



Islamabad POST

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Armenia not ready to accept reality: Baku

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Ronaldo scores season's first in United's 2-0 win

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Briefs

Imported govt has wreaked havoc

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI Chairman Imran Khan lashed out at the imported government for plunging the country into myriad problems and said the government, brought in through regime change conspiracy, has wreaked havoc with the economy. PTI Chairman in a statement on Friday that the IMF and World Bank reports testified that the imported government failed to prevent the economy going into tailspin despite inheriting a stabilized economy moving on an upward trajectory.

SCO summit to strengthen friendly ties

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed termed Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit-2022 a productive forum aimed at strengthening the friendly relations and trust among member countries. The summit held at Samarkand, Uzbekistan would help address regional security and economic challenges faced by the member countries, he said while talking to PTV News.

Sherry meets Japanese envoy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Friday met Japanese Ambassador Mitsuhiro Wada and apprised him of the devastation caused by the floods across the country, current relief efforts and the assistance required for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Holiday Notice

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

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Hundreds of graves found in liberated Ukrainian city
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SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif posing for a group picture with Heads of States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization member countries Summit in the Congress Center. - DNA

Xi, Putin challenge world order at SCO summit

Xi told leaders at the summit that it was time to reshape the international system and "abandon zero-sum games and bloc politics"



SAMARKAND: Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping called for a shake-up of the world order as they met with Asian leaders Friday for a summit challenging Western influence. The meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in ex-Soviet Uzbekistan brought Putin and Xi together with the leaders of SCO members India, Pakistan, and four Central Asian nations, as well as the presidents of Iran and Turkey. Putin and Xi met on Thursday for their first face-to-face talks since the start of the conflict in Ukraine, and on the Chinese leader's first trip abroad since the early days of the coronavirus pandemic. The summit has been put forward as an alternative to "Western-centric organisations", at a time of increasing pressure on Moscow over Ukraine and growing anger in Beijing over US support for Taiwan. Xi told leaders at the summit that it was time to reshape the international system and "abandon zero-sum games and bloc politics". Leaders should "work together to promote the development of the international order in a more just and rational direction," Xi said. Putin hailed the growing influence of countries outside the West, slamming what he called "instruments of protectionism, illegal sanctions and economic selfishness". "The growing role of new centres of power who cooperate with each other... is becoming more and more clear," Putin said.

The summit has been Putin's first major international outing since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February, sparking a conflict that has left thousands dead and seen Russia hit with waves of economic sanctions. Xi on Thursday said China was willing to work with Russia to support "each other's core interests", though Putin admitted that Beijing had "concerns" about the situation in Ukraine that he would address. The SCO - which also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - was set up in 2001 as a political, economic and security organisation to rival Western institutions. In a sign that the bloc is far from fully united, clashes escalated along the borders of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan on Friday, with both sides accusing the other of responsibility and of using heavy weapons. Putin was due later Friday to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has been a key broker in deals between Russia and Ukraine on issues like grain shipments. Erdogan told leaders at the summit that efforts were being made "to finalise the conflict in Ukraine through diplomacy as soon as possible". Xi met with Erdogan on Friday, calling for more "political mutual trust" between the two countries and pushing for more cooperation on his signature Belt and Road global trade initiative. Xi was also set to have his first face-to-face discussion with Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi on Friday, after Raisi met Putin on Thursday. For Xi, the summit was an opportunity to shore up his credentials as a global statesman ahead of a pivotal congress of the ruling Communist Party in October, where he is widely expected to secure an unprecedented third term as president. For Putin, it was a chance to show that he is not fully isolated on the global scene, at a time when his forces in Ukraine are facing major battlefield setbacks. Other nations sounded alarm about deepening ties between Moscow and Beijing. - APP

Kyrgyzstan announces ceasefire with Tajikistan

Kyrgyzstan had accused Tajikistan's forces of escalating the fighting by firing rockets on the border town of Batken

AGENCIES

BISHKEK: Kyrgyzstan said Friday it had agreed a ceasefire with Tajikistan after deadly clashes on their disputed border escalated and raised fears of all-out conflict between the Central Asian nations. Russia has offered to mediate between the two ex-Soviet countries, where recent fighting has left dozens injured and several dead, and called for "urgent" measures to halt the fighting. Kyrgyzstan had accused Tajikistan's forces of escalating the fighting by firing rockets on the border town of Batken, with a population of around 30,000 people in the south east of the country. Shortly after, Kyrgyzstan's border guards said in a statement that the two countries' national security chiefs had agreed a ceasefire that would begin at 16:00 local time (1000 GMT). The clashes escalated while the leaders of both countries were participating in a regional summit in Uzbekistan, with Central Asian power brokers Russian leader Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping both in attendance. Russia's foreign ministry repeated an offer to oversee talks between the countries as the ceasefire was announced and asked them to negotiate an end to the dispute. "We call on both sides to take urgent and comprehensive measures to bring the situation to political and diplomatic channels and to stop any attempts at escalation including by provocations from third parties," the foreign ministry said. The fighting flared on Friday, Kyrgyz officials said, with both sides accusing the other of responsibility and of using heavy weapons. "The area around the Batken airport and sites on the outskirts of the city have come under fire from Tajik multiple rocket launcher systems," Kyrgyzstan's border guard service said. "Civilian infrastructure in the city of Batken was destroyed," a statement added. The head of a security alliance led by Moscow said earlier Friday that officials in both capitals had supported the implementation of a ceasefire and negotiations. However, Kyrgyzstan's border guard service said "violent clashes" had broken out "along the entire perimeter of the Kyrgyz-Tajik border in the Batken region".

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'Act now': Shehbaz tells SCO

PM meets Xi; lauds CPEC's transformational impact

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called on Friday for action against climate change that has caused cataclysmic floods in Pakistan as he said that "it's time to act, act now". The prime minister was addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of State (CHS), where he spoke about the climate catastrophe that has devastated Pakistan and killed hundreds. The prime minister added that the floods - which have caused damages amounting to billions of dollars - make Pakistan look like "a sea of water". "The devastating floods in Pakistan are most definitely climate change-induced. It is the result of climate change, cloud outbursts, and unprecedented rains, combined with hill torrents coming down. All this put together makes Pakistan look like a sea of water," the premier said. Noting that he has "never seen this kind of devastation" before, the premier called on the organisation to "build a wall" against the menace of climate change.

Chief Justice undermined JCP: Judges



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Supreme Court's Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Justice Sardar Tariq Masood said Thursday that Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial undermined the Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) by refusing to accept its decision on the elevation of judges. Reacting to the speech of the

Continued on Page 06

SCO leaders endorse Shehbaz Sharif's call

NEWS DESK

SAMARKAND: The presidents of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Iran, and Mongolia on Friday seconded the proposal of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for an action plan by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for Pakistan to overcome the impact of climate change. PM Sharif in his address at the Heads of State meeting of SCO had drawn the attention of the member states to the disaster Pakistan was facing as a result of climate change despite the country's less than one percent contribution to carbon emissions. President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev stressed that the proposal of the prime minister of Pakistan needed to be taken up at the level of the Organization.

Continued on Page 06

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CM KP Mahmud Khan praises Imran Khan

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has said that Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan is the only leader to emerge who has univocally spoken against various blasphemous publications having controversial contents on Islam and has also highlighted the mentality of islamophobia which is festering among various nations that has played havoc with the social fabric of many cultures.

While criticizing the imported Federal government led by PML-N, Mahmood Khan stated that using of state apparatus for spreading propaganda against a national hero and leader is extremely unfortunate adding that Imran Khan's efforts against islamophobia have been recognized by the entire Muslim Ummah. The stance presented by Chairman Imran Khan during his speech in the United Nations was actually the voice coming from the hearts of every Muslim in the world. Imran

Khan made it clear that no nation can afford to torment Muslims anymore. The Chief Minister clarified that PML-N led Federal Government, in its futile attempt to mislead the masses, is acting in desperation and has put to the wind all social, religious, moral and political norms. They are a party representative of slaves and cannot lead an independent and sovereign nation, he added. In a statement issued from the Chief Minister's secretariat, Mahmood Khan clarified that working for development of Islam is our moral duty and the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf led provincial government has taken a number of practical steps in this regard. Solarization of 7370 Mosques, provision of monthly honorarium to prayer leaders, increase in the honorarium of Ulama delivering sermons in Jamia Masjid and introduction of Quranic teachings by translation of the Holy Book in schools are proof enough that the present government is dedicated towards serving our ideology. Additionally, upgradation and renovation

of Madaris as well as establishment of Model Madaris in District Buner, Abbottabad and Dir have also been reflected in the current provincial ADP. Mahmood Khan added that people should be aware of the lies and propaganda launched by the current imported Federal setup and look into the past of this corrupt conglomerate. The Chief Minister said that people will not follow these fugitives adding that they are merely using the ideology of Pakistan and Islam as a propaganda tool to mislead common citizens. This act in their part is highly condemnable as it is not only tarnishing our national identity but is also a farce attempt to mislead masses. "This corrupt Conglomerate is hiding behind Islam to hide the looted wealth of Pakistan. People have not forgotten the PML-N attack on our Supreme Court during the 90s" Mahmood Khan. The Chief Minister concluded that Imran Khan is the only political figure in Pakistan who presented the state of Medina as an ideal and have taken sincere steps for its realization.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Spain Jose A De Ory meets the Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman, on his first visit to Lahore. – DNA

Aga Khan University signs MoU with Roche & Sysmex

Tajik envoy said that millions of people in Pakistan were affected by floods and the government and people of Tajikistan are with the Pakistani brothers in these difficult situations, adding that the government of Tajikistan will cooperate with its Pakistani brothers

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University's Outreach Health Network, Roche Diagnostics, and Sysmex signed an agreement to install a New Fully Automated Laboratory system in the main lab and 14 outreach centers of the Aga Khan University Hospital across Pakistan. Connected with Roche's cobas IT infinity solutions, these latest, state-of-the-art high throughput automated systems are designed to give laboratories full and transparent control over their operational processes, at single and multi-site operations. Through this strategic collaboration between the Aga Khan University Hospital, Roche Diagnostics, and Sysmex, AKUH will be able to cater to the needs and enhance the capacity of its labs, not just in the main cities, but also in the remote areas of the country. This agreement builds on the Aga Khan University Hospital's historic collaboration with Roche Diagnostics Pakistan. It also marks a significant milestone in evolving laboratory diagnostic workflows by increasing automation and

minimizing operation intervention in clinical laboratories to reduce errors, improve efficiency and enable faster test results to the patients. Speaking at the ceremony, Dr. Sulaiman Shahabuddin, President AKU, congratulated and lauded the efforts of all the teams involved in achieving this milestone agreement. "All of us are playing an integral part in shaping the national health system," said Dr. Shahabuddin, adding that cross-collaboration between different stakeholders is key in scaling up and reshaping lives through the provision of quality healthcare. Welcoming this new partnership with Roche and Sysmex, Shagufta Hassan, CFO and VP of Finance, AKU, expressed her gratitude and thanked all the stakeholders involved for all their hard work. Highlighting the high-quality standards of the university hospital and its Outreach Health Network, she said, "AKU is Pakistan's first academic medical centre to receive the prestigious Joint Commission International (JCI) and College of American Pathologists CAP accreditation.

I am thankful to our teams working on the front lines, and providing access to quality healthcare to millions across Pakistan." Recognizing the immense contribution of AKUH towards setting high-quality standards of healthcare excellence, Abdul Qayyum, Country Manager, Roche Diagnostics Pakistan said, "Expanding access to health services is an important step towards reducing health disparities. I must commend AKUH for its unwavering commitment to improving healthcare delivery where it truly matters most. I am proud of our long association with AKUH and look forward to jointly expanding testing capabilities beyond main cities to reach more patients across Pakistan. Together, we are truly embodying our shared vision of shaping healthcare and improving patient lives." Healthcare excellence works with partners to spread innovations and build capacity so that everyone has safe and high-quality health care. Together we are spreading innovations that equitably deliver care where people live and when they need it," shared Mr. Rizwan Feroz, Director S. Ejazuddin & Co., official distributors of Sysmex in Pakistan.

Int'l moot on Women's Mental Health Care ends

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: The day-long international conference on "Women's Mental Health Care," organized by department of Psychology Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University (SBBWU) Peshawar concluded. The event was collaborated by Southern Methodist University, USA and sponsored by USEFP, wherein speakers from across the globe presented their papers and posters personally and through online participation. The conference covered, depression, anxiety and suicide, menopause issue, Infertility, parental loss and post natal depression, preg-

nancy, miscarriages and mental health, women and health psychology, psychotic disorders, autism, child abuse and therapeutic interventions. A total 71 papers were presented in the conference and Ms. Wagma poster on "An Analysis of Gender Differences in Care Giver Burden and Quality of Life of Physically Challenged and Mentally Ill Individuals" was declared winner the first while Aleena Khalid's poster on "Post Traumatic Stress on Disorder Symptoms in Parents of Children with Congenital Heart Disease" secured second position. The Chief Guest of event was Chairman Higher Ed-

ucation Commission Pakistan, Prof Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, while Vice Chancellor, SBBC Prof Dr Safia Ahmad, the Project Director SBBWU, Dr Ume Kalsoom and representative from the USEFP, Shahram Niazi were also present on the occasion. The chief guest emphasized on the fact that this initiative has brought experts in the field of Psychology together and they will not only be sharing their major findings with the audience but will also provide a solid foundation for further research in this field. VC SBBWU emphasized on the importance and need of the topic "Women Mental Health Care". She said the

varsity has been working earnestly for the development of the women of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for more than a decade. The keynote speakers of the conference were Prof Dr Muhammad Jahanzeb Khan, Vice Chancellor FATA University, Prof Dr Anila Kamal, Vice Chancellor, Rawalpindi Women University, Dr Saima Sandhu from USA, Dr Rubina Hanif, Director at National Institute of Psychology, Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr. George Holden, SMU Coordinator of the project and Prof Dr Alicia E Meuret, Director of the ARC at SMU both addressed the attendees of the conference virtually.

FO briefs diplomatic missions on CPEC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted briefings on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) for resident diplomatic missions of several countries from East and Central Asia and the Middle East. Chaired by the Additional Secretary (Asia-Pacific), two rounds of briefings were convened on September 15 and 16, 2022. The panel of briefers also included senior officials of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, and the Board of Investment. In her briefing, the Additional Secretary shared the underlying vision of CPEC, which was based on Pakistan's desire for connectivity and interest in deepening linkages with Central Asia, the Middle East, and the East Asian region. She emphasized that CPEC had added a new dimension in the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership, which was based on mutual understanding and respect. Pakistan welcomes development partners and enterprises from around the world to strengthen investment and trade linkages and consider opportunities in Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

PPP to keenly contest upcoming NA by-polls

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Pakistan People's Party has decided to keenly contest the upcoming by-polls in two National Assembly constituencies and the local government elections in Karachi next month to emerge victorious. This

was decided at a meeting of the PPP Karachi Division held on Friday with Sindh Labour and Human Resources Minister, Saeed Ghani, in the chair. Ghani is also PPP Karachi Division President. The participants of the meeting said the PPP's Sindh government had been carrying out development in almost

all parts of Karachi on a uniform basis without any discrimination and prejudice. The meeting was informed that development projects would be initiated in the leftover areas of Karachi soon under the current financial year's Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the Sindh government.

The participants of the meeting said the PPP's Sindh government had been carrying out development in almost all parts of Karachi

The meeting took into consideration the upcoming by-elections in two constituencies of Karachi, NA-237 in District Malir and NA-239 in District Korangi, on October 16 and local government elections in the city on October 23.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman in a meeting with Japanese Ambassador. — APP

Commissioner lauds role of business community in charity work

Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) also participated in this function as guest of honour. He lauded the efforts of Sitara group and said that founders of this leading organization served this city in addition to their own business activities

FAISALABAD: Business community of Faisalabad has played a lead role in humanitarian and charity work while construction of a new state-of-the-art Canal View Hospital would open new avenues of quality health services in this city, said Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain. He was addressing after performing the ground breaking ceremony of the hospital at a prime location along canal road. He said that local philanthropists have already set up a comprehensive network of health and education services in addition to the other welfare projects across this city. "Millions of people belonging to the low socio economic class are harvesting benefits from these hospitals, dispensaries and schools etc", he added. He said that because of philanthropic work, their businesses are flourishing at a much faster pace. He said that the government and administration is also trying to facilitate the deprived segments of the society but the active role of the community is imperative to get the required results. He particularly mentioned shelter houses to accommodate the poor who had to spend their nights under open sky in open parks or green belts. He said that he has allocated four vehicles of Faisalabad Urban Transport to provide free transport facility to these elements and shift

them from green belts to the shelter homes where they would be provided free food and comfortable bedding. Mian Muhammad Idrees Managing Trustee AFT and Chairman Sitara group said that his elders were committed to serve the ailing humanity. "They not only donated generously but also motivated others to follow the same suit", he said and added that the legacy of Haji Abdul Ghafoor and Haji Bashir Ahmad is continuing in their third generation with the same spirit and zeal. About the hospital, he said that it would have 450 beds with state of art medical and diagnostic facilities. He said that the hospital would have 17 storeys with a covered area of 4,85,000 sqft. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) also participated in this function as guest of honour. He lauded the efforts of Sitara group and said that founders of this leading organization served this city in addition to their own business activities. Later the Divisional Commissioner performed the ground breaking ceremony and also prayed for the success of this new venture of AFT. Mian Javed Iqbal of Sitara Energy, Mian Muhammad Anees, Mian Imran Ghafoor, Mian Abdullah Javed and Mian Hamza Bashir were also present during this function. - APP

Tea cultivation needs govt attention

FAKHAR ALAM

MANSHERA: Hazara and Malakand divisions are blessed with different ecological zones, salinity free lands and better climate conditions, making it suitable for tea cultivation. The initial work on tea cultivation was started in 1958 in the country and later a project was launched through Pakistan Agriculture Research Institute in 1976 that led to establishment of (NTHRT) at Shinkhari Mansehra in 1986. Later on, black tea processing unit was set up in 2001 and green tea factory in 2005 while a modern processing plant imported from Turkey was installed at the national institute spread on 50 acres. According to Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, tea imports during July-February 2021-22 was recorded at \$423.466 million against the imports of \$379.314 million during July-February 2020-21, showing a substantial increase of 11.64 percent. In terms of quantity, the tea imports increased by 3.62 percent during the period under review as these went up

from 171,469 metric tons in 2020 to 177,671 metric tons in 2021. On year-on-year basis, the tea imports increased by 59.56 percent during February 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. The tea imports during February 2022 were recorded at \$68.886 million against the imports of \$43.172 million in February 2021. Dr Abdul Waheed, Director National Tea and High-Value Crop Research Institute (NTHRT), Shinkhari said that over 64,000 hectares land in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Azad Kashmir were suitable for commercial tea cultivation due to its conducive environmental conditions, salinity-free land and high rainfall's features. He said the culture of drinking tea had made inroads in subcontinent during colonial era when the commodity was exported from China and was cultivated in Pakistan. He said Pakistan was heavily relying on import of tea to meet consumers' demands and had imported 2,58,000 tons black tea worth over \$596 million- and 300-tons green tea of \$ 60 million in 2020-21. Dr. Abdul Waheed said that the country's tea import bill

was likely to cross Rs 200 billion mark in next few years if its consumption continued with such large scale. Dr Naveed Ahmed, research scientist of NTHRT said that per capita consumption of tea in Pakistan had been increased to 1.5 kg per year. He said it was a lucrative business and up to Rs one million profit can be obtained from one-acre production against Rs 0.2 million investment. Like olives, he said, tea plants give production after five-year of its cultivation and any farmer having 50 to 100 acres land can start this business and reap its financial benefit for 120 years, adding 158,000 acres land were suitable for tea cultivation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 4,000 acres in Azad Kashmir. He said all those areas with 100mm rainfall's such as Mansehra, Swat and Batagram were suitable for its farming, adding nine different types of teas were being cultivated in Mansehra while about 350 acres land in Khwazakhela, Matta, Duraskhela and Kozla Bandai were cultivated in Swat prior to 2008-

09. He said substantial investment was required to start its commercialization. Out of 64,000 hectares potential, he said, only 80 hectares land was under tea cultivation in KP and Azad Kashmir. "Normally, three to four hours were required for processing after plucking of tea leaves." Dr Abdul Waheed said about 95 percent of people's demands could be met by bringing additional 2, 000 hectare land under tea cultivation. "We have made tea cultivation on 50 acres land and 27 acres was achieved through private sector," he said. He said 33 acres land in Shinkhari institute was reserved for tea gardens where research was being done on fruits, vegetable, medicinal herbs, olive and tea varieties besides establishment of 10 acres tea processing unit. He said the institute equipped with experts and necessary equipment had the capacity to produce four million tea plants and process 10 tons of tea leaves per year, adding the institute exported about six tons of tea to Japan and distributed one lakh plants among farmers.

Spanish envoy calls on CM Punjab

Chief Minister Parvez Elahi said that cooperation would be promoted with Spain in the fields of agriculture, alternative energy, textiles, livestock and mass transit

LAHORE: Spanish Ambassador Jose Antonio De Ory Peral met Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi here on Friday in which matters of mutual interest and increasing cooperation in various sectors was discussed. It was agreed to increase cooperation in commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors during the meeting. Spain would provide technical assistance to increase the cultivation of olives, oranges and other citrus fruits in Punjab. Chief Minister Parvez Elahi said that cooperation would be promoted with Spain in the fields of agriculture, alternative energy, textiles, livestock and mass transit. "We welcome the offer of technical assistance from Spain in various fields and will provide all necessary facilities to the Spanish investors in Punjab," he said and added there were immense opportunities for foreign investment in Punjab. The Spanish ambassador paid tributes to the Pakistani community in Spain. The possibility of acquiring Spanish aeronautical technology to start an air ambulance service in Punjab and launching of Spain's latest mass transit system in different cities of Punjab were reviewed. – APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya

Revolution Day

Sept01 / Tanzania

Defence day

Sept01 / Uzbekistan

Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil

Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea

National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan

Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia

Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico

National Day

Sept 16/Papua New Guinea

Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile

National Day

Sept 21 / Malta

Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia

National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133

Marriott.....051- 2826121

Monal.....0334-5421812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15

Bomb Disposal.....15

Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16

Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police....9266044

Motorway Police.....9270601-20

Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596

Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115

PIA Flight Info.....114

PIA Cargo.....9280979

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489

CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111

MH.....561116

Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11

DHQ.....5556311-4

RGH.....9290301-7

Holy Family.....9290322-7

PIMS.....9261170-79

Polyclinic.....9218300-09

Shifa International.4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43

CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

WHO, COMSTECH celebrate World Patient Safety Day

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: World Health Organization in collaboration with COMSTECH celebrated “World Patient Safety Day” under the slogan of “Medication without Harm” at COMSTECH Auditorium on Friday. World Patient Safety Day is marked annually on 17 September. It aims to raise awareness on how to prevent, reduce risks, errors, and harm that occur to patients during the provision of health care. In keynote address, Dr. Palitha Mahipala, Head of Mission/WHO Representative to Pakistan said that WHO’s vision is to ensure that every patient receives safe and respectful care, every time, everywhere.

He said, around 134 million adverse events happen in hospitals due to unsafe healthcare practices. Out of which estimated 2.6 million patients die annually. The social cost of patient harm is estimated to be US\$ 1 - 2 trillion a year. He said that the theme of this year’s commemoration is “Medication Safety” which addresses a critical component of safety in health care.

Dr. Mahipala said that unsafe medication practices and errors are a leading cause of injury and avoidable harm in health care systems across the world. He mentioned that globally the cost associated with medication errors has been estimated at \$42 billion annually. He informed that the most harm arises from systems failures in the way care is organized and coordinated, especially when multiple health pro-

viders are involved in a patient’s care. Dr. Mahipala said, in Pakistan, a small research study on Patient Safety & adverse events conducted in 2021 in 5 hospitals throughout the country, which found that diagnostic errors comprise 40%, while surgical or procedure-related errors comprise 32% error, complications of childbirth-15%, adverse medication-related events 9%, and healthcare-associated infection or pneumonia 4% of all adverse effects. He said that WHO has called 2020-2030 a decade of patient safety. He informed that WHO Pakistan in collaboration with the federal ministry of health & provincial departments of health is taking concrete steps to accelerate medication safety and improve the quality of care in Pakistan. He reiterated that WHO Pakistan stands committed to support the Government of Pakistan to ensure safe healthcare practice at all levels.

Dr. Mahipala said that the humanitarian crisis caused by recent floods in Pakistan, we are extremely concerned that the health gains of the past few years are at increased risk of collapse. We’re working closely with the Government of Pakistan and the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination to mobilize resources to respond to this massive humanitarian crisis including providing urgent healthcare to the patients. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator General, COMSTECH said that we are delighted to partner with the WHO not only for this event, but we plan to work together for the common

mission of improved health. He said that World Patient Safety Day calls for global solidarity and concerted action by all countries and international partners to improve patient safety. Prof. Choudhary said that hardly anyone among you can claim that you have not experienced the bad effect of certain medication. Some of these effects are due to the non-specificity of medication and often unavoidable, but a large majority of these harmful effects are due to improper prescription, drug-food interaction and certain non-compliance. Prof. Choudhary said that multidrug resistance in pathogenic agents, cancer cells, etc. are largely associated with the improper use of antibiotics and anti-virals. He mentioned that many of us use medications for chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, etc. In such cases, cumulative harmful effects of medication kills patients before the actual disease cause mortality. Prof. Choudhary said in the OIC countries, population increase, lack of access to quality health care including pharmacy services, weak control on the sale of prescribed medicines, illiteracy, and poverty are major impediments in the safe use of medication as well causes of prevailing harmful effects. Prof. Choudhary said that Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest political block of countries after UN. OIC and UN enjoys very cordial and fruitful collabo-

ration in the health care sector and we at OIC are especially pleased that our member states played a positive role in not only saving the WHO but also strengthening this important global institution at a critical time of need. Director General Health, Dr. Shabana Saleem, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination said that the Director General of WHO, Tedros Ghebreyesus, noted in a recent press conference that the 2022 world patient safety day celebrated every year and is focused on medication without harm. According to him medication errors account for half of all avoidable harm in medical care. She said the major contributing factors to unsafe practices are weak medication systems and human factors, with many countries lacking the capacity to detect, evaluate and prevent medicine safety issues. She said the aims to reduce severe avoidable medication related harm by 50% would be achieved through focused activities and interventions targeting three areas: patients and the public, health care professions, and medicine system and medication practices. She mentioned that we are working with the provincial governments, AJ&K and GB to implement the WHO’ global patient safety action plan 2021-2030. The national patient safety strategy and road map are currently being developed. The Ambassadors of Lebanon, Afghanistan, Somalia, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Morocco, Sudan, participated in the celebration of World Patient Safety Day.

