



Tuesday, September 20, 2022

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**Scholz to visit KSA
as Germany seeks
energy supplies**

Detailed News On Page-08

**Islamophobia
rise reaches
alarming level**

Detailed News On Page-08


**China slams
US' statement
on Taiwan**

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

**US pledges
\$2mn for
flood victims**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States has announced an additional \$2 million for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) flood response efforts in Pakistan. In a statement, US Ambassador Donald Blome said the humanitarian assistance will provide life-saving items to flood-affected Pakistanis in three provinces. "We are pleased to announce two million dollars in humanitarian assistance to support UNHCR's flood response, providing lifesaving items to flood-affected Pakistanis and Afghan refugees in three provinces and helping to rebuild communities," noted US Ambassador Donald Blome.

**PM's success
left Imran
'desperate'**

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League - N (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz on Monday lashed out at Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, saying that with the diplomacy success of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, he [Imran] feels desperate. Stating that PM Shehbaz has achieved success in diplomacy and respect from the world, the PML-N vice-president took to Twitter to take a dig at the PTI chairman, saying that the way he [Imran Khan] is giving irrational statements regarding PM Shehbaz, indicates how much he [PTI Chairman] feels desperate.

**Asif hints
at 'change'
in Punjab**

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Federal Defense Minister Khawaja Asif called on his party, the PML-N supreme Mian Nawaz Sharif in London on Monday. They discussed the current political and flood situation in the country. After the meeting, Khawaja Asif while talking to the media said there may be a change in Punjab in October. Khawaja Asif said they will make better decisions for the betterment of people as they have a vote bank.

FIR against Imran IHC directs to remove ATA clauses

The trial will continue under the remaining sections in the case

IRSHAD ALI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday ordered to remove the clauses of Anti Terrorism Act (ATA) from FIR against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan pertaining his remarks about woman judge and police high ups. A two-judge bench headed by Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by former prime minister Imran Khan challenging FIR against him. At the outset of hearing, Special Prosecutor Rizwan Abbasi said that section 186 had already been removed from the FIR. He said that the joint investigation team had opined that the ATA sections could be applied in this case. Chief Justice Athar Minallah observed that two cases of ATA were registered against Faisal Raza Abdi but he was acquitted. The Supreme Court had interpreted the anti terrorism law in detail, he said. The court noted that the police had not submitted its challan in compliance of its orders. Imran Khan's lawyer adopted the stance that his client had also talked about a legal action against IGP and DIG, adding that the complaint should have been filed by the affectees.

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**ECP reserves
verdict in
Toshakhana case**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Monday reserved its verdict in the Toshakhana reference against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan. A four-member ECP bench, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, heard the reference seeking disqualification of PTI Chairman Imran Khan from holding any public office for concealing the Toshakhana gifts he received from foreign dignitaries during his tenure as prime minister of Pakistan. Barrister Ali Zafar and Barrister Gohar represented Imran Khan, while Khalid Ishaq represented Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) MNA Mohsin Shahnawaz Ranjha. Khalid Ishaq argued that Imran Khan did not

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CPEC aims at bringing benefits to Pak, China



DNA

BEIJING: China's defence minister General Wei Fenghe on Monday had a meeting with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa where both sides discussed the progress related to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The army chief is on an official two-day visit to China during which he called on Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe. According to a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), during the meeting, the two sides agreed that the CEPC is aimed at bringing "more benefits and prosperity to the people of both countries." The defence minister said that China greatly values its time-tested relations with Pakistan and its army and looks forward

to further expanding this cooperation. He termed Pak-China military cooperation "an important pillar of bilateral relations." Expressing satisfaction over CPEC's progress, Gen Fenghe hoped for the timely completion of the project. He also thanked Gen Bajwa for taking special measures for the provision of a safe and secure environment for CPEC projects in Pakistan and efforts toward regional stability. While conveying grief over the devastation caused by the ongoing floods in Pakistan, the defence minister said that China was willing to provide technical assistance for flood relief efforts. He offered sincere condolences to the families of the victims and appreciated Pakistan Army's rescue and relief efforts in flood-affected areas. Meanwhile, the army chief thanked the defence minister for his sentiments for continued Chinese support toward Pakistan.



LONDON: The British Royal family during the final rituals of Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. – DNA

**PM Shehbaz
won't achieve
anything from
US visit: Imran**


OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHAKWAL: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan said on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wouldn't achieve anything from his US visit. Addressing a rally in Chakwal on Monday, he said that the floods have wreaked havoc in Sindh and Balochistan and flood water devastated the crops, while farmers couldn't sow crops due to water accumulated in the fields. Imran Khan said that despite being in government for the past 14 years, the PPP couldn't complete work on Right Bank Canal on river Sindh, adding that the thieves of Sindh have sent the funds of Right Bank Canal project to Dubai. Turning his guns towards PM Shehbaz Sharif, the PTI chairman said that insensitivity of Shabbaz Sharif can be witnessed that the one third of the country is swept by the floods and the premier has left for the US. The former PM went on to say that the economy was flourishing during his tenure when his government was overthrown through conspiracy. "They run a propaganda campaign against my government with the help of their paid media houses that the country's economy was sinking during my tenure," he said. Imran Khan said the power tariff has been increased three-fold since the PML-N-led government came to power earlier this year.

Britain bids adieu to Queen Elizabeth II

"People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer,"

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Britain said farewell to Queen Elizabeth II on Monday at a historic state funeral attended by world leaders, before a last ceremonial journey through London streets packed with sorrowful mourners. Huge crowds gathered to watch as the queen's flag-draped coffin, topped with the Imperial State Crown, her orb and sceptre, was carried slowly to a gun carriage from parliament's Westminster Hall where it had lain in state since Wednesday. To the tune of pipes and drums, the gun carriage – used at every state funeral since Queen Victoria's in 1901 – was then drawn by 142 junior enlisted sailors in the Royal Navy to Westminster Abbey. The thousand-year-old church's tenor bell tolled 96 times at one-minute intervals –

**PM attends funeral
of British Queen**

LONDON: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday joined world leaders and members of the royal family at the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, held at the Westminster Abbey. The prime minister especially flew in to attend the last rites and funeral of the Queen, who passed away on September 8 at the age of 96. Over 500 representatives from other countries, including United States President Joe Biden, China's Vice President Wang Qishan, Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, Jordan's King Abdullah, Belgium's King Philippe, and Queen Mathilde, and 2,000 royal family members attended

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US, Taliban govt carry out prisoner exchange

"We are happy that at Kabul International Airport, in the capital of Afghanistan, we witnessed the wonderful ceremony of one of our compatriots returning home"

KABUL: An American navy veteran detained in Afghanistan since 2020 was released by the Taliban on Monday in exchange for an ally who spent 17 years in a US jail for heroin smuggling, Afghanistan's foreign minister said. Mark Frerichs was working as a civil engineer on construction projects in Afghanistan when he was "taken hostage", Washington previously said. "After long negotiations, US citizen Mark Frerichs was handed over to an American delegation and that delegation handed over (Bashar Noorzai) to us today at Kabul airport," Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said at a press conference. "We are happy that at Kabul International Airport, in the capital of Afghanistan, we wit-

nessed the wonderful ceremony of one of our compatriots returning home." Noorzai was welcomed with a hero's fanfare by the government of the newly-styled Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA). Photos show he was greeted by masked Taliban soldiers bearing floral garlands. "If the IEA had not shown its strong determination, I would not have been here today," Noorzai told reporters at the press conference. "My release in exchange for an American will be a source of peace between Afghanistan and Americans." Noorzai is the second Afghan inmate released by the United States in recent months. In June, Assadullah Haroon was released after 15 years of detention in the United States' notori-

ous Guantanamo Bay prison. Haroon was accused of links to Al-Qaeda but languished without charge for years at the US detention centre in Cuba, after his arrest in 2006 whilst working as a honey trader. He was not released under the terms of a deal with the Taliban. Afghan security analyst Hekmatullah Hekmat said Noorzai's release was a "major achievement" for Kabul's new rulers. "The Taliban can tell their foot soldiers and Afghans that they are able to bring back their people held by opposition groups," he told AFP. Muttaqi said the homecoming of Noorzai marks the beginning of a "new chapter" in relations between Afghanistan and the United States. – APP

Trained Youth can boost the startup ecosystem

DNA

PESHAWAR: Training for youth emphasized on learning essential entrepreneurial knowledge and practical skills to be self-employed and contribute to the national economy. A hands-on skill development training for the students of Peshawar University was organized by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) Pakistan under institutional collaboration with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) of the University of Peshawar. The training titled "Startup and Digital Skills Training for Youth" was held for two days 16-17 September 2022 in Peshawar. About 25 students from different departments attended the training workshop including the Afghan students studying at the University of Peshawar.

The training workshop aimed to enable the youth to understand the potential of digital skill development and help shape their ideas into businesses and startups for self-employability and self-reliance after completing their education.

Prof. Dr. Babar Shah the director of IPCS welcomed the students and stressed learning new skills to curb unemployment and contribute to the national economy. Mr. Aamir Amjad, Senior Program Manager of FNF, appreciated the interest of the young students and said that digital skills can revolutionize the new business and that the participation of trained youth in the national economy can excel in economic growth. He encouraged the participants to acquire essential digital skills and tools and traits of new business ideas for self-reliance and income generation.

The two-day-long training was led by Mr. Kayanat Hameed Khan, who imparted knowledge to the participants about the startup ecosystem, team building, entrepreneurial procedures, essential online tools and practices for running a business, and digital marketing techniques. She also provided hands-on learning through interactive exercises and examples to deeply understand the local startup ecosystem and its legal and administrative requirements. In addition, she also explained how new skill sets such as digital marketing, content management, social media tools, and necessary business research can help increase the chances of success of new startups and improve self-employment among the youth. At the end of the training, Dr. Babar Shah and Mr. Aamir Amjad distributed the certificate of participation among the students.



ISLAMABAD: Shehbaz Gill calls on PTI Chairman Imran Khan, on Monday. – DNA

American businessmen should invest in textile industry

MULTAN: The American investors should tap Pakistan markets especially textile industry as lots of opportunities are available for them to invest.

"I have realized during my stay in Pakistan that there are great opportunities for American investors to invest here," American Consul General Lahore William K. Makaneole stated during a dinner hosted by known industrialist, Khawaja Jalauddin Roomi in his honour, said a press release issued here on Monday.

The US values its long-standing relationship with Pakistan and that is why whenever Pakistan faced any problem, America was the first to the rescue, he maintained. The current flood is a clear proof that the American government stood by Pakistan to fight this calamity since day one, he explained. If both countries expand the investment, the results will be much better for them, Mr Makaneole hoped.

Multan is a historical city and its citizens are not only hospitable, but their business vision is also very important," he noted.

America wants to improve education and health systems, end energy crisis and eradicate poverty from Pakistan," he said adding that his country has been working on various projects in Pakistan for a long time which is bearing fruit now.

"The Multanites are as sweet as their mangoes." The Consul General said and added that they have excellent skills in every field of life. In his welcome address Khawaja Jalauddin Romi, welcomed the American delegation.

He said that the eminent personalities from all walks of life attended the event. The friendship between Pakistan and America is based on sincerity, he said adding that both countries come to each other's aid when any problem arose. Although there have been ups and

downs in the relations between the two countries in the past, but the relationship of love has remained forever, Mr Roomi recalled.

The American government and the business community are more enthusiastic about the construction and development of Pakistan than before, he stated.

"The United States is a major business ally of Pakistan. That is why the business volume between US and Pakistan rose to 36 pc this year, former President MCCI disclosed.

He requested American government to reduce the duties on cotton so that the volume of trade between the two countries could increase further.

Former Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries Khawaja Jalauddin Roomi said that for the past several years every Pakistani government has been taking practical steps to empower women and include them in the stream of development. – APP



PTCL, PPAF collaborate to boost digital, financial inclusion of women

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) Group has entered into a strategic partnership with Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) to foster digital and economic inclusion of women entrepreneurs through training and access to digital and financial tools and opportunities for economic growth. Group Chief Commercial Officer (GCOO), PTCL Group, Adnan Anjum and Chief Operating Officer (COO), PPAF, Nadir Gul Barech signed the agreement at a ceremony held

here, said a news release. This public-private partnership project will enable and up-skill women entrepreneurs to drive their businesses towards sustainable growth and resiliency. The year-long, pilot project will be implemented across four union councils and ten villages in the Haripur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, under which one hundred women entrepreneurs will be trained. The partnering institutions will implement a two-week training module using a standardized high-impact curriculum, focusing on dig-

ital literacy, business skills, and life skills that will come in handy in driving fledgling and small-scale businesses towards success and sustainable growth.

PTCL will allocate a physical space which will serve as a digitally enabled Hub with access to basic facilities like Internet and training spaces as a central venue for the training sessions. In addition to this Ufone will be providing smartphones with registered SIMs and data packages for the one-year project to ensure their full participation. – APP

Training on digital skills for Youth held

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About 25 students from different departments attended the training workshop including the Afghan students studying at the University of Peshawar. The training workshop aimed to enable the youth to understand the potential of digital skill development and help shape their ideas into businesses and startups for self-employability and self-reliance after completing their education. Prof. Dr. Babar Shah, the director of IPCS welcomed the students and stressed learning new skills to curb unemployment and contribute to the national economy.

Aamir Amjad, Senior Program Manager of FNF, appreciated the interest of the young students and said that digital skills can revolutionize the new business and that the participation of trained youth in the national economy can excel in economic growth. – APP

Fasset partners with Pak PM's Youth Programme & JazzCash

ISLAMABAD: Fasset is partnering with Pakistan's Prime Minister's Office, as part of their Prime Minister's Youth Program (PMYP) to educate 1 million young people on blockchain based technologies, web3 and crypto. The partnership, in conjunction with JazzCash, the largest telco in the country with over 75 million customers, will work on the Skills for Future Agency agenda, bringing much needed education to the masses. The team of Fasset called on Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Youth Affairs, Shaza Khwaja in this regard in which the partnership was agreed upon. Ms Shaza Khwaja said on this occasion "For

years, the Government of Pakistan has been working tirelessly on skill development for youth across the country, but I believe the private sector holds great opportunities for young people when it comes to preparing for the future. It is the Prime Minister's vision to work on areas with great economic impact - like digital skills for the future. This forms the basis of PMYP's partnership with Fasset. I hope our youth utilize this opportunity to learn from qualified industry practitioners & the world of opportunities that unfold."

Mohammad Raafi Hossain, CEO Fasset shared, "Pakistan is amongst the top 3 Web3 adopting nations in the world. In addition to that, Pakistan is home to some of the world's best and brightest developers, researchers and scientists when it comes to tokenization, digital assets and blockchain technology. In tandem with PMYP, Fasset hopes to build awareness and educate the next generation of web3 adopters on safe, responsible and innovative development and adoption of the future of this game-changing space. – APP

UTRWS stages protest against dist. government

PESHAWAR: Members of University Town Resident Welfare Society (UTRWS) staged a protest here on Monday against the September 18 action taken by the district administration and demanded provincial government to withdraw the decision and reopen educational institutions and other business centers. The members of UTRWS who staged a protest demonstration camp on main University Road were included Dr. Nawaz Khan Shagla, HOPE officials Aqeel Razzak, Salman NCS, Sadia Bilour, cafe crunch Syed Mehr Ali Shah, Bloomfield hall Awais Bilal, Khalid Ayub Nazia Shahzad, Bushra Haider, Dr. Tajamal, Dr. Tayyaba, Najjullah Khattak, and Dr. Inamullah Gandapur, among many affected people partici-

pated. Awami National Party leader Sardar Hussain Babak also visited the protestor's camp. The participants of the protest were holding placards inscribing slogans in favour of their rights.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Nawaz Khan said that district government's decisions caused massive frustration amongst school children, general public and other stakeholders on closure of standard business concerns that affected their routine lives. He demanded Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan and Chief Secretary KP to probe the action in the best interest of business community and to identify those responsible for causing chaos in their businesses. – DNA



QUETTA: Turkish humanitarian aid carried Goodness Train was welcomed in Quetta by Ambassador Dr. Mehmet Pacaci, Dep. speaker of Balochistan Mr. Jan Jamali, the representatives of AFAD, Turkish Red Crescent and NDMA. – DNA

PHC extends suspension of KP govt's notification

D.I.KHAN: A Peshawar High Court, Dera Ismail Khan bench, on Monday maintained its earlier order regarding suspension of a notification issued by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government which had enabled individuals to approach the competent forums for the registration of criminal cases against Pakistan Democratic Movement leaders.

A division bench of Justice Muhammad Faheem Khan Wali and Justice Shahid Khan while accepting a civil miscellaneous plea of Ahmed Kundi, brother of former speaker of National Assembly Faisal Kareem Kundi further suspended the already impugned notification. The bench in its order observed that the same notification was already suspended by this court on August 26 in the pending writ petition, so no new position could be taken and the same would remain suspended till next date of hearing. The court further issued a notice to the advocate general, present in the court, to submit comments of the respondent secretary administration department KPK, within fortnight. – APP

NADRA asked to develop database of flood-affectees

The chairman of NADRA told the chief minister that they have started stationing their mobile units in the areas where their [NADRA] offices have collapsed and stopped functioning

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in his meeting with Chairman of NADRA Tariq Malik urged him to develop a database and system for his government so that the distribution of relief goods and transfer of cash to the affected people could be made transparent. "We want distribution of relief goods in such a smooth and transparent way so that each and every affected family can benefit." The meeting held at CM House was attended by Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Secretary to CM Rahim Shaikh, and Col Anees of NADRA. The chief minister said that the heavy rains/floods have displaced around 1.5 million

people and collapsed three million houses. "Presently over 600,000 people are living in camps and a similar number of affectees have temporarily settled along the main roads and highways," he said. Mr. Shah said that the provincial and federal governments, friendly countries, and donor agencies were supporting us to provide relief goods to the affected people. "I want you (NADRA) to develop a database of the affected people on a union council basis with the provision of making entry of providing relief goods being provided to them so that it can be verified," he said and added there must be digital details of the recipient and

donor/administration giving them goods. Chairman of NADRA Tariq Malik told the chief minister that his organization would develop the best database so that donations could reach the deserving people, and it could be checked. The chairman of NADRA told the chief minister that they have started stationing their mobile units in the areas where their [NADRA] offices have collapsed and stopped functioning. At this, the CM urged him to give priority to the people whose CNICs have expired. The chief minister was told that all the expired CNICs have been validated up to December 31, 2022. "It means all the

expired CNICs are valid till the end of December 2022," he said. The matter of cash transfer to the flood-affected people also came under discussion and NADRA chief suggested that the affected people would be given a facility to open their bank accounts only on their CNIC. "These accounts can be opened in mobile bank units to be stationed at relief camps/affected villages by partner banks," he suggested. The chief minister directed Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput to further discuss with the Chairman of NADRA and get a system/database evolved so that distribution of relief goods could be made properly. – APP

کیپٹل ڈویلپمنٹ اتھارٹی
(ڈائریکٹوریٹ آف اسٹیٹ میجمنٹ-1)

پارک انکلیو فیز تھری کے الاٹیز کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ وہ الاٹیز جو تاحال اپنے پلاٹس کے بقایا جات / واجبات کی ادائیگی سے قاصر رہے ہیں ان کو سی ڈی اے بذریعہ خطوط آگاہی دے چکا ہے اور یہ خطوط متعلقہ الاٹیز کو سی ڈی اے ریکارڈ کے مطابق ان کے مستقل پتہ پر بھیجے جا چکے ہیں۔ لہذا بذریعہ اشتہار ہذا ایسے تمام الاٹیز کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے اپنے پلاٹ کے تمام واجبات / بقایا جات کی ادائیگی 30 ستمبر 2022ء تک سی ڈی اے میں جمع کروائیں۔ بروقت ادائیگی نہ ہونے کی صورت میں پلاٹ کی الاٹمنٹ کی منسوخی کا عمل شروع کر دیا جائے گا۔

الطاف مہیسر
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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

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Shifa International.4603666

Departments

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CDA.....9208301-04

Met Office.....9250360-6

RDA.....5555864

TMA.....5770886

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224

Potohar Town.....9209224

RawalTown.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5474480

US, Pakistan partner to launch vaccination campaign

United States also provided four mobile testing labs to Pakistan's National Institute of Health to strengthen Pakistan's ability to diagnose diseases

ISLAMABAD: Today, U.S. government representatