

# Islamabad POST

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**Canada announces \$125 million for flood relief efforts**

Detailed News On Page-08

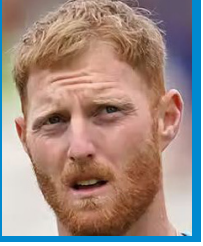
**Zelensky vows victory in visit to freed areas**

Detailed News On Page-07



**Stokes excited for different challenge**

Detailed News On Page-06



**Briefs**

**Pak need resources to build back**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Climate Change Sherry Rehman has emphasized the need for countries in the Global North to realize their pledges to finance resilience and adaptation for countries that face the brunt of global warming. Delivering a key note address at the Third Regional Seminar for the Parliamentarians of the Asia Pacific Region on Achieving SDGs, she pointed out that countries like Pakistan are paying the price for emissions by others.

**Rashid slams govt over dollar rate**

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML) leader Sheikh Rashid on Wednesday slammed the incumbent government over a huge number of Ministers in the cabinet, US dollar's rate and price of flour in Pakistan as the poor people will be facing more issues. Taking to twitter, the former Interior Minister Rashid said that after the electricity bills, school fee of children and house rent, poor people cannot light their stoves. While talking about the duration of National Assembly, he said that the duration of assembly cannot be extended without President's order.

**China always supports Pakistan**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong called on Minister of State for Petroleum Masood Malik in Islamabad on Wednesday. Matters pertaining to mutual interests and bilateral relations were discussed in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister of State said China has always supported Pakistan in tough times. He said incumbent government is committed to further strengthen bilateral ties with China.

## Visits affected areas PM warns of post-flood diseases

**'Appropriate steps should be taken for dewatering with the help of machinery and resources'**

STAFF REPORT / DNA

SOHBATPUR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday warned of a perilous outbreak of water and vector-borne diseases while ordering the rapid dewatering of the flooded areas during his visit to Balochistan's Sohbatpur district. "Infectious diseases are spreading in the flood-affected areas. Controlling the outbreak is crucial," the premier said. PM Shehbaz cautioned that dealing with disease outbreak will become difficult if measures to limit the spread are not taken. Appropriate steps should be taken for dewatering with the help of additional machinery and resources, he stressed. Balochistan chief secretary, while briefing the prime minister on the ongoing efforts to deal with flood-related damages, said that 128 roads in the province were dilapidated, out of which 91 have been restored. He further stated that a plan of Rs11 billion has been worked out for livestock rehabilitation. PM Shehbaz Sharif also ordered the district administration to immediately resolve the drinking water problems in Sohbatpur.

**PM leaves for Samarkand today**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will be visiting Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on 15-16 September 2022 to attend the annual Meeting of the Council of Heads of State (CHS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The Prime Minister will be participating in the SCO-CHS on the invitation of President of the Republic of Uzbekistan His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who would chair the meeting. The leaders of SCO Members and Observer States as well as heads of SCO organizations and other special guests would attend the meeting. The CHS is the highest forum of the SCO, which considers and defines strategy, prospects and priorities of the Organization. At the forthcoming

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## Imran appears before JIT, terms case a 'joke'

*Imran Khan was summoned to record his statement to the JIT*

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday appeared before the joint investigation team (JIT) formed for a probe into a terror case filed against him, after ditching hearings thrice. The former prime minister arrived at the SPP office for a hearing as per the directives of an anti-terrorism court (ATC) that extended his pre-arrest bail for the second time on Monday. Imran Khan was summoned to record his statement to the JIT. Speaking to journalists after appearing before the JIT, Imran Khan said that he and his supporters will come out prepared as much as the government troubles them. He lashed out at the coalition government over its alleged failure in controlling the economic crisis and said, "Pakistan is following in the footprints of Sri Lanka." He maintained that free and fair elections are the only solution to the economic crisis. He also criticised the government for doing politics amid floods and harassing the party's donors. "They are trying to crush my party," Khan said and warned that the government could not withstand his protest



call. He maintained that they may hold negotiations with the government only on the topic of free and fair elections. Responding to a question about his appearance before the JIT, Imran said that the case has become a joke before the world because the world know the "definition of terrorism." "I appeared before the JIT despite knowing it is a joke," he said, adding that telling a government official that legal action will be pursued against

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SOHBATPUR: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif visits flood relief camp. - DNA

**Taliban say JEM chief not in Afghanistan**

DNA

KABUL: A spokesperson for the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" has denied that Pakistan has demanded the handover of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Maulana Masood Azhar from Kabul. "We've also seen this news in the media. But this is not true. Nobody has made such a demand from us," said Zabihullah Mujahid in an interview with Afghanistan's ToloNews a day after a section of the Pakistani media reported that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has written a letter to Kabul's new rulers seeking custody of Maulana Masood Azhar. According to the letter, Azhar has been hiding somewhere in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar. "Jaish-e-Mohammad chief is not in Afghanistan. Such organisations can operate on Pakistan's soil - and even under official patronage," Mujahid added. "We'll not allow anyone to use Afghanistan's soil against any other country." A section of Pakistani media reported on Wednesday that MoFA had written a letter to the Afghan foreign ministry seeking Azhar's handover. "We have written a one-page letter to Afghan foreign ministry, asking them to locate, report and arrest Masood Azhar, as we believe that he is hiding somewhere in Afghanistan," media reported quoting a top official privy to the development.

## 'F-16 program to help Pakistan in curbing terrorism'

**US says expects Pakistan to take "sustained action" against all terrorist groups**

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Wednesday that Washington expected Islamabad to take "sustained action" against all terrorist groups and that a recently proposed \$450 million military sale package for the maintenance of Pakistan's F-16 fleet would help serve this purpose. "Pakistan's F-16 programme, it's an important part of the broader US-Pakistan bilateral relationship, and this proposed sale will sustain Pakistan's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining the F-16 fleet," Price said during a press briefing on Tuesday. "This is a fleet that allows Pakistan to support counterterrorism operations, and we expect Pakistan will take sustained action against all terrorist groups," he added. Price made these remarks when asked to

**'Pakistan efforts mitigated terror financing'**

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar says Pakistan's effectiveness in Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism regime has significantly mitigated risks and threats of money laundering and financing of terrorism. He said this in a statement on Wednesday, while responding to media queries about news stories that recently appeared in domestic media about Pakistan's current engagement with

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## EU announces cap on electricity revenue

**Von der Leyen announced a cap on the revenues of electricity production companies and a crisis contribution from fossil fuel producers**

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen laid out plans to combat the energy crisis and the ongoing response to Russia in her annual State of the European Union speech on Wednesday. In the speech, Von der Leyen announced that she would be traveling to Kyiv on Wednesday to help bring Ukraine into the European Union's single market. Amid praise for the EU's rapid response to the Ukraine crisis, von der Leyen stressed that the EU's support for Ukraine will remain "unshakable". The Ukrainian First Lady, Olena Zelenska, wife of President Volodymyr Zelensky, was an honorary guest at the address, while top lawmakers

alongside von der Leyen were dressed in matching Ukrainian colors. Von der Leyen pledged that EU sanctions on Russia would continue as they were weakening the Russian economy. Von der Leyen announced a cap on the revenues of electricity production companies and a crisis contribution from fossil fuel producers. She said the measures will raise an additional €140 billion (140 billion USD). The EU chief criticized past subsidies for fossil fuels, and called for greater investment in renewable energy. To this end, she announced an additional €3 billion euros to help build a future hydrogen market. She said it was crucial that the EU rid itself of the dependency on Russian oil and gas. Since the Russian invasion, imports of Russian now make up just 9% of EU imports,

down from a previous 40%. Gas storage reserves for the upcoming winter were at 80% capacity, showing that the EU agreement was working, she said. She further stressed the importance of a digital and sustainable economy. She said the "Next Generation EU" plan signified a "relief for the European economy" and a "constant stream of investment" into sustainable energies such as solar plants and wind parks. Von der Leyen announced new partnerships would be determined by the guarantee of sharing values and ideals similar to the EU. A trade deal with Chile, Mexico and New Zealand will be put forward for ratification. And further agreements with partners such as Australia and India were

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The battle for perceptions continues in Ukraine war - Page 05

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Zelensky vows 'victory' on visit to liberated region - Page 07

Canada pledges \$25m for Pak flood-affected - Page 08



## NA speaker visits flood relief camp

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Ashraf, former Special Assistant to Prime Minister for Food Security Jamshed Iqbal Cheema and his wife on Wednesday visited flood relief camp established by Pakistan Sweet Home and the National Press Club (NPC). Speaking on the occasion, speaker said, "Pakistan currently is facing the worst floods in history and the devastation caused by floods in Pakistan was a symptom of global climate change." The speaker appreciated and paid tribute to National Press Club and Pakistan Sweet Home for their great efforts to establish a flood relief camp. Raja Pervaz Ashraf lauded the services of Zamurad Khan for alleviating the sufferings of humanity. While talking about resounding success of 3rd Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference organized by National Assembly of Pakistan, the speaker said that the Parliament of Pakistan had drawn the attention of the international community on the issue of global climate change. He also said the President IPU had assured that they would extend all out support to Pakistan at all international forums to highlight the challenges faced by Pakistan.

He also said that in the next month's General Assembly session in Rwanda, an emergency resolution would be presented to highlight the havoc caused by floods in Pakistan. "All political leaders need to step forward to help flood victims," the speaker emphasized. Former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Food Security Jamshed Iqbal Cheema said the flood had caused destruction everywhere and serving the marooned people was appreciable. - APP

## FESCO issues shutdown program

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown program for Thursday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the program issued by the company, power supply from Agri University, State Bank, Iqbal Stadium, Cardiology-II and City feeders emanating from 132-KV University grid station will remain suspended from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. while Saeed Abad, Ali Road, new Jinnah Colony, Rasool Pura, Sadar Bazaar, Qaim Sain, Raja Chowk, Munir Abad and Iqbal Town feeders emanating from 132-KV University grid station will observe shutdown from 7 a.m. to 12 noon on Thursday (September 15). Similarly, electricity supply from new Awagat, Lahore Road, Theraj Shaheed, Islam Pura, Bucheki Road, Ali Pur Bungalow, al-Habib, Katchery Road, Aslam Textile and Ashiq Ali Shaheed feeders emanating from 132-KV Jaranwala grid station will remain suspended from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. whereas Peoples Colony No.2 feeder originating from 132-KV Factory Area grid station, Babar Chowk feeder emanating from 132-KV Khannuana grid station, Khawaja Garden, Data Street.

## Ashrafi invites Muslim world's welfare agencies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi, expressing the need to accelerate relief activities, Wednesday invited the Muslim world's welfare agencies to help the flood affected people in Pakistan. Addressing a press conference here, Ashrafi, assured that they would be provided all possible support in a bid to conduct welfare activities in the flood-hit areas of the country. "His office and the government machinery's doors are always open to extend all possible assistance to those organizations and individuals want to come ahead for the flood affected people's help," he added.

# Turkish Commercial Consular vows to strengthen trade ties

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: The Commercial Consular of Turkey Nurettin Demir visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and industry (RCCI) here on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Commercial Secretary Abdul Baseer, President Nadeem Rauf, Senior Vice President Asim Mehmood Malik, Vice President Tallat Awan, Executive Members Saqib Rafiq, Chaudhry Akram, Mudassar Maqbool and Abu Bakar Siddique were also present on the occasion. Commercial Consular Nurtin Demir while talking to the President of the Chamber Nadeem Rauf said that there are brotherly relations between Pakistan and Turkey, the volume of mutual trade is very low despite the potential. The preferential trade agreement (PTA) between Pakistan and Turkey was recently signed. He termed the PTA as a great success



and expressed hope that the free trade agreement will be concluded soon. He said that Business-to-Business and People-to-People contacts have to be promoted between the two

countries. He said that such agreements determine the direction of the economy, 300 scholarships are also being given to Pakistani students every year. Machinery, food, textiles, renewable

energy such as solar, electric vehicles, defense equipment and IT are important sectors in which mutual trade can be promoted, he added. President of the Chamber Nadeem Rauf briefed the

Commercial Consular on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said that the trade volume between the two countries is around 1.2 billion dollars which is very low. The exchange of

delegations at the level of the Chamber of Commerce is imperative to enhance bilateral trade relations, he said. PTA between Pakistan and Türkiye will strengthen mutual trade relations, he said.

## TBTTP: Funds not released on time nor as required

How is it possible to continue working on TBTTP despite heavy amount of liabilities? If Ministry MOCC is not releasing funds on time and as required, how is it increasing the pressure to achieve 100% targets?

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: How is it possible to continue working on TBTTP despite heavy amount of liabilities? If Ministry MOCC is not releasing funds on time and as required, how is it increasing the pressure to achieve 100% targets? The procedure of releasing funds has not been simplified. It takes more than two months for the funds to reach the forest departments. From start to till date no funds released time nor season. The former Prime Minister inaugurated the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project on the occasion of "Plant for Pakistan Day" in Haripur by planting a pine sapling on 2 September 2018. "Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Programme, Phase-I" is a four-year (2023-2019) project of the Government of Pakistan. Launching of TBTTP was also done from Haripur city of KP. Funds were not released for ten months after launch. So far, funds have not been released for four months and sometimes for six months. 500 per day is being paid to labor in TBTTP. Plantation labor is skilled labor and earns higher wag-

es than unskilled labor. TBTTP was launched in all four provinces, AJK and GB. When such a big project started, the demand for skilled labor increased, so the skilled labor also increased their wages. In TBTTP, 50% of the funds are provided by the federal government and 50% by the provincial governments. 100% federal funds are being given to AJK and GB. In case of delay in federal funds, the forest departments of the four provinces can continue working with the provincial funds, but the provincial forest departments also have to face problems. Azad Jammu Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan face a lot of difficulties if they face delay in federal funds. Labor consists of very poor people. A delay of five or six months in the wages makes their survival difficult. Achieving the targets of the plantation becomes very difficult due to the abandonment of labour. If MOCC wants the work on TBTTP to continue smoothly, the Ministry will have to provide timely and necessary funds. The way funds reach the forest departments will have to be simplified. Labor wages will have to be increased from five hundred to one thousand. If all the targets of TBTTP are to be achieved, concrete steps have to be taken immediately.