OGRA provides Rs 1,18.31 million relief to consumers

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Friday issued its annual report for the fiscal year 2020-21, during which it resolved 8,272 complaints providing financial relief of Rs 1,18.31 million to consumers. Besides, the Authority granted 1,341 gas connections while addressing the consumer complaints, OGRA said in the report. “OGRA entertained consumers’ complaints against natural gas, LPG (liquefied natural gas), CNG (compressed natural gas) and OMCs (oil marketing companies) free of cost. These complaints were resolved expeditiously and in a judicious manner by providing remedial measures,” it said. During the period under review, the Authority issued a license to K-Electric Limited for the construction and operation of the natural gas /RLNG (refined liquefied natural gas) transmission pipeline from Port Qasim to KE’s Bin Qasim Power Complex. It permitted Taber Energy Marketing (Private) Limited, Energas Marketing (Private) Limited and Shell Energy Pakistan (Private) Limited to carry out a regulated activity for the sale of natural gas / RLNG to the consumers. OGRA also granted a li-

MMBL launches initiatives to empower women entrepreneurs

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL), the VEON’s financial services arm and the largest digital bank in Pakistan, launched three major microfinance initiatives as part of its continuing efforts to financially empower women entrepreneurs and support small and medium-sized farmers in the country. The initiatives were formally launched by VEON Group CEO, Kaan Terzioğlu, during his recent visit to Pakistan, said a news release received here on Friday. As part of the first initiative, Mobilink Microfinance Bank (MMBL) has launched low-cost 4G handsets for customers, especially female entrepreneurs, aimed at driving participation in the digital economy among marginalized groups within the population. The substantially discounted Digit 4G handsets will be available across Mobilink Microfinance Bank’s vast branch network and will come pre-loaded with the bank’s digital banking application, MMBL DOST, that will enable customers to obtain quick financial assistance, pay bills, make money transfers and use a vast array of digital banking services. Going forward, Mobilink Microfinance Bank will be offering these subsidized 4G handsets as part of its loan portfolio. Under the second initiative, Mobilink Microfinance Bank has collaborated with Daraz, Pakistan’s largest e-commerce platform, to help incentivise and upskill female entrepreneurs with brick-and-mortar stores to go digital and expand their customer outreach across the country. Under the partnership, female customers will be charged a 0% commission for the first three months of their onboarding, giving them ample time to set up their businesses on the digital platform. Moreover, female sellers using Daraz will be able to open accounts digitally and apply for Mobilink Microfinance Bank loans at concessional rates. Although females comprise almost half of the country’s population, their financial inclusion figure stands at 7 percent. — APP

Police arrest four POs

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Police here on Friday arrested four proclaimed offenders (POs) wanted in different murder cases registered in Pirwadhai, Murree and Saddar Baroni Police Stations. According to a police spokesman, police managed to arrest a PO namely Usama Butt wanted in a murder case registered in Pirwadhai police station. Murree police held a PO namely Zain wanted in a murder case. Similarly, Saddar Baroni police conducted a raid and rounded up Amir and Naseer, two POs wanted in a murder case. He said that Rawalpindi district police were taking stern action in accordance with law against the lawbreakers, adding, the operations would continue and all the POs would be sent behind the bars. Senior Superintendent of Police, Investigation Capt. (r) Amir Khan Niazi directed police officers to accelerate ongoing operation against POs and most wanted criminals. — APP

Tobacco Industry is evading billions of FED

ISLAMABAD: Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) issued a press release to raise concerns about the potential damage unleashed by Unofficial Increase in Cigarettes Prices by tobacco industry. According to the tobacco control experts, the recently announced unofficial raise of 20 Rupees by tobacco industry will cause 80 billion loss to national exchequer. Malik Imran, Country Head for Campaign for Tobacco Free-Kids (CTFK), appreciated that for the first time since 2019, the government has increased FED rates on tobacco products. This will provide PKR 27.4 billion in additional revenue while resulting in 200,000 fewer smokers; 1.2% reduction in smoking prevalence among

adults; 1.23% reduction in smoking intensity among adults; and 71,900 lives saved. He revealed that, the Tobacco Industry has increased the prices of their cigarette brands, but have not declared it and even printed it on the cigarette packs to evade taxes, resulting in billions of Rupees of loss to the national exchequer, while the industry is illegally making huge profits. Dr. Ziauddin Islam - Country Lead - Vital Strategies; Former Technical Head/ Director, Tobacco Control Cell, Ministry of NHSR&C; Former Technical focal Person of Govt. of Pakistan for WHO’s Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) stated that the number of smokers in Pakistan has reached up to 29 million. — APP

FDE starts 1st year classes

DNA
ISLAMABAD: With the efforts of Federal Directorate of Education (FDE), the first year class was started at Islamabad Model College for Girls Bhadana Kalaan Tarnol here Friday. In this regard, a special function was organized in which Area Education Officer Dr. Ehsan Mahmood was the chief guest while local dignitaries also participated in the event. After the inauguration, Dr. Ehsan Mehmoond said that after many years of the establishment of this college, the first year classes in this institution had been started now. It is a gift for the people of the area wherein female students will be able to continue their education after matriculation, he added. He said the credit of starting the first year class in the college goes to the college principal who had played an important role in this regard, adding that due to the special interest of Director General Dr. Ikram Ali Malik, the shortage of teachers in schools was completed. Dr. Ehsan said that this year, the number of new admissions had increased in the educational institutions situated in Tarnol sector and now the number was reached to 27000.

Industrialists congratulate Ghazanfar

ISLAMABAD: Industrialists here on Friday welcomed the decision of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government regarding appointment of former president, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Ghazanfar Bilour as Focal Person of Chief Minister on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB). KP government initiative was hailed during a meeting of Industrialists Association Peshawar (IAP) chaired by its president Malik Imran Ishaq, held at the association office here. Members of the association, office bearers and manufacturers were present during the meeting. Imran Ishaq congratulated Ghazanfar Bilour on his accomplishment and said the provincial government step was highly appreciated by the business community. The industrialists said the business community stood with former president FPCCI chief Ghazanfar Bilour in the past and established a concrete liaison with him and took joint initiatives for stabilizing national and provincial economy, easing difficulties of the business community, and creating a better and favorable environment for businesses in the province. Imran Ishaq expressed the hope that coordination between provincial government and business community would be further strengthened after the appointment of Ghazanfar Bilour as focal person on ‘Ease of Doing Business’. He would take collective efforts to remove grievances and problems of the business community. — APP

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Briefs

Passand Khan
appointed as
Chairman GPA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Government on Thursday appointed Passand Khan Buledi as the new chairman of Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday.

"The Prime Minister has been pleased to appoint Mr Passand Khan Buledi, a BS-20 officer of Balochistan Civil Service (BCS), Government of Balochistan as Chairman, Gwadar port Authority (GPA)," reads an official notification issued by Cabinet Secretariat, Establishment Division.

Mr Buledi has been appointed on a deputation basis for a period of two years on standard terms and conditions with immediate effect and until further order.

Buledi will replace, Naseer Khan Kashani as chairman of GPA who was serving as chairman since 2019. Passand Khan Buledi belongs to Balochistan Civil Service who joined the service in 1997. He has served as Deputy Commissioner in various districts and Divisional Commissioners of Balochistan.

The new chairman has also served in various important positions in the government of Balochistan and the government of Pakistan including Secretary Energy, Secretary Industries, Secretary Labor, Secretary Inter-Provincial Coordination and Commissioner Afghan Refugees, and Provincial Census Commissioner.

NEPRA
holds
webinar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) under its drive "Power with Safety" held a webinar titled "Isolation and Permit to Work" in collaboration with K-Electric here Friday to create awareness amongst the participants about correct application of "Isolation and Permit to Work" system to control hazards, maintenance of any electrical apparatuses. The unexpected energizing, start up or release of any type of energy can cause considerable damage not only to the equipment and tools but also precious human lives, said a press release. The webinar was attended by hundreds of HSE professionals and field staff from the power sector of Pakistan besides a number of NEPRA officials. The webinar was chaired by Naveed Ilahi Shaikh, Director General Admin, HR/CAD.

Promoting books part of ISA duty, says Shahera Shahid



ISLAMABAD: Writer M Ilyas with chief guest Ms. Shahera Shaid, Secretary Information at the launching ceremony of his Novel The Treasure in the whispering Pines organized by the Information Service Academy. Director General ISA Saeed Javed is also seen in the picture. — DNA

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid has said it was duty of the Information Service Academy (ISA) to promote and celebrate books of the indigenous writers

for reviving the reading culture in the country. Addressing the launching ceremony of a book titled "The Treasure in the Whispering Pines", she recalled that a lot of talent was discovered through the National Book Centre, which used to celebrate each and every work of the local authors. The

secretary termed "The Treasure in the Whispering Pines" a "masterpiece" and praised its author S M Ilyas, who also had served as Director in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. She said she was proud of Ilyas for producing a remarkable work and encouraged him to write more

books. The information officers, serving in any field, were the country's assets, she remarked. The book author also spoke on the occasion and said it was high time for reviving the book reading culture in the country. He was grateful to the friends who appreciated his work. S M Ilyas vowed to

write more books to contribute to the country's progress and development. Malik Muhammad Ashraf, a former information officer, congratulated S M Ilyas for writing an excellent novel. ISA Director General Saeed Javed delivered the vote of thanks and appreciated Ilyas for launching his first book.

Naval Chief visits
flood affected
areas of Sujawal

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Friday visited flood affected areas of Sujawal to review flood relief operations by Pakistan Navy. A comprehensive briefing was given to the Naval Chief regarding on-going rescue and relief operations, a Pakistan Navy news release said. During the briefing, the Chief of the Naval Staff was apprised with detailed review of inundated areas and on ground flood situation as well as ongoing relief and rehabilitation operations by Pakistan Navy. Speaking on the occasion, the Naval Chief underscored that heavy downpours during ongoing monsoon season had cost human losses and damaged infrastructure.

The Naval Chief urged the commitment to overcome the challenges posed by natural disaster with continuous efforts and support. The Admiral interacted with troops deployed in flood affected areas and appreciated their professional prowess and dedication for ensuring timely assistance and help to the flood affectees. The Chief of the Naval Staff also appreciated the efforts put in by Pakistan Navy along with civil administration and various philanthropist organizations providing continuous assistance to our aggrieved brethren. Pakistan Navy was determined to continue the rescue and relief operation till the rehabilitation of all distressed countrymen. — APP

Terms unabated
military violence,
bloodshed pose
existential threat
for Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD: Mushaal Hussein Mullick, Chairperson Peace and Culture Organisation, made it clear that the supremacists Narendra Modi government crossed all limits of barbarity and state terrorism, however she added that these brutal and inhuman acts would serve no purpose but would further augment the thirst of undeterred Kashmiris for independence. Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat Leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, in a statement on Friday vowed that the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) would not give up their freedom struggle come what may, said a press release here Friday.

She said that they could not be deterred from their ultimate goal, which was freedom, and they would take the freedom fight to logical ends despite all odds. She said that despite the continued incidents of Indian state terrorism and granting of voting rights to Indian citizens in the internationally recognised disputed territory, the world powers observed criminal silence. The world community ignored the horrors committed against Kashmiri people, while the relevant human rights organizations remained silent, she lamented. Mushaal stated that the unabated Indian military violence and bloodshed posed a serious existential threat to the Kashmiris reeling under India's brutal suppression for over the last seven decades. The Hurriyat leader lamented that Indian fascist government continued killing and arresting of civilians as part of its systematic and nefarious genocide campaign. Mushaal revealed that the innocent people were being harassed and humiliated during so-called cordon and search operations. — APP

Wani urges
UNHRC to
appoint a
commission
of inquiry

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prominent rights activist and chairman Kashmir Institute of International Relations (KIIR), Altaf Hussain Wani has urged the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to appoint commission of inquiry to investigate the ongoing and past HR violations in Kashmir and hold the culprits responsible for their wrong doings. Altaf Hussain Wani while speaking on the behalf of World Muslim Congress expressed his dismay over the UNHCR acting High Commissioner's failure to report about the worst human rights situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir where people have been facing systematic and gross human rights violations and abuses by India since decades, said a press release here Friday. Demanding the special attention towards the worsening situation in the held territory he said that Amnesty International's (AI) scathing report on blatant HR violations in the region was an eye-opener for the world. Referring the AI's report, Wani said that the report stated that at least 36 journalists have faced interrogation, raids, threats or physical assault for their reporting until now. — APP

1st conference
of ELT Forum
from 21

DNA

Islamabad : The first three-day international conference of the Pakistan English Language Teachers Forum (Pak ELT Forum) at Allama Iqbal Open University will commence on Wednesday, September 21 at 10 am. The President of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi will be the chief guest of the opening session. Professor Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, Vice Chancellor AIOU, will preside over the event. This conference will continue till September 23. Deans, faculty members, and principal officers of the university, 30 action group members of the ELT group, and about 200 English teachers from different universities of the country will participate in the inaugural session. The conference is jointly organized by the Department of English, AIOU, the US Embassy's Regional English Language Office (RELO), and the

Pak ELT Forum. Apart from foreign keynote speakers (Dr. Andy Halvorsen, Dr. Patricia Pashby, Dr. Ivan Eubanks, and Dr. Jakeline Troy), 25 national speakers will shed light on the importance and usefulness of the English language. According to the project director of Pakistan ELT Forum, Dr. Muhammad Kamal Khan, the main objective of this conference is to develop the skills of English language teachers of federal educational institutions on modern lines and align them with international requirements. The conference secretary, Dr. Rashida Imran, says that eminent English language teachers and researchers from all over the world have been invited in this conference. By utilizing their teaching skills and experiences, the English language teachers of Pakistan's educational institutions will be able to teach their students English language skills in a better way.

Murtaza
Javed meets
President
PML-N Capt
(R) Safdar

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi Friday met with President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Youth Wing Captain (R) Muhammad Safdar. During the meeting, both the leaders discussed overall political situation in the country, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, said a news release.

Meanwhile, the minister also met with a delegation from his constituency. The delegation briefed Murtaza Javed about the issues being faced by the masses after the unexpected monsoon rains and flood.

On the occasion, he said that all the workers of PML-N were busy in relief activities underway in the flood-hit areas.

The minister appreciated the PML-N workers who were taking part in the relief activities and urged the workers to put maximum efforts for the resettlement of the flood affectees at their homes. Murtaza Javed assured his full support from the federal government to all the workers for relief and response efforts.

POL import
bill up by
6.97% to \$3.3
billion in
2 months

DNA

ISLAMABAD :The imports of overall petroleum group witnessed an increase of 6.97 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of the last year.

During the period under review, the total imports of the petroleum group during July-August (2022-23) stood at \$3,302.159 million, as against the imports of \$3,087.113 million last year, according to the latest data issued by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS).

Among petroleum commodities, the import of petroleum products rose by 7.75 percent, from \$1,539.417 million last year to \$1,658.647 million during the period under review. The imports of petroleum crude also increased by 10.46 percent, from \$818.884 million last year to \$904.522 million during July-August (2022-23). — APP

KS relief distributes
1,605-ton goods

The KSrelief, recently, sent two airlifts of 180-ton food, medical supplies and shelters in Karachi to provide a sigh of relief to 19,000 people under distress in flood-ravaged areas

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has so far distributed 1,605-ton emergency relief goods in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan benefiting 124,000 people facing critical situation due to torrential rains and flash floods. According to the statistics, the KSrelief dispatched the first consignment of 285-ton relief goods to six districts of Balochistan including Lesbela, Khuzdar, Quetta, Pishin, Qilla Saifullah and Qilla Abdullah which helped the 21,000 affected people. It was comprised of 3,000 food packages and each food package, weighing 95 kilograms was containing all essential food items such as; 80kg flour, 5-litre cooking oil, 5kg sugar and 5kg split chickpeas lentil (daal chana), which was suffice a family for the one whole month. The second consignment of 190-ton relief goods was also dispatched to the same districts of Balochistan in a bid to further support the 14,000

deserving people. It was comprised of 2,000 food packages with same daily use items in the same quantity. The KSrelief dispatched the third consignment of 950-ton essential food items to 17 districts to benefit 70,000 people living in the difficult circumstances in the flood ravaged areas across the country.

It was comprised of 10,000 food packages having the same material in the same quantity. The KSrelief, recently, sent two airlifts of 180-ton food, medical supplies and shelters in Karachi to provide a sigh of relief to 19,000 people under distress in the flood-ravaged areas. The KSrelief provides comprehensive and impartial aid to vulnerable communities around the world. To date, it has implemented 2,086 humanitarian projects in 86 countries, saving and improving the living standards of millions of people. PAFWA under flood relief campaign collects Rs 28.3 mln. Meanwhile, Pakistan Air Force Women's Association (PAFWA) under its flood relief campaign collected Rs 28.3 million through

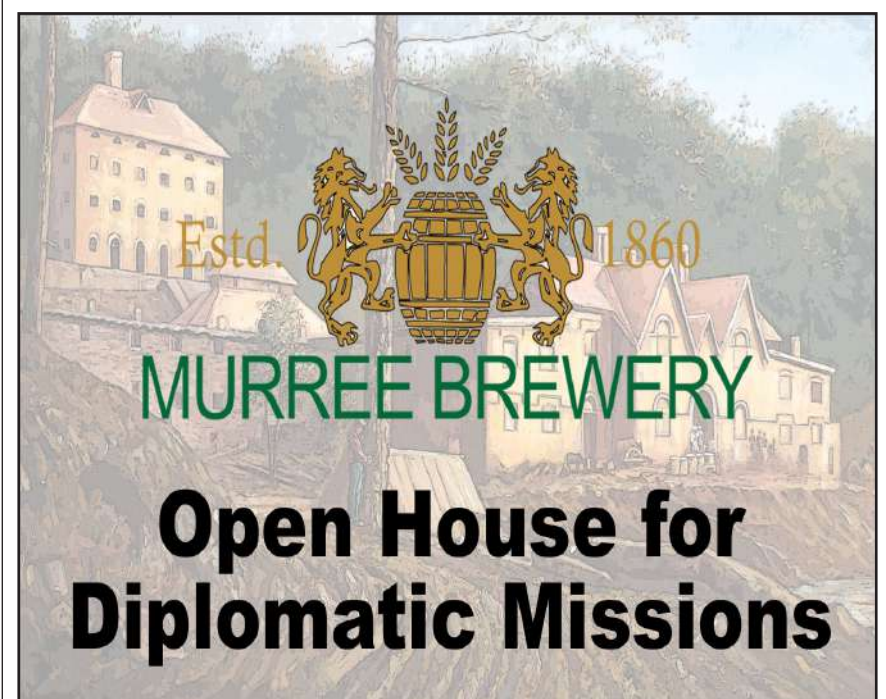
Flood Relief Camps so far and was further deposited in "PAF Flood Relief Fund".

The recent monsoon rainfall and the emerging situation of national level flood disaster were demanding national level efforts and support for saving the humanity throughout the country. PAFWA being a welfare organization has always stepped forward for conduct of relief activities to alleviate the suffering of those affected by disasters and natural calamities, a PAF news release said.

In the same pursuit, Pakistan Air Force Women's Association under the dynamic leadership of President PAFWA Begum Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, joined by PAFWA members of Community Center AHQs Islamabad, Begum Chairman PAC Board Kamra along with Wives Managing Directors, Ladies at PAF Regional Air Commands and PAF Air War College Institute and Chairpersons PAFWA at Bases have established PAFWA Relief Camps at Marakaz-e-PAFWA at all PAF Bases to collect financial donations,

clothing items and medicines for those in need.

Chief Liaison Officer PAFWA, Air Commodore Shahid Raza Khan, presented the cheque of Rs28.3 million to Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Administration), Air Marshal Hamid Rashid Randhawa. "The amount is being utilized by Pakistan Air Force for relief and rehabilitation of flood affectees," it said. Untiring efforts of Pakistan Air Force Women's Association and active participation of PAF Women folk had resulted in collection of large quantity of gents, ladies, children clothing items, blankets, quilts, beddings and medicines. The donations were being dispatched in Flood Relief Camps established by PAF at the flood affected areas throughout the country for further distribution among the needy. The vision of President PAFWA Begum Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, active participation of lady wives, and over all generous spirit of the PAF Women community in contributing for this noble cause was highly commendable.

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Saudi relief assistance for flood affected people

SAUDI Arabia, which happens to be the great friend of Pakistan, has proved once again that she was a true friend by extending huge relief support for the flood victims of Pakistan. The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSrelief) has so far distributed 1,605-ton emergency relief goods in the flood-hit areas of Pakistan benefiting 124,000 people facing critical situation due to torrential rains and flash floods. According to the statistics, the KSrelief dispatched the first consignment of 285-ton relief goods to six districts of Balochistan including Lesbela, Khuzdar, Quetta, Pishin, Qilla Saifullah and Qilla Abdullah which helped the 21,000 affected people.

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Right wing rise in Europe politics

EUROPE is encountering political upheaval. Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson resigned on Thursday after an unprecedented right-wing and far-right bloc narrowly won Sunday's election. The far-right anti-immigration Sweden Democrats (SD) are poised to become the largest party on the right and will have a big say on the new administration's program. The SD, which has roots in the neo-Nazi movement, takes a tougher stance on crime, has a plan to make Sweden's immigration rules among the most restrictive in the EU, and vowed to "make Sweden great again," a Trump-style slogan. The result is not surprising, said Cui Hongjian, director of the Department of European Studies at the China Institute of International Studies. He continued that this is because Sweden is confronting an increasing severe challenge. In comparison to the ruling center-left bloc, the right wing, especially the SD, will propose some bold and radical reforms, which caters to the mentality of the Swedish public. Issues such as immigration and crime have precisely been the spotlight of the Swedish recently, and these are what far-right parties like the SD are skilled at. This can explain why they gained more support. Some experts noted that the Swedish public is also discontent with the manner in which the incumbent government is dealing with the energy crisis. Andersson's loss may also have something to do with the energy policy of her government. When Sweden and other European countries followed the US in sanctioning Russia, it turned out only Europe is suffering from the energy crisis, while the US is not nagged by the shortage of energy. The public tends to be disappointed that the government blindly follows US' lead. Such sentiment will grow stronger as winter approaches, said an international relations scholar who requested anonymity. Populism is on the rise in Europe, and far-right forces have ramped up their influence in European politics. French far-right Rassemblement National leader Marine Le Pen had a strong showing in 2022 presidential elections. With the September 25 election of Italy approaching, polls have consistently shown that a rightist coalition led by the nationalist Brothers of Italy party and also involving the League party and Forza Italia is on course for a clear victory. One reason why European far-right parties have gained mounting support and influence is because the traditional establishment parties in Europe are incapable of coming up with satisfactory solutions to the growing number of problems in Europe, such as the financial and refugee crisis, as well as the heavy burden of social welfare, while the set of rhetoric and proposals by the far-right ones is more likely to win over people's hearts. Furthermore, in the face of many conflicts and challenges, European countries tend to seek a conservative solution as a response, that is, to divert domestic attention by underlining external threats or challenges. The destinies of European countries are interconnected. When a far-right party gains power in one country, it will soon have an impact on other countries. Therefore, it cannot rule out the possibility that far-right parties will be popular in more European countries.

Azerbaijan: Time to change the military strategy

Dr Mehmoood Ul Hassan Khan



Initially, holding of series of "bilateral and trilateral military exercises" with strategic partners Turkey and Pakistan proved very effective to "terrorizing" the potential enemy Armenia.

Consequent series of official visits of army and air forces chiefs of Pakistan and Turkey to Azerbaijan further strengthened its strategic position. However, somehow it could not further consolidate military superiority of Azerbaijan. Diplomatically, signing of trilateral peace agreement was great success of Azerbaijan president President H.E. Ilham Aliyev's strategic...

SITUATION remained tense on the borders of Armenia. According to latest official news, more than 70 soldiers were martyred in unprovoked attacks by Armenia, the only fascist state in the South Caucasus. On its part and one of the main custodians of the peace agreement, Russia personally intervened to calm down the deteriorating security situation between Azerbaijan and Armenia. However, dramatically the government of Armenia also tried to seek help from the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) against so-called external aggression of Azerbaijan but failed miserably. It seems that Armenia is following a "specific military strategy" comprising of often "surgical strikes" and "guerrilla warfare" against the government of Azerbaijan, its military installations and servicemen deployed at the various borders. In this regard, during the famous Patriotic War of 44 days, Armenia notoriously "laid-down" networks of "Mining Fields of the Century" in all the re-liberated regions of Karabakh so committed a serious crime against humanity and badly violated numerous protocols of the UN in this regard. These wild spread mines have become "killing machines" in Karabakh regions. Its "secret terrorist activities" are still going on in different parts of the region which has become "monster" for socio-economic integration and greater regional connectivity of these liberated areas. Furthermore, Armenia continues its "disguised military misadventures" for recapturing areas through intensive mortars firing on the deployment positions of the Azerbaijani Army in Kalbajar, Lachin, Dashkesan and Gadabay fronts during the last few months which clearly indicate that there is a "system" behind its military madness. Moreover, in the near past, Armenian armed forces indulged in large-scale provocations and violated the true spirits of the trilateral peace agreement. Thus, it is "solely" responsible for regional instability, disharmony and worsening situation at the borders. The "destructive" formation of anti-Azerbaijan national narrative has been hallmark of "Arme-

nian diasporas" living around the globe especially in the US and EU. There is no doubt that Armenia has waged a "5th Generation Hybrid War" against Azerbaijan just to "malign" its good intentions of peaceful foreign policy, and befitting policies of regional socio-economic integration and programs/projects of connecting hub of energy supplies.

It fears that after famous victory in 2020-2021 gradually the armed forces of Azerbaijan became "complacent" and somehow lacked "vigilance" due to which it has to confront with the current heavy loss because of "gross security intelligence failure" on parts of its military and secret agencies.

Initially, holding of series of "bilateral and trilateral military exercises" with strategic partners Turkey and Pakistan proved very effective to "terrorizing" the potential enemy Armenia. Consequent series of official visits of army and air forces chiefs of Pakistan and Turkey to Azerbaijan further strengthened its strategic position. However, somehow it could not further consolidate military superiority of Azerbaijan. Diplomatically, signing of trilateral peace agreement was great success of Azerbaijan president President H.E. Ilham Aliyev's strategic vision which should be further translated into strong military and security comparative advantage against Armenia. In this regard, "delays in resettlement activities and derailed de-mining exercises caused huge losses to Azerbaijan military in terms of necessary intelligence information collection, proper border security management and counter tactical military maneuverings in these liberated areas".

New clashes have erupted again between Azerbaijan and Armenian troops in which more than 100 soldiers were killed in the deadliest fighting between the two neighbours since 2020.

Armenia used artillery, mortar and small arms in its attack against Azerbaijan and its counter military action, Azerbaijan by using modern electronic war gadgetry and effective arsenals succeeded to neutralize various installations, vehicles and depots of Armenia military. However, the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijan

border remained tense. The Foreign Ministry of Azerbaijan termed the attack of Armenia on the positions of Azerbaijan as an aggression on its sovereign territory.

On its part, Azerbaijan accused Armenia, which is in a military alliance with other regional countries of firing mortars and artillery against its military units. According to Azerbaijan's defence ministry, Armenia has been periodically firing its military positions due to which its units are taking the necessary response measures.

It fears that a full-fledged conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan would risk dragging in other regional and middle powers and destabilise an important corridor for pipelines carrying oil and gas at a time when fighting in Ukraine disrupts energy supplies.

According to Azerbaijan defense ministry Armenian forces launched intensive shelling, with artillery and large-calibre firearms, against Azerbaijan military positions. Armenian forces had fired at Azerbaijani military positions in the Dashkasan, Kalbajar and Lachin regions.

To conclude there is an urgent need to completely "overhaul" Azerbaijan "military strategies" and "battle field tactics" in the newly liberated areas of Karabakh. "Integrated secret information sharing mechanism, reformation of guerilla forces units, and redeployment of quick response forces on the borders and solarizing of all the borders adjacent to Armenia should be initiated as soon as possible".

Optimal use of electronic warfare methods, securitization of artificial intelligence war system and rigorous use of drones must be integrated with Azerbaijan Air Forces so that necessary "aerial supervision" easily available in time of crises. There is an urgent need to have "anti-missile" and tank system in the armory of Azerbaijan. Latest radar and stealth systems should be included in the formation of armed forces of Azerbaijan to safeguard vested interests.

Further strategic military alliances with Turkey and Pakistan may be value-addition for Azerbaijan in the days to come. Inclusion of new war jets and anti-ballistic missile system in Azerbaijan Air force must be included as soon as possible.

Intersex Rights

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi

Muh. Bahrul Afif from State Islamic University of Indonesia declared transgenders as 'perpetrators' and explained, "A person with ambiguous genitals is called khunsa (intersex) in Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) which is acceptable with all basic human rights because it is an absolute decree of God. This is different from the transgender phenomenon that is known as mukhannas—it refers to men that resemble women—and mutarajilat—it refers to women that resemble men. Mukhannas is considered as illness an abnormality caused by depression

IWAS shaken by the words of Dr. Amjad Saqib, founder of Akhuwat, in a program a couple of months back in Nathia Gali asking all participants of the session, "If anyone of you has ever attended the funeral of an intersex". None of the participants confirmed attending any such funeral which he called as lack of our collective sensitivity towards this segment of society. It also suggests that none of you have any friend from intersex, he added. He then explained his endeavors to empower people who are intersex. Human society has evolved significantly in every aspect of life. Several fundamental societal values a few decades ago have changed across the globe. Besides innumerable advantages of the technology, despite safety measures, many aspects of our lives have become evident to early childhood, due to convenient access to the information, which were understandable only in the adulthood even in the near past. It is indeed a challenge for entire humanity to ensure judicious utilization of massive information available at a click now on the devices in our palms. Movements for human liberty, liberalization, rights and empowerment have led to a unique challenge for the humankind through eliminating boundaries which were once served as an attractive pattern of human interactions. Extensive intrusion in others' domains has undermined natural spiritual satisfaction linked with human connections. Our forced interventions under the umbrella of movements for rights and liberty to satisfy psychosomatic gratification of a very few has endangered people with genuine disorder who need to have equal rights to survive in human society. When we campaign for the rights of people with disabilities why we forget intersexes that carry natural disorder at their birth as any other disabled person? An artfully coined term of 'gender identity' to accommodate self-induced motives has led to deprive those who actually need space for their rights. The term 'sexual orientation' represents person's emo-

tional tendencies to determine for him/her as hetero, bi, homo, pan or asexual. If psychic inclinations are applied to logical extremes then why we don't respect propensities of serial killers who again fulfill their emotional needs, why we don't allow offenders to maintain their illegalities for their mental satisfaction. We can't, because we have to shield human society from serious disruptions.

The term 'transgender' under the umbrella of human rights has successfully camouflaged self-induced motives of a very few and terribly spoiled rights of intersex by the mafia which prevails in the depth and breadth of the Country to exploit intersex for their vested interests including sexual exploitation and financial gains. This mafia has established a whole structure of adopting people with genital disorder to accommodate, under their cover, people with psychological ailments to misuse both of these clusters.

Why the proponents of human rights have never voiced against handing over of intersex to the guru in their childhood or teenage. According to The Guardian, Nadeem Kashish a leader of Pakistani transgender community has called for an end of the culture of 'gurus' who take children with genital disorders. Far from acting as guardian the gurus encourage such youngsters to take up sex work. Nayyab Ali another activist said, "Mostly persons with biological disorders leave their homes in teenage and start living with the gurus. Adopting such teenagers is like lottery for the guru, because the guru will earn money through him/her either by dancing or by sex work." We all need to support these voices. On legislative front senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan is doing the commendable job to keep the lawmaking within the ambit of our faith. Our belief system, Islam, is our identity and the foundation of our existence. We naturally can't accept or permit any regulation which contradicts basic principles of Islamic way of life.

Muh. Bahrul Afif from State Islamic University of Indonesia declared transgenders as 'perpetrators'

and explained, "A person with ambiguous genitals is called khunsa (intersex) in Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) which is acceptable with all basic human rights because it is an absolute decree of God. This is different from the transgender phenomenon that is known as mukhannas—it refers to men that resemble women—and mutarajilat—it refers to women that resemble men. Mukhannas is considered as illness an abnormality caused by depression. The depression affect their mind and encourage them to keep behaving even to identify themselves as women. It is also the same with mutarajilat. This behavior is considered as deviation from human nature and God's provision and therefore strictly forbidden in Islam." There are several ahadith which prohibit transgenderism. According to a hadith, men who resemble women and women who resemble men are cursed in Islam. Another hadith narrates: "Get them out of your house". One more hadith suggests, men who dress up women's clothing and women who dress up men's clothing are cursed. A hadith says, people who mediating (help) men to resemble women and women to resemble men are cursed.

We need to work on different fronts including protection of intersex rights ensuring their appropriate integration in the society without any discrimination and exploitation. We need to raise awareness that children with genital disorders are like children with any other disability and deserve complete protection, care and due place in the society for suitable progress to realize respectable life. On the other hand we have to raise our voice and support likes of senator Mushtaq Ahmad Khan to expose any plot which aims at distorting social, cultural and most importantly religious fabric of our society.

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Briefs

'Act now':
Shehbaz
tells SCO

FROM PAGE 01

The premier stressed that the SCO should make plans for the coming generations. PM Shehbaz, along with leaders of the eight-member SCO, attended the close-format CHS at the Congress Centre, where he was welcomed by President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev. Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Uzbek President Mirziyoyev, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev, Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon, Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also attended the session. Record monsoon rains in the south and southwest Pakistan and glacial melt in northern parts triggered the flooding that has impacted nearly 33 million people in the 220 million South Asian nation, sweeping away homes, crops, bridges, roads and livestock in damages estimated at \$30 billion. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) reported 1,508 deaths including 536 children and 308 women. Hundreds of thousands of people who have been displaced are in dire need of support in terms of food, shelter, clean drinking water, toilets, and medicines. Many have been sleeping in the open by the side of elevated highways, with water-borne diseases spreading among people and affecting thousands. The torrential monsoon, which submerged huge swathes of Pakistan, was a one in a hundred-year event likely made more intense by climate change, scientists said on Thursday.

'Big mistake'

At the outset of his speech, the prime minister noted that it was imperative to ensure that peace prevailed in Afghanistan as peace in Kabul meant there would be peace in Islamabad. The premier added that it would be a "big mistake" to ignore Afghanistan this time around as the Taliban-ruled nation battles terrorism and poverty.

"As you know Pakistan is a neighbouring country of Afghanistan, and peace in Afghanistan will ensure peace in Pakistan. In other words, what is good for Afghanistan, is good for Pakistan and vice versa," he said. The prime minister said that the global community should work to support "good initiatives" in the wartorn country. "Fight this menace of extremism, separatism and terrorism and wipe it from the face of this earth," the prime minister said, urging the SCO members to join hands for this goal. The prime minister urged the international community to support efforts to build a sustainable Afghan economy and unfreeze its financial assets.

Gas talks with Putin

During a sideline meeting, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that pipeline gas supplies to Pakistan are possible, and that part of the necessary infrastructure is already in place. "The prime minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work closely with Russia to further expand and strengthen cooperation between the two countries across all areas of mutual benefit including food security, trade and investment, energy, defence and security," a statement from PM's Office said. The two sides agreed to convene the next meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission (IGC) in Islamabad at an early date, it said. The long-delayed gas pipeline vital to the south Asian country's economy – the Pakistan Stream gas project, also known as the North-South gas pipeline – is to be built in collaboration with Russian companies. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met Chinese President Xi Jinping here wherein he appreciated the transformational impact of the CPEC on Pakistan's socio-economic development. During the bilateral meeting took place on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization here, the prime minister also reaffirmed his government's commitment to high quality development of CPEC. Both the leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchanged views on important regional and international issues of mutual interest. This was the prime minister's first meeting with the Chinese president since assuming office in April 2022. The interaction between the two leaders was marked by traditional warmth as well as exceptional mutual trust and understanding.

Türkiye aims to end Ukraine conflict through diplomacy

Expressing that Türkiye "has a unique location as the westernmost Asian and the easternmost European" country, Erdogan said that it has human, cultural and political ties with Asia dating back thousands of years

NEWS DESK

SAMARKAND: Türkiye's aim is to end the Russia-Ukraine war through diplomacy, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Friday at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. "We are working to end the conflicts in Ukraine through diplomacy and we are making every effort to ensure peace in our region and beyond," Erdogan said during the SCO, which he attended as a special guest, in a well-attended session that also included observer members and special guest delegation heads. Expressing his satisfaction about attending the summit, Erdogan thanked Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev for his invitation and expressed his gratitude for the hospitality shown to him in Uzbekistan. Erdogan also congratulated Iran, which has just been accepted as a member of the SCO. Expressing that Türkiye "has a unique location as the westernmost Asian and the easternmost European" country, Erdogan said that it has human, cultural and political ties with Asia dating back thousands of years. "With our Asia Anew Initiative, which we announced in 2019, we are trying to strengthen our relations with our ancestral homeland, Asia, in all areas," Erdogan said. He also stat-



ed that they see the SCO as the present representative of Asia's climate of tolerance and its ancient culture based on the understanding of finding common solutions to problems. He noted that they attach importance to developing relations with the organization. "Thanks to our 'dialogue partner' status that we have had for the last 10 years, this place has become one of our windows to Asia. We assumed the term presidency of the energy club senior group of the organization in 2017.

facing difficulties such as climate change, epidemics, energy and food supply security, terrorism, xenophobia, Islamophobia, racism, irregular migration, economic recession and disruptions in supply chains. Erdogan emphasized that these difficulties can only be overcome with global cooperation and solution understanding. "While we should have been more united in this age, unfortunately, some countries did not want this. The most recent and painful example of this was the coronavirus epidemic. In this global epidemic, which reminds us once again that we are all in the same boat, unfortunately, international organizations and developed countries could not manage the process. As Türkiye, we have provided assistance to 161 countries and 12 international organizations within the scope of the fight against the coronavirus."

"We rank first in the world in terms of our humanitarian aid ratio to national income with more than \$8 billion. We are proud to be the most generous country in the world by allocating approximately 1% of our gross national income to humanitarian aid," Erdogan said. Erdogan reiterated his call to restructure global governance, saying that his famous motto, "The world is bigger than five," draws attention to the fact that the order established after World War II lost its ability to resolve crises.

Chief Justice undermined JCP: Judges

FROM PAGE 01

CJP delivered during a full court reference on the eve of the new judicial year of the top court, Justices Isa and Masood noted that although the CJP had said that constitutional institutions should not be undermined, violated or attacked, he himself had undermined the JCP by refusing to accept its decision. "Incidentally, the undersigned have been in a minority in a number of other meetings of the JCP yet never once delivered a public address rebuking or casting aspersions on any member of the JCP," the judges said. They said that all the members of the JCP, including its chairman, are equal, adding the only additional responsibility of the CJP is for him to also act as its chairman.

"The constitution stipulates that the JCP by majority of its total membership shall nominate judges," they said, adding that the JCP in its meeting on July 28, had not approved the five candidates proposed by the chairman. The judges said that it is also questionable whether they should commend themselves for the number of cases decided when more than a third of the Supreme Court lies vacant.

"We have repeatedly called upon the chairman of the JCP to convene a meeting of the JCP (both before and after the notified summer vacation) to enable making of nominations to the Supreme Court," Justice Isa and Justice Masood said. "To stress the urgency, we had stated that not filling the vacancies is reckless disregard of a constitutional duty but all to no avail.

"The Supreme Court cannot be placed in suspended animation till such time that members, to use the words of the CJP, support the candidates proposed by the chairman," they said. "We were seated on the right and left of the CJP as he read out his address," the judges said, adding that to maintain the decorum of the ceremony, they had remained quiet. However, since the CJP's address was widely reported in the media, it has compelled them to clarify, lest their silence be misconstrued as consent. Both justices addressed their joint letter to the CJP, Justice Ijazul Ahsan (JCP member), Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah (JCP member), Justice Sarmad Jalal Osmani (JCP member), Federal Minister for Law and Justice and JCP member Azam Nazeer Tarar, Attorney-General for Pakistan Ashtar Ausaf Ali, and Akhtar Hussain, representative of Pakistan Bar Council, JCP member and representative of Supreme Court Bar Association.

Ronaldo scores season's first in United's 2-0 win



DNA

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo ended his barren spell with the first Europa League goal of his career as Manchester United earned victory at Sheriff Tiraspol. Erik ten Hag's men suffered defeat at Old Trafford in their Group E opener against Real Sociedad but responded by claiming all three points in Moldova. The Red Devils opened the scoring in the first half as a lovely team move was coolly

finished off by Jadon Sancho from Christian Eriksen's reverse pass. Sancho, who was left out of the England squad earlier in the day, came close to a second but his low shot was brilliantly cleared off the line by Sheriff captain Stjepan Radeljic on the stretch. But United did double their advantage before half-time courtesy of Ronaldo's penalty, awarded after Patrick Kpozzi tripped Diogo Dalot in the box. Ronaldo could have taken his tally to 700 club goals but side-footed over from the edge of the

triumph, having requested to leave Old Trafford during the transfer window for Champions League football, but ending up staying as no club came in for his services. The 37-year-old had not scored in his previous eight games for United, a run stretching back to the end of last season, but he showed signs of ending that goal drought when he blazed over from an angle. He did get off the mark of the campaign by slotting in a spot-kick - which was the 699th club goal of his career - but will not get the chance to add to that until 2 October against rivals Manchester City, as Sunday's scheduled Premier League game against Leeds has been postponed. Ten Hag's squad will then be tested to its limits after the international break with a gruelling period of 13 games in the space of 43 days before the season stops in November for the Qatar World Cup. The visitors started slowly in the Moldovan capital of Chisinau, the match being played there for security reasons, but netted with their first real attack of the contest.

EU toughens stance on state meddling in media

BRUSSELS: The European Commission unveiled a raft of new rules on Friday to ensure media independence after growing fears of state meddling in eastern EU countries such as Hungary and Poland. Brussels has grown increasingly worried about the weight of the state on news and media in a growing number of EU countries, with public television in Hungary widely seen as a mouthpiece for Prime Minister Viktor Orban. Media pluralism is also a concern in the Czech Republic where former prime minister Andrej Babis owns a major media group and has been accused of subverting press freedom after he used his newspapers to attack the integrity of other news outlets. The European Media Freedom Act will provide "common safeguards... to guarantee that our media are able to operate without any interference, be it private or public," said EU commissioner Thierry Breton. "We're proposing a regulation which will apply across the board in Europe in the same way and according to the same rules," he said. One of the main components of the law will be a new authority that will allow the EU's 27 countries to have an eye on media mergers that would affect the plurality of media ownership. It will also demand that funding of state media be "adequate and stable" in order to prevent governments using budget allocations to pressure publicly owned media companies and newsrooms. The regulation, which needs to be approved by EU member countries and the European Parliament, would also require that national governments pass laws that adequately guarantee the protection of journalistic sources. The European-wide watchdog will be composed of national regulators that would ensure the proper enforcement of the law across the EU. They would also coordinate the EU's response to non-EU media, a key source of concern after the difficulty of aligning a united response to the presence of Russia Today, a Kremlin-funded television channel, in the days following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "We want it to apply as quickly as possible... because we consider it to be a matter of great urgency," said EU commission Vice President Vera Jourova. - DNA

Gibbs suggests how Babar can improve his strike rate

CAPE TOWN: Pakistan captain Babar Azam is arguably the best all-format batter in world cricket right now but the 27-year-old had a poor Asia Cup where he only scored 68 runs in six innings. Another point of concern for Pakistan in T20Is is the strike rate of the opening duo, Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam. Former South African opener Herschelle Gibbs, who was also the head coach of Karachi Kings in PSL 6, has advised Babar Azam on how he can improve his strike rate. While quoting Chief Selector Mohammad Wasim's opinion on the Rizwan-Babar strike rate, Gibbs wrote: "If Babar adds one or two more attacking options to his game, his strike rate will improve and be even more effective." If Babar adds one or two more attacking options to his game his strike rate will improve and be even more effective. Babar mostly relies on classic shots and doesn't play with a high-risk intent. Gibbs' advice might help Babar as if he starts going for a few high-risk adventurous strokes, it will open up more run-scoring avenues for him. - APP

EU's Borrell calls on Europeans to 'resist'

OVIEDO: The EU's top diplomat said in an interview on Friday that the war in Ukraine has "entered a new phase" and called on Europeans to "resist." "Now is the time to resist the consequences that the war has, and will have, for us, which can be felt in energy and food prices," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell told Spanish daily La Vanguardia. "It will take time, but what's at stake is highly important," added the Spanish-born politician. Ukraine's recent military victories in the north justify the EU's current three-pronged strategy of giving military support to Ukraine, sanctioning Russia, and isolating Putin's regime, he said. "A lot of people - in Europe, in Spain, in my socioeconomic circle

- said that what we are doing is useless, that we are artificially prolonging the war, that they should just give up already," Borrell explained, insisting that the EU's strategy has been "proven right." Despite his enthusiasm about the Ukrainian offensive in the Kharkiv region, he said Moscow's troops are intensifying attacks on civilian infrastructure in response. "War is unpredictable. This went well for the Ukrainians, but we'll see what happens tomorrow," Borrell defended the EU sanctions on Russia, insisting that they are already working but must be held in place longer. Asked whether or not the EU sanctions would be renewed as far-right parties make inroads in countries like

Italy, he said he does not believe that European unity will split. Mentioning Hungary's prime minister, he said: "We already have Viktor Orban. He spent all summer saying that we were shooting ourselves in the foot and needed to lift sanctions. Then he goes to Moscow to get gas, and they give it to him, of course. But Hungary has always approved the sanctions." Borrell also voiced support for reforming the EU energy market, something he said he has been advocating for since 2021. On Wednesday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the electricity market needs "deep and comprehensive" reform. "We couldn't act until the pain got so intense that even those who said the market should be left alone had to admit that it is producing an unacceptable market distortion," said Borrell. "Here in Europe, intervening in markets doesn't have good press," he added. - DNA

Kyrgyzstan announces..

FROM PAGE 01

It accused Tajikistan of using heavy weapons, including rocket launchers and jets, but said its forces were repelling the attacks "making it impossible for them to capture settlements in Kyrgyzstan." The health ministry said 42 people had been injured and that medical facilities in the border region of Batken had been put on alert. It appealed to border-region residents to donate blood. Tajikistan accused Kyrgyz forces meanwhile of opening fire early Friday with "intensive" shelling of homes and civilian infrastructure. It did not give information about casualties. Russian state news agency RIA Novosti, citing official sources, however reported that one Tajik border guard was killed and three more were injured. Kyrgyzstan said it was launching civilian evacuations from the border region. Fighting regularly flares up between the two countries that share a 970 kilometre-long (600-mile) border, with around half of the frontier contested. In 2021, unprecedented clashes between the two sides killed 50 people. The fighting has raised fears of yet another conflict in the ex-Soviet region with clashes this week between Armenia and Azerbaijan leaving more than 200 dead. Ukraine meanwhile claims sweeping gains in a counter-offensive against Russia's invasion. The authoritarian leader of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon, and his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov were this week attending a regional summit of leaders in Uzbekistan. The leaders were seen together in official images distributed by the press service of the SCO, an alliance that Putin and Xi said offered an alternative to Western-led international organisations.

World media bows down to retiring Roger Federer "Federer... touched tennis fans worldwide for more than 20 years with his shotmaking and class on and off the court," it concluded

DNA

HONG KONG: From China to India, and France to the United States, world media hailed Roger Federer as one of the finest sportsmen ever on Friday after the Swiss legend announced he will retire from tennis. The 41-year-old has struggled in recent years with knee injuries and will end his historic career after next week's Laver Cup in London. Prominent French sports newspaper L'Equipe, in a nod to the death last week of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, went with the headline "God Save the King" together with a photo of Federer gazing thoughtfully skywards. "His entire game bordered on art and the sublime," L'Equipe said, debating whether he was the greatest sportsman of all time, up there with the likes of Pele, Muhammad Ali, Usain Bolt and Michael Jordan. Spain's El Pais said that Federer's announcement was not a surprise but "that does not make it any less painful". But British tabloid The Sun called Federer's retirement a shock and labelled his 20 Grand Slam titles "outrageous". "Federer



has been sorely hampered by injuries in recent seasons," the newspaper noted. The BBC gushed that the tennis ace "reached sporting perfection". On its website it recalled a quote from Federer's rival Novak Djokovic: "You have to wonder if he's from the same planet". "With a graceful swish of a forehand, a pinpoint delivery of a serve or a gen-

tle wave to the crowd, the Swiss legend gained fans unlike anyone before him," the BBC said. Federer's imminent exit, which quickly follows that of fellow tennis legend Serena Williams, also made headlines farther afield. In China, The Paper in Shanghai recalled how Federer had once called the city "like a second home" and praised him for his long-time support

of the Masters tournament there. He was twice a title winner in Shanghai and always the star attraction, no matter who else was playing. The Paper labelled Federer "an old friend of the Shanghai people" and recounted how he had once taken a subway train in the city, paying for the ticket himself and having a chat with an elderly man. In New Delhi, The Indian Express said that Federer was "not a super-athlete but (was) a true modern-day sporting great". It said that the emergence of Carlos Alcaraz, the new US Open champion and world number one at just 19, coupled with Federer's retirement, was a "page-turning moment". The New York Times noted how Federer had matured from a "rocket-throwing Swiss teenager" into "one of the world's most polished athletes". Rafael Nadal and Djokovic may have won more Grand Slams - 22 and 21 respectively - but The Times said that neither did it with Federer's grace. "He did not move so much as flow," said the newspaper. "Federer... touched tennis fans worldwide for more than 20 years with his shotmaking and class on and off the court," it concluded.

Briefs

Germany ready for a leading military role in Europe

DNA

BERLIN: Germany is ready for a leading military role to ensure Europe's security, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Friday. Delivering a speech at a military conference in Berlin, Scholz said Russia's attack on Ukraine has been a turning point in history, caused a paradigm shift in security affairs, and made it necessary for Germany to boost its military. He pointed out that Germany is the EU's most populous country and biggest economy, and argued that German armed forces (Bundeswehr) should become the "best equipped" military in Europe. "Germany is ready to take a leading role, to assume responsibility for the security of our continent," he said, and also tried to assure neighboring countries about Berlin's plans. "This goal should not be seen as a threat by our European friends and partners, on the contrary it's an assurance," he stressed. Chancellor Scholz's left-liberal coalition government has decided to massively increase defense spending, and already approved a €100 billion (\$100 billion) special fund for the modernization of the country's armed forces. According to the government's plan, the lion's share of the fund will go to the Air Force and will be used for new investments and purchases, including US-made F-35 stealth fighter jets, Chinook transport helicopters and Israeli Heron drones.

French airports hit by major traffic disruption

DNA

PARIS: French airports on Friday were hit by a major traffic disruption with at least a thousand flights canceled or delayed due to a strike by air traffic controllers. Citing the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, BFMTV reported about 1,000 flights were canceled by various airlines. Nearly all companies flying from and arriving at French airports have complied with the civil aviation authority's directives to cancel one out of two flights, Thomas June, president of the Union of French airports, told FranceInfo news. Air traffic controllers are on a strike to demand salary hikes and rapid recruitment to fill vacancies. June regretted the strike and said it was unfortunate that people are being affected by their actions. "We are in a period of traffic reconstruction after two years of unprecedented situation... this strike comes not at the best time, and we regret it." However, he said the air traffic controllers' demands were legitimate in the "face of changes in purchasing power and inflation."

Indonesia investigating Google

JAKARTA: Indonesia has launched an anti-trust investigation into Google over the etch firm's insistence that its payment system be used for purchases from its app store, authorities said Thursday, accusing it of unfair business practices. The US internet giant has been under legal scrutiny in a number of countries over its stipulation that its billing system be used by all buyers on Google Play. Authorities in Jakarta said in a statement they suspected "Google has abused its dominant position by imposing conditional sales and discriminatory practices in digital application distribution in Indonesia". Google Play is the largest app distribution platform in Indonesia, a country of around 270 million people. Third-party developers offering their apps on Google Play are charged a 15 to 30 percent service fee, higher than the five percent imposed by other payment systems, according to an initial probe by the nation's anti-trust agency. "The respective developers cannot refuse the obligation because Google can impose sanctions by removing their applications from the Google Play store and preventing them from making updates to their applications," the agency said. - APP

Canada to match donations up to \$3m to help flood victims

The High Commissioner said Pakistan had been hit by floods of biblical proportions and he was glad the Pakistani Diaspora in Canada

DNA

OTTAWA: The Canadian government has announced to match individual donations up to a total of CAD 3 million through the Humanitarian Coalition of 12 charitable organisations collecting funds and donations in Canada in response to the flooding in Pakistan. This was stated by High Commissioner for Pakistan to Canada Zaheer Janjua while speaking to a webinar on 'Exploring Shariah-compliant Investment & Charitable Opportunities through

Roshan Digital Account' as well as a fundraising dinner held in the Canadian capital under the auspices of Pakistani Canadian charitable organisation 'Dil Canada' for Pakistan flood relief. The High Commissioner said Pakistan had been hit by floods of biblical proportions and he was glad the Pakistani Diaspora in Canada had come forward in a big way to raise funds to help their fellow brethren in Pakistan. He also appreciated the Canadian government and the people for initially committing an aid of CAD 5 million and then



backing it up with another \$25 million of funding in response to the impact of flooding in Pakistan, and to

support development projects in the country. Zaheer Janjua lauded the Pakistan diaspora spread across Canada for working hard to raise funds for the flood victims in Pakistan. He was it was a difficult time for Pakistan, and it was imperative for every Pakistani at home and abroad to rise above their individual and political preferences, likes and dislikes, and respond to the call of motherland for reaching out to millions of people displaced by the devastating rains and floods in Pakistan. He said the Pakistan High Commission in Canada and

its Consulates had made arrangements with PIA to carry relief goods from Toronto to Pakistan free of cost. He said the national airline was running only five flights a week from Toronto to Pakistan with every flight able to take only approximately 1 tonne of relief goods. It is therefore advisable if the donors and individual Pakistanis in Canada send essential items such as medicines to Pakistan and prefer buying the remaining relief items from Pakistan to get a food return on their money and also boost the local economy.

Biden to welcome S.Africa leader as Ukraine raises Africa priority

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden on Friday will welcome South African leader Cyril Ramaphosa to the White House, part of a renewed US courting of the developing world power after its caution in condemning Russia. The visit by Ramaphosa comes a month after US Secretary of State Antony Blinken made his own trip to South Africa, where he vowed that the United States will do more to listen to Africans. Successive US administrations have focused much of their energy in Africa on countering the growing influence of China, which has become the continent's dominant trading partner. But Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered a new front in the US battle for influence in Africa, where many nations have been reluctant to embrace the West in its campaign to punish and pressure Moscow. "There are reasons for the perspectives that exist and one should never, I think, try to pretend that there

aren't histories," said South Africa's Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor. She pointed to the former Soviet Union's championing of anti-apartheid forces compared with periods of Western cooperation with South Africa's former white supremacist regime. "I think we've been fairly clear, in our view, that war doesn't assist anyone and that we believe the humane actions we have seen against the people of Ukraine can't be defended by anybody," she said this week at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. "But what we have said is that a lot of the public statements that are made by leading politicians are not assisting in ameliorating the situation, because the first prize must be to achieve peace." The United States has sought to highlight the invasion's role in soaring food prices, as Ukraine was one of Africa's largest suppliers of grain. Russia has sought to blame food

scarcities on Western sanctions, an argument dismissed by the United States, which says it is not restricting agricultural or humanitarian shipments. South Africa's top diplomat broke with the usual polite bipartisanship of foreign dignitaries visiting Washington, not mincing words on Biden's Republican predecessor Donald Trump, who notoriously referred to nations in the developing world with an epithet. "We relate very well, I think probably better, with the Democrats than the Republicans," she said. "You will recall how President Trump described Africa and no one has apologized for that as yet." Trump was the first US president in decades not to visit sub-Saharan Africa. Biden has not yet visited but has pledged a renewed interest, including with a summit of African leaders planned in Washington this December. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said that Biden

would speak to Ramaphosa about increasing trade and investment as well as efforts to combat climate change, a key priority for the US administration. Like other developing nations, South Africa - whose eastern Mpumalanga province has one of the world's largest concentrations of coal - argues that industrialized nations should bear the brunt of efforts to cut emissions due to their historic responsibility for climate change. Wealthy nations at last year's Glasgow climate conference promised \$8.5 billion of financing to South Africa to transition away from coal. Ramaphosa's Washington visit comes amid political woes at home, three months before a party conference at which he will seek a new term. The South African leader risks impeachment if a new independent panel established by parliament finds that he took part in an alleged cover-up of a heist at his luxury farmhouse. - Agencies

UN calls on int'l community to cut Myanmar army's funds

GENEVA: The UN said Friday that a fact-finding mission has recommended financial sanctions and cutting funding to Myanmar's military due to severe abrogation of human rights in the Asian country since the military seized power in its February 2021 military coup. "Our office issued a report on Myanmar, which had been requested by the Human Rights Council," UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Jeremy Laurence said at a UN press conference. "The report reiterates that fact-finding mission's recommendations to impose targeted financial sanctions on the Tatmadaw and its economic interests, as well as arms embargoes," he added. Human rights defenders documenting and responding to atrocities by Myanmar's military junta urgently need comprehensive support, including financial, said UN experts in the report. They called on the international community to end apparent indifference to the violence targeting the country's population. "In the face of inaction by the international community, and with human rights violations continuing to be perpetrated daily by the military junta, human rights defenders are persisting in their support for those targeted," said Mary Lawlor, UN special rapporteur on human rights defenders. Along with Tom Andrews, special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, Lawlor highlighted the grave risks defenders face and the specific challenges confronting women human rights defenders. "Defenders have been murdered and disappeared by the military since the coup. They now risk arrest, detention, torture, including sexual violence and death when going about their work and fear having their documents seized at military checkpoints," the experts said. Lawlor and Andrews said they had publicly expressed concerns for the safety of defenders in the country just over a year ago. - DNA

Spyware threatening privacy, UN report warns

DNA

GENEVA: A new UN report warned Friday that the right to privacy is coming under ever greater pressure from modern networked digital technologies whose features make them formidable tools for surveillance, control, and oppression. "This makes it more essential that these technologies are reined in by effective regulation based on international human rights law and standards," Elizabeth Throssell, a spokesperson for the UN Human Rights Office, said at a UN press conference. Throssell said the report is the latest on privacy in the digital age by the UN Human Rights Office. "What our report is saying is that this is a really, really crucial issue," she said, noting that the report does not refer to individual countries but refers to the Pegasus spyware which Israel developed. "One of the first reports that our office did into privacy in the digital age came out in 2014. But of course, that's quite a long time ago in technology terms. So, the whole landscape is changing." Former UN Human Rights chief Michelle Bachelet, who stepped down last month, said in April: "Pegasus spyware is reportedly being used in at least 45 countries, often in total secrecy and outside of any legal framework."

Lebanon banks close branches for 3 days

DNA

BEIRUT: The Association of Banks in Lebanon on Friday announced the closure of all banks' branches across Lebanon for three days after a series of depositors' hold-ups demanding withdrawal of their savings. The association said the closure comes to protest the incidents by the depositors and the attacks that happened against the bank employees. According to official statements, six incidents of hold-ups by depositors took place on Friday in different banks in Beirut. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Bassam Mawlawi called for an emergency meeting to discuss the measures that can be taken to address the banks' storming incidents. Lebanon has witnessed repeated incidents in the bank following their refusal to give clients their money in US dollars. For more than two-and-a-half years, Lebanon's banks have imposed restrictions on depositors' money in foreign currency, especially the dollar, and set tight ceilings on withdrawing money in Lebanese pounds. Lebanon has been grappling with a severe economic crisis since 2019, leaving most people locked out of their bank accounts.

Tianjin municipality donates relief items

BEIJING: The People Government of China Tianjin Municipality has announced a relief pack of RMB 10 million for relief and rehabilitation of flood victims in Pakistan. The relief items include tents, food packages and blankets needed urgently in Pakistan. The decision was announced last week in a special letter addressed to Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque by Party Secretary of Tianjin, Li Hongzhong. Sharing his grief and condolences with the bereaved families, Li Hongzhong said that as all-weather strategic cooperative partner and iron brother, China stands with the people of Pakistan in this difficult time. Expressing his good wishes for the early rehabilitation of the flood victims, Li Hongzhong reaffirmed the resolve of Tianjin Municipality to continue to deepen ties with the friendship cities and provinces of Pakistan. A formal launch ceremony of the relief goods was held yesterday through video Link. The meeting was joined by Luan Jianzhang, DG FAO, Tianjin Municipal Government, Mr. Liu Jinsong, DG Asian Affairs, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Moin ul Haque, Murtaza Wahab, Administrator, Karachi Municipal Government and a senior representative from Chinese Peoples Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. - APP

Developed countries accelerate nuclear plans amid energy crisis

BRUSSELS: Developed countries and major economies around the globe are extending the duration of nuclear power plants, opening closed reactors and approving new nuclear projects in the face of the energy crisis caused by rapidly increasing natural gas and electricity prices. Since the leak in the Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan in 2011, public pressure has increased in many countries over safety precautions for nuclear power plants. Due to raised environmental awareness and climate change along with the transition away from hydrocarbons, some countries have prepared plans to phase out nuclear plants. This year, however, with the rise in geopolitical tensions and the energy crisis after the Russia-Ukraine war, the agendas of environmentalists in developed countries have been set aside in favor of policies which prioritize energy security. In recent months, major economies worldwide have revised plans to revive nuclear energy. These have transpired in the extension of operation times of aging nuclear reactors and the reopening of closed reactors, along with plans for new nuclear power plant projects to ensure energy supply security while maintaining electricity production with the rapid increase in fossil fuel prices and supply shortages. With 54 operating nuclear reactors, China meets 5% of its electricity needs from nuclear power. Currently, 22 reactors are under construction in the country, and the construction of 38 more reactors has received approval. It also aims to build six to eight nuclear reactors each year by 2025 to ensure its place as the country with the highest capacity globally in this field by 2030. The country approved the construction of six new reactors in April and the construction of four new reactors for two nuclear power plants this week. The US, with 92 active reactors providing 20% of its electricity demand, is a leader in nuclear energy with its ability to make intensive modular nuclear reactor studies and investments. - Agencies



SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin confer during the SCO summit, in Samarkand. - DNA

Armenia not ready to accept reality: Baku

DNA

BAKU: Armenia is not ready to accept delimiting borders as well as the reality following the 2020 war, which saw Azerbaijan regain large swathes of its territory in the Karabakh region, the spokesperson of Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry said. Speaking to Turkish media, Leyla Abdullayeva said: "The Azerbaijani side wants peace and normalization in the region. We never wanted tensions because we regained our occupied lands and we are working to reconstruct these areas and bring back life to the territories." On the reasons lying behind the latest clashes between the two sides on the border, Abdullayeva said that conflict erupted after the Armenian side started its provocations and Azerbaijan responded to these military targets. Another reason was what Abdullayeva called a "sabotage group" entering Azerbaijan's territory and trying to plant landmines on supply routes despite an ongoing process of peace talks. Since November 2020, 242 people have become victims of landmines, according to the Armenian foreign ministry. Abdullayeva said that Armenia accepted to provide the Azerbaijani side maps of the locations of the landmines but that these were



not accurate. "According to statistics, of the mentioned 242 cases, 50% have occurred outside the areas designated in the maps provided by Armenia. The issue is that Armenia is still continuing to massively plant landmines on Azerbaijani soil," she explained. She said that only in Lachin 1,300 landmines were found while it was written on the mines that they were produced in Armenia in 2021. "In 2020, the country signed a trilateral statement ending hostilities, started the normalization process but in 2021 mines produced in Armenia are planted in Azerbaijan. This is another indicator that Armenia violates its

commitments taken by the trilateral statements," Abdullayeva said. Abdullayeva highlighted that Azerbaijan would in no way want to start a renewed conflict and endanger its investments in the region as the country has engaged in a massive multibillion-dollar reconstruction of the areas liberated in Karabakh following the war. Among these investments is the first international airport in the region, Fuzuli International Airport, already inaugurated, infrastructure as well as a second international airport in Zangilan, next to the border, to be opened at the end of September and the third one in Lachin planned to be inaugurated in 2024. "So, many civilian people are currently working in the area. Azerbaijan has also started the return of former IDPs to the liberated territories. All these indicate that there is no interest from the Azerbaijani side to have these clashes in the region." After the conflict ended, Azerbaijan launched a massive reconstruction initiative in the liberated Karabakh region. In July, Azerbaijan began the process of returning its people to land captured from Armenian forces in what Baku calls "The Great Return." The oil-rich country has vowed to repopulate the recaptured lands. A total of 71 Azerbaijani soldiers were killed in the latest skirmishes with Armenia.

OIC condemns Armenian milly provocation

JEDDAH: The General Secretariat of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemns the military provocation of the Armenian Armed Forces along the state border between Azerbaijan and Armenia. In a message, the secretariat calls upon Armenia to fulfill its obligations in accordance with the trilateral statement signed between Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia on 10 November 2020, as well as the agreements reached between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and withdraw the illegal armed detachments from the territory of Azerbaijan. Recalling the resolution adopted by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers at its 48th session in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 March 2022, the General Secretariat further calls for the normalization of relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internationally recognized borders. Further, OIC extends deep condolences to the families of the martyrs, the government, and the people of Azerbaijan over the loss of lives and wishes a speedy recovery for the injured. To recap, units of the Armenian armed forces carried out large-scale provocations along the Azerbaijani-Armenian state border in the Dashkasan, Kalbajar, and Lachin. - DNA

Briefs

Turkiye
neutralizes
2 YPG/PKK
terrorists

ISLAMABAD: Turkish security forces “neutralized” two YPG/PKK terrorists in northern Syria, Türkiye’s National Defense Ministry said on Friday. The terrorists were planning an attack on the Operation Peace Spring zone, Türkiye’s cross-border anti-terror push, according to the ministry. Turkish authorities use the term “neutralize” to imply the terrorists in question surrendered or were killed or captured. Since 2016, Ankara has launched a trio of successful anti-terror operations across its border in northern Syria to prevent the formation of a terror corridor and enable the peaceful settlement of residents: Euphrates Shield (2016), Olive Branch (2018), and Peace Spring (2019). In its more than 35-year terror campaign against Türkiye, the PKK – listed as a terrorist organization by Türkiye, the US and EU – has been responsible for the deaths of over 40,000 people, including women, children and infants. The YPG is the PKK’s Syrian offshoot. – APP

PM, Kazakh
president
discuss
bilateral ties

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday met with President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and discussed the bilateral ties and also exchanged views on the issues of regional and international importance. The meeting took place on the sidelines of annual Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization held here. Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif, Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, and SAPM Tariq Fatemi accompanied the prime minister. Along with a high level delegation including the federal ministers, the prime minister in on a two-day visit to Uzbekistan mainly to attend the summit, at the invitation of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. – APP

IHC stops
out sourcing
of capital’s
grounds

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Friday issued a stay order against handing over of capital’s cricket grounds to private companies by the Municipal Corporation Islamabad (MCI). Justice Sardar Ijaz Ishaq heard the case against the custody of cricket grounds. Petitioner’s Lawyer Adil Aziz Qazi adopted the stance that the citizen had to pay the money if the cricket grounds were made out source. He said that the MCI had no authority to out source the play ground of federal capital. However, the MCI’s lawyer adopted the stance that it was difficult to get the procession of these grounds. The corporation was handing over these grounds to private companies so that these could be looked after in a good way. – APP

G7 speakers
summit held
in Berlin

BERLIN: The parliamentary speakers of the G7 nations were meeting in Berlin on Friday, with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine at the top of the agenda. Ruslan Stefanchuk, Chairman of Ukraine’s parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, gave a speech as a special guest. The summit came as Ukraine hopes to turn recent military gains into sustained momentum to end the war and push Russian troops from its territory. “The situation on the front lines has changed now, thanks to our army, but also thanks to the weapons we have received,” said Stefanchuk said Friday. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Khurram Dastgir, Shafay Hussain and Ambassador of Republic of Korea Suh Sangpayo attending a business forum organized by the Korean embassy. – DNA

Hundreds of graves found
in liberated Ukrainian city

Mykhailo Podolyak, a senior adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, that “many places of mass burials” had been discovered in some liberated areas

AGENCIES

KYIV: Ukraine says hundreds of graves have been found outside Izyum, days after it was re-taken from Russia. Wooden crosses, most of them marked with numbers, were discovered in a forest outside the city by advancing Ukrainian forces. Authorities said they would start exhuming some of the graves on Friday. It is not yet clear what happened to the victims, but early accounts suggest some may have died from shelling and a lack of access to healthcare. Speaking on Friday, the head of Ukraine’s national police service said most of the bodies belonged to civilians. Ihor Klymenko told a news conference that although soldiers were also believed to be buried there, there was so far no confirmation. Earlier, Ukrainian authorities told the BBC more than 400 bodies were thought to be buried at the site. Mykhailo Podolyak, a senior adviser to Ukrainian

President Volodymyr Zelensky, that “many places of mass burials” had been discovered in some liberated areas. “We saw many places where people were tortured,” Mr Podolyak said. “We saw wildly frightened people who were kept without light, without food, without water, and without the right to justice. Because there was no authority there, there were only people with weapons.” The UN says it hopes to send a monitoring team to the city in the coming days. A spokesperson for the body’s human rights’ office said it would be trying to find out whether those who died were civilians or military personnel, and the cause of any of the deaths. Izyum, invaded in the early days of the war, was used by Russia as a key military hub to supply its forces from the east. In his nightly address, President Volodymyr Zelensky said the “necessary procedural actions” had begun in the area. “We want the world to know what is really happening and what the Russian occupation

has led to. Bucha, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Izyum... Russia leaves death everywhere,” he said. “And it must be held accountable for that.” The Ukrainian leader was referring to alleged mass graves found this spring in Bucha, near the capital Kyiv, and also near Mariupol - the key south-eastern Ukrainian port now occupied by Russian troops. Andriy Yermak, the head of President Zelensky’s office, tweeted a photo of the alleged mass burial site, also saying that more information was expected on Friday. Much of Izyum lies in ruins, with one local politician telling reporters that up to 80% of the town’s infrastructure has been destroyed, and bodies are still being discovered in the rubble. The BBC is not reporting for the content of external sites. View original tweet on Twitter Izyum and a number of other cities in the Kharkiv region were liberated earlier this month during a swift Ukrainian counter-offensive that appeared to have surprised Russian troops and left them

unprepared to defend their positions. Ukraine says it has identified more than 21,000 possible war crimes - including killing civilians and rape - committed by Russian troops since President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of the country on 24 February. Investigators and journalists found what appeared to be evidence of the deliberate killing of civilians in Bucha and other nearby areas. The International Criminal Court has already sent a team of investigators and forensics experts to Ukraine to investigate this. The Russian government has repeatedly denied targeting civilians, accusing Ukraine and the West of fabricating evidence. In a separate development on Friday, the prosecutor general of the Russian-backed self-proclaimed Luhansk People’s Republic was killed in a bomb blast, according to Russian news agencies. Sergei Gorenko was reported to have died along with his deputy in an explosion at his office in the regional capital.

Global rate
hikes could
trigger
recession: WB

DNA

NEW YORK: Interest rate hikes by central banks around the world could trigger a global recession in 2023, the World Bank has said. Central banks have raised rates “with a degree of synchronicity not seen over the past five decades” to tackle soaring prices, it said. Raising rates makes borrowing more expensive to try to bring down the pace of price rises. But it also makes loans more costly, which can slow economic growth. The warning from the World Bank comes ahead of monetary policy meetings by the US Federal Reserve and Bank of England, which are expected to increase key interest rates next week. On Thursday, the World Bank said the global economy was in its steepest slowdown following a post-recession recovery since 1970. It said a study found that “the world’s three largest economies - the US, China and the euro area - have been slowing sharply”. “Under the circumstances, even a moderate hit to the global economy over the next year could tip it into recession,” it said. Signs of economic difficulties are already emerging. On Thursday, delivery giant FedEx warned investors that a sharp and unexpected slowdown in activity, especially in Asia and Europe, would cause revenue to be hundreds of millions of dollars short of forecasts.

China
blocked from
Westminster
Hall

DNA

LONDON: A Chinese government delegation has been banned from attending the lying-in-state of Queen Elizabeth II, according to parliamentary sources. Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle is understood to have refused a request for access over Chinese sanctions against five MPs and two peers. Queen Elizabeth will lie in state in Westminster Hall until she is buried on Monday. China says it is still considering whether to attend the funeral. A high-ranking official from Beijing had been expected to be amongst the guests, but a Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman said earlier on Friday that no decision had been made. The spokeswoman, Mao Ning, said they had not seen reports about the Westminster Hall ban, which first emerged on the Politico website. But she added: “As a host, the UK is certainly familiar with diplomatic protocols and proper manners of receiving guests.” The House of Commons Speaker’s office told the BBC it did not comment on security matters. Downing Street declined to comment, with a spokesperson saying “admission to Parliament is a matter for Parliament”.

Italy: Floods
and rain
kill 10

DNA

MILAN: At least 10 people have died after flash floods hit the Italian region of Marche overnight, authorities said. Torrential rain falling late on Thursday caused rivers and streams to overflow and inundate coastal towns around the regional capital of Ancona. Around 400mm (16 inches) of rain - half a year’s worth - were recorded in just a few hours. Rescuers are still searching for four others, including a child who was separated when a river burst its banks. “It was like an earthquake,” said local mayor Ludovico Caverni to RAI state radio. According to one local report, a mother who managed to escape her car with her child in her arms became separated from him after being overwhelmed by water when the River Misa burst its banks. Emergency workers managed to rescue the woman overnight but her six-year-old child is one of several still missing, local outlets report.

Two police officers
stabbed in London
ahead of queen’s funeral

The UK’s first state funeral in nearly six decades is set to be attended by leaders and royalty from around the world, including US President Joe Biden

LONDON: Two police officers were stabbed by a man early Friday in central London and hospitalised, police said, while ruling out terrorism amid massive security ahead of Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral. The assailant was tasered and arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm and assaulting an emergency worker, the Metropolitan Police said. The man was also in hospital following the incident at around 6:00 am (0500 GMT) in the nightlife area around Leicester Square, it said. The busy area is less than a mile from where the queen’s coffin is lying in state at parliament ahead of Monday’s state funeral. But a Met statement said: “The incident is not being treated as terror related.” The two officers received stab wounds and are being treated in hospital, with further updates on their condition awaited, the statement said. The force said “enquiries into the circumstances surrounding the incident are ongoing”. The UK’s first state funeral in nearly six decades is set to be attended by leaders and royalty from around the world, including US President Joe Biden. Thousands of police from across the country have been deployed to London, while 1,500 army personnel are on standby to help manage crowds and security, as tens of thousands of people queue to file past the late monarch’s coffin. It has been lying in state in parliament’s Westminster Hall since late Wednesday, where it will remain until early Monday. London mayor Sadiq Khan called the attack on the officers “utterly appalling”. “These brave officers were doing their duty and assisting the public at this momentous time for our country,” he said, adding “we owe them a huge debt of gratitude”. Khan added he was in close contact with the Met’s new Commissioner Mark Rowley, who only took up the post on Monday. – DNA

US announces new
military aid to Ukraine

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: The White House has announced further military aid worth \$600 million for Ukraine. The package includes rocket launchers that have recently played an important role in helping Ukraine secure wins against the Russian army. The aid is supposed to help keep the offensive going and to “boost momentum,” the White House stated. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the aid was “carefully calibrated to make the most difference on the battlefield and strengthen Ukraine’s hand at the negotiating table when the time is right.” He praised the “admirable grit and determination” of Ukrainian soldiers “defending their homeland and fighting for their future.” Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February, the US has sent military aid worth over \$15 billion to Ukraine. The Defense Department has delivered weapons and ammunition on more than 20 occasions. The European Union has also pledged to support Ukraine with further military aid. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen visited the capital Kyiv for the third time since the beginning of the war on Wednesday, saying more aid was “absolutely vital and necessary.” Here’s a roundup of some of the other key developments regarding Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on September 16. German Defense Minister Christine Lam-

brecht said that Moscow’s military reserve could be smaller than initially assumed after suffering significant troop and equipment losses in Ukraine amid the impact of Kyiv’s latest counter-offensive. “Russia’s military has suffered significant losses by now – both in troops and equipment,” Lambrecht said in an interview published on Friday. Germany’s Chancellor Olaf Scholz will not fulfill Ukraine’s request for the delivery of German battle tanks until further notice, government sources said, adding that they don’t foresee a change in the chancellor’s position “in the foreseeable future.” “He remains very true to his line,” the sources added. Scholz has repeatedly argued that Germany will not take “national unilateral action” on the issue of supplying armored personnel carriers and battle tanks to Ukraine. Such equipment could at best be supplied jointly with allies. The German government “does not currently see any other countries that would supply battle tanks,” the sources in Berlin said. The government was also not reacting to pressure from allies. There was “neither pressure nor requests from the White House in Washington for us to supply specific weapons systems - for example, battle tanks - to Ukraine.” At the same time, Scholz stressed that Germany’s refusal to make such deliveries would not have to last forever: “We will continue to look at what we can do to help, depending on the situation,” the sources said.

Shehbaz, Ilham express resolve to expand coop

The prime minister also expressed condolences on the recent martyrdom of 71 Azeri servicemen in an unprovoked attack by Armenia

NEWS DESK

SAMARKAND: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on Friday expressed their mutual resolve to enhance bilateral cooperation in diverse areas including trade, energy and defence. In a meeting held on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organization’s Heads of State meeting in Samarkand, the two side also emphasized strengthening the links in the fields of education and people-to-people contacts. PM Sharif underlined the importance of unlocking the existing potential in the relationship by boosting bilateral engagement in the fields of trade, investment, agriculture, information technology and tourism. He expressed his gratitude to Azerbaijan for its support and solidarity with Pakistan as well as provision of generous financial assis-



tance for the flood affected people. He highlighted that the massive natural disaster caused by climate change called for urgent action by the international community to address this global threat. The prime minister said that Pakistan and Azerbaijan had exemplary relations, deeply embedded in common history, faith and culture. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s principled support to Azerbaijan on Nagorno-Karabakh and congratulated on the historic success in liberation of its occupied territories. The prime minister also expressed condolences on the recent martyrdom of 71 Azeri servicemen in an unprovoked attack by Armenia. He reiterated support for Azerbaijan’s right to self-defence in accordance with international law and in protection of its territorial integrity. Both leaders extended an invitation to each other for visits at an early date.