Uzbekistan
Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil
Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea
National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan
Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia
Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico
National Day

Sept 16 / Papua New Guinea
Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile
National Day

Sept 21 / Malta
Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia
National Day



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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TAXILA: High-level officers from the Foreign Ministry of Pakistan including Asim Iftikhar Ahmad, Spokesperson and Additional Secretary and Aamer Ahmed Atozai, Director General of East Asia Pacific as well as Muhammad Iqbal Manj, Deputy Director of Taxila museum, welcomed Most Venerable Arayawango, a Thai Buddhist abbot who visited Pakistan during the "Rain Retreat" upon official invitation by the Government of Pakistan at Taxila museum. – DNA

IESCO issues power suspension programme

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) 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 14th September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Captan Aamir, Haji Shah, Amanpur, Sagarpur, Abdullahpur, CWO, Jalalpur Sharif, NCI (Toba), Mandi Bhalwal, Dhodial Express, Milat Chowk Feeders and surroundings will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

Pacheco for strengthening parliamentary system

ISLAMABAD: President Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Duarte Pacheco Tuesday eulogized Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) for strengthening the parliamentary system in Pakistan. The IPU President during his visit at PIPS gave a detailed briefing regarding the establishment, history and functioning of PIPS. He was accompanied by Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman, Executive Director PIPS Muhammad Anwar and other officers welcomed the guests. On the occasion, President IPU said that institutions like PIPS play a very important role in promoting democracy. President IPU visited the PIPS library and also recorded his comments in the visitor's book. Later, Senator Faisal Saleem Rehman and Executive Director PIPS presented a commemorative shield to President IPU. President IPU is visiting Pakistan to express solidarity with Pakistan due to recent flood situation. – APP

Maintenance work in progress by NHA

ISLAMABAD: On special instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, the work on restoration of power supply and road network to the flood-affected areas is in full swing. In a statement issued by the PM Office on Tuesday, the prime minister is personally monitoring the restoration work in flood-hit areas while a report in this regard was being submitted to him on daily basis. On the instructions of the prime minister, the National Highway Authority and the Power Division are working day and night on the maintenance work. The traffic on the operational sections of Gwadar-Ratodero Motorway M8 has been restored while landslide debris has been cleared up from the M8 Wango Hills location. – APP

Italy eyes €6bln bilateral trade potential with Pak

Dr. Roberto Neccia said that a trade section was being opened in the Italian Embassy and hoped that it would give a jump to bilateral ties between the two countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Roberto Neccia, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Italy said that the bilateral trade of €1.5 billion between Italy and Pakistan was much below the actual potential of both countries and both should work for improving their two way trade to at least €5-6 billion per annum as they have the potential to achieve this target. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Dr. Roberto Neccia said that a trade section was being opened in the Italian Embassy and hoped that it would give a jump to bilateral ties between the two countries. He said that the Iran-Italy Chamber of Commerce and Industry contributed positively for trade and floated the idea of a Pakistan-Italy Chamber of Commerce & Industry to strengthen networking and business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.



He said that Italy has 5 million family owned SMEs and close cooperation between the SMEs two countries would be helpful in sharing experiences and promoting bilateral business relations. He lauded the contribution of the Pakistani community in Italy and said that they could act as a bridge for improving trade ties. He said that Italy would support Pakistan for renewal of the EU's GSP plus

concession. He said that Pakistan should send sector-specific trade missions to Italy to explore untapped areas of mutual cooperation and assured that his embassy would provide all possible facilitation to the Pakistani business

community in promoting business relations with Italy.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Mumir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Pakistan considers Italy an important country for trade and economic relations as both countries have good potential to cooperate with each other in many areas. He said that Italy has advanced technology & machinery, therefore, close cooperation with Italy is beneficial for Pakistan to improve its economy.

He said that Pakistan has a lot of reserves of marble & granite and import of latest marble machinery from Italy can help us to produce value-added marble products and increase their exports. He said that Pakistan can import industrial & agricultural machinery from Italy while Italy can import many products from Pakistan including raw materials, textiles, surgical instruments, marble products, pharmaceuticals, leather products, sports goods and more.

Parliamentarians to play role in addressing challenge of climate change

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Tuesday said legislators of various parliaments in the world would have to understand their role and contribute for effective mitigation of climate change's challenge which is real threat to human security. He stated this while addressing the "Third Inter-Parliamentary Union Regional Seminar on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals for Parliaments of Asia-Pacific" here at the Parliament House.

The Speaker said that Pakistan is ranked eight amongst the countries most vulnerable to climate change despite contributing less than one percent to global emis-

sions. He said the recent flood in Pakistan caused irreparable loss of precious lives and destruction to basic infrastructure including roads, houses, schools and basic health units. He said that Pakistan is hosting this crucial seminar for the Asia Pacific nations at a critical juncture as only few days ago, we faced record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains that triggered floods, which have killed more than 1,391 people; displaced 33 million people; swept away houses, roads, railway tracks, bridges, livestock and crops worth around 30 Billion US Dollars. He urged the participants to avail this opportunity to especially focus their

deliberations on this grave global climate change challenge to human security. He said that floods come as the climate emergency continues to wreak havoc across the globe. Europe is confronting its worst drought in 500 years while China is facing an unprecedented heat wave that has dried up rivers and lakes and in Mississippi, USA, residents were told to evacuate the city as it braces for more flooding. The Speaker said that the Climate Change Risk Index of 2021 reports that Pakistan is ranked eighth among countries most vulnerable to climate crisis despite contributing less than 1% to global carbon emissions. – APP

Dr Mukhtar vows to further improve HEC performance

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC) Dr Mukhtar Ahmad has reiterated his commitment to take stringent measures for improving the performance of HEC while taking all stakeholders on board. In his message on the eve of 20 years completion of HEC, Chairman Higher Education Commission said that since establishment of HEC, we had achieved many goals while many challenges were ahead to do more for the higher education sector of Pakistan. He said that all relevant stakeholders had been taken on board to review the previous performance and lacking in HEC policies, adding, stringent measures would be taken to take HEC ad affiliated universities at par with international standards. "We will set the HEC direction and would formulate policies that would work for our future generations" he added. Dr Mukhtar vowed to set the goals for HEC that would be achieved till 2050. – APP

Railways lease 4,694 acres land to generate revenue

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways had leased out as many as 4,694 acres of its precious land during the last four years to transform the department into profitable entity by generating more revenue. The leased-out land was located in seven divisions including Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi Multan and Sukkar, an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said the government was taking several steps to retrieve encroached land from the land grabbers including detailed survey was being carried out to identify the encroached land, occupied by the individuals and under illegal occupation of various government departments. He said Pakistan Railways had also decided to accelerate its ongoing anti-encroachment operation against land grabbers across the country to recoup its land from different individuals, groups and even business organizations using it for residential, commercial and agriculture purposes for decades. "The encroachment operation will be launched with the assistance of Railway Police and district administrations of the relevant provincial governments," he added. The official said that First Information Reports (FIRs) were being lodged and cases were registered and sent to PR Judicial Magistrates for expeditious trial. The issue regarding illegal occupation and possession of PR's land by government departments and institutions has also been taken up with the concerned departments, he added. The official said PR owned 167,690 acres of land across the country, of which 90,326-acre was in Punjab, 39,428-acre in Sindh, 28,228-acre in Balochistan and 9,708-acre in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. To a question, he said Pakistan Railways has started special master level classes in railway engineering department in collaboration with Pak-Austria Fachhochschule Institute of Applied Sciences (PAFIST) to enhance the capacity of its engineers and technical staff. – APP

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Briefs

AIOU organizes two-day book fair

ISLAMABAD: A two-day book fair has been started at Allama Iqbal Open University in which 20 book sellers and publishers have set up book stalls. Books are being sold at discounted prices in this fair. Students from different school and colleges of twin cities visited book fair. Raja Umar Younis, Registrar AIOU visited the book fair and appreciated all the publishers and book sellers.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Director General Regional Services, Dr. Malik Tauqeer Ahmed Khan and Director Admissions, Syed Zia Ul-Hasnain Naqvi said that inculcating the habit of book reading in the new generation is very important for the establishment of a knowledge-friendly society. He said that Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, VC AIOU was taking special measures to increase the trend of book reading, especially in young generation and this festival is an important step for that. The Chief Librarian, Dr. Shah Farrukh said that following the previous practice, this time also the central library of the university has organized a book fair in which 20 major registered booksellers and publishers have set up book stalls.

He said that the main objective of this fair is to provide an opportunity for the faculty members to select books for the central library of the university and the libraries of the regional offices. He said that this book fair is also open to all, anyone from Islamabad/Rawalpindi can participate in this fair.

The closing ceremony of this book fair will be held tomorrow, which will be presided over by the vice-chancellor of the university, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum. - APP

Seven drug peddlers, bootleggers held

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi police in an action against suspected drug peddlers and bootleggers on Tuesday arrested seven accused besides recovering 1250 grams charras and 29 liters liquor from their possession.

A police spokesperson said that Sadiqabad, Murree, Kotli Sattian, and Kahuta police arrested Abdul Rafiq, Junaid, Hussain, Gulfaan Ashraf, Hafeez, Aurangzaib and Talat on recovery of 1250 grams charras and 29 liters liquor.

The spokesperson said that separate cases have been registered against all 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

IRSA releases 263,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 263,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 272,900 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum capacity level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet.

Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 156,500 cusecs and 155,800 cusecs respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1192.60 feet, which was 142.60 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

The inflow and outflow of water was recorded 24,100 cusecs and 15,000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded 165,200, 164,400 and 160,000 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from River Kabul, a total of 40,000 cusecs of water released at Nowshera and 20,900 cusecs released from River Chenab at Marala. - APP

OIC states need to change attitude, urges Dr. Alvi

The President mentioned that new technologies like gene therapy and CRISPR techniques help the humanity to make tailor made specific changes in the genome to develop new traits of any living being

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Those who are ahead in OIC states come forward and provide leadership for changing attitude towards the adaptation of new technologies to achieve success in all spheres of life, said the President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi while addressing the inaugural session of "Youth Forum on Biotechnology" organized by COMSTECH in collaboration with Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Türkiye and Islamic Organization for Food Security, Kazakhstan. Dr. Alvi said that biotechnology is a landmark development, without this technology the green revolution could not have been possible. He said we need to develop intellect and evolve new ideas. He said that the scientific instruments guide the humanity to find the truth. The President mentioned that new technologies like gene therapy and CRISPR techniques help the humanity to make tailor made specific



changes in the genome to develop new traits of any living being. The President mentioned many examples from the past like human body dissection and the printing press innovation and said we adopted these technologies many centuries late which is the reason of our lacking behind from the advanced world. Dr. Alvi urged the young scientists to work hard and come up with novel and innovative ethical and moral solutions for the humani-

ty and quick adoption of the new technologies for the rapid growth of the developing world. He asked COMSTECH to take the lead in the prompt adaptation of emerging technologies in OIC region. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants of the forum. He said that this forum is significant to address the challenge of food security. He urged the need of the introduction and use of new technologies and bet-

ter management to tackle the issue of food security faced by OIC states. He said that agricultural biotechnology will help in producing enough food to feed the hunger. Director IOFS, Dr. Ismail Abdel Hamid said that the biotechnology is critical for the human development and achieving food security. He said that this forum will help us to explore new avenues, generate novel ideas and methodologies to understand the biotechnology and its use to address the issue of

food security. Dr. Hamid presented a brief review of IOFS program and projects. CEO of Young Business Hub, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Mr. Sami Serdar, expressed solidarity, condolences and prayers for the recent flood victims in Pakistan.

He said today we are here for youth that want a big change for the better future. He said technologies are playing an important role for the betterment of human life and biotechnology is playing important role in our daily life to address the global issues. Mr. Serdar suggested a united effort with solid continued commitment.

The inaugural session was attended by the Ambassadors/Diplomats of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Somalia, Qatar, Iraq, and Uzbekistan. This three-day forum is being attended by more than 170 national and international in-person participants, whereas many people are attending this forum from 35 OIC member states online. More than 30 local and international scholars will give lectures during this forum.



ISLAMABAD: The designated Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan, Georg Steiner, presented a copy of his credentials to the Chief of Protocol, Ali Haider Altaf, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

Ombudsman constitute inspection team for hearing complaints

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi taking cognizance of number of complaints of the residents of E-11 Sector has constituted an inspection team mandated to hear resident's complaints. The residents of such sector had registered various complaints with the Ombudsman office regarding illegal encroachments, pathetic maintenance of sewerage system, short supply of water, narrowing and choking of nullahs and dilapidated condition of roads of National Police Foundation and five other housing societies of Sector E-11. The inspection team consisted of senior officers under the headship of Registrar WMS Saqib Khan and Adnan Ahmad. The team visited different areas of all housing societies in E-11 Sector i.e. NPF, Federal Employees Cooperative Housing Society, Pakistan Medical Cooperative Housing Society, Services Cooperative Housing Society and Multi Professional Housing Society, heard the complaints of the residents and ascertained the stance of the managements of National Police Foundation and the management of other societies against the complaints. The team investigated all complaints and especially observed that the narrowing and choking of dirty nullahs during the rainy season caused great nuisance to the residents. The team also inspected the site of a commercial plaza due to which the double road has been converted into a single road in a housing society. The residents also informed that due to tripping of damaged electricity transformers, power breakdowns were frequent. Cleanliness and drinking water facility was also found to be deficient and sewerage system was found in a very bad condition. The team observed that all the housing societies in Sector E-11 need to bring their services in line with CDA rules and regulations. - APP

'Ekaterra' to provide 100 tonnes tea

ISLAMABAD, Sep 13 (APP): As part of the national plan of providing maximum relief to over 33 million flood-affected people across Pakistan, 'ekaterra' has pledged to donate 100 tonnes of tea to one million families displaced by the devastating floods. The relief assistance would be provided through ekaterra's partner nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), Indus Hospital, The Citizens Foundation, Al-Khidmat Foundation, and Roshan Academy, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The step has been taken keeping in view the importance of tea in our society. The flood devastation in Pakistan is of an unimaginable magnitude; almost 20% of the world's 5th most populous country is submerged under water. Pakistan emits less than 1% of the greenhouse gases in the world and yet it is still reeling from the effects of intense climate change. - APP

Pak-China to hold friendly football match on Wednesday

ISLAMABAD: With the support of the Chinese government, the Pak-China Friendly Football Match is set to be held in Gwadar on September 14 (Wednesday). According to Gwadar Pro, it is the first time in the football history of Gwadar that the Pak-China Friendly Football Match is being organized in commemoration of the 71st anniversary of the establishment of Pak-China diplomatic relations under the auspice of the Chinese Embassy Islamabad in collaboration with IIRMR and District Football Association (DFA), Gwadar. Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) Chairman Naseer Khan Kashani told Gwadar Pro that such sports are in dire need of the hour, unleashing a new opportunity for the Chinese government to deepen people-to-people connectivity and magnify social contact with local people of Gwadar. "In my opinion, it will also lay down a robust founda-

World Space Week celebrations to commence at IST

ISLAMABAD: Institute of Space Technology (IST), Islamabad in collaboration with National Center of GIS and Space Applications (NCGSA) has planned to celebrate World Space Week 2022, from October 4-10 at its Islamabad campus. The annual week long space festivity encapsulates over 100 events, related to space science, technology and its applications. The celebrations are in pursuance of United Nations declaration of October 4-10 as international week of space aimed at celebrating, and acknowledging the contributions of Space Technology towards betterment of humankind. It is the largest annual space event of the world aimed to build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students and educating the public about multifaceted domains of space.

Pakistan is one of the major contributors in the WSW space festivities, the national activities are held under the patronage of SUPARCO. Institute of Space Technology has been celebrating World Space Week since 2005 in line with its vision "Be a National torchbearer in the realm of academics, through quality teaching, robust research and outreach, to produce leaders in the field of Space Science and Technology, in line with National aspirations". IST organizes a wide range of events to motivate and inspire young minds towards the realms of Space Technology around the year through its Space Education Research Lab, under the NCGSA. Channelizing these efforts of space education and outreach through innovative and engaging initiatives at the national level, World Space Week 2022 will be celebrated at IST from October 4-10. In accordance with the WSW 2022 theme of "Space and Sustainability" covering the aspects of achieving sustainability in space, and achieving sustainability from space, IST has planned more than 100 events including competitions, lectures, webinars and trainings. - APP

Junaid denies report of being arrested

ISLAMABAD: Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's grandson Muhammad Junaid Safdar has denied social media posts claiming that he was arrested in London by Scotland Yard.

Several users on Twitter shared a video showing Junaid Safdar being taken away by the police in a van. Some users alleged Junaid has been arrested in relation to the discovery of a Bentley in Karachi stolen from London and some claimed Junaid had been arrested for obtaining a fake degree, said a message received here.

Junaid Safdar said in a statement that the social media news was fake and baseless. "News regarding my arrest is fake. For those who have a short memory, this video is from 2018. I was arrested after responding in self-defence to an attack instigated by a group of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf goons, who took no time in turning tail." He said that Scotland Yard carried out a criminal investigation and no further action was taken.

Junaid Safdar said: "I am told that the journalist responsible for propagating this fake news has deleted his tweet, perhaps less out of moral considerations and more out of embarrassment. No apology or clarification was issued. Must really be a man of grace and integrity. I have nothing more to say about his conduct."

Junaid Safdar said it was unfortunate that social media is used these days as a vehicle to run fake political campaigns and to target opponents. He said those interested in his degrees should contact the universities from where he has obtained qualifications. - APP

IHC summons AGP for assistance

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday summoned Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) for assistance in plea seeking legislation to stop the projection of blasphemous material on social media. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the case filed by Colonel (retired) Inaamur Rahim regarding the matter.

The petitioner adopted the stance that this IHC's bench had given a judgment in 2017 and ordered FIA to take action against the responsible and remove objectionable material from social media.

He said that the court had also ordered the ministry of law and justice to introduce legislation for stopping this practice. He said that the FIA had arrested the accused and also managed to remove the blasphemous contents but the legislation was still awaited.

He prayed the court to issue directives to the ministry for introduction of the law. The court sought a report from law ministry and also summoned the AGP for assistance on next hearing. - APP

Pak flood situation becoming threatening

WASHINGTON: With the flood situation in Pakistan becoming increasingly menacing, Ambassador Masood Khan has urged the world community to step up their help to enable Islamabad cope with the climate-induced disaster that has left behind a trail of destruction. "Since these floods are a direct consequence of deadly climate change, we would hope that the international community, particularly the developed countries and the United Nations, will step forward to give climate support to Pakistan," he said in an interview with TRT, a Turkish broadcaster, adding that the cumulative damage of climate change would be astronomical.

"It is a very difficult situation; we have disasters with in the mega disaster; we have water-borne diseases, displaced people, with crops and cattle destroyed," the Ambassador said.

Noting that UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had put the estimated cost for the total loss and damages at more than \$30 billion, he said, while Pakistan has resorted to their resourcefulness to cope with the calamity, "We can't do it alone and therefore appealed to the international community to help us." - APP

Three-day youth forum on Biotechnology starts

CEO of Young Business Hub, Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Sami Serdar, expressed solidarity, condolences and prayers for the recent flood victims in Pakistan. He said today we are here for youth that want a big change for the better future

ISLAMABAD: Three-day "Youth Forum on Biotechnology" kicked off in federal capital on Tuesday with a large number of national and international participants highlighting the importance of biotechnology to achieve success in all spheres of life. The forum is being arranged by COMSTECH in collaboration with Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum, Türkiye and Islamic Organization for Food Security, Kazakhstan. President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurated the inaugural session of the forum while Ambassadors/ Diplomats of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Palestine, Somalia, Qatar, Iraq, and Uzbekistan attended the event. Terming the biotechnology as a landmark achievement, the speakers at the event said that the green revolution cannot

be possible without the biotechnology. "Those who are ahead in OIC states come forward and provide leadership for changing attitude towards the adaptation of new technologies to achieve success in all spheres of life", the speakers said. The speakers urged the young scientists to work hard and come up with novel and innovative ethical and moral solutions for the humanity and quick adoption of the new technologies for the rapid growth of the developing world. "COMSTECH should take the lead in the prompt adaptation of emerging technologies in OIC region", they emphasized. Speaking on the occasion, Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said that this forum is significant to address

the challenge of food security. He urged the need of the introduction and use of new technologies and better management to tackle the issue of food security faced by OIC states. He said that agricultural biotechnology will help in producing enough food to feed the hunger. Director IOFS, Dr. Ismail Abdel Hamid said that the biotechnology is critical for the human development and achieving food security. He said that this forum will help us to explore new avenues, generate novel ideas and methodologies to understand the biotechnology and its use to address the issue of food security. Dr. Hamid presented a brief review of IOFS program and projects. CEO of Young Business Hub, Islamic Co-

operation Youth Forum, Sami Serdar, expressed solidarity, condolences and prayers for the recent flood victims in Pakistan. He said today we are here for youth that want a big change for the better future.

He said technologies are playing an important role for the betterment of human life and biotechnology is playing important role in our daily life to address the global issues. Serdar suggested a united effort with solid continued commitment.

This three-day forum is being attended by more than 170 national and international in-person participants, whereas many people are attending this forum from 35 OIC member states online. More than 30 local and international scholars will give lectures during this forum. - APP

Ukraine's counteroffensive

THE burnt-out tanks, abandoned crates of ammunition and other evidence of swift, chaotic Russian flight tell their own dramatic story. The stunning, lightning offensive by Ukrainian troops in the north-east of the country constitutes the most significant moment in the war since March, when Vladimir Putin's assault on Kyiv was repulsed and his invading forces beat a hasty retreat eastwards. Over five days, thousands of square kilometres of the occupied east, including the strategically vital cities of Kupiansk and Izium, have been liberated. According to Ukrainian commanders, Russian troops have been pushed back to the border. The Institute for the Study of War estimates that the counteroffensive has taken control of more territory than Russian forces have managed in all operations since April. Skilful use of western rockets and artillery allowed the Ukrainian military to successfully target Russian supply lines and erode its massive advantage in military hardware. Already low in morale – and lacking elite combat troops who had been dispatched to deal with a prior offensive in the south – Russian fighters abandoned overnight territory that had been won after weeks of attritional warfare. It would be rash to underestimate the possible ferocity of Moscow's response. Subsequent Russian missile attacks on the power grid in Kharkiv suggest that the Kremlin may be plotting the most brutal of energy wars this winter, depriving Ukrainians of heat and light. Mr Putin's plan B, following the humiliating debacle of his own blitzkrieg on Kyiv, was to consolidate and expand Russia's grip on Ukraine's east. Incremental progress backed by relentless use of heavy artillery already appeared to have stalled in a summer stalemate. The shambolic Russian retreat of recent days has now led to a growing drumbeat of disquiet on popular ultra-nationalist blogs and will further damage morale on the ground. While not yet unpopular, it is becoming hard for even practised media propagandists to present Mr Putin's "military operation" as a success. For Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the gains in the north-east will be a priceless lobbying asset as he seeks to persuade western allies to step up delivery of the advanced weaponry used so effectively by his commanders. The successful counteroffensive – and smaller gains in the south – has undermined the idea that Russian consolidation in those regions is inevitable. The strength and determination of Ukrainian resistance will be redoubled, and it will become harder for Russia to establish its authority in recently occupied eastern territory. Ultimately, driving Russian forces back to at least within the territories taken over in 2014 no longer seems implausible. But first there will be the grimmest of winters to endure. This could lead to another exodus of refugees, at a time when domestic economic hardship is stretching goodwill among European populations. The most significant achievement of a stunning string of victories may be to encourage western nations to stay the course in a war that is a long way from reaching any kind of conclusion.

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AUKUS deal

SINCE the United States and the United Kingdom announced they will help Australia acquire nuclear submarines last year, their alleged "security" cooperation under the AUKUS framework has triggered international concerns over nuclear proliferation. Conscious of what they are doing, the three countries, all signatory states to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, have jumped the gun by kick-starting their nuclear cooperation before obtaining the approval of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They know that what has been done cannot be undone and that if Australia has nuclear-powered submarines it will be a fait accompli.

Although the IAEA said in a report on Friday that it is "satisfied" with AUKUS' level of engagement with it, the fact that the IAEA Board of Governors has decided by consensus to set up a formal agenda item on "Transfer of nuclear materials in the context of AUKUS and its safeguards in all aspects under the NPT" for its quarterly board meeting starting on Monday in Vienna, for the fourth time in a row, drives home the point that there are still questions to be answered.

The report quoted Australia as stating to the IAEA: Australia would be provided with complete, welded power units. These power units are designed so that removal of any nuclear material would be extremely difficult and would render the power unit, and the submarine, inoperable, and that material would also be in a form that cannot be used in nuclear weapons without chemical processing, "requiring facilities that Australia does not have and will not seek". But is that all that is being delivered? Is the opaque deal purely about nuclear submarines? And why, since it had already struck a deal with France for conventional diesel-powered submarines, did Australia suddenly decide it needed nuclear-powered submarines? What other aspects to the deal are there? Is the US being allowed to base nuclear weapons in Australia? Will the Australian submarines carry US or UK nuclear missiles? The deal is less than transparent. And the three countries cannot deny that to transport the reactors halfway around the world to the South Pacific, and for Australia to have the nuclear material are at their core a process of nuclear proliferation, nor that Australia having nuclear-powered submarines that are to be deployed in the Asia-Pacific region is acting against the regional consensus that Southeast Asia be a nuclear weapons-free zone. As predicted, the three countries have chosen to ignore the AUKUS-related discussions at the IAEA board meetings and in relevant intergovernmental processes and tried to set up a separate agenda item on the issue, aiming to create divisions within the agency. Given this, the IAEA must remain neutral and continue to provide the platform for addressing the proliferation risks of AUKUS' move. The IAEA member states should focus on the illicit transfer of nuclear materials or weapons under the framework of AUKUS, and oppose any attempts by the three countries to hinder the IAEA in the performance of its duties.

Indonesia's G 20 chairmanship: Balancing on a diplomatic tightrope

James Dorsey

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INDONESIA'S geopolitical plate is piling up as the archipelago state prepares to host the Group of 20 (G20) summit and associated gatherings in November, including the Religion 20 (R20), a high-level meeting of religious leaders, the first under the G20's auspices. The challenges and opportunities for Indonesia are multiple and often unique. In June, Indonesian President Joko Widodo persuaded the leaders of the Group of 7, which brings together Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union, to join the summit in Bali of the G20, made up of the world's largest economies, even if it is attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The G7 leaders had threatened to boycott the summit if Mr. Putin were invited in protest against Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Even so, much can derail Mr. Widodo's achievement in the months leading up to the summit, although he has, for now, prevented a fracturing of the G 20 even before the leaders convene. Pulling the G20 back from what could have constituted a devastating fiasco is just one of the pitfalls, Indonesia has been seeking to maneuver. With two months to go until the Bali summit and a world mired in conflict, bifurcation, and economic crisis, Indonesia's G-20 presidency is hardly out of the woods. Insisting that Mr. Putin should attend the summit helps Mr. Widodo maneuver Indonesia through the mine-

fields of a world increasingly polarized by the rise of civilizationalist leaders who think in civilizational rather than national terms, and the power struggle to shape the world order in the 21st century. Yet, in a potential preview of the summit, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov walked out of a meeting of G20 foreign ministers in Bali in July when Russia came under fire for its war in Ukraine. The gathering ended without the traditional joint communiqué, chairperson's statement and/or group photograph. It underscored the fact that Indonesia may have to walk a diplomatic tightrope to prevent the November summit from fracturing the G 20 beyond repair. Mr. Lavrov's walk-out underscored the risks stemming from the power struggle and the expansionist ambitions of civilizationalist leaders such as Mr. Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping. They threaten to put a dent in Indonesia's successful track record of being inspired by the principles of a 1955 conference in the Indonesian city of Bandung that gave birth to the non-aligned movement. That has not stopped Indonesia from rejecting Chinese claims to territory in the South China Sea, refusing China's offer to negotiate maritime boundaries, and at times conducting military exercises just beyond Chinese-claimed waters while maintaining substantial economic relations with the People's Republic. However, increasingly, Indonesia may find that non-alignment no longer is its best option, even if that would not necessarily mean that it would pick sides in the US-China divide. What it does mean is that the G20 is the opportunity for Indonesia to showcase itself, on the back of its diplomatic acumen, as an attractive target for badly needed foreign investment and a regional power that has long flown under the radar. To do so, Indonesia, one of the world's biggest coal exporters and carbon emitters, will have to clarify its stance on a host of issues, including climate change; perceived threats posed not only by China but also by Aukus, the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States that is allowing Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines; and the mushrooming food and energy crisis that raises the specter of a global recession. One way, Indonesia hopes to make its mark is a summit of religious leaders that is scheduled to precede the meeting of heads of government and state. The religious summit is expected to refashion the G-20's erstwhile Interfaith 20 track or IF20 as the Religion 20. But even that is not without its pitfalls. Organised by Nahdlatul Ulama, the world's largest Muslim civil society movement in the world's largest Muslim-majority country and the Islamic world's foremost democracy, in cooperation with the Indonesian government, the R 20 constitutes at first glance a significant shift away from the approach of the IF 20. In contrast to the IF 20 that was dominated by scholars and activists, the R 20 intends to bring together religious leaders to globally position religion as a source of solutions rather than problems. It is a call that resonates coming from the