## Friendly hand society sends relief goods to flood victims

It is worth mentioning that the preparation of the third batch of goods is going on, which includes medicines and utensils etc

KHALID MAHMOOD

WAZIRABAD: Friendly Hands Welfare Society under the supervision of Wazirabad President Col. (Rtd) Sufyan Saeed Dar, with the support of the society's foreign and local members, food and necessities of life are being provided for the rehabilitation of the flood-affected people. In this regard, goods worth 9 lakh rupees including rice, sugar, milk, surf, tea leaves, dal chana, roasted gram, bath soap, mineral water, water cooler, anti-mosquito lotion, anti-mosquito jalebi, dry milk, Matches, biscuits are included and handed over to Subedar Altaf Hussain in the flood relief camp set up by Pakistan Army under the supervision of Lt. Saad in Wazirabad. On this occasion, the officials of Friendly Hands Welfare Society Muhammad Tariq Toor General Secretary, Shehzad Farooq, Tariq Zaheer Finance Secretary, Pakistan Navy Lieutenant (ret) Syed Taqi Shah Tamgha Basalt, Muhammad Arif Raza, Arif Yusuf Mughal, Muhammad Asghar Soomro and Dr. Khalid. Mahmood was also present.

## Pak moving towards cheaper electricity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir on Wednesday said the government has decided to utilize indigenous resources for power generation. He was addressing a news conference in Islamabad. "We are moving towards solarization from today, which will be cheaper and provide relief to consumers," he said. He said shifting the electricity generation on indigenous sources will lessen burden on the national exchequer and provide cheap electricity to consumers. The Minister for Power said the indigenous sources of energy in Pakistan are solar, wind, hydel, coal and nuclear which are not only cost effective but also environment friendly. He said bidding of a 600-megawatt pilot solar project is being completed today which will determine the cost of these projects and then through these sources, 11,000-megawatt electricity will be added to the national grid in the coming years. Federal Minister said the government has also planned to initiate solar power projects in rural areas and will install solar systems at buildings, while agricultural tube wells will also be solarized. He said currently the government is working on a number of power projects which will add two thousand megawatts electricity to the national grid by next year.

## Draft of Punjab Ehsaas Program Act approved

DNA

LAHORE: The Punjab government has decided to declare the support of people living below the poverty line as state responsibility. In this regard, draft of Punjab Ehsaas Program Act 2022 was approved by the cabinet sub-committee on legislative business. Under the proposed law, all social services in the province will be integrated.

The meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Legislative Affairs was held in the Civil Secretariat under the chairmanship of Provincial Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Raja Bisharat. Special Assistant to Chief Minister (SACM) on Ehsaas Program Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, Provincial Minister for Communications and Works Ali Afzal Sahi, MNA Sadaqat Ali Abbasi and related government officials participated in the meeting. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, while briefing the meeting on the draft of the Punjab Ehsaas Program Act 2022, said that the Ehsaas program is being integrated in Punjab. "Under the proposed law, more than 120 social services of Punjab will be monitored by a Central Ehsaas Board", she briefed. "Dynamics of any public social service work will not be changed under the new law, however access to people living below the poverty line will be more streamlined", explained the SACM.

## Govt to provide basic health facilities to masses: PM AJK

MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Jammu and Kashmir Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan has said that government was trying its best to provide basic health care facilities and other essential services to the people in the valley. The PM AJK said this while addressing a ceremony organized by Azad Jammu and Kashmir Medical College in the State metropolis on Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, he said doctors enjoy a status of a 'Messiah' in every society but a true 'Messiah' was the one who has a spirit and passion for serving humanity. Highlighting the importance of doctors in the society, he said, "Saving human life is the greatest job in the world". He said that the government was paying special attention for improving healthcare services. Sardar Tanveer urged for improving medical education and said that besides imparting technical education focus should also be laid on character building of students. The PM said that the government would provide funds to set up research laboratories in the college. He said that females have proven their worth in every field, especially in the medical line. The AJK premier announced that the government would solve issues faced by the medical college. On this occasion, Minister for Health Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali said the health care system would be strengthened in AJK. He said a medical university would soon be established. Addressing the event, Country Director World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Pletha Mahipala said that WHO was ready to provide health facilities to the people of Azad Kashmir. He appreciated the opening of a telemedicine center in Azad Kashmir Medical College. - APP

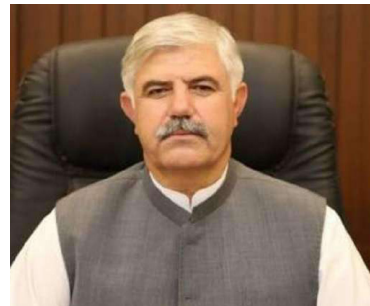
## Committee reviews security arrangements

LAHORE: The Cabinet Sub-Committee on Law and Order, in its meeting under Provincial Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Muhammad Basharat Raja, reviewed the security arrangements for upcoming Chehlum Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and Arbaeen processions. The meeting was held at Punjab Civil Secretariat. Provincial Home Minister Muhammad Hashim Dogar, Additional Chief Secretary Home Captain (ret) Asadullah, Additional IG Police and officers concerned attended it. The cabinet committee appealed that the Arbaeen processions should not be held in too much scattered columns. "To ensure security, cooperate in implementation of the SOPs issued by the government," appealed the cabinet body. Chairman Committee Provincial Minister Mohammad Basharat Raja thanked the Shia Ulema for their arrival and observed that the Shia community always cooperated in maintaining law and order situation. He said that it was necessary to maintain security and establish harmony on the occasion of Chehlum on Sept 17. He said that it is the responsibility of all of us to ensure implementation of SOPs in sensitive areas. He said that promotion of interfaith harmony was need of the hour. "On the directions of Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, prominent personalities from across the board are engaged," he told the ulema. On this occasion, Interior Minister Hashim Dogar said that the police and district administration across Punjab were in the final stages of preparations for Chehlum. Chairman of Azadari Council, Majlis Wahdat al-Muslimeen (MWM) Punjab Syed Khurram Abbas Naqvi, President Shia Ulema Council Lahore Division Qasim Ali Qasmi, Leader Shia Ulema Council Pakistan Hafiz Kazim Raza Naqvi, General Secretary Shia Ulema Council Lahore Syed Jaffar Ali Shah, leader of Tehreek Nifaz-i-Fiqh Jafaria, Zulfikar Haider Naqvi, Hasan Kazmi, Afsar Raza Khan and Hasnain Zaidi were included in Shia representatives. - APP

## CM KP approves Dist land use plans

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has principally approved the proposed District Land Use Plans for Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda, Nowshera, Swabi and Abbottabad and directed the authorities concerned to come up with final proposals in consultation with the provincial administrative departments within one week time. The proposed District Land Use Plans are aimed at providing policy guidelines for establishing a planned hierarchy of settlements, systematic growth of major infrastructure and services and undertaking integrated and coherent development of urban & rural areas in the province by ensuring systematic utilization of land, its allocation, development and management. Chairing the 1st meeting of the Provincial Land Use & Building Control Council held here on Wednesday, the Chief Minister made it clear that all the departments would have to implement the proposed district land use plan in its letter & spirit



adding that streamlining the utilization of land is the need of hour and we can no longer afford the haphazard and unsystematic use of land anymore. Provincial Ministers Taimur Saleem Jhagra, Ishfaq Umar, Faisal Amin Gandapur, Special Assistant to CM Abdul Karim, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Senior Member Board of Revenue Zakir Hussain Afridi, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan and other members of the council attended the meeting. Briefing about the various aspects of the proposed District Land Use Plan, it was informed that the plans land use plan in its letter & spirit

with the physical location, climate, geological situation, hydrology and water resources, population and demography of the aforesaid districts. Similarly, keeping in view the additional demand of infrastructure development and services for the next 20 years, viable parameters and framework have also been proposed for undertaking sustainable development programs in various sectors including health, education, housing, industry, road communication and agriculture which will go a long way towards resolving inter-district planning and management issues. The participants were further informed that special focus has been given to the rural areas development which will certainly help to curtail migration trend to big urban centers. Moreover, keeping in view the current objective condition of the province, flood prone areas have also been identified under the plan in addition to the proposed areas for new road networks, industrial zones, commercial centers, orchard and mining zones, model environmental villages and rural growth zones etc.

## CM expresses concern over rising dengue cases

LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi has expressed deep concern over the increase in the number of dengue patients in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Gujranwala and asked the authorities concerned about the measures taken to prevent dengue cases. He said the situation should be realized in time and an emergency strategy should be formulated. He was presiding over a meeting at his office on Wednesday to review the situation and measures to control the disease. While approving the establishment of a centre of disease control for the timely prevention of epidemic diseases, the CM directed that Rescue 1122, Health and line departments should give a final shape to the Act. The Punjab government will get the approval of the Act from the assembly for the establishment of a centre of disease control to prevent epidemics, he added and directed the formation of a committee. This initiative will help in the prevention of dengue, corona, cholera,

typhoid and other epidemic diseases, he noted. The chief minister directed anti-dengue measures on a war footing throughout the province, especially in high-risk districts. He gave in-principle approval to make permanent the temporary staff for anti-dengue and directed that a summary should be submitted as per the rules. He also directed to buy fogging machines and asked the secretary of the local government department to do the needful within seven days and submit a report to him. "I would review anti-dengue steps regularly and the deputy commissioners should hold meetings daily and reports be sent to my office," he said. The work should be continued even during Sundays and other holidays, he added. Dengue patients should be given full attention in hospitals and necessary medical facilities be ensured, he stressed and ordered effective indoor and outdoor surveillance throughout Punjab, especially in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Gujranwala.

Capital Development Authority  
(Directorate of Sanitation)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

All the residents of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) are hereby warned that within the boundary Limits of Islamabad that the following ACTS / OMISSIONS are punishable offenses under the provisions of ICT Municipal Bylaws-1969, Islamabad Up-Keep of Cleanliness Regulations-1979 and Islamabad Local Government Act-2015, CRPC-133 & 134, PC-188:

- 1) Throwing / disposal of garbage / solid waste in streets, open / green areas, waterways, public places etc.
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- 3) Discharge / drainage of water (any type) from streets, roads, public places etc.
- 4) Burning of garbage / solid waste.

Therefore, the residents are directed in their own interest for proper Disposal of garbage trolleys and skips etc placed at designated places. Furthermore, all the Private & cooperative Housing Societies located within the limits of Islamabad are directed to dispose off garbage solid waste etc at the designated landfill site of CDA.

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## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya  
Revolution Day

Sept 01 / Tanzania  
Defence day

Sept 01 / Uzbekistan  
Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil  
Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea  
National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan  
Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia  
Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico  
National Day

Sept 16/Papua New Guinea  
Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile  
National Day

Sept 21 / Malta  
Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia  
National Day



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Marriott.....051- 2826121  
Monal.....0334-5421812



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15  
Bomb Disposal.....15  
Fire Services Rawalpindi/  
Islamabad.....1122 & 16  
Emergency Ambulance.....1122  
& Rescue Services.4451122  
Motorway Police.....9266044  
Motorway Police.....9270601-20  
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# Pak, US should cooperate in empowering women, youth

US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, addressing the participants of the conference, said it is a great honor for the US government to collaborate with Quaid e Azam university to promote the discipline of American studies

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Wednesday said that Pakistan and U.S. should enhance cooperation to empower women and educate youth, which has an enormous potential to further foster bilateral relations. The Minister made these remarks while addressing the opening ceremony of the 16th American Studies Conference, titled "Seventy-Five Years of U.S.-Pakistan Relations: Lessons for the Future," jointly organized by the U.S. Embassy and Quaid-e-Azam University (QAU).

He said that it was necessary to provide equal opportunities to women for materializing their dreams and aspirations and making a meaningful contribution to the country's development. Women should be encouraged as no country could make economic and social progress without empowering its women. In this regard, the U.S. role is very significant as it always focuses on women empowerment and the promotion of education, he added. Apart from this, both countries need to work on climate issues as it has affected Pakistan despite the fact that Pakistan accounts for less than 1 percent of total global emissions. The minister further stated that Pakistan and the U.S. have a long history of collaboration in many fields, including education, econo-



my, defense, health and other sectors. This cooperation is rooted in shared values and mutual interests. The Minister also acknowledged the U.S. cooperation in the education field and said that the Fulbright scholars and U.S. Alumni of exchange programs are the assets of both countries. US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome, addressing the participants of the conference, said it is a great honor for the U.S. government to collaborate with Quaid e

Azam university to promote the discipline of American studies. He said such joint collaborative programs have benefited Pakistani and Americans and provide a platform to understand each other cultures and history further. He said that Pakistan and U.S. have a long-standing partnership and rich history of relations. "We are proud of our long-standing partnership with Pakistan. Our relationship began 75 years ago, shortly after Pakistan gained its

independence". He said, "We live today in a world full of challenges. We can address those challenges most effectively by working together, side by side". Ambassador further stated, "he looks forward to deepening the connections between the Pakistani and American people, which have a rich history, and an even brighter future." Talking about the recent flood disaster, he said that the United States is deeply saddened by the devastating

loss of life, livelihoods, and homes throughout Pakistan. He said the U.S. provides financial assistance of \$53.1 million to Pakistan to help the flood-affected people. The Ambassador said humanitarian relief supplies being transported include emergency food, drinking water, sanitation supplies and equipment, portable shelters, bedding, and hygiene supplies. He said the U.S support for decades linked with development assistance to Pakistan for the construction of schools, Hospitals, and build highways throughout the country. Explaining the education cooperation, he said in July this year, the U.S sent 189 Pakistani on full bright scholarships adding that the U.S. government contributes more to the Fulbright programs in Pakistan than any other country. Ambassador further stated that bilateral trade reached nearly \$9 billion in 2021, and "It is a relationship worth highlighting and is bigger and more important than ever." The United States is Pakistan's largest export market and one of the largest sources of foreign investment. Professor Muhammad Ali, Vice Chancellor of Quaid Azam University, thanked the participants and highlighted the significance of the American Studies Center for further fostering bilateral relations and educational cooperation. - APP

## IESCO issues power suspension notice

DNA

ISLAMABAD: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 15th September, From 07:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Katarian, Shams Colony, Golla, Zircon Heights, KS Maniz, Kachhari, PD Khan, Lilla Town, Ahmedabad, Sanghui, Chotala, PC, TDCP, M CM, Gharial, Kohala, Barin, Sunny Bank, Upper Topa, Patriata, Kaldana, Pindi Point, PAF, New Shahullah Dutta, Tala Gang, Murt, Masrial Road, Ameer Hamza, Radio Pak, Multabad, Peshawar Road, Range Road, Mushtaq Shaheed, Jalala, Nawababad, PMC Colony, Nar Topa, EME Complex, Jhangi, P&T Wini, Azharabad, CWO, F-17/1 & 2, Nogzi, Tharpal, Kariala, New Kalam, Old Kalam, HPT-III, Industrial 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.

## PIA offers 22 percent discount for students

ISLAMABAD, Sep 14 (APP)-Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has increased student discount from 10 percent to 15 percent and an additional 7 percent discount on surcharge making a total discount of around 22 percent on the flights between Pakistan and China. The national flag carrier has also increased baggage allowance up to 80 kilograms for the students, an official of the airline told APP here on Wednesday. At present, PIA is operating two weekly flights on Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad and Islamabad-Xian-Beijing-Islamabad routes. The students who are returning to China or intends to homeland after completion of their education could take benefit from the discount. A large number of Pakistani students enrolled in the Chinese universities and stranded in Pakistan following Covid-19 travel restrictions have started arriving in China to join off-line classes. On June 20, a special PIA flight had brought first batch of Pakistani students from Islamabad to Xian, China. These students were stuck in the motherland because of Covid-19.

## International Democracy Day on September 15

ISLAMABAD: International Day of Democracy will be marked on September 15(Thursday) across the globe to raise public awareness about democracy. Various activities and events are held around the world to promote democracy on this date. The International Day of Democracy aims to raise public awareness about democracy - its meaning and importance. Many people and organizations worldwide, including government agencies and non-government organizations, hold various initiatives to promote democracy on the International Day of Democracy. Events and activities include discussions, conferences and press conferences involving keynote speakers, often those who are leaders or educators heavily involved in supporting and endorsing democratic governments and communities. Leaflets, posters and flyers are placed in universities, public buildings, and places where people can learn more about how democracy is linked with factors such as freedom of expression and a tolerant culture. Organizations, such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), organize activities such as public opinion surveys about democracy and political tolerance. - APP

## Prize distribution ceremony by Education Directorate

ISLAMABAD: Prize Distribution Ceremony for Annual Centralized exams of Classes V - VIII 2022 was organized at Islamabad Model College for Girls F-6/2 Islamabad by FDE here on Wednesday. The Host College warmly welcomed the worthy guests with beautiful presentation by the College Band, along with the Pom Pom performance by little students of Junior Section. Chief Guest of ceremony was Federal Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Mr. Rana Tanveer Hussain delivered a very motivating speech and advised all the students to work hard. He appreciated all his efforts done by all teachers and students. He criticized the culture of False references. Government is doing best and our target is to achieve hundred percent literacy rate of education in federal capital he added. Parliamentary secretary education Zeb Jafar Director General fde dr ikram malik principal prof Aliya durani were also present. Earlier Director Exams Ms. Rifaf Jabeen, shared all accomplishments of FDE and steps taken for Overall improvement of Educational Institutions to audience. Then the most awaited moment arrived when the Cash Prizes, Shields and certificates were distributed among the Position holders. Cash Prize for 1st Position was 1 Lac rupees, 75,000/- for 2nd Position, 50,000/- for 3rd Position and 10,000/- for 4th to 10th Positions. 51 students of Class 5th and 84 students of class 8th achieved scholarship. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany calls on Finance Minister Miftah Ismail. - DNA

## President pays tribute to martyred troops

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday paid tribute to the army soldiers for embracing martyrdom while thwarting the attack of terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the border. The president severely condemned the incident and extended condolences to the families of the martyred. He prayed for the departed souls of martyrs to rest in peace and for grant of patience to their families. The Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a news release said the terrorists from inside Afghanistan across the international border, opened fire on Pakistani troops in general area Kharachi of Kurram district. The Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner and as per credible intelligence reports, due to fire of own troops, the terrorists suffered heavy casualties. The three soldiers who embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting the terrorists were Naik Muhammad Rehman (32 years, resident of Karak), Naik Mawez Khan (34 years, resident of Jamrud, Khyber) and Sepoy Irfan Ullah (27 years, resident of Dargai, Malakand). "Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that Afghan Government will not allow conduct of such activities in future," the ISPR said. - APP

## Hiba, Arez pair up for another serial

APP

ISLAMABAD: Well-acclaimed Pakistani starlets Hiba Bukhari and Arez Ahmed are undoubtedly one of the most-loved couples in the industry with many blockbuster projects and millions of followers, the duo once again paired up to enthrall fans in upcoming serial 'Ishq Nahi Asan'. Hiba, the epitome of beauty marked her debut with drama serial 'Teri Meri Jodi', since then the diva gave many super hit projects and became a household name within a very short span of time.

## Serena Hotels have a new food and beverage director

ISLAMABAD: Mr. Abbas Maatouk brings over two decades of experience in F&B operations of International and Five-Star hospitality Companies like The Ritz-Carlton, Marriott, IHG. His professional career kicked off at Beirut Marriott Hotel, followed by his early stations in Australia, Omni Mont-Royal Hotel (Canada). Mr. Abbas has a comprehensive F&B background from working with world-renowned brands such as luxury Sharq Village & Spa, A Ritz Carlton Resort and IHG. His recent assignments include working as Director F&B for Inter-Continental Danang in Vietnam, pre-opening at Inter-Continental Dhaka in Bangladesh, and as a consultant for various prestigious Hotels in Canada and UAE. Fluent in three languages, Mr. Abbas speaks English, Arabic and French. Passionate and professional, with constant positive energy and desire to deliver an exceptional experience. In his new position he will be leading the hotel's Food & Beverage Division, and ensuring quality customer service. We are lucky to have him on our team! - DNA



## Effective legislation crucial to address women issues

The moderator of the session MNA Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar said that better legislation, laws and sensitization were crucial to address women related issues

ISLAMABAD: Parliaments in the world would have to effectively legislate to address women issues and ensure their social and financial inclusion. These views were expressed by participants belonging to different countries in a session entitled "Women at the center of development agenda" held during the Third Regional Seminar for the Asia-Pacific Region Parliaments on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Two-day event is being organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the National Assembly of Pakistan. The session focused on the importance of establishing mechanisms and procedures to mainstream the SDGs in parliament's work in a comprehensive manner. The session focused on understanding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and women and identified the root causes of discrimination

that curtail women's rights. The National Assembly of Pakistan presented a case study on its cross-party Women's Parliamentary Caucus, which has become an international good practice, replicated in over a dozen other parliaments as well as in provincial and regional legislatures. The moderator of the session MNA Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar said that better legislation, laws and sensitization were crucial to address women related issues. She said that they needed to have women at the decision-making level because they were not any less committed than their male counterparts in terms of performing their duties with responsibility, hard work and dedication. Asia-Pacific region countries, she said, had made significant progress in creating legal and policy frameworks that support gender equality. Syeda Nosheen Iftikhar said that regional governments had

achieved progress in women's empowerment in areas such as social protection programs, increased economic empowerment, increased participation in public life, and improved health outcomes. "Women's literacy has also improved in the region, although gaps still exist in leadership, employment, health, and education. We still have a long way to go and address the rural-urban divide," she maintained. The global proportion of women parliamentarians, she said, had increased by 0.6 percentage points to reach 26.1 per cent according to the IPU's latest Women in Parliament in 2021 report. The right of women to participate in political and democratic decision-making processes is enshrined in international treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and

Platform for Action. She said that many challenges continued to hamper progress on the Goal-05. Many women continued to be restricted in their ability to engage in economic and social activities outside of the home due to discriminatory norms and practices, mobility restrictions, and heavy household responsibilities, which hinder their chances of achieving financial security, autonomy in decision-making, and personal development, she added. She said no country had made economic and social progress without empowering its women. China and Bangladesh offer good examples of how women have developed their societies. Federal Ombudsman Chairperson Kashmala Tariq said Women had turned economies of many countries. Developing countries can achieve the same by providing equal opportunities to women.

She demanded the IPU to ensure inclusion of women in its resolutions and more and more representation in all spheres. "The world has changed. Now Right is Might not Might is Right," remarked Kashmala. The Parliament of Pakistan, she said realized the importance of the participation of women Parliamentarians in the legislative process, adding that it was keen to legislate to promote and protect women's rights and address the obstacles faced by women in the country. State Minister for Finance Ayesha Ghous Pasha said that there was need of financial inclusion of women. She said that effective legislation should be ensured by Parliaments for women empowerment. The representatives from Iran and Maldives also agreed on the effective role of parliament to empower women. - APP



## Briefs

## Miftah highlights importance of CPEC

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Miftah Ismail on Wednesday highlighted the importance of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in the development and progress of the region and strengthening of Pakistan-China fraternal bonds. The minister was speaking in meeting with a delegation of China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) headed by its President Overseas, Zhang Guoliang. According to press statement issued by Finance Ministry, Zhang Guoliang, President Overseas CNNC briefed the finance minister on investment in CPEC projects and presented company's report. He expressed sympathy on the loss of lives, properties and infrastructure due to the recent devastating floods in Pakistan. He also offered his company's support for the flood relief work. The finance minister welcomed the support of CNNC for flood relief, the statement added. - APP

## Chinese enterprises continue supporting Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Chinese enterprises and associations in Pakistan continue to donate materials to support Pakistan's flood relief efforts as the recent severe floods in Pakistan have caused heavy casualties and property losses. According to China Economic Net (CEN), six Chinese companies in Pakistan's Punjab province have jointly set up the Panda Industries Association to raise Rs. 6 million in cash and Rs. 8 million in clothing for 4,000 flood victims in Punjab. The 6 Chinese companies in the Panda Chamber include Challenge Fashion (Pvt) Co., Ltd, Easy Prefabricated Homes Ltd, LEDZONE, OPPO, TCL and Zhengbang Agriculture. A convoy of materials donated by Chinese enterprises to the flood-stricken areas of Pakistan on the occasion, Chinese Consul General in Lahore Zhao Shiren highlighted that China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. The two countries understand and support each other and more assistance is on the way. He believes and wishes that the people in the disaster-hit areas, including the southern part of Punjab Province, will overcome the difficulties at an early date, resume normal production and life and rebuild their beautiful homes. Senior Minister of Punjab, Mian Mohammad Aslam Iqbal, lauded the efforts of the Panda Industries Association. He said that the flood had caused destruction and joint efforts should be made to help and restore the flood victims. Challenge Fashion's Pakistani partner Qamar Khan said that it was very heartening to see how the Chinese business community operating in Punjab came forward to help the flood victims. "They even went to the extent that they voluntarily donated part of their salaries towards this great cause. Their brotherly feelings were just as this catastrophe had hit their own motherland," he added. - APP

## Rawalpindi's dengue tally reaches 1000

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi's dengue total tally has reached 1000 cases, with the arrival of 65 more patients during the last 24 hours. District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control (DCEPC), Dr Sajjad Mehmood Wednesday said that among the new cases, 40 cases had arrived from Potohar town Urban area, seven from Rawalpindi Cantonment, five each from Municipal Corporation, Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonment, three from Taxila Cantonment and one from Potohar rural area. Presently, 221 patients were admitted to three allied hospitals of the city, including 78 each to the BBH and DHQ. - APP

## UN Women, Law ministry and INL Launch "TAHAFFUZ"

UN Women for extending their support, said, "Many progressive laws have been enacted in Pakistan and a strong legislative framework exists – we need to make sure it is implemented in letter and spirit so that the citizens of our country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: UN Women in collaboration with the Ministry of Law & Justice and completely funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement (INL) of the US Department of State, jointly launched the initiation of a programme "Preventing and Protecting Women from Violence through Enhanced Access to Justice and Services, TAHAFUZZ". The programme, which focuses on preventing violence against women and enhancing their access to justice will be implemented in 5 districts of Punjab and Sindh, as well as the Islamabad Capital Territory from 2022 till 2024. UN Women Deputy Country Representative Jacqui Ketunuti welcomed the distinguished participants and introduced the TAHAFUZZ programme to the audience. She said, "Building on the successes of the previous phase of this project, UN Women will address the issue

of violence against women (VAW) through a holistic approach, targeting all the key stakeholders from government institutions, justice and security sector officials, as well as civil society. Using gender and social inclusion strategies, the programme will ensure VAW is addressed from all angles and institutions that facilitate women in accessing justice are strengthened to deliver accessible, quality and gender-responsive services." The programme aims to tackle the issue of violence against women in a holistic way through evidence-based legislation & policy interventions, strengthening capacity of duty bearers, enhancing coordination and increasing awareness. While addressing the National Launch Event of the Programme, INL Director Lori Antolinez said, "the U.S. government is awarding \$1.5 million to UN Women to help Pakistani women better access justice and legal services via TAHAFUZZ. This continues years of INL's support and partnership with the Pakistani

government, Pakistani citizens, and UN Women. In 2016, INL was the sole funder for Phase One of the UN Women program, providing \$3.5 million. Gender inclusivity and women's empowerment in law enforcement and criminal justice is a top priority for INL in Pakistan. INL supports programs to improve women's access to justice through improved law enforcement response to gender-based violence. More and better trained women law enforcement professionals mean superior delivery of justice to Pakistani women." During the life of the programme, TAHAFUZZ will strengthen capacity of law enforcement officials through improving knowledge and attitudes on gender, enhancing handling of cases of VAW along with improved coordination between security and justice sector stakeholders, forensic officers, and medical examiners. In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Law and Justice Mr. Azam Nazeer Tarar highlighted the steps taken by the Government of Pakistan towards

preventing and protecting women against violence. He thanked INL and UN Women for extending their support, said, "Many progressive laws have been enacted in Pakistan and a strong legislative framework exists – we need to make sure it is implemented in letter and spirit so that the citizens of our country, especially the women, are able to benefit from it. This programme will help create a safe and enabling environment for women and girls so that they may play an active role in national progress and sustainable development." Inspector General of Police, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Chairperson National Commission on the Status of Women, Nilofar Bakhtiar, MNA and Parliamentary Secretary, MOLJ Ms Mehnaz Akbar Aziz also spoke at the National Launch Event. This year marks the 40-year anniversary of partnership between INL and Pakistan under the banner of "Justice, Security, and Prosperity," with more than \$1 billion invested over four decades by the United States government to improve public safety.

## Four bids to smuggle wheat foiled

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on Wednesday foiled four bids to smuggle wheat besides seizing 2440 bags. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities of the food department along with Naseerabad and Saddar Wah police confiscated four vehicles loaded with 2440 bags. He informed that Naseerabad police arrested three drivers namely Ahsanullah, Rizwan and Umar and recovered 1800 wheat bags while Saddar Wah police arrested Tamoor with 640 wheat bags. The accused were sent behind the bars for violating the ban and smuggling wheat. The authorities concerned had been directed to strictly monitor district exit points to control wheat smuggling, he said adding, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq had instructed the authorities to strictly monitor the movement of wheat and take strict action in accordance with the law against the rules violators.

## NPO to organize webinar

ISLAMABAD: National Productivity Organization (NPO) will organize a webinar on 'Reliability Management' on September 15 (Thursday). The webinar would provide information about what is reliability management, how to develop equipment criticality matrices, and how mean time between failures can be enhanced, according to NPO document. It would also highlight what is failure mode effect analysis and how it can help mitigate future breakdowns and strategies to promote reliability centered culture. The programme has been designed for senior managers, middle level managers, engineers, supervisors from maintenance and production departments. - APP

## Three bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three bike lifters and recovered nine stolen motorcycles, Rs 150,000 cash and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, a team under the supervision of SHO, Cantt Police Station managed to net Naem, Misbahullah and Mira Khan and recovered nine stolen motorcycles, cash Rs 150,000 and other items from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway, he added. Superintendent of Police, Potohar appreciated police team and directed to net the accomplices and facilitators of the accused. He also directed the police officers to continue raids against lawbreakers and they should be sent behind the bars. - APP

## Cars' sale drops 49% in 2 months

ISLAMABAD: The sale of cars during the first two months of current fiscal year 2022-23 (July-August) has dropped by 49.80 percent as compared to the same months of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA) said. According to the data, as many as 19,358 cars were sold during the months under review as opposed to 38,568 units in the same period of last year. The breakup figures showed that 3,844 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during the corresponding period of the year 2022-23 as compared to the sale of 4,426 units last year, thus showing a dip of 13.14 percent. Toyota Corolla and Yaris cars' sale also decreased by 48.42 percent as it went down to 4,635 units current year from 8,987 units in the same period of previous year. However, Suzuki Swift's sale went up by 125.06 percent as its sale increased to 853 units from 379 units last year, whereas the sale of Hyundai Elantra also increased from 415 units to 581 units. Sale of Suzuki Cultus decreased to 1,072 units during current year, whereas during same period last year, the sale was recorded at 7,058 units. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

## 20 criminals including 8 drug peddlers held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 20 criminals including eight drug peddlers involved in illegal criminal activities and recovered drugs, cash, police revolving light and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said. He said that DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha had ordered all zonal officers to curb the crime in their respective areas and arrest those involved in looting innocent people. Following these directives, Aabpara police team arrested four accused namely William Masih, Saddam Khalid, Nadeem Shahzad and Muhammad Aqzar and recovered 1170 gram heroin, 500 gram, hashish, two 30 bore pistols, police revolving light and vehicle from their possession. Lohibher police arrested a drug peddler namely Ata Ullah and recovered 1450 gram heroin from his possession. Likewise, Bani Gala police team arrested two accused Gul Zaman and Sajjad Ali and recovered one 7mm gun, one 9mm pistol along with ammunition and 1520 gram hashish from their possession. Shalimar police team arrested an accused namely Muhammad Usama and recovered 130 gram heroin and 60 gram Ice from his possession. Similarly, Noon police arrested an accused namely Hanan Ehsan and recovered

1125 gram hashish from his possession. Golra police team arrested the accused namely Ayaz and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Moreover, Tarnol police team arrested two accused namely Ehsan Ullah and Fazal Khan and recovered two 30 bore pistols along with ammunition from their possession, while police arrested an accused namely Irshad involved in illegally oil selling. Furthermore, Sabzi Mandi police arrested an accused Tamoor Ali and recovered one dagger from his possession.

Sihala police arrested accused Adnan Hussain and recovered one 30 bore pistol from his possession. Cases have been registered against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway. During a special crackdown against proclaimed offenders and court absconders police teams busted five proclaimed offenders. DIG Operations Sohail Zafar Chatha said that the safety of the lives and property of the citizens is our prime responsibility and no laxity will be tolerated in this regard.



## PRCS nominates three goodwill ambassadors

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday nominated three prominent names of the province, Zeek Afridi, Irfan Khan, and Sana Tajik, as its Goodwill Ambassador to promote the spirit of service to humanity not only in the province but also in Pakistan and around the world. In this regard, a ceremony was held at the provincial office of Pakistan Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa headquarters. Chairman PRCS Habib Malik Orakzai presented jackets of the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the newly nominated three dignitaries. On this occasion, Habib Malik Orakzai, said that currently, we are fully supporting the flood-affected families in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In such a situation, our goodwill ambassadors will promote the spirit of service to humanity. On the other hand, Goodwill Ambassador and renowned Pashto singer Zeek Afridi said "I am pleased that today my name has been associated with an institution that serves humanity. I am proud that the name I have been hearing since childhood, today my name has been associated with this institution as a goodwill ambassador. At present, more than 30 million people in the country have been badly affected by floods. Therefore, it will be my endeavor that we can play our role in this mission of serving humanity together with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society by bringing the entire nation together". Similarly, Pashto singer Irfan Khan, who gained fame with the song "Pekhawar Khu Pekhawar De Kana", also expressed happiness and reiterated that he would play his full role in the service of humanity as a goodwill ambassador. At present, the people of KP are suffering due to floods. I was wondering how I could help these people in the end. Therefore, the Red Crescent has given that opportunity to serve humanity by joining hands with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Sana Tajik, associated with the PRCS KP as a goodwill ambassador, expressed her views and said that as a woman, it will be my obligation to highlight the problems of women in the province as well as play my role in helping them. I am very happy that the Red Crescent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has nominated me as its Goodwill Ambassador. I will strive to live up to this trust and promote the spirit of helping the communities without any hesitation, she added. - APP

## AIOU organizes seminar on Islamic Finance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A one-day faculty seminar on "Islamic Finance in the Present Era: Challenges and Prospects" was held at Allama Iqbal Open University, which was hosted by the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies. The seminar was attended by the faculty members of the university apart from the people from the field of Islamic banking. This seminar was chaired by Prof. Dr. Mohiuddin Hashmi, Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies while Dr. Ehab ElShami, Chancellor, American International Theism University Florida, USA was the guest speaker of the seminar. The speakers said that the recent global financial crisis has provided an opportunity for Islamic finance to gain a foothold in the global market. Dr. Ehab Elshami highlighted various aspects of the interest-free financial system in Islamic banking and shared his practical experiences in America. He said that the aim of Islamic banking is not just

to eliminate interest, but it is a complete economic system, and the western world is taking great interest in it. Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Mohiuddin Hashmi said that such activities have become indispensable for the development of Islamic finance in the country. He said this seminar aims to highlight the various aspects of Islamic banking and to set the course of action for the future.

Dr. Muhyuddin Hashmi further said that to raise awareness among the people regarding various topics and issues, VC, Professor Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum has started organizing seminars, conferences, and symposiums in the university and this faculty seminar is a part of these series. Dr. Ehab Elshami presented a gold medal to the Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Professor Dr. Mohiuddin Hashmi, and Dr. Ghulam Shams ur Rahman for their academic services regarding the Islamic economics.

## Global climate change threat to planet: NA speaker

He also expressed his gratitude to the President of the IPU Duarte Pacheco and the entire IPU staff for their continuous and close cooperation with the National Assembly of Pakistan. Convener SDGs MNA Romina Khursheed Alam also drew the attention of participants to devastating floods

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Wednesday said that global climate change was a major threat to the planet and future generations. Addressing the closing ceremony of "Third Inter-Parliamentary Union Regional Seminar on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals for Parliaments of Asia-Pacific," he thanked the member countries for showing unwavering solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the current difficult time. The speaker termed the move of the National Assembly of Pakistan a resounding success to make members of the Asia-Pacific region agreed for presenting an emergency resolution at the forthcoming IPU General Assembly in Rwanda. "Unwavering solidarity that all participating countries have expressed

in support of the resilient people of Pakistan stands tall in an exemplary and united effort to face the devastation caused by the recent floods," the speaker added. He informed the participants of the event that Pakistan faced record monsoon rains and melting glaciers in northern mountains that triggered floods, which had killed more than 1,391 people; displaced 33 million people; swept away houses, roads, railway tracks, bridges, livestock and crops. The speaker said that the Climate Change Risk Index of 2021 reports that Pakistan ranked eighth among countries most vulnerable to climate crisis despite contributing less than 1% to global carbon emissions. "Pakistan is paying a heavy price for climate change," he added. He also stressed, "Parliamentarians have the important role in supporting and overseeing the implementation of SDGs. The speaker also claimed that uncompro-

missing resolve to implement the SDGs national plan would make this planet more livable, prosperous and safer place for future generations. Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf also extended felicitation to all participants for the successful organization of the 3rd IPU Regional Seminar for the Asia Pacific Region Parliaments on Achieving SDGs. He also expressed his gratitude to the President of the IPU Mr Duarte Pacheco and the entire IPU staff for their continuous and close cooperation with the National Assembly of Pakistan. Convener SDGs MNA Ms Romina Khursheed Alam also drew the attention of participants to devastating floods that had affected one-third of the country and impacted over 33 million people. The flood's preliminary economic damage estimates exceed \$10 billion. Food insecurity and malnutrition were already at critical levels in areas severely impacted by the floods. Pakistan

has only contributed 0.4% of global CO2 emissions since 1954, but it is paying a heavy price for climate change. She also requested the Speaker to move an emergency item at the forthcoming IPU General Assembly in Rwanda to highlight the plight of the flood-affected people of Pakistan and the consequences of climate degradation. Former prime minister and opposition leader in the Senate Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani congratulated the speaker for organizing a successful event and highlighting the damage caused by the recent flood in the country. Former PM Gilani said people to people contacts were important to bolster relations amongst the regional countries. He said this forum provided an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences in different fields. In his remarks, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Finance Saleem Mandviwalla called for serious efforts to deal with the issue of climate change.



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## SCO Samarkand Summit

PRIME Minister Shehbaz Sharif will leave for Samarkand, Uzbekistan today to attend the annual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS), where climate change will be on the agenda.

According to a handout released by the Foreign Office, the premier will be visiting Uzbekistan from September 15 (Thursday) to 16 (Friday) at the invitation of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who will be chairing the meeting.

"The prime Minister will be participating in the SCO summit on the invitation of Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who would chair the meeting," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

The leaders of SCO members and observer states as well as heads of SCO organizations and other special guests will attend the meeting. Besides attending the summit, PM Shehbaz Sharif will hold bilateral meetings with other participating leaders on the sidelines of the SCO summit. Meanwhile, excitement is building in Uzbekistan ahead of this week's Shanghai Cooperation Organization meeting, where Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will be the most prominent among more than a dozen world leaders visiting the Central Asian nation.

"The world is coming to Samarkand" has been the theme of the preparations for the annual meeting, to be hosted by the group's current chairman, Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. "All SCO member states are our closest neighbors, friends and strategic partners," he said in a prepared statement ahead of the summit. Putin and Xi, who are expected to meet one-on-one on the sidelines of the two-day event, will be joined by leaders from India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan.

Leaders from the SCO observer nations – Belarus, Iran and Mongolia – are also expected at the September 15-16 summit, with the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan invited as special guests. Afghanistan's future in the group is not certain because of the Taliban takeover. In attending the SCO summit, Xi is making his first trip outside China in nearly three years. "If he abandons this 'Beijing straddle' and leans ever harder into Chinese support for Russia, he risks driving a wedge with Central Asian neighbors while injecting rancor into the group" instead of the "unity" Mirziyoyev wants.



## China and Russia-Ukraine war

THE situation on the battlefield of the Russia-Ukraine conflict has taken a complicated turn in recent weeks. According to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday, the Ukrainian army has recaptured 6,000 square kilometers of territory since the "counteroffensive" was launched in early September. However, Russia publicly explained that its troops withdrew on its own initiative to regroup "to liberate Donbass." The actual situation is still unclear, but the US and Western media couldn't wait to celebrate Ukraine's "big victory in the counteroffensive." While aiming their guns at Russia, some have fired hidden arrows at China.

Hal Brands, a professor of political science at the Johns Hopkins University in the US, recently tweeted that "if Russia's battlefield situation in Ukraine is as bad as it seems, it will create serious dilemmas for China." Some US and Western media also claimed that Ukraine's rapid advances have "certainly left China in an uncomfortable position," and even called for China to "draw lessons from Russia." These arguments are both absurd and vicious.

To be precise, such expressions have mostly exposed the US and Western elites' secret wishes. In particular, the inclusion of China, which is neither a party concerned nor a culprit of the conflict, is not based on facts at all, but is driven by malicious motives. China has never been involved in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, so how can the situation of "he who rides a tiger is afraid to dismount" be applied to China?

Many American and Western media and politicians have emphasized in a high-profile manner that the weapons of the US and NATO have helped Ukraine "dramatically reverse the situation," forming an atmosphere of public opinion that strengthens the delivery of weapons to Ukraine. Some reports, citing senior US defense officials, said that Washington and its allies are discussing Ukraine's long-term needs, such as the possibility of supplying Kiev with fighter jets in the "medium and long term." The Russia-Ukraine conflict has lasted for more than 200 days. It has had a significant impact not only on the people of Russia and Ukraine. In addition, the ordinary people in Europe and many developing countries are suffering from the disastrous geopolitical consequence. Recently, a former British MP pointed out that "this is the US being willing to fight to the last drop of Ukrainian blood and being ready to fight to the last European." Now Washington wants to further drain Ukraine's geopolitical value, trying to forcibly drag China into the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in every possible way. Such greed is really ugly. Washington's bottom line is lower than the world can imagine.

## Communism a fantasy

Fida Muhammad Khan

Democracy is as incompatible with communism as is joining as joining an animal rights organization while hunting animals". A person who believes in liberty, freedom of expression, political and social freedoms, gender equality, can never submit to the flawed and misfit ideology of communism. In a communist state, one would not be allowed to do anything freely

THEY say that we want a classless society. They talk about rights, personal and political freedom, cultural and social freedom, intellectual and freedom of expression, yet they don't know that the system they propagate, the values they talk about, the freedoms they desire are all in opposition to their "antique" ideology. Yes, I am talking about the left. The left, is defined as people living in a fantasy not radically different from Alice in the wonderland. An ideology that goes against all logic and rationale. They are wrong, they just don't know it and those who know, do not declare it and those who confess, are labelled as traitors to the cause.

Communism, as a system, as a philosophy, as an ideology has failed mankind. It is an extractive institution designed to prey on the dreams of the have-nots. When a select few among the have-nots' rise, and start the noble mission the

others follow. Here I need not, to give any proof since this fact is clear as day to everyone who has an ounce of logic upstairs. History is witness that there is no instance where the have-not has disappeared. Even after the Bolsheviks the people who came what did they do? Did they make a classless society? Was there freedom of expression, choice and most importantly opportunities. The answer is no. and why shouldn't it be like this since the communist state is the best example of extractive institutions. Its more disastrous in terms of consequences than any other extractive institutions such as slavery and monarchies.

They will say that all sorts of freedom are there in a communist/socialist state, some of their specie also believe that democracy is compatible with communism/socialism. While statements such as these are noble and appear catchy what "they" forget is the fact that communism in essence is a sanctioned dictatorship. Look at history, from entire eastern Europe to the mother land of socialism i.e. Russia there has been a monarch, a supreme leader, and all institutions of judiciary, criminal justice, executive and legislature have been fused together in that one person or persona.

With this history, when modern left talks about the democracy and socialism are compatible one can only assume that either the left has another definition of democracy or they believe freedom as the space given by the monarchical institution, the all-just communist throne. Either way the illogical character of communism as a philosophy is visible. just ask yourself the question "how many socialist states do you know that have a democracy"? look at North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, and even Russia. Democracy is as incompatible with communism as is joining as joining an animal rights organization while hunting animals". A person who believes in liberty, freedom of expression, political and social freedoms, gender equality, can never submit to the flawed and misfit ideology of communism. In a communist state, one would not be allowed to do anything freely. From taking selfies, to journalism and from political views to economic systems, the state has a control over everything. In North Korea for instance, can anyone talk

against the regime, or demand betterment? What would happen to such a person? Similarly, can anyone ever question Stalin? Or Lenin? What about the freedoms here? An economy where in a farmer doesn't get a penny in return for the yield of his crop rather he is given a ration card and when he goes to the ration house he finds out that hundreds have lined up with same sort of ration cards.

Similarly, a factory manager will not be paid from the profit of the factory rather he or she would be paid by the Benevolent communist state. Economic logic suggests that the manger will have little or no incentive in the progress or cost minimization and efficiency of the factory. He or she will just do enough to keep things running.

A society where a communist party representative runs for a seat, and others either don't compete, or are bought or are threatened, wins an election and calls himself a peoples representative. This is not a democracy but it really is a mockery of democracy. Yet the communist would say that we believe in democracy. I would advise the communists to do serious reading for its not just catchy slogans or emotional poems of the likes of Faiz, Faraz and Jalib. It's, however, something much bigger and complex.

What are the characteristics of Democracy, well for starters each vote counts, which means the vote of a billionaire and the vote of a farmer or a janitor are equal? Each person has a say and he or she is free to express that in front of everyone without any fear of persecution. Everyone is allowed to have personal religious beliefs and no one is persecuted on that basis. One is free to think, free to write and free to innovate since the democratic society is there to make it possible. A farmer gets paid for crop he has grown with the strength of his/her back. A factory manager is guided by the profit motive, competition and survival of the fittest. The manger whether he likes it or not will have to keep an eye on things and constantly try to earn more profit by coming up with efficient and good quality output. A school teacher will work hard with his /her students because the freedom of market forces, the rewards and incentives that the democratic system gives all will make him or her work in the

right direction, contributing to the society while pursuing self-interest.

In a non-communist system, if the government doesn't deliver and there is a quality electoral process the people can send the government home. The people are sovereign, the people are the principle the elected representative is a client and he or she is forced to deliver due to the repetitive game. My question is that when a communist benevolent state doesn't perform can anyone protest? Wouldn't it be the case that such protestors can face severe punishments death being one of them? Certainly not.

Communism therefore is not at all compatible with democracy. It is an extractive system where in the very people who bring this system ultimately become the oppressors and the state of affairs at all fronts gets even worse. They mesmerize the people with fiery orations explain equality of social status while they themselves live like kings and Princes.

So what is the solution? I would like to end this piece by conveying a message to the people who still believe that this system is workable that please come out of the fantasy world. Democracy is symbol of freedom, a system of equality, a right to select your future and it can never be compatible with an extractive exotic system like communism.

The only economic system that is compatible with Democracy therefore is Free market capitalism. A system where human beings are free to respond to incentives provided by the system. A system where innovation is incentivized. A system which gives birth to Samuelsson, Freidman, Steve jobs, Bill Gates not Faraz or Jalib. A system that makes amazon a success. A system that is a reality not a fantasy. History stands witness that all big changes in world have been brought by free market capitalism and not the government. Democracy is just another name of unlimited freedom and hence it can never be compatible with an extractive system such as communism. I rest my case

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## The battle for perceptions continues in Ukraine war

Tarek Cherkaoui

The New York Times provided an interactive map revealing how the internet was diverted from Crimea to Russia. In the Ukrainian regions concerned, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Ukrainian news sites, and independent news sources have been removed and replaced by Russian information outlets

IN modern warfare, many nations strive to reach a high degree of "information dominance," which guarantees them superiority and affects the enemy's morale and decision-making. Two thousand years ago, Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu wrote in the Art of War about the need to subdue the enemy without fighting. He described this approach as the pinnacle of military skill. His remarks highlight the centrality of hearts and minds within eastern military doctrines, as ultimately, victory or defeat resides in the mindset. Fast forward two millennia, the Pentagon implemented similar approaches to shape the information space. French cultural theorist Paul Virilio described the importance of information operations in the War on Iraq. In his book Desert Screen (2002), Virilio expressed the view that "the control of communications outweighs the control of the geographical territory," adding that the elimination of the communication and telecommunication infrastructure supersedes anything else because it gives the upper hand in the battle for public opinion.

And just like this, war nowadays combines not just a series of ground, air, and naval operations but also a fast-paced confrontation of words and images. In modern warfare, controlling the information and battle space tantamounts to victory. Consequently, many nations aspire to achieve a high level of "information dominance" which ensures superiority and influences the enemy's decision-making and morale. Seen from this angle, one can fathom recent news related to the Russo-Ukrainian war. For instance, the New York Times reported that Russia is gradually taking control of the Ukrainian internet in the occupied territories. In the city of Kherson, Russian soldiers forced internet providers to relinquish control of the network to divert it to the Russian network. The New York Times provided an interactive map revealing how the internet was diverted from Crimea to Russia. In the Ukrainian regions concerned, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Ukrainian news sites, and independent news sources have been removed and replaced by Russian information outlets.

Cellular networks have also been ordered to switch to Russian providers, and phone chips from the new network are sold after an identity check. In other cities, the cellular network and the internet were shut down. What this means in practice is that Ukrainian citizens will only get information through the prism of Moscow, placing them under the total purview and monitoring of Russian authorities. Although this may seem anecdotal, the fact that the internet is the main news source for Ukrainians played a large role in this strategy. However, control over data is only part of the story. Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council Ben Nimmo argued that Russia's information warfare strategy is based on the "4 Ds": dismiss the critic, distort the facts, distract from the main issue, and dismay the audience.

Understanding this strategy also helps unpack some other news headlines. For example, the New York Times reported that social media companies had taken steps to curb Russia's influence on information circulated by accounts controlled by the Russian state.

The newspaper observed a rise in the Kremlin's information operations in Spanish or Arabic to reach the widest possible audience. Moscow's version of events disseminated via these languages, including speculative commentaries and psyops (psychological operations) themes, are often unopposed. Others pinpointed the increase of Russian in-

fluence on social media platforms such as TikTok.

A non-profit organisation, Tracking Exposed, published a report on 10 August, singling out TikTok for discreetly making Russian half-truths and outright fallacies accessible via its algorithm recommendations.

This practice is called "shadow promotion" a new term that the NGO coined to describe the phenomenon of algorithmic promotion of content that is supposedly banned on a platform. Furthermore, an NGO called NewsGuard highlighted the proliferation of Russian disinformation websites in the past six months. From 116 sites that were exposed in March, the NGO identified 250 in early August. These websites still benefit from advertising revenues, even if the European Commission had requested the giant web corporations to curb funding for such sites.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian side is also proving adept at perception management. From the beginning, it was obvious that Western audiences supported Ukraine. This fact made the essentiality of Kiev's efforts centred on maintaining, if not increasing, the Western public support for the war effort. Based on American linguist George Lakoff's paradigm, one can say that the Ukrainian side relies on two central narratives: the self-defence story and the rescue story. According to Lakoff, good war stories always need a hero, a crime, and a villain. From a thematic point of view, the Ukrainian authorities drew analogies with the Cold War, as Moscow was the arch-enemy of Western capitals for decades. A reservoir of anti-Russian sentiments, conveyed in films and popular culture for four decades, is readily available to depict the image of Russia's leader as an irrational villain among Western audiences.

Moreover, the Ukrainian information operations capitalised on the aggression they suffered. The Ukrainian side focused on injustice and victimisation. Most battles took place in an urban environment, so the civilians suffered tremendously. The human dimension, victimhood, and the sufferings of the people as the result of urban warfare gave a huge advantage to Kiev's narrative in its media campaign. Moreover, the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe, which led to the mass exodus of over five million refugees, has also provided Ukraine with enormous sympathy in Europe and North America. Furthermore, the Ukrainians circulated many stories of questionable veracity to construct myths and create heroes in the common consciousness, as this would enhance the popularity of the war. For instance, the story

of the 'Ghost of Kiev', identified as Major Stepan Tarabalka, who single-handedly shot down as many as six Russian fighter jets in 30 hours, proved to be mere propaganda.

The acknowledgement that this was a fictitious story was only made after the footage reached more than 9.3 million views on Twitter and millions more via a myriad of Facebook groups, YouTube postings and TikTok videos.

A similar myth was constructed around the 13 coastal guards at Snake Island, who reportedly stood their ground and refused to surrender to the Russians while uttering some profanities. They were allegedly killed as a result. Anton Gerashchenko, an advisor to the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs, posted on social media about this incident. This purported heroic but tragic incident was relayed as evidence of dedication and commitment to the homeland until death. The story was later debunked as false.

Finally, Ukraine's leader also pursues a communication strategy that depicts him as the hero of his nation. President Volodymyr Zelensky is everywhere, from the cover of Vogue magazine with Ukraine's first lady to video appearances at most major world events, such as the Grammy Awards, the Cannes Film Festival, and the World Economic Forum. With such a busy PR schedule, President Zelensky does not miss a chance to put his country high on the West's political, economic, and social agendas. The Russian-Ukrainian war continues to witness vicious perception management battles concurrently with the actual fighting.

The UK spy chief claimed recently that the Kremlin was losing the information war in Ukraine. However, given that miscalculations from all sides have characterised this war, a less gung-ho approach is probably more advisable. Russia's information operations might have been weaker in some areas than expected, but its info-warriors have trump cards up their sleeves. They are still actively probing new possibilities and weak links. Moreover, Russia has a track record in playing the long game with a history of winning wars of attrition. Putin himself seems to believe the time is on his side. Meanwhile, Zelensky is determined to make Ukraine a quagmire for Russia while having the upper hand in terms of messaging, branding, and symbolism. Given the stakes involved, the next six months will be decisive in shaping the war's outcome.

– Courtesy: TRT World



## Briefs

## EU announces cap on electricity revenue

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under negotiation, she announced. "We need to learn from mistakes of the past," she stressed, meaning that trade deals had to be conducted with countries that shared similar values and ideals with the European Union. On top of this, it was crucial to strengthen democracies on the European continent, she said. Ursula von der Leyen told the European Union's eastern neighbors Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia that their future lay within the EU. "You are part of our family, you are the future of our union," von der Leyen said. "Our union is not complete without you," she added.

## 'F-16 program to help Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01  
share some details about the proposed package, about which the US government has already notified Congress. Reiterating that the Congress had been notified of the proposed sale, Price said: "Pakistan is an important partner in a number of regards, an important counterterrorism partner. And as part of our longstanding policy, we provide life cycle maintenance and sustainment packages for US-origin platforms." On Wednesday last week, an official statement by the US Defence Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification of this possible sale to Congress. The agency clarified that "the proposed sale does not include any new capabilities, weapons, or munitions".

## 'Pakistan efforts mitigated terror...

FROM PAGE 01  
Financial Action Task Force and progress in AML and CFT domain. The Spokesperson said that pursuant to the authorization of Onsite Visit by FATF Plenary in June this year, an FATF technical team recently visited Pakistan and held detailed discussions with relevant agencies. He said it was a smooth and successful visit. The focus of the visit was to validate on ground Pakistan's high-level commitment and sustainability of reforms in our AML and CFT regime. Asim Iftikhar said meetings with FATF team were held in a constructive and positive atmosphere. The Report of FATF Onsite team will be discussed in FATF's International Cooperation Review Group and Plenary meetings to be held in the third week of the next month in Paris. He said Pakistan is looking forward to logical conclusion to the ongoing evaluation process. As regards the status of Pakistan's progress, FATF's latest evaluation of Pakistan supersedes its findings in previous years. Resultantly, Pakistan has not only achieved a high degree of technical compliance with FATF standards it has also ensured high level of effectiveness through implementation of two comprehensive FATF Action Plans, and it is committed to continuing its efforts in this regard.

## Imran appears before JIT...

FROM PAGE 01  
them over "custodial torture" does not come under the umbrella of terrorism. Moving on to the announcement of another series of countryside protests, the PTI chair said that the government "will not be able to bear" a fresh call for protests. He said that he had stayed quiet due to the economic situation and then the cataclysmic floods, thinking that his party would record peaceful protests. "They banned the telephone when [we] started collecting funds for the flood affecteds," Khan said, while referring to the recent telephone calls during which donors pledged Rs10 billion over five hours.

## Thailand gives over 21m baht for flood victims

Recently, the Most Venerable Arayawangso Fund donated 6 million PKR while officers and staff of the Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad also made a contribution for flood relief in Pakistan

DNA

MANILA: Vijavat Isarabhakdi, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, presided over the handover ceremony of cash donations for flood relief in Pakistan, received by Chargé d'Affaires of Pakistan to Thailand. The donations of 21 million baht or about 134 million PKR, consist of 7 million baht (44.7 million PKR.) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand and another 14 million baht (89.7 million PKR.) from Thai civil society organizations namely the Council for Humanitarian Networking of Sheikhul Islam Office, Al-Salam Institute, Fatoni University, the Thai-Pakistani Friendship Association, the Muslim for Peace Foundation Thailand, White Channel, the Foundation of Islamic Centre of Thailand and the Overseas Pakistanis Thai Association as well as Jai Ngam Foundation. H.E. Mr. Chakkradit Krachaiwong, Thai Ambassador to Pakistan, virtually participated in and witnessed the donations event. Recently, the Most Venerable Arayawangso Fund donated 6 million PKR while officers and staff of the Royal Thai Embassy in Islamabad also made a contribution for flood relief in Pakistan.



## Clash erupts between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan

DUSHANBE: Kyrgyz and Tajik border guards have exchanged fire after a dispute over the border between the two Central Asian nations, officials on both sides said. The clash on Wednesday, which took place on the eve of a regional security body meeting and against the background of fighting between Russia and Ukraine as well as Azerbaijan and Armenia, started after Kyrgyz border guards accused the Tajiks of taking positions at a part of the border that has not been demarcated. The Tajik side said in a statement that Kyrgyz border guards opened unprovoked gun and mortar fire

on their outpost, killing one border guard and injuring another two, the RIA Novosti news agency reported. Kyrgyzstan did not immediately report any casualties. More than one-third of the two countries' 1,000km (600-mile) border remains disputed. Both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are allied with Russia and host Russian military bases, but fighting over border issues is frequent and last year almost resulted in an all-out war between the former Soviet republics. Russia called on its Central Asian allies to take urgent measures to bring the situation on the border between the two countries back un-

der control, the RIA Novosti news agency reported on Wednesday, citing a foreign ministry source. A similar clash in June killed a Tajik border guard. Serious escalations are rare, but fears of a wider conflict stirred last year when dozens died in the worst confrontation between the pair in more than 30 years of post-Soviet independence. Kyrgyz and Tajik leaders are expected to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Uzbekistan this week alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping as well as a host of other world leaders. For the first time in three

years, the summit is being held entirely in person, with the participation of 15 leaders from all eight SCO member states - China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; three observer states - Belarus, Iran, and Mongolia; and three dialogue-partner countries - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. China sees the group, founded under Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao, as a counterweight to United States-led alliances across East Asia. Beijing has taken part in multi-government military exercises, showing off its fast-developing forces. - Agencies

## PIA slashes fares for students by 22pc on flights to China

KARACHI: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Wednesday increased student discount from 10 percent to 15 percent and an additional 7 percent discount on surcharge making a total discount of around 22 percent on the flights between Pakistan and China. The national flag carrier has also increased baggage allowance upto 80 kilograms for the students, an official of the airline said in a media interview Wednesday. At present, PIA is operating two weekly flights on Islamabad-Chengdu-Islamabad and Islamabad-Xian-Beijing-Islamabad routes. The students who are returning to China or intends to homeland after completion of their education could take benefit from the discount.

A large number of Pakistani students enrolled in the Chinese universities and stranded in Pakistan following Covid-19 travel restrictions have started arriving in China to join off-line classes. On June 20, a special of PIA flight had brought first batch of Pakistani students from Islamabad to Xian, China. These students were stuck in the motherland because of Covid-19. It is worth mentioning here that PIA had resumed its passenger flights between Pakistan and China section after a gap of nearly six months as the airports in Xian and Beijing closed for the international flights in wake of Covid-19 prevention and control measures. - DNA

## PM warns of post-flood diseases

FROM PAGE 01  
He directed the authorities concerned to ensure the availability of drinking water and life-saving medicines on priority in Sohbatpur's area of Balochistan, severely damaged by floods. The prime minister reviewed the relief arrangements and later addressed the flood victims in the area. While addressing the flood affectees, PM Shehbaz Sharif announced a two-month waiver of water utility charges for the consumers residing in flood-affected areas all over the country. He said the government would not charge the consumers in the flood-hit areas for the bills of August and September. The prime minister said the waiver on water utility charges was aimed at facilitating the people heavily burdened by the challenges in the wake of the flood. He also announced continuation of the government's facility in September to waive off Fuel Adjustment Charges for electricity consumers across the country on usage up to 300 units. The premier further stated that the facility would be extended beyond the flood-relief areas, benefiting around 210 million consumers in the country. Moreover, he said a mechanism would be established to revive the crops of wheat and cotton in the flood-affected areas.

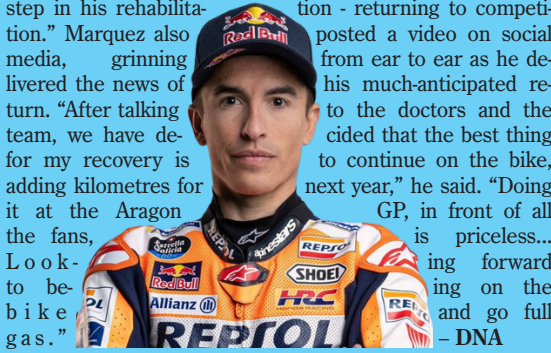
## PM leaves for Samarkand today

FROM PAGE 01  
CHS, the SCO leaders will deliberate on important global and regional issues, including climate change, food security energy security, and sustainable supply chains. They would also approve agreements and documents that would chart the future direction of cooperation among SCO member states. Besides attending the summit, the Prime Minister would hold bilateral meetings with other participating leaders on the sidelines of the CHS. The SCO is a major trans-regional organization spanning South and Central Asia. Founded in 2001, the SCO upholds the values and principles enshrined in the Shanghai Spirit that include mutual trust, mutual benefit and pursuit of common development. Collectively, the SCO member states represent nearly half of the world's population and a quarter of global economic output. SCO's agenda of promoting peace and stability, and seeking enhanced linkages in economic, trade and cultural spheres, is aligned with Pakistan's own vision for enhancing economic connectivity as well as peace and stability in the region. Since becoming full member of SCO in 2017, Pakistan has been actively contributing towards advancing the Organizations core objectives through its participation in various SCO mechanisms.

Normalcy returns to all main rivers except Indus  
ISLAMABAD: The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said that River Indus is still flowing in "High Flood" at Kotri while complete normalcy has returned to all other main rivers i.e. Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi and Sutlej. According to daily FFC report on Wednesday, Tarbela Reservoir has already maintained at its Maximum Conservation Level of 1550.00 feet on August 28 whereas water level in Mangla Dam is 1192.80 feet against its MCL: 1242 feet (47.04 % storage still left). The present combined live storage of country's three major reservoirs (Tarbela, Chashma & Mangla) is 9.981 MAF which is 74.15% of total value of 13.461 MAF. Yesterday's Well-Marked Low Pressure Area over Central parts of Madhya Pradesh (India) lies over Northwestern Madhya Pradesh (India) and adjoining areas. Trough of Westerly Wave earlier over Kashmir and adjoining areas has moved away in Eastwards direction while seasonal low continues to prevail over Western Balochistan. At present, moderate moist currents from both Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea are penetrating into Pakistan (Southern Punjab & Sindh) upto 5000 feet. - APP

## Marc Marquez to return to racing at Aragon Grand Prix

MADRID: Six-times MotoGP champion Marc Marquez will return to racing at this weekend's Aragon Grand Prix after recovering from surgery and conducting successful tests on the bike, his team Honda said on Tuesday. The Spaniard had surgery on a troublesome right arm in June, missing the last six races as a result, but he completed two days of testing in Misano which gave the team and the Spaniard hope of returning to racing. Marquez has had problems since he broke his arm at the 2020 Spanish Grand Prix and has had multiple operations since then. He had not competed since the Italian Grand Prix at Mugello in May. "Since undergoing a successful fourth operation on his right humerus, the eight-time world champion has followed the strict guidance of his medical team in order to facilitate a full recovery," Honda said in a statement. "After numerous check-ups, consultations and tests, all involved are satisfied with the recovery made and the #93 will now take the next step in his rehabilitation - returning to competition." Marquez also posted a video on social media, grinning from ear to ear as he delivered the news of his much-anticipated return. "After talking to the doctors and the team, we have decided that the best thing to continue on the bike, next year," he said. "Doing my recovery is adding kilometres for it at the Aragon GP, in front of all the fans, is priceless... Looking forward to being on the bike and going full gas." - DNA



## Murray not expecting to play in Davis Cup

DNA

LONDON: Andy Murray said he feels really good physically but does not expect to play in Britain's Davis Cup Finals campaign amid stiff competition in the squad. Britain's team features Cameron Norrie and Dan Evans, both of whom are in the top 25, as well as the first and third-ranked men's doubles players Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski. Murray, who led Britain to their first Davis Cup title for 79 years in 2015 and last played in the competition in 2019, has struggled to regain top form since undergoing two hip surgeries and is currently ranked 43rd in the world. "I don't expect to play," the 35-year-old told reporters on Tuesday. "Every one of us sitting up here deserves the opportunity to compete. "If I don't play at all, I trust the players who go out there will do a great job and win matches for us."

## Ben Stokes excited by a 'different challenge'

DNA

LONDON: Ben Stokes said it was "scary" to think of what England might achieve after rounding off a successful first-season as captain with a dominant display against South Africa. England needed just 25 minutes at the Oval to complete a nine-wicket win over the Proteas in barely more than two days' actual playing time that secured a 2-1 series victory. It also meant England had won six out of seven Tests under a new leadership duo of Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum - a far cry from a record of one win in 17 matches that marked the end of Joe Root's reign as skipper. New Zealand, the World Test champions were beaten 3-0 before England defeated India in a one-off Test, held over from last year because of coronavirus concerns in the Indian camp, prior to seeing off the Proteas. All of those triumphs were marked by a willingness to

engage in dashing run-chases, while removing as much pressure from players as possible, albeit much of England's success, as South Africa captain Dean Elgar noted, was built on traditional fundamentals of the red-ball game. But they all took place on home soil and Stokes is determined England should "walk towards danger", in cricket terms, during their next Test series, a three-match tour of Pakistan in December. England have been without two injured fast bowlers in Jofra Archer and Mark Wood all season, but Stokes is excited by the prospect of both express quicks being available when his team try to regain the Ashes at home to arch-rivals Australia next year. "Who knows how far we can take this side over the next couple of years?," he said. "We've got two of our premium fast bowlers who have had big injuries this summer and have missed a lot of cricket. "You add Jofra and Woody

into the mix being fully fit - it's scary to think where things could go, especially with the ball." But before then England face the very different challenge posed by going to Pakistan, where they have not played a series since 2005 due to security concerns. "It is something that we are going to have to try to continue to do in Pakistan, we can't live off the fact that we've won six out of seven games because we will be presented with a completely different challenge," he said. "(We must) Walk towards that danger of what Pakistan is going to throw at us. "It's a hot country, you are not going to get anywhere near as much assistance with the ball as you do in England. You will be facing a lot more spin. "That's a new challenge for us and something we are excited by. To show in different situations we can show off the positive mindset and always try to put the pressure back onto the opposition," he added.

## Tehran, Tashkent ink 17 cooperation documents

President Raisi noted that despite the sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made great progress over the past years, adding that the willful nation turns threats into opportunities

DNA

TEHRAN: Tehran, Tashkent inked 17 cooperation documents in the fields of energy, industry, agriculture, sports, and culture in presence of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in Islamabad, Pakistan on Wednesday. The signing ceremony of cooperation documents and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Tehran and Tashkent was held in the presence of presidents and between the ministers of Iran and Uzbekistan in the Silk Road Complex. The cooperation documents are in the fields of transit transportation development, cultural exchanges as well as energy, and trade-economic exchanges. Earlier, Raisi met and held talks with President Mirziyoyev upon his arrival in Uzbekistan. Congratulating the anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence, President Raisi said that Iran-Uzbekistan relations have undoubtedly made good progress in these years, especially during Mirziyoyev's presidency. He underlined that Tehran's relations with Tashkent are not only neighborly



and regional ties, but it is also civilizational, deep, and cultural. President Raisi noted that despite the sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has made great progress over the past years, adding that the willful nation turns threats into opportunities. "Today, we have progress in various fields and many

capacities have been created in the Islamic Republic of Iran." Uzbekistan's progress is Iran's progress and there are no obstacles to the development of relations between the two countries, he went on to say. He further noted that there is a readiness to increase mutual ties in different

fields, including trade, transit, and transportation exchanges which can increase the level of cooperation between Tehran and Tashkent. President Raisi expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate with Uzbekistan in the field of energy. Referring to the talks between oil ministers of Iran and Uzbekistan and the inking of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two states, he expressed hope that good steps would be taken to develop energy relations and signing of the documents is a good manifestation of the will of the two states to develop relations in different fields. Mirziyoyev, for his part, described President Raisi's visit to his country as a historic trip, adding that Iran and Uzbekistan have entered the path of development and these trips will be strong foundations for the development of Iran-Uzbekistan ties. Pointing to the great history of Iran, he noted that economic exchanges between the two countries have increased due to the common historical ties. President Raisi's visit to Samarkand is aimed at attending the 22nd Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).



## Briefs

Air France  
cancels  
today's flights  
over strike

DNA

PARIS: French flag carrier Air France has cancelled more than half its short- and medium-haul flights on today (Friday), as the country's air traffic controllers wage a strike. "We can't rule out delays and last-minute cancellations" among the flights that remain, the airline said in a statement on Wednesday, adding that affected customers would be warned by text message and email.

Air France said just 45 percent of short- and medium-haul services would operate on Friday, while 90 percent of long-haul connections would go ahead. The carrier's move comes after the biggest air traffic controllers' union SNTCA called members out on strike. Worker representatives complain that inflation is eroding spending power and raise worries about future recruitment. On Wednesday, the DGAC civil aviation authority said it had asked airlines to cancel half of flights during the strike. It also said it was in discussions with the Eurocontrol aviation traffic manager to propose alternative routes for airlines to avoid French airspace. The strike comes as the French government is preparing to unveil its 2023 budget, which the union says fails to guarantee the DGAC's financing and could limit its ability to offer pay hikes.

S. Korea's  
cross 90,000  
Covid cases

DNA

SEOUL: South Korea's new COVID-19 cases jumped to over 90,000 on Wednesday after the Chuseok fall harvest holiday that ended early this week amid worries over a spike in the virus infections. The country reported 93,981 new COVID-19 infections, including 314 cases from overseas, bringing the total caseload to 24,193,038, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said, Yonhap reports.

Wednesday's tally jumped by nearly 37,000 from 57,309 a day earlier following the four-day holiday that ended Monday. Daily infections have slowed after peaking at 180,746 on Aug. 17 in the latest virus resurgence. The country added 60 COVID-19 deaths, raising the death toll to 27,593. The fatality rate stood at 0.11 percent. The number of critically ill patients stood at 507, down 40 from the previous day. Health authorities remain concerned over a possible «twindemic» – a simultaneous outbreak of COVID-19 and the seasonal influenza – as early as this fall amid an unusual spike in the number of flu patients since July this year.

Italy backs  
ban on data  
tracking in  
political ads

DNA

BRUSSELS: Italy supports a full ban on targeted advertising based on the tracking of users. Still, France seems to be on the fence on several key elements of the proposed regulation on political advertising. In response to questions posed by the Czech Presidency of the EU Council, Rome has outlined its preference for a "prohibition of targeted advertising based on pervasive tracking" and expressed its support for a total prohibition on "the use of targeting or amplification techniques involving the processing of sensitive data".

The document, seen by EURACTIV, is dated 8 September and includes replies from Austria and France. It follows a similar set of responses from 16 other EU countries in which both Germany and Greece backed a complete ban on using personal data in political ads. The questions are based on the Commission's proposed regulation, released last year, with the aim of increasing transparency in political advertising and tackling the presence of disinformation, particularly at election times. The EU executive's aim is to have the measures in place by the next European Parliament elections, scheduled for May 2024.

Zelensky vows 'victory' on  
visit to liberated region

Ukraine has claimed sweeping successes in the northeastern Kharkiv region that borders Russia in recent days and also says it has clawed back territory along a southern front near the Kherson region on the Black Sea

AGENCIES

KHARKIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday promised "victory" on a visit to the strategic city of Izium that was recently recaptured from Russia by Kyiv's army in a lightning counter-offensive. The visit comes at a decisive moment in Russia's six-month invasion, with Ukraine routing Moscow's forces from swathes of the east and seriously undermining the Kremlin's ambitions to capture the entire Donbas region of Ukraine. "Our blue-yellow flag is already flying in deoccupied Izium. And it will be so in every Ukrainian city and village," Zelensky said in a statement on social media. "We are moving in only one direction – forward and towards victory." Pictures distributed by his office showed the Ukrainian leader wearing dark-green and flanked by guards as he took selfies with soldiers and thanked troops at a flag-raising ceremony. Ukraine has claimed sweeping successes in the northeastern Kharkiv region that borders Russia in recent days and also says it has clawed back territory along a southern front near the Kherson region on the Black Sea. Zelensky said Wednesday that Russia's occupation of Crimea – annexed by Russia in 2014 – was a "tragedy" and promised that his forces would eventually recapture the peninsula. Kyiv says that since the beginning of September its forces have retaken hundreds of villages, towns and cities that were captured by Russian forces that invaded



Ukraine on February 24.

In the recaptured eastern Ukrainian village of Bogorodychne, 58-year-old Mykola told AFP he had "barely survived" the Russian occupation during which his brother was killed. "How can I describe it in words? It was difficult. I was afraid," he said. Wiping tears from her eyes with a veil, Mykola's mother Nina said: "I cry every day. They killed my son." Moscow said its forces were hitting back on are-

as recaptured in Kharkiv with "massive strikes," claiming – without providing evidence – to have inflicted losses on Ukrainian military hardware and servicemen. In a battlefield update on Wednesday, Russia also claimed to have captured dozens of Ukrainian servicemen in the southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. The Kremlin, which has made little mention of the setbacks in recent days vowed to continue fighting, claiming that the perceived

threat Kyiv posed to Russia remains. "The leadership of this country must take actions that eliminate threats to the Russian Federation" President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

The Ukrainian official in charge of the eastern Donetsk region, which has been partially controlled by pro-Moscow separatists since 2014, said Russian forces had attacked the entire front line region over the past 24 hours. Pavlo Kyrylenko, the Donetsk governor, said one civilian had been killed and again urged all others to leave, describing the order as a "matter of life and death." Military observers have credited the success of Ukraine's push back into the east on Western-supplied arms, particularly long-range precision artillery and also training of Ukrainian forces by Western allies.

The Ukrainian military announced on social media Wednesday that some 5,000 Ukrainian military had been trained as part of a joint program with the United Kingdom. Western countries have also hit back against Russia with waves of economic penalties.

EU commission president Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday said the successive waves of EU sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine would remain and that Europeans must keep their resolve against Moscow. Ukraine's first lady Olena Zelenska attended the gathering in Strasbourg, receiving a standing ovation from lawmakers. She also told MEPs that she would travel Wednesday to Kyiv to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.



**NUR SUTAN:** Kazakh President Kassym Jomart Tokayev awarded President Xi Jinping of China with the highest state award Kazakhstan – Order of "Altyn Kyran" for his special contribution to the strengthening and development of bilateral political, economic and cultural ties between two countries. – DNA

Azerbaijani, Turkish  
top brass discuss  
Armenia's border  
provocations

BAKU: Azerbaijani Defense Minister Col-Gen Zakir Hasanov has discussed Armenia's recent anti-Azerbaijani provocations with a delegation led by Türkiye's National Defense University Rector Erhan Afyoncu, Azernews reports via the ministry. After greeting the visitors, Hasanov briefed them about large-scale provocations carried out by the Armenian armed forces along the Azerbaijan-Armenia state border in the directions of Dashkasan, Kalbajar, and Lachin districts. The importance of further developing military education and other types of cooperation within the framework of the military alliance with Türkiye, as well as sharing experience with the National Defense University of Türkiye in this regard was stressed. Afyoncu, for his part, expressed condolences to those, who died as a result of the large-scale sabotage, and emphasized the positive effect of mutual experience exchange in the field of military education on increasing military personnel's knowledge and skills, stating that work in this field will continue in the future. During the meeting, views were exchanged on military education and other issues of mutual interest. Afyoncu gave Hasanov his book, entitled "History of Turks," and the two exchanged presents. Similarly, First Deputy Defense Minister and Chief of the General Staff of the Azerbaijan Army Col-Gen Karim Valiyev received the delegation led by Professor Erhan Afyoncu. – DNA

Google to pay over \$4B  
antitrust fine to EU

BRUSSELS: Tech giant Google must pay €4.12 billion (\$4.12 billion) in fine to the European Union after the bloc's top court upheld on Wednesday the EU executive body's antitrust decision. "The General Court largely confirms the Commission's decision that Google imposed unlawful restrictions on manufacturers of Android mobile devices and mobile network operators in order to consolidate the dominant position of its search engine," the EU court said in a press statement. The ruling ends the lawsuit initiated by Google against the 2018 decision of the European Commission that imposed €4.34 billion, the highest antitrust fine in the bloc's history. According to the EU, Google abused its dominant position in the mobile search engine market by demanding manufacturers to pre-install Google Search and Chrome on their devices with various "distribution agreements" and "revenue share agreements." The EU Court upheld the vast majority of the European Commission's arguments, only proposing to reduce the penalty by 5% because of a difference in reasoning. Last year, Google lost another case against the EU antitrust fine of €2.4 billion. Maintaining fair competition in the bloc's internal market is one of the few exclusive competencies of the EU. It allows the European Commission to decide on state aid rules and fine companies for breaching EU antitrust law. – DNA

Biden chooses veteran diplomat  
for new US envoy to Russia

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The Biden administration has picked a veteran foreign service officer with years of experience in Russian affairs as its nominee to be the next ambassador to Russia. Administration officials familiar with the matter say the nomination of Lynne Tracy, the current U.S. ambassador to Armenia, will be submitted to the Senate as soon as the Russian government signs off on the choice. Ambassadorial nominations must be approved by the host government under the rules of diplomatic protocol.

Such approval is generally routine, but Russia's acceptance of President Joe Biden's pick for ambassador cannot be taken for granted at a time of particularly fraught U.S.-Russian relations over Ukraine, the detention of Americans in Russia, allegations of Russian meddling in U.S. and other elections, and an escalating spat over the staffing of embassies in Washington and Moscow. The ambassador opening comes as many Russia experts in the United States who might have been candi-



dates for the Moscow post have been banned from Russia. Russia was informed of the administration's decision to choose Tracy's several weeks ago but has not yet given its formal approval, known as "agrément" in diplomatic parlance, the officials said. Tracy, who speaks Russian, previously served as a senior adviser for Russian affairs in the State Department's Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, as the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. She also held

several posts in Central and South Asia. The previous U.S. ambassador to Moscow, John Sullivan, left earlier this month, in a departure that had been expected this fall but was accelerated by the failing health of his wife, who died a day after his return.

Tracy is well-regarded within diplomatic circles. She received a State Department heroism award from then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2009. While leading the U.S. consulate in Peshawar in Pakistan's insurgency-ridden border regions, Tracy survived an attack on her by a gunman that left her vehicle riddled with bullets, but insisted on going to work that day and staying on post, even as security concerns compelled the consulate to trim its staff. Tracy also received the State Department's distinguished honor award for her work as the embassy deputy in Moscow.

Sullivan ended his tenure as America's top diplomat in Moscow this month after nearly three years. He had been expected to leave this fall, but his departure was sped up due to his wife's deteriorating medical condition. His wife, lawyer Grace Rodriguez, had not accompanied him to Moscow.

## Türkiye alters foreign policy with national interests

On Russia's war on Ukraine, Cavusoglu said concrete steps were taken with Türkiye's active foreign policy, adding that Ankara would support additional confidence-building steps toward a cease-fire

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The Turkish foreign minister on Wednesday said his country alters its foreign policy in line with national interests, emphasizing that international relations are ever changing. Speaking to Turkish diplomatic correspondents in Ankara, Mevlut Cavusoglu said Türkiye's recent diplomacy is being praised, particularly the landmark grain deal which paved the way for Ukrainian exports through the Black Sea crisis. Cavusoglu listed some of Türkiye's diplomatic achievements such as the agreement on Finland and Sweden's NATO bid, the gains from the NATO strategic concept as well as the development of the Organization of Turkic States.

Commenting on the situation in Libya, the top Turkish diplomat said Türkiye will develop relations in the eastern front based on its national interests. "Recently, Libya's Parliament Speaker Aquila Saleh paid a visit to our country. Previously, our ambassador paid a visit to the region and met with all the (local) actors. Now, a (Turkish) parliamentary delegation will visit Libya in the coming days. They will visit both Tripoli and eastern Libya. They will also visit the Libyan Parliament," he said.

On Russia's war on Ukraine, Cavusoglu said concrete steps were taken with Türkiye's active foreign policy, adding that Ankara would support additional confidence-building steps toward a cease-fire. "The war in Ukraine once again showed all that the

road to peace in the region passes through Türkiye. This is also true for many other regions such as the Caucasus, Balkans, Middle East and Africa," he said.

Citing the recent flare-up in the Balkans, Cavusoglu said: "We are carrying out intensive diplomacy on the path to peace in both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia-Kosovo issues." Emphasizing that Türkiye is an effective stakeholder in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the minister stated that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is one of the most popular leaders in the region. Cavusoglu also commented on the situation in the Caucasus stating that Azerbaijan bolstered its gains at the peace table. "Although Azerbaijan took the control of Lachin region, Armenia is planting mines and destroying the area as they withdraw from

the region. This is also a sign that they don't have goodwill," he said. Citing the latest border clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia, Cavusoglu said the clashes reveal the fragility of the region and added that Armenia continues its provocations from time to time. "Of course, it is not possible for Azerbaijan not to retaliate," he said. The Turkish foreign minister said: "If we want lasting peace and stability here (in Caucasus), Armenia should halt provocations and take sincere steps toward cooperation and peace, both for us and for Azerbaijan." The Armenian army on Monday carried out extensive provocations on the border cities of Dashkesan, Kalbajar and Lachin, according to Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry. Armenian army saboteurs laid mines on land and roads between

positions along the border which scaled-up clashes resulting in casualties on both sides. Relations between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

In 2020, Azerbaijan liberated several cities and over 300 settlements and villages that were occupied by Armenia, and the fighting ended with a deal brokered by Russia. He further commented on Türkiye's role in Africa, Latin America and Asia, and affirmed that the country continues to carry out its inclusive foreign policy. Cavusoglu further called for reforms in international system to extend justice.

Baku, Tehran  
discuss  
security  
issues

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian have discussed the recent Armenian border provocation against Azerbaijan, Azernews reports, citing the ministry. During a phone conversation held on Amir-Abdollahian's initiative on September 14, Bayramov informed his colleague about the large-scale provocations, committed by Armenia against Azerbaijan, grossly violating the principles of international law, as well as its obligations.

He emphasized that the Azerbaijani armed forces have taken retaliatory measures in response to the provocation, which threatened the country's territorial integrity as well as the security of military personnel and civilians. He added that 50 Azerbaijani servicemen were killed during the prevention of the provocation. Bayramov stressed that Armenia's provocation significantly jeopardizes the peace process, as well as efforts to normalize ties between the two governments at a time when major restoration and construction projects are underway in Azerbaijan's liberated lands. Amir-Abdollahian, for his part, said that the tension between Azerbaijan and Armenia is a cause for concern, stating that the region is not ready for a new conflict. He noted that the territorial integrity of the regional countries and the inviolability of their international borders are important for Iran.

Turkish  
president  
to visit  
Uzbekistan

DNA

SAMARKAND: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will on Thursday embark on a two-day visit to Uzbekistan to attend a regional summit and meet world leaders. Erdogan on Friday will attend the annual Heads of State Council summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which will convene in the southeastern city of Samarkand. The Turkish leader will address the second session of the summit, and take part in a family photo. Established in 2001, the eight-member organization aims to strengthen friendly, good neighbor relations and mutual trust among member states. Türkiye was approved as one of six "dialogue partners" in 2012.

On the sidelines of the summit, Erdogan will hold bilateral meetings with the leaders attending the summit, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

The grain export deal signed by UN, Türkiye, Russia, and Ukraine will be on the agenda during the talks between Erdogan and Putin. Previously, Erdogan said Türkiye wants grain shipments from Russia to start as well, like Ukraine does from its ports under the historic deal. During his visit to Samarkand, Erdogan will on Thursday attend a sapling planting event, and tour the newly built areas of the city.

Argentina releases crew of detained Venezuelan plane

LONDON: Argentine authorities said Tuesday that they have authorized the departure from the country of 12 out of 19 crew members of a detained Venezuelan plane after it was seized in June at the request of the US as its sale violated sanctions against Iran. The Federal Court of Appeals of La Plata has allowed the departure of the 11 Venezuelans and one Iranian who were travelling on board the plane, which has been held at Ezeiza International Airport. According to local daily Infobae, authorities also called on the judge to conclude the investigation into the remaining crew within 10 days.

The decision was made by judge Carlos A. Vallefin and Roberto Lemos Arias from Chamber III of the court. Tuesday's ruling orders the original judge overseeing the case, Judge Federico Villena, to speed up and conclude "all pending proceedings, the definition of the procedural situation and the restrictions imposed on people and things." – DNA



**Briefs**

**RDA issues notices 14 illegal housing schemes**

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) on the directives of Director General (DG) RDA Muhammad Saif Anwar Jappa, has issued notices to 14 illegal housing schemes. According to RDA spokesman, Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate, RDA under Punjab Development of Cities Act 1976 and Punjab Development Authorities Private Housing Scheme Rules 2021 issued notices to the rules violators. He said that on the direction of the DG RDA, the authorities concerned were taking legal action against illegal advertising and marketing of the illegal housing schemes. The authority issued notices to 14 housing schemes including Tab City Housing Scheme, Turkish Smart City Housing Scheme, Al-Rahmat Housing Scheme, Nishan-e-Mustafa Housing Scheme, Ample Living Housing Scheme, the Countryside Farms Housing Scheme at Mouza Baga Sheikh Chak Beli Khan Road, Pine Green Housing Scheme, New Murree Township Housing Scheme, Hope City Housing Scheme, Bunyad Housing Scheme, Tokyo Smart City Housing Scheme, Green Hills Enclave at Mouza Lakot Expressway Murree, Agro Park Housing Scheme at Ratta Gujran, Rawat Rawalpindi and Forest Town at Mouza Chhani Sher Alam GT Road Rawalpindi. - APP

**Pak, India talks on contentious water projects next month**

DNA  
LAHORE: Another round of water talks with India on contentious projects will be held next month, quoting sources. Pakistan's Indus Water Commissioner Syed Mehar Ali Shah has written a letter to his Indian counterpart, for another round of talks to discuss disputed water projects under the Indus Water Treaty, sources said. Pakistan and Indian delegations would dialogue on water-related issues specifically on the Lower Kalnai, Kero and other hydro powerplants projects under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 (Sindh Tas accord). The Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960, between India and Pakistan and brokered by the World Bank. The treaty fixed and delimited the rights and obligations of both countries concerning the use of the waters of the Indus River system. The Pakistani delegation visited India for the first phase of the dialogue in May 2022 and now the Indian delegation is to visit Pakistan for the next phase of the dialogue.

**Canada pledges \$25m for Pak flood-affectedees**

Pakistan has experienced its worst flooding in recent history, and Canada will continue to be there to help the people of Pakistan by supporting the humanitarian response to the crisis and longer-term development needs.

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced that the Government of Canada will match donations to the 'Humanitarian Coalition' in response to the flooding in Pakistan, and every donation made by individuals until September 28, 2022, will be matched up to a maximum of \$3 million. According to a press release issued here by the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad on Wednesday, Prime Minister Trudeau also announced that Canada will allocate an additional \$25 million of funding in response to the impact of flooding in Pakistan, and to support development projects in the country, in addition to the \$5 million the Liberals announced last month. The funds, raised through the generosity of Canadians, will help the Humanitarian Coalition and its members deliver life-saving services, such as emergency food and nutrition assistance and emergency cash and vouchers, as well as necessary water, sanitation and health services, it added. Pakistan has experienced its worst flooding in recent history, and Canada will continue to be there to help the people of Pakistan by supporting the humanitarian response to the

**Canadian Minister visits flood affected areas**

CHITRAL: The Minister of International Development for Canada, the Hon. Harjit Sajjan visited areas devastated by floods in different parts of Pakistan. Today, he visited Chitral, a flood affected district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He was accompanied by High Commissioner of Canada to Pakistan, Ms. Wendy Christine Gilmour and Ms. Iqra Khalid, Member of Parliament in Canada, President Ismaili Council for Pakistan, Mr. Hafiz Sherali and CEO Aga Khan Foundation, Pakistan Mr. Akhtar Iqbal. Minister Sajjan interacted with the communities in Chitral and observed the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN's) flood response and early recovery efforts in severely hit areas. The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), AKDN's lead response agency for the floods, evacuated over 9000 people from affected areas while more than 4000 families have been provided with food packages since the start of the flooding. Healthcare camps have been set up in several parts of the country by the Aga Khan University and Aga Khan Health Service where over 50,000 patients have been treated in Sindh, Baluchistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan. - DNA



crisis and longer-term development needs. Harjit S. Sajjan, Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic Development Agency of Canada, during his visit to Pakistan, said, "Canadians believe in helping others in times of crisis. This is why the Government of Canada is joining with Canadians in supporting Canada's partners on the ground in Pakistan that are providing urgent, life-saving assistance in response to this devastating flood. We cannot forget the people of Pakistan, especially the women and girls who have been disproportionately affected. We continue to look at other ways we can continue to assist those impacted by this tragedy." He also observed the humanitarian response underway firsthand, gaining a better understanding of what the people of Pakistan are going through. The Minister was accompanied on his trip by Iqra Khalid, Member of Parliament for Mississauga-Erin Mills, Salma Zahid, Member of Parliament for Scarborough Centre, and Shaqafat Ali, Member of Parliament for Brampton Centre. - APP

**Swat blast death toll rises to eight**

ISLAMABAD: As many as the death toll rise upto eight martyrs due to the roadside bomb blast at Swat during night on Tuesday. Member of local Aman Committee Idrees Khan along with two security personnel embraced martyrdom in bomb blast at Bara Bandai, Tehsil Kabal in Swat District. According to police, Swat Aman committee member Idrees Khan's car was targeted by remote control bomb where initially 5 casualties were reported while early this morning police official confirmed death numbers rose at eight as three more bodies were found from place of incident. Police cordon the whole area and search operation was underway. - APP

**Second Saudi airlift of relief goods arrives in Karachi**

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief)'s second airlift of relief goods on Wednesday arrived in Karachi from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The first airlift was arrived at the same destination on Tuesday night. Each airlift was carrying 90 tons of food, medical supplies and shelters to support the flood victims. Both of the relief airlifts would benefit 19,000 people. Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki said the purpose of this emergency aid was to address the drastic impacts of flooding on various cities, towns and villages of Pakistan. He said the following aid was reflection of the strong historical ties between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Besides Saudi ambassador, Consul General, Karachi, Bandar Al Dayel, and provincial minister for Labour and Information and Human Resources, Saeed Ghani were present at the airport to receive the aid. The KSrelief, provides comprehensive and impartial aid to vulnerable communities around the world. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong calls on Minister of State for Petroleum. - DNA

**China's Xi visits Kazakhstan ahead of summit with Putin**

NUR-SULTAN: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday started his first foreign trip since the outbreak of the pandemic with a stop in Kazakhstan ahead of a summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin and other leaders of a Central Asian security group. Wearing a blue suit and a face mask, Xi was met on the airport tarmac by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and an honor guard, all of whom wore masks. Xi's trip underlines the importance Beijing places on asserting its role as a regional leader amid tension with Washington, Japan and India. Tokayev's government said the two leaders would discuss energy and trade. Kazakhstan, a sparsely populated country of 19.4 million people and sprawling grasslands, is a major oil and gas producer. China is a leading customer. Tokayev thanked Xi for his visit, which he said was of "historic significance" and came at a time of "unprecedented, after the end of the Cold War, escalation of international tensions." He also hailed China's support of "the economic development of Kazakhstan and our international initiatives." The Chinese leader promised to resolutely support Kazakhstan "in protecting its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, firmly support your ongoing reforms to ensure stability and development, and categorically oppose the interference of any forces in the internal affairs" of the country "no matter how the international situation changes." - DNA

**PTI requests session on raid of Saifullah's house**

ISLAMABAD: A PTI delegation of senators led by the leader of the opposition in the Senate Senator Dr. Shahzad Waseem submitted a requisition to Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani to call a session of the upper house of Parliament on the political victimization of Senator Saifullah Khan Nyazee and violation of the sanctity of "Chader our Chardeewari" by FIA officers and armed policemen. The PTI senators' delegation led by the leader of the opposition in the Senate called on Senate Chairman here on Wednesday and asked him to take appropriate action on the breach of the privilege of the parliamentarian. Dr. Shahzad Waseem, Senator Saifullah Khan Nyazee, Senator Faisal Javed, Senator Azam Swati, Senator Abdul Qadir and Senator Saifullah Abro were included in the delegation. Besides, Senator Sami Ezadi, Senator Fauzia Arshad, Senator Dost Mohammad and Senator Falak Naz Chitrali were also part of the delegation. Dr. Shahzad Waseem submitted the requisition for the Senate



session under Article (54) 3 read with Article 61 to discuss the issue. He said that Saifullah's house was raided by FIA officers and armed policemen. The opposition leader in the Upper House stated that it was the continuation of political victimization of PTI leadership and workers. He further said that sanctity of PTI member of the parliament and "Chader our Chardeewari" was violated. Shahzad Waseem stated that worst curbs on freedom of expression, as media channels and social media platforms were being closed while journalists were being harassed. Senator Saifullah submitted a privilege motion against Islamabad Police and FIA on breach privilege. The PTI Senator said that as soon as he reached his home, he was ambushed by a dozen FIA officers and armed policemen and snatched his mobile phone and took away his laptops from the car. "They entered my house violating the sanctity of "Chader our Chardeewari" and even barged into my bedroom," he added. Saifullah said that they searched through his belongings and took away additional things including his wife's mobile phone. He said that the behavior of FIA and Islamabad Police including harassment of my wife and daughters tantamount to the breach of privilege of the house of the Federation and its member, therefore, Chairman Senate should take appropriate action on the breach of the privilege of the member. - DNA

**NBP Stall at CIFTIS attracts Chinese financial institutions**

DNA  
BEIJING: A stall of The National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) set up at China International Fair for Trade-in-Services 2022 (CIFTIS) attracted a large number of Chinese financial institutions, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Wednesday. The NBP actively participated and set-up stall in Shougang Park, at the fair to introduce NBP services to Chinese small & medium enterprises (SME's), state-owned enterprises (SOE's), traders and its on-going cooperation with Chinese financial institutions. The stall (booth) attracted many visitors, said Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Chief Representative of NBP in China. The China International Fair for Trade-in-Services 2022 was held from August 31 to 5th September at the National Convention Center and Shougang Park Beijing. Talking to CEN Shaikh Muhammad Shariq, Chief Representative of National Bank of Pakistan in China, said that during the fair, co-events such as China International Finance Annual Forum and the High-Quality Development of Insurance Forum 2022 helped investors learn more about the Chinese financial sector. "This is the first opportunity for us to set-up booth to promote NBP services to Chinese and international participants, which has provided a huge platform for the Pakistani banking sector to deepen cooperation," Shaikh Muhammad Shariq stated. "The financial sector has to play an active role to promote bilateral trade between China & Pakistan, which has seen significant growth during recent years. In order to further promote trade, NBP always played a vital role by increasing cooperation, not only in the trade sector but also in M&As, investments and other avenues", Shariq mentioned. He further added that CIFTIS has developed into a promotional platform for the opening and innovation of the Chinese financial industry, helped many explore the foremost fields of international finance. Shaikh Muhammad Shariq said that in Shougang Park not only did NBP participate, but also many Pakistani exhibitors displayed Pakistani products which attracted a lot of Chinese and international participants & visitors.

**Royals escort queen on final journey**

LONDON: To the strains of a military band, King Charles III on Wednesday led his family in procession behind Queen Elizabeth II's coffin as she left Buckingham Palace for the final time to lie in state until her funeral. The king, his siblings, and sons, princes William and Harry, walked at 75 steps a minute behind the horse-drawn gun carriage carrying the queen's body to Westminster Hall, where hundreds of thousands of people will pay their last respects. Soldiers in red dress uniform played Beethoven's Funeral March and Big Ben tolled out each minute as the casket - covered by a royal standard and topped with the Imperial State Crown - passed in front of hushed crowds lining the route. The grand procession through the flag-lined heart of London represented the latest spectacular step in the 11 days of intricately choreographed national mourning across the United Kingdom that will culminate with the funeral on Monday of its longest-reigning monarch. The sight of the new king's two sons inevitably evoked memories of 1997, when William and Harry, then aged just 15 and 12, walked, heads bowed, behind the coffin of their mother, princess Diana. But it comes with the once-close brothers now reportedly not on speaking terms, after Harry's move to the United States. The public, some of whom began queuing on Monday, will begin filing past the coffin

from 5:00 pm (1600 GMT), with mourners already warned they will face an endurance test to wait in lines that could tail back five miles (eight kilometres). Hundreds of people were already queuing at around 8:20 am with those at the front having spent the night equipped with blankets, camping seats, and tents and rain ponchos. As day broke, a steady stream of mourners joined the back of the queue along the River Thames under the watchful eye of an army of stewards in fluorescent jackets. "The night was quite wet, cold and wet, but I got a little chair and a big umbrella so I kept fairly dry," Dan Ford, a 52-year-old retired police officer, told AFP. Brian Flatman, 85, said there was "no way" he would pass up the chance to pay his respects having missed the queen's 1953 coronation. "I was 16, we got there before midnight, Hyde Park Corner, superb position, but very quickly I became suddenly ill and had to crawl all the way to South London," he recalled. "This time there is no way I can miss that. I will dedicate a few seconds there (by the coffin) to her life of dedication. What an example." Strict rules and airport-style security measures have been put in place, with "far more" people expected than the 200,000 who filed past the coffin of the queen's mother when she died in 2002, according to Prime Minister Liz Truss's spokesman. - APP

**Ethiopian envoy sees vast trade avenues with Pakistan**

DNA  
ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, Jemal Beker Abdula on Wednesday said that there are vast opportunities for economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Ethiopia from which both countries can reap benefits. The Ambassador said that in terms of their geo-strategic location, Pakistan and Ethiopia are located at a very important geographical location, which has a very important place in terms of trade and economy. Ambassador Jemal Beker this while meeting with Chairman Pakistan Africa Friendship Association Zafar Bakhtawari and Chief Executive officer of D. Watson Group Waqar Bakhtawari here in Embassy of Ethiopia in Islamabad. He said that Ethiopia is the second largest country in the continent of Africa in terms of population and economy, from which Pakistan can be economically and commercially connected with African countries through trade. The ambassador said that air connectivity is very important for bilateral trade relations, for which direct air



flights between Ethiopia and Pakistan's commercial city Karachi will start soon. He said that in this regard, the work from both sides is in the finalization phase and direct air flight will increase the mutual relations between the two nations, which will promote mutual economic and trade relations between the two countries. He said that after Karachi, the series of direct air flights to Ethiopia will also start with Lahore. Ambassador Jemal Beker said that the national airline of Ethiopia is one of the leading airlines in Africa, which has 110 air destinations, which helps in promoting connections in the top economies of the world. He said that Ethiopia is a country rich in natural resources in which gold and other minerals are abundant.