world's most populous Muslim majority country and democracy. Some 200 religious leaders and politicians, including Nahdlatul Ulama general chairman Yahya Cholil Staquf, World Evangelical Alliance secretary general Bishop Thomas Schirrmacher and former US ambassador to the Vatican Mary Ann Glendon are expected to attend the summit. On the surface of it, the R20 constitutes an opportunity to energize the world's major faith groups to rally around shared civilizational values that would empower religion as a force for good that goes beyond lofty statements that are not worth more than the paper they are written on. That is a tall order given the role that religious and identity groups play in perpetuating rather than resolving conflicts based on international law, justice, and equity. Think of the Russian Orthodox Church as a driver of extreme Russian nationalism and the definition of Russia as a civilizational rather than a national state, resulting in the invasion of Ukraine and the potential threat to other former Soviet republics. Or the uncritical support by Christian and Jewish groups of Israeli policies that violate international law, deny Palestinian rights, and long-term put at risk Israel's existence as a democratic Jewish state. The R20's organizers appear to have opted, at least for now, to co-organize the summit with the Muslim World League rather than representative non-Muslim faith groups less beholden to a government. The League is Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's vehicle to garner religious soft power, help polish the kingdom's tarnished image, and propagate a socially liberal but autocratic interpretation of Islam that preaches absolute obedience to the ruler. An R20 press release quoted the League's secretary general, Mohammed al-Issa, as saying that "working alongside Nahdlatul Ulama...will strengthen our mission. This partnership with Nahdlatul Ulama will serve as an excellent platform for dialogue that will amplify and extend the Muslim World League's noble mission." Even so, the R20 could undergird Mr. Widodo's vision of applying the principles of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to the G 20. Indonesian officials argue that the nature of ASEAN has allowed its ten members, despite their different political and economic systems, to prevent the once war-torn region from confronting another abyss and finding ways to peacefully manage or resolve disputes and tackle common problems. Like with the religious summit, Indonesia faces a tall order in attempting to pull back from the brink a world consumed by the war in Ukraine as it seeks to maneuver the pitfalls of mounting tensions between the United States and China over issues like Taiwan that, like Eastern Europe, could spark a war with a global fallout. – Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and scholar, an Adjunct Senior Fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and the author of the syndicated column and blog, *The Turbulent World of Middle East Soccer*.

Why Switzerland is breaking away from 500-year-old neutrality

Giorgio Cafiero

"The Swiss govt...took a firm stance. Pressure and concern in the population as well as from Western partners, who are Switzerland's main political and economic partners, would have become unbearable had Switzerland..."

FOR centuries, the Swiss assessment was that their neutrality enhanced their country's security. Now, they are unsure about that principle in light of the Ukraine conflict. Military neutrality is central to Switzerland's national identity. The term "playing Switzerland" is universally used to mean staying out of a dispute. No other people have upheld this tradition as long as the Swiss, who have even included this tenet in their Constitution. Yet, over the past six months, the Swiss have been asking themselves sensitive questions about their fabled neutrality within the context of the Ukrainian crisis. Many scholars maintain that the origins of Switzerland's neutrality date back to 1515. That year, roughly 10,000 Swiss lost their lives fighting the French in the 16-hour Battle of Marignano, forcing the Old Swiss Confederacy to abandon its expansion into Italy. Perched between France, Prussia, and Austria, the Swiss concluded that their interests would be best served by staying neutral in European conflicts while avoiding the risks of being on the losing side in any war. Then the 1815 Congress of Vienna, the Treaty of Paris in 1815, and the Hague Convention of 1907 further institutionalised, recognised, and defined Switzerland's neutral status. "However, when it comes to a neutrality policy, a neutral country has a large latitude in terms of policy choices. Joining the sanctions does definitely not contradict the legal obligations of a neutral state. Moreover, Switzerland continues to offer its good offices to both conflicting parties and remains a neutral platform for inclusive discussions," added Ambassador Greninger. Yet certain elements in the country, especially on the right, have opposed such measures. The Swiss People's Party has argued that such measures violate Bern's commitment to neutrality. For its part, Vladimir Putin's government doesn't think Switzerland remains neutral. Last month, Moscow refused Bern's offer to serve as a representative of Ukrainian interests in Russia because Switzerland "joined illegal Western sanctions against Russia," as Foreign Ministry spokesperson Ivan Nechayev stated. Nonetheless, Swiss-Russian relations have not suffered greatly from Bern's sanctions, which Goetschel said have merely "annoyed" the Kremlin. But such measures have not been detrimental to bilateral ties, underscored by the Russian ambassador to Switzerland congratulating the historically neutral country on Swiss National Day last month. If the Russian-Ukrainian war continues to rage on, the 64,000-dollar question is, will Swiss neutrality crack? With a society divided over questions about how to respond to Russian aggression in Ukraine and Western states not looking kindly upon European countries responding to it neutrally, it will be increasingly challenging for Bern to stand in favour of international law while maintaining its historic neutrality. "I believe that Switzerland and its institutions are still best positioned to provide safe spaces for exchanges between non-like-minded actors. Switzerland is uniquely positioned to strongly advocate for the respect of international law as well as international principles and commitments and, at the same time, to maintain dialogue with all States, including the Russian Federation or China," says Ambassador Greninger. "Through the crisis [in Ukraine], Switzerland came to realise that it really belongs to the so-called Western community of values," explains Goetschel. "This does not mean that it has to 'melt' into its neighbouring countries, but that when certain fundamental issues are at stake, it should not pretend to be different when in fact it isn't." For centuries, the Swiss assessment was that their neutrality enhanced their country's security. Now, they are debating whether it still achieves this objective. Ultimately, the Russo-Ukrainian war has even prompted this debate in Switzerland speaks volumes about the extent to which the Ukrainian crisis has fundamentally changed Europe's security architecture and the ways in which Europeans understand it. – Source: TRT World

Monsoon and challenges of Gilgit-Baltistan

Altaf Kumail



The threat of GLOF due to environmental degradation still looms. The reasons are numerous but it is important to question the failure at the policy level. Promoting mass tourism in this ecologically fragile region without proper planning has led...

FLOODS in Pakistan have caused widespread destruction in many parts of the country. It has been widely discussed in the mainstream media that although the rains were many times higher than expected, poor governance and lack of disaster preparedness exacerbated the disaster. If the Disaster Management (NDMA) authorities were efficient and active, many lives and loss of infrastructure could have been prevented but unfortunately, it was not. These days the region of Gilgit-Baltistan is more vulnerable to the effects of natural and climatic changes compared to other regions, there are more glaciers in Gilgit-Baltistan, due to which the process of melting glaciers is becoming faster, which will pose serious threats to the region of Gilgit-Baltistan. According to the report issued by the Gilgit-Baltistan government on August 28, between June 30 and August 26 this year, there were reports of floods at more than 110 places in Gilgit-Baltistan, in which seventeen people have died so far, while six people have been injured. Similarly, 418 houses were destroyed and 257 houses were partially damaged due to flood damage. While 22 powerhouses were destroyed, 78 drinking water supply schemes and 500 irrigation water channels were damaged. Additionally, 56 bridges and 49 roads were washed away, severely affecting the movement of

people and food items brought from Rawalpindi. While most of the damaged facilities have been temporarily restored, including 19 powerhouses, rains and floods have exposed the region's fragile infrastructure. The threat of GLOF due to environmental degradation still looms. The reasons are numerous but it is important to question the failure at the policy level. Promoting mass tourism in this ecologically fragile region without proper planning has led to an increase in tourist arrivals and land and air traffic. The absence of eco-friendly tourism policies and infrastructure has aggravated the situation. The region is neither represented in the national legislature nor is its assembly given full autonomy in local affairs. The bureaucrats appointed by the federal government have more roles and power than the elected members of the GB assembly. However, the track record of the federal government is not encouraging when it comes to the improvement of the region both politically and economically. Every government is tirelessly trying to wall up Gilgit-Baltistan. Abusive treatment of this region in the context of its political and economic goals is certainly condemnable. GB needs practical solutions from both federal and local governments. People are constantly living in life-threatening situations. There is an urgent need to formulate and implement sustainable policies to protect people and the environment.

Briefs

PM urges cabinet to help people

FROM PAGE 01
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for visiting Pakistan at the critical time as well as the UN flash appeal of US \$ 160 million to help the flood affected people. He said that the UN Secretary General, who also visited the flood affected areas during his visit, urged international community to take practical steps to help Pakistan to mitigate the sufferings of the flood affected people as well as to reduce the negative effects of climate change. The Prime Minister also lauded UN Secretary Antonio Guterres for his empathetic attitude towards the flood-affected people and his views about climate change injustice with Pakistan. Meanwhile, the federal cabinet rejected the summary of the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination proposing an increase in the retail price of 10 medicines. Chairing the meeting here at PM Office, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif categorically stated that he did not support the price hike with regard to medicine. The prime minister tasked Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, Minister for Food Security Tariq Bashir Cheema, Maritimes Affairs Minister Faisal Sabzwari, Commerce Minister Syed Naveed Qamar and Adviser on Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan Affairs Qamar Zam- an Kaira to work towards improving coordination among provinces regarding the price of wheat and distribution of urea. With multiple agenda items on the table, the cabinet discussed the matters including Hajj overbooking inquiry, mutual legal assistance with other countries, energy performance standards, legislative cases and approval of the decisions of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). On the inquiry report regarding the overbooking of Hajj pilgrims, the cabinet pointed out the problems relating to reconciliation, however, ruled out any charges of malicious intention.

Sindh: PMD forecasts rains

FROM PAGE 01
another low-pressure system present in Central India. The rain-producing system is likely to cause more precipitation in areas of upper Sindh – many of which are already under water and bearing the brunt of catastrophic floods – till September 15. The areas likely to receive rain include Tharparkar, Umarkot, Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, with showers accompanied by windstorms in Sanghar, Badin, Khairpur, Thatta and Tando Muhammad Khan. Pakistan is currently reeling from the havoc caused by the catastrophic floods, largely depending on aid from international organisations and friendly countries for relief and rehabilitation. The devastating floods caused by record monsoon rains and glacial melt in northern mountains have affected 33 million people and killed almost 1,400, sweeping away homes, transport, crops and livestock in damage estimated at \$30 billion. While more rains are on the way, victims in flood-hit areas of Sindh – with or without shelter – are feared to be at risk of being hit by another episode of misery. The outbreak of water and vector-borne diseases has intensified in the flood affected areas, with two girls dying of gastrointestinal disease in Khairpur. Meanwhile, four children drowned in floodwaters in Qambar and Maher. Over in Thatta, Sujawal and Makli, flood affectees in roadside makeshift camps await relief. Though Pakistan Army continues its rescue efforts in affected areas, there are many locations where people are still trapped in water and suffering from dengue and skin diseases.

US global influence gradually shrinking

The use of dollar reserves goes alongside the use of dollars in settlements for international transactions and both will move in the same direction

AGENCIES

BEIJING: The diminishing dominance of the US dollar will lead to the continued shrinking of the United States' economic and geopolitical influence and an overall erosion of its global standing, an expert said during a recent interview with Yuyuantan, a new media arm of the China Media Group (CMG). This global trend has been reflected since the beginning of this year, with Egypt, Israel and other countries in the Middle East have adopted a diversified strategy on their foreign exchange reserves, further reducing the share of the US dollar. Meanwhile, according to customs documents and other insider industry sources, Indian companies have also been using Asian currencies more often to

buy Russian energy. India's central bank has recently unveiled an Indian rupee settlement system for international trade, a move which experts said will reduce the country's demand for US dollars and alleviate depreciation pressure on the rupee. Russia's second-largest bank VTB also said that it would not make payments in dollars, with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week saying that the world is losing confidence in the "untrustworthy" US dollar. By hiking interest rates four times in a row this year, the US Federal Reserve halted its ultra-loose monetary policy that had been in place for years, forcing many emerging economies to struggle for financial resilience in the face of various domestic and international challenges. In the final quarter of last year, the

dollar's share of global foreign exchange reserves fell below 59 percent to its lowest level since 1995, according to data from the IMF. Jeffrey Sachs, Director at Columbia University's Center for Sustainable Development, said that the trend of the US reserves comes amid a steady decline in the US political and economic status. "The use of dollar reserves goes alongside the use of dollars in settlements for international transactions and both will move in the same direction. There will be less holding of dollar reserves and less dollar-denominated and dollar-settled international transactions, and both have an economic as well as a political reason for these changes," he said. Sachs noted that as Washington has increasingly sought to weaponize the US dollar, other countries have been seeking

reliable alternatives to regain their financial independence. "The economic reason is that the share of the US in the world economy is declining and, for example, when that happened with the United Kingdom in the first half of the 20th century. The role of the sterling, of the pound, diminished also because the pound played the role at the beginning of the 20th century that the dollar plays now. But the other side of this is politics [is] also related," he said. "America's geopolitical weight is also shrinking, and America is trying to use its dollar dominance for geopolitical purposes, for example, punishing countries that it doesn't like, but other countries have options, they don't have to hold dollars and see them confiscated." In addition, global settlement systems have been transforming, Sachs noted, adding that this will also lead to

the acceleration of the "de-dollarization" process. "There are other factors at play as well. We're shifting from a banking settlement system to a digital settlement system. This will also change how payments are made and it will take away the central role of the US dollar and this will change the nature of the global settlements or monetary system," he said. As the emerging market economies have continued to increase their relative roles, the overall stature of the US in terms of the world economy is expected to decline as a whole, said Sachs. "The dominance of the US is gradually eroding and the role of the dollar in all of the directions we've discussed as a settlement currency is diminishing now. That goes along with the diminished role of the US in the global economy and geopolitics," he noted.

Pakistan thrash Maldives 7-0 to end Saff on high

KARACHI: Pakistan women's team signed off in style as they defeated Maldives 7-0 at their last match in the 2022 South Asian Women's Football Championship, which took place at Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on Tuesday afternoon. The team looked different from their last outing against Bangladesh where they were fraught with bad coordination and lack of plan. On Tuesday, they played as a unit and proved their worth. Rameen Faraed scored the first goal for Pakistan at the tournament and in the last eight years. She put the ball in the net with a long shot in the 39th minute of the match. Khadija Kazmi doubled the lead in the 48th minute on a penalty shot, while Nadia Khan scored first of her four goals in the 53rd minute, then went on to score another in 78th minute. She completed her hat-trick in the 84th minute and lastly, she brought the score to 6-0 for Pakistan with her fourth goal in the 90th minute. Anmol Hira who has been very vibrant in the field scored the last goal of the match in the 94th minute, right in the dying moments of the match. Pakistan were placed in Group A of the tournament with India, Bangladesh and Maldives. They were expected to win against Maldives, but they lost to India 3-0 in their opening match, then 6-0 to Bangladesh in their second match. Top two teams from two groups will compete in the semi-finals. The other group had hosts Nepal, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. Pakistan are out of the tournament as India and Bangladesh qualify for the last-four stage. – DNA

Great Britain begin Davis Cup campaign against US

DNA

LONDON: Great Britain start their Davis Cup Finals campaign against the United States in Glasgow on Wednesday as the competition's group stages begin. GB will face the USA, the Netherlands and Kazakhstan in Group D for a place in the November Finals in Malaga. Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans, Andy Murray, Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski will compete for Britain, who have won the event 10 times, most recently in 2015. Glasgow's Emirates Arena hosts the six Group D matches from 13-18 September. A minute's silence will take place at the start of each day's play as a mark of respect following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, while the British team will wear black armbands or ribbons and the national anthem will be played. Although some sporting events have been cancelled in the period of national mourning, the Lawn Tennis Association said it believed that "sport has an important role to play in bringing the



country and communities together, not least in difficult times". Great Britain have four players ranked inside the world's top 50 in singles, but only three are in Leon Smith's squad for the men's team event, with Jack Draper absent after

picking up an injury during the US Open. Wimbledon semi-finalist Norrie is up to eighth in the rankings, with Evans 25th and Murray 43rd, while Salisbury and Skupski are ranked first and third respectively in the men's doubles standings.

Bumrah, Harshal return in Indian squad



WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India announced their 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, with Jasprit Bumrah, the pacer, making his return from injury. The squad was, however, missing all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who sustained an injury during the Asia Cup. Along with Bumrah, fellow pacer Harshal Patel also returned to the side, having missed the Asia Cup with a side strain. Arshdeep Singh and Bhuvneshwar Kumar are the other two pacers in the squad, along with the all-rounder Hardik Pandya, R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal and Axar Patel are the specialist spinners, with the latter replacing Jadeja in the squad. Mohammed Shami, the pacer, has been named as a standby, along with fellow pacer Deepak Chahar, wrist-spinner Ravi Bishnoi and batter Shreyas Iyer. All squads can make changes to their T20 World Cup squad by 9 October. Squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicket-keeper), Hardik Pandya, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh. Standby players: Mohammed Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi, Deepak Chahar.

Joshua 'accepts Fury's terms' for fight

LONDON: Anthony Joshua has accepted WBC champion Tyson Fury's terms for an all-British heavyweight fight on 3 December and is "awaiting a response", his management company has said. Joshua, 32, was sent an offer by Team Fury, suggesting a 60-40 purse split to the champion and a December fight date. The fight was agreed on Friday but the announcement was delayed because of the death of the Queen last Thursday. Initial terms have been agreed but Joshua is yet to sign a contract. In a statement posted on Twitter and shared by Joshua, 258MGT said: "258 and Matchroom Boxing can confirm, on behalf of Anthony Joshua, that we accepted all terms presented to us by Fury's team for a fight." – APP

US supplies Ukraine with intel for strikes

MOSCOW: The head of Russia's Security Council says Washington has been supplying Kiev with crucial intelligence on the location of critical facilities for shelling around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Speaking at a security meeting on Monday, Nikolay Patrushev said "the shelling of critical facilities of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) by Ukrainian nationalists using heavy guns supplied by NATO countries while target designation is carried out by the United States is a serious threat to radiation safety." He warned that the continued attacks on the ZNPP could lead to an unprecedented nuclear catastrophe. "The consequences of these provocations could be very catastrophic not only for the majority of the population of Ukraine and Russia but also for Europe, and in terms of their scale they could surpass the tragedies that occurred at the nuclear power plants in Chernobyl and Fukushima," the security official said. Zaporizhzhia is the largest nuclear power plant in Europe and among the 10 largest in the world. Russian forces seized the plant soon after Moscow launched its "special military operation" in the ex-Soviet country on February 24. Ukraine accuses Russia of storing heavy weapons in the plant. Moscow denies the allegation. The plant has come under fire repeatedly in recent weeks, raising concerns of a potential Chernobyl-like nuclear disaster. Both Ukraine and Russia accuse each other of targeting the facility. On Sunday, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that Ukraine's attacks on Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant could lead to "catastrophic consequences." Putin said Russian specialists at the plant were working to ensure its safety. – APP

Imran Khan rejects suggesting extension...

FROM PAGE 01
The ex-premier decided to call on the nation to protest against the government in September. Khan has been making headlines since his ouster in April because of his constant remarks regarding the army chief. Earlier this month, while speaking during a public rally in Faisalabad, the PTI chairman had called out the government, saying that it was delaying the elections to appoint an army chief of its own and that if a "patriotic chief of army staff comes in, he will not spare the incumbent rulers."

'No time for your allegations': PM tells...

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"Our government is currently busy with the rehabilitation of the flood victims, so there is no time for your accusations and misunderstandings." He expressed hope that the PTI chief would give an account of "every single penny" raised in the telethon as well as the donations gathered during the 2010 floods as "I and my colleagues have always given". Regarding Imran Khan's allegations of suppressive actions, Shehbaz said such methods and restrictions were the "PTI's tactics and not ours". "We are only following the path of the law and the Constitution," he added.

Use of Afghan soil against Pak slammed

FROM PAGE 01
an intense exchange of fire took place between the troops and the terrorists, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media affairs wing, said. The troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location as a result of which four terrorists were killed. Weapons and ammunition were recovered from the killed terrorists.

Imran Khan has enmity with none: Farrukh

FROM PAGE 01
the country at the international level. However, he said that the self-centered, greedy and crooked ruling junta were making all-out efforts to implicate Imran Khan in various cases because the foreign imposed cabal of crooks could not defeat him politically. However, he stated that Imran Khan was not afraid of baseless, fabricated and fake cases, as he always spoke about the rule of law. Farrukh Habib went on to say that the group imposed through foreign conspiracy has become a source of nuisance for the people, as they compounded the miseries of the masses manifold. He said that Imran Khan's popularity was scaring the corrupt gangs; hence they were looking various options to delay the polls because they were well-aware of the fact that they would face humiliating defeat whenever polls were held, adding that the root of all the problems currently facing the country was the bunch of these thieves who seized the power through foreign backed conspiracy. Farrukh lashed out at the imported Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb and said that the maid had lost her senses in ego, selfishness and lust for throne. He said that the nation knew these looters who forgave corruption cases of whopping Rs. 1100 billion by giving themselves NRO-2, as their ringleader fled the country by lying before the courts while his notorious coteries became the guards of the institutions. He stated that the election commissioner worked as a pawn of PDM, who hurt the country due to his dishonesty. Farrukh Habib stated that Imran Khan was the only national leader, whose life and death was in Pakistan and he would leave no stone unturned to flush the country of these termite with the power of public revolution and truth.

EU nation latest to ban Russia-based footballers

FIFA and UEFA initially announced a ban on Russian teams from international competitions at all levels at the end of February

DNA

STOCKHOLM: The Swedish football authorities have stated that any players from the country who choose to represent clubs in Russia will no longer be considered for selection for the national team. The Swedish Football Association (SvFF) announced the news in a statement on Tuesday, saying that the decision was set to be confirmed by the organization's board at a meeting on Thursday. "For us, it goes without saying that players who choose to play for a Russian club cannot represent Swedish national football teams," read a quote from SvFF chairman Karl-Erik Nilsson. Nilsson cited the "unjust war" in Ukraine as being behind the step, indicating the sanctions would last as long as the conflict continues. "The decision is based part-

ly on our view that Russia should not participate in our sport as long as the war continues and on the suspension of Russian teams by FIFA and UEFA," said Nilsson. "If a Swedish player who is in the national team makes the decision to play in Russia... that player

is not eligible to represent Sweden." Football star exited from national team after opting to stay in Russia. At present, the move is largely symbolic as no Swedish players are on the books at Russian teams, although several stars did leave the country after the

onset of the military campaign in Ukraine. That included the likes of former Krasnodar winger Viktor Claesson, who has made 62 appearances for his country. Jordan Larsson – son of former Barcelona, Celtic, and Manchester United striker

Henrik Larsson – had his contract at Spartak Moscow terminated by mutual consent at the start of the current season. The Swedish football authorities' ice hockey counterparts have already introduced the same measures against players at Russian

clubs in the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) – as have hockey officials in Latvia and Finland. In football terms, Scandinavian neighbors Norway stated earlier in September that midfielder Mathias Normann would no longer be considered for the national team after he opted to remain in Russia at Dynamo Moscow.

Elsewhere in Europe, Polish international defender Maciej Rybus was informed by football bosses in his homeland that he would not be considered for the 2022 World Cup squad after agreeing a deal at Spartak Moscow. FIFA and UEFA initially announced a ban on Russian teams from international competitions at all levels at the end of February. UEFA has since extended its sanctions to cover at least the 2022/23 season, while the FIFA suspension was imposed indefinitely.



Briefs

North Korea will self-destruct if it uses nukes

DNA

SEOUL: South Korea on Tuesday warned North Korea that using its nuclear weapons would put it on a "path of self-destruction," in unusually harsh language that came days after North Korea legislated a new law that would allow it to use its nuclear weapons preemptively.

North Korea will likely be infuriated by the South Korean rhetoric as Seoul typically shuns such strong words to avoid raising tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Despite North Korea's increasingly aggressive nuclear doctrine, some experts say the country — outgunned by more superior U.S. and South Korean forces — will still unlikely use its nuclear weapons first.

South Korea's Defense Ministry said the legislation would only deepen North Korea's isolation and prompt Seoul and Washington to "further strengthen their deterrence and reaction capacities." To deter North Korea from using its nuclear weapons, the ministry said South Korea will sharply boost its own preemptive attack plan, missile defense and massive retaliation capacities while seeking a greater U.S. security commitment to defend its ally with all available means, including nuclear one.

Indonesia eyes importing Russian oil

FOREIGN DESK

JAKARTA: Indonesia is considering joining India and China in buying discounted Russian oil to offset increased pressure from rising energy costs, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

"We always monitor all of the options. If there is the country (and) they give a better price, of course," President Joko Widodo said in an interview with the FT when he was asked whether Indonesia would buy oil from Russia.

Indonesia has reportedly been offered Russian crude at a 30% discount, with state-owned oil company Pertamina saying it was reviewing the risks involved. The potential purchases of Russian crude at prices above a cap agreed by G7 countries could subject Jakarta to US sanctions. The Indonesian government has been facing widespread discontent over soaring prices for fuel and other staples. The annual inflation rate in Southeast Asia's top economy hit 4.69% in August, above the central bank's target range of 2%-4%.

Fresh wildfires hit southwestern France

DNA

PARIS: New wildfires raging in southwestern France have torn through over 1,000 hectares of land and forced the evacuation of residents amid record temperatures for September. Fires that began to rage Monday caused the evacuation of over 500 people in the Gironde region, as a smaller blaze burned south of Bordeaux, near Dax, where temperatures reached 39C (102F). Strong winds hampered the efforts of hundreds of firefighters, who struggled to extinguish the flames throughout the night into Tuesday with little success. The fires are still uncontained. Two Canadair aircraft specialized in fire-fighting — that already saw considerable work over the hot summer months in southern France — have been deployed to help, alongside helicopters and a Dash plane.

French weather agency Météo France announced Monday it had recorded record temperatures for the month of September — especially in the southwest due to a heatwave rising up from Morocco. Mercury hit 39.1 degrees Celsius (102.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in the southwestern Landes region. — APP

Alvi calls for documentation of businesses for levying fair taxes

The President said that industries and businesses played a key role in the progress and development of the country and the prosperity of its people. He appreciated the industrialists and businessmen of Pakistan for achieving the highest ever export growth of 30% and achieving the export target of USD 32 billion last year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called upon the chambers of commerce and industry to motivate and convince their members to fully document their businesses for bringing transparency in the business inputs and outputs which would lead to levying of just and fair taxes. This, he said, would increase the tax base and tax collection, minimize incidents of corruption and corrupt practices and would eventually lead to reduced taxation on the businesses. He said that non-documentation and lack of transparency in the business processes and resultant low tax collection compelled the government to resort to indirect taxation which equally hurt the poor and the rich and therefore direct taxation needed to be enhanced with the help of the business community.

The President expressed these views while addressing the Achievement Awards Ceremony organized by the Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. President SCCI, Chaudhary Shoaib Ahmed Basra, also addressed the occasion.

The President said that Pakistan was the fifth largest country in terms of population and, therefore, it should



also be the fifth most important country in terms of socio-economic growth. He added that it was possible provided the businesses encourage their female family members to enter into businesses and industry on key posts to lead the way for better participation of women. He said that our youth bulge should be provided with

high-quality skills, especially in the IT sector, our businesses need to create close linkages with the research and development institutions and Universities for bringing qualitative and quantitative improvement into their goods and services and expanding their reach in the existing export markets, and exploring new

export markets. The President urged the business community to voluntarily pay due taxes which, he said, would provide liquidity to the government for improving roads, utilities and other services for the business community, thus helping the business community to further improve their business processes and

become price competitive in the local and international markets. He also urged the business community and the industrialists to keep social welfare at the forefront of their business policies and to play their role in uplifting the socio-economic conditions of the people of their respective areas. The President said that the

Small and Medium Scale industries were the backbone of the country's economy and the government should further improve the policy, the licensing and regulatory regime, and levy of just and fair taxation in close coordination and consultation with all the stakeholders to further improve ease of doing business to help

promote this vital sector of the country on a fast-track basis. He also stressed the need to strengthen border control to curb inward and outward smuggling of goods to protect the local industry. The President said that industries and businesses played a key role in the progress and development of the country and the prosperity of its people. He appreciated the industrialists and businessmen of Pakistan for achieving the highest ever export growth of 30% and achieving the export target of USD 32 billion last year.

The President commended the country's chambers of commerce, especially the SCCI, for providing much-needed leadership to the business community of their area, and added that the chambers of commerce were important institutions, which provided vision and leadership to the business community by providing the industrial and business sectors with effective forums for sharing their ideas, making experiments, bringing new and high-value technology and finding foreign markets for their products and services. President SCCI, Chaudhary Shoaib Ahmed Basra, thanked the President for his constant patronage and support to the business community, especially SCCI, and for encouraging the top performing businesses of the country through the achievement awards.

Azerbaijan govt slams Armenian provocation

Azerbaijan MFA: Responsibility for the provocation, clashes and losses lies with the military-political leadership of Armenia

DNA

BAKU: On September 12, 2022, starting at late night, the units of the armed forces of Armenia held large-scale provocations in the directions of Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin of Azerbaijan-Armenia state border.

According to the information provided by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sabotage groups of the armed forces of Armenia using the mountainous relief of the area and existing valley gaps carried out planting landmines on the areas between the positions of the units of Azerbaijan's army and the supply roads in different directions. In addition, the Armenian armed forces fired intensively at the positions of the Azerbaijani Army in Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin regions with different types of weapons, including mortars. As a result, there are casualties among the personnel of our armed forces, damage was inflicted to the military infrastructure. In order to prevent fur-

ther provocations by the armed forces of Armenia and military threats against the territory and sovereignty of our country, to ensure the safety of our military personnel, including civilian workers involved in infrastructure activities in the territory of Kalbajar and Lachin regions, the expansion of the scale of the military hostilities was averted, and in order to silence the firing points of the armed forces of Armenia definitive retaliatory measures were taken by the units of the Azerbaijani Army deployed in this direction. Moreover, the information disseminated by the Armenian side that Azerbaijan's Army allegedly targets the civilian population, facilities, and infrastructure does not reflect reality, and is another disinformation spread by the Armenian side.

In general, during the last month, the provocations of the Armenian armed forces in the direction of Lachin, Gadabay, Dashkasan and Kalbajar regions of the state border, and cases of the firing of the positions of the Azerbaijani Army in those re-

gions with various types of weapons, were intensive and systematic. At the same time, Armenia's increase in militarization along Azerbaijan's borders, deployment of heavy equipment and large-caliber weapons in the region indicated that Armenia was preparing for a large-scale military provocation.

At the same time, delaying the normalization process by Armenia with various pretexts, showing a destructive position in the negotiations conducted with international efforts, not withdrawing the Armenian armed forces from the territory of Azerbaijan contrary to the obligations within the framework of trilateral statements and agreements, continuing planting landmines, including recently produced in Armenia in the territory of Lachin, putting forward new conditions and disrupting the process of opening of communications and transport routes, as well as not responding to the peace agenda demonstrated that Armenia is not interested in the peace process and aims to undermine them.

Türkiye calls on Armenia to choose peace

ANKARA: Armenia should stop its provocations along the border with Azerbaijan and instead make peace, said Türkiye's foreign minister on Tuesday. In the wake of Azerbaijan's response to these provocations, "Armenia needs to learn its lesson and seek peace," said Mevlut Cavusoglu. Speaking at an event in the Black Sea province of Kastamonu, Cavusoglu cited the promise of Azerbaijan's comprehensive peace proposal, while "Armenia, on the other hand, burned and destroyed everything while withdrawing from Lachin," a strategic city recently returned to Azerbaijan. "They laid mines everywhere, pursued evil," he said. Even though Türkiye and Armenia last year appointed envoys to normalize ties, Cavusoglu said, "Both the world and Armenia knows that this (normalization) process will not proceed independently of Azerbaijan. For full stability and peace in the region, the problems between all countries must be resolved."

"We always stand on the side with dear Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan never stands alone," he added. The Armenian army on Monday carried out extensive provocations on the border towards the cities of Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin, according to Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry. Armenian army saboteurs laid mines on land and roads between positions of the Azerbaijani army in various directions, the ministry said, adding that when the Azerbaijani military took steps to address the situation, intense clashes broke out between troops of the two countries. There were casualties among military personnel from both sides, it added. — Agencies

Trump's PAC faces scrutiny

WASHINGTON: Sitting on top of more than \$115 million across several political committees, Donald Trump has positioned himself as a uniquely indomitable force in the GOP who would almost certainly have the resources to swamp his rivals if he launched another presidential campaign. But that massive pile of money is also emerging as a potential vulnerability. His chief fundraising vehicle, Save America PAC, is under new legal scrutiny after the Justice Department issued a round of grand jury subpoenas that sought information

about the political action committee's fundraising practices. The scope of the probe is unclear. Grand jury subpoenas and search warrants issued by the Justice Department in recent days were related to numerous topics, including Trump's PAC, according to people familiar with the matter who requested anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation. The subpoenas seek records as well as testimony and ask at least some of the recipients about their knowledge of efforts to engage in election fraud, according to one of the people. — APP

Ruto sworn in as Kenya's new president

NAIROBI: William Samoei Ruto on Tuesday was sworn in as Kenya's new president in a colorful ceremony attended by Kenyans from all walks of life and heads of state from across Africa. "I William Samoei Ruto, in full realization of the high calling I assume as President of the Republic of Kenya, do swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Republic of Kenya and that I will obey, preserve, protect and defend this constitution of Kenya as by law established and all other laws of the Republic," Ruto said, taking the oath of office as Kenya's fifth president.

"I will protect and uphold the sovereignty, integrity, and dignity of the people of Kenya, so help me God." Ruto took the oath in the presence of Chief Justice Martha Koome, as laid out in the Constitution. He succeeds Uhuru Kenyatta, who has been president since 2013, and under whom Ruto served as deputy president. Also invited were high-level delegations from across the world and a wide array of dignitaries. There was heavy security at the 60,000-capacity Kasarani stadium, which was full to the brim. According to the Interior Ministry, 10,000 police officers were deployed to provide security for the attendees. — APP

Sweden's election results on knife's edge

DNA

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's right-wing parties had a razor-thin lead over the governing center-left coalition in the general election after the latest count Monday.

Some observers pointed out that it is still unlikely that Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson's government could catch up with the results. The ballots left to be counted are the votes abroad and "late" early votes. Traditionally these have no dramatically different distribution compared to the other votes. Editorialist Anders Lindberg wrote in the Af-tonblad daily that it is "impossible for the left to win because the votes from abroad are usually in favor of the right."

With approximately 97% of the ballots counted, the right-wing coalition headed by the center-right Moderates secured 175 seats in the 349-seat Riksdag, Sweden's parliament, preliminary results showed.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador-designate of Denmark to Pakistan, Jakob Linulf calls on Chairman NDMA Lt. Gen Akhtar to extend condolences to victims of Floods in Pakistan and discussed the status of rescue & relief operations. — DNA

New book reveals Trump vowed to stay in White House

MONITORING DESK

WASHINGTON: Former President Donald Trump repeatedly told aides in the days following his 2020 election loss that he would remain in the White House rather than let incoming President Joe Biden take over, according to reporting provided to CNN from a forthcoming book by New York Times reporter Maggie Haberman. "I'm just not going to leave," Trump told one aide, according to Haberman. "We're never leaving," Trump told another. "How can you leave when you won an election?" Trump's insistence that he would not be leaving the White House, which has not been previously reported, adds new detail to the chaotic post-election period in which Trump's refusal to accept his defeat and numerous efforts to overturn the election

result led to the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol by pro-Trump rioters.

Haberman's book, "Confidence Man: The Making of Donald Trump and the Breaking of America," is being released on October 4. The revelations from the book come as investigators in the US House and the Justice Department probe Trump's refusal to cede power after the 2020 election. The House select committee investigating January 6 is planning more hearings and a final report this fall, while federal investigators have recently served several former Trump aides with subpoenas. Haberman, a CNN political analyst, has covered Trump for the New York Times since his 2016 presidential campaign. Her stories made her a frequent target of Trump's vitriol on Twitter. Haberman writes that in the immediate aftermath of the Novem-

ber 3 elections, Trump seemed to recognize he had lost to Biden. He asked advisers to tell him what had gone wrong. He comforted one adviser, saying, "We did our best." Trump told junior press aides, "I thought we had it," seemingly almost embarrassed by the outcome, according to Haberman. But at some point, Trump's mood changed, Haberman writes, and he abruptly informed aides he had no intention of departing the White House in late January 2021 for Biden to move in. He was even overheard asking the chair of the Republican National Committee, Ronna McDaniel, "Why should I leave if they stole it from me?" Trump's vow that he would refuse to vacate the White House had no historical precedent, Haberman writes, and his declaration left aides uncertain as to what he might do next. The

closest parallel might have been Mary Todd Lincoln, who stayed in the White House for nearly a month after her husband, President Abraham Lincoln, was assassinated, the author noted. Publicly, Trump dismissed questions about whether he would leave office. On November 26, 2020, he was asked by a reporter whether he would leave the White House if the Electoral College voted for Biden. "Certainly I will, and you know that," Trump said in response, as he continued to spread lies about the election being stolen. A longtime New York-based reporter who has worked for both of the city's tabloid newspapers, Haberman writes that Trump's post-election period was reminiscent of his attempts to claw his way back from dire financial straits three decades earlier, in which he tried to keep all options open for as long as he could.

But Trump couldn't decide which path to follow after his 2020 defeat. Haberman writes that he quizzed nearly everyone about which options would lead to success — including the valet who brought Diet Cokes when Trump pressed a red button on his Oval Office desk. The reporting provided to CNN from the forthcoming book also reveals new details on what those around Trump were doing in the aftermath of an election loss he refused to accept. Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, was reluctant to confront Trump on the loss, according to Haberman. When he encouraged a group of aides to go to the White House and brief the then-President, Kushner was asked why he wasn't joining them himself. Trump's son-in-law likened it to a deathbed scene, Haberman writes. "The priest comes later," Kushner said.

Briefs

Haiti PM announces gas hike despite protests

DNA

PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry on Sunday announced a new hike in gas prices, despite weeks of anti-government protests over the cost of living and raging gang violence in the country. Speaking at the first anniversary of the formation of his coalition government, Henry said the price increase was part of a bid to raise money for public administration. "We're going to raise the price of gas to make sure the government collect enough money to keep the country running. We can't keep on subsidizing gas for people who can pay full price and buy the gas to sell it on the black market," he said. "The state is losing a lot of money and can't collect enough taxes to keep the public administration running," Henry added. According to Haiti's Institute for Statistics and Informatics, the country saw a 30.7% inflation rate increase in July this year compared to 2021. Henry also called on Haitians to stay calm and make sacrifices for the country. "Violence is not the answer, violence won't help us move the country forward. I am urging everyone to stay calm and work together to resolve our differences," Henry said Sunday. At least 10 people, including two journalists, were killed in unrest over the weekend in the Cité Soleil area of capital city Port-au-Prince. Henry, who assumed leadership of the Caribbean nation last year, has struggled to bring the country together for long-postponed elections.

Scholz wants power market reform in place 'this winter'

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Tuesday he wanted to hurry through reforms to the electricity market to ease the pressure on consumers and businesses ahead of the coming European winter. Russia has dwindled supplies of gas to Europe following the invasion of Ukraine, sending the price for the fuel soaring and dragging up the cost of electricity in its wake. Non-gas electricity companies, such as nuclear, solar or renewable firms, had been able to "make extra profits because the price is determined by the electricity produced with gas", Scholz said in a speech in Berlin. Germany and the European Union have developed proposals to cream off windfall profits from non-gas producers to ease the pressure on consumers and companies sinking under the weight of soaring bills. "We will now push this through with great speed so that we can relieve the burden," Scholz said. "You can be sure that this will happen at the speed necessary to get it under control this winter," Scholz said. - APP

'Not my king': anti-monarchist arrests spark criticism in UK

"He confirmed that if I wrote, 'Not My King' on it, he would arrest me under the Public Order Act because someone might be offended,"

LONDON: British police faced criticism from civil liberties groups on Tuesday over their treatment of anti-monarchy protesters who have publicly challenged King Charles III's accession to the throne and the groundswell of public support for the royal family. Footage went viral on social media on Monday of a female protester holding aloft a "Not My King" protest placard who was then confronted by at least four officers outside the UK parliament in London. She was seen being escorted away from the spot, and was reportedly made to stand at another location away from the gates of parliament. Lawyer and climate activist Paul Polesland also wrote on Twitter that he had been warned by an officer that he

risked arrest after he held up a blank piece of paper opposite parliament. "He confirmed that if I wrote, 'Not My King' on it, he would arrest me under the Public Order Act because someone might be offended," he wrote alongside video showing him talking to an officer. Britain is in national mourning for Queen Elizabeth II, with the death of the 96-year-old monarch provoking a rare moment of national unity amid an outpouring of sympathy for the royals. But it has also raised questions about the space for dissent, with several civil liberties groups warning that police are failing to respect the rights of the small minority of anti-monarchists. "If people are being arrested simply for holding protest placards then it is an affront to democracy and high-

ly likely to be unlawful," Big Brother Watch said in a statement. "Police officers have a duty to protect people's right to protest as much as they have a duty to facilitate people's right to express support, sorrow, or pay their respects." In another incident, a 45-year-old man was arrested in Oxford in southern England on Sunday after he shouted "Who elected him?" during a public proclamation of Charles III's accession. Jodie Beck, from the Liberty campaign group, said that the right to protest was "a vital part of a healthy and functioning democracy." "It is very worrying to see the police enforcing their broad powers in such a heavy-handed and punitive way to clamp down on free speech and expression," she said in a statement. - APP

UN Chief warns against climate change impacts

"Heatwaves in Europe. Colossal floods in Pakistan...There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters," Guterres said in a video message

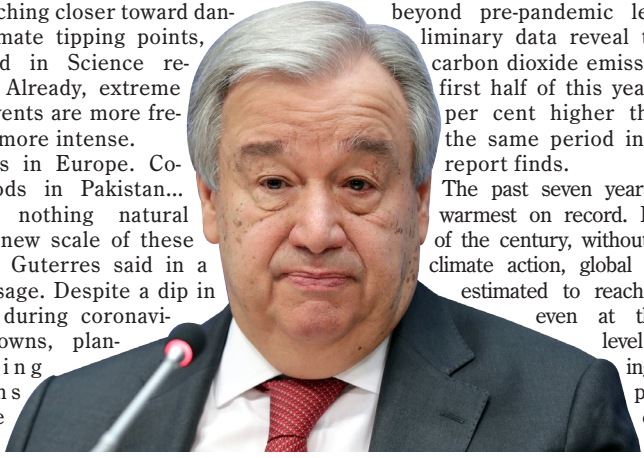
DNA

NEW YORK: Climate change impacts are "heading into uncharted territories of destruction", UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres warned on Tuesday on the release of a multi-agency scientific report reviewing the latest research on the problem. The report, led by the World Meteorological Organisation, warns that the world is "going in the wrong direction" on climate change. With greenhouse gas concentrations continuing to increase in the atmosphere and world leaders failing to adopt strategies to hold warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial temperatures, the

Earth is inching closer toward dangerous climate tipping points, the United in Science report says. Already, extreme weather events are more frequent and more intense. "Heatwaves in Europe. Colossal floods in Pakistan... There is nothing natural about the new scale of these disasters," Guterres said in a video message. Despite a dip in emissions during coronavirus lockdowns, planet-warming emissions have since

beyond pre-pandemic levels. Preliminary data reveal that global carbon dioxide emissions in the first half of this year were 1.2 per cent higher than during the same period in 2019, the report finds. The past seven years were the warmest on record. By the end of the century, without aggressive climate action, global warming is estimated to reach 2.8C. But even at the current level of warming we could pass several climate tipping points.

The ocean current that moves heat from the tropics into the northern hemisphere, for example, is now at its slowest in 1,000 years - jeopardizing historic weather patterns, says the report, which includes contributions from the UN Environment Programme and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. Nearly half the world's population is considered highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change - floods, heat, drought, wildfires, and storms. By the 2050s, over 1.6 billion city-dwellers will regularly swelter through three-month average temperatures of at least 35C (95F). To help communities cope, the WMO has promised to put every person on earth under the protection of an early warning system within the next five years.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in Senate, Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem signing condolence book on passing away of Queen Elizabeth II at British High Commission. - DNA

Antony Blinken calls Iran's response a 'step backward'

DNA

WASHINGTON: Iran has taken "a step backward" with its latest response to a nuclear deal proposal, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Monday, calling a near-term agreement "unlikely." "What we've seen over the last week or so in Iran's response to the proposal put forward by the European Union is clearly a step backward and makes prospects for an agreement in the near-term, I would say, unlikely," Blinken told reporters, speaking from

Mexico City, where he met with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The United States and Iran have traded responses via the European Union to a proposal put forward by the EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell. Iran submitted its initial answer in mid-August; the US replied to it about a week later. Earlier this month, Iran sent its latest answer, which a State Department spokesperson called "not constructive." As CNN previously reported, according to a US senior administration official, Iran

in its latest response reopened the issue of the UN nuclear watchdog's investigation into undeclared uranium traces found at Iranian sites. Iranian officials had repeatedly said that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) probe would need to be closed before they would return to the deal. However, a separate US senior administration official suggested last month that Iran had accepted the EU proposal - described by Borrell as the "final text" - without making demands regarding the investigation.

Ankara angered by anti-Turkish campaign in Ukraine

ANKARA: Turkish banks and businessmen were named on a Ukrainian website that calls to sanction those supporting Russia Ankara is demanding explanations from Kiev after a number of Turkish banks and businessmen were added to a Ukrainian government-linked website that calls to sanction those who support Russia, Aydnk newspaper has reported. Turkey addressed the Ukrainian ambassador in Ankara over the weekend and

"expressed our strong response and specific expectations" regarding the situation, diplomatic sources told the paper on Tuesday. The Turkish mission in Kiev has also asked Ukrainian authorities for explanations, they added. "Considering our existing strategic partnership, solidarity and cooperation with Ukraine, it's expected that Turkish individuals and organizations won't be targeted by sanctions," the sources said. Aydnk earlier reported that data on Turkish companies, including state-owned Ziraat Bank, major private bank Denizbank and brewer Anadolu Efes, as well as a host of the country's businessmen, who work with Russia, had appeared on the 'War and Sanctions' website. - DNA

Greece gets first 2 upgraded F-16s

DNA

TANAGRA: Greece's air force on Monday took delivery of a first pair of upgraded F-16 military jets under a \$1.5 billion program to modernize its fighter fleet amid increasing tensions with neighboring Turkey. The two F-16s presented at the Tanagra airbase northwest of Athens are the first of 83 to be refitted with advanced electronics, radar and weapons capabilities by late 2027 by Greece's Hellenic Aerospace Industry, in coordination with U.S. manufacturer Lockheed Martin. The head of Greece's joint chiefs of staff, Gen. Constantinos Floros, said the program's successful and timely completion "is an issue of the highest national importance."

Over 50 thousand Sikhs perform mass prayers for Khalistan movement

TORONTO: In Toronto, over 50,000 Sikh people gathered at mass prayers to express support and solidarity with the Khalistan movement. The mass prayer, called Ardas, was offered to support Khalistan Referendum being held on 18th of this month in Canada. Participants of the mass prayer were carrying yellow flags inscribed with Khalistan slogans. Men, women and children chanted slogans and vowed to continue the struggle till the creation of Khalistan. The pro-Khalistan advocacy group Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), organizer of the voting, appreciated the mass gathering which supported the objectives of Khalistan Referendum.

The Khalistan Referendum voting will be held on September 18 at Gore Meadows Recreation Centre in Brampton but the large-scale activity has already started in full swing. SFJ's Counsel General Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said, "Thousands of Canadian Sikhs congregated at the Ardas to offer their support for the Khalistan Referendum. Since the start of voting on October 31 in London, the momentum for the Khalistan Referendum has been on the increase. What is more heartening is that thousands of young Canadian Sikhs have shown their enthusiasm in the democratic process of Khalistan Referendum." Gurpatwant Singh Pannun said the Canadian Sikh community's response to upcoming 18th September voting was overwhelming and "has caused nightmares to the Modi regime".

Last week, Canadian Sikhs have registered a new record in support of the Khalistan movement by taking out a car rally that stretched to several kilometers, consisting of over 2000 vehicles including cars and iconic Canadian trucks. Khalistan Referendum campaign - in which Sikhs are asked to answer the question "Should India govern Punjab be an independent country?" - has drawn fierce opposition from New Delhi, Indian media and pro-India segments of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). - DNA

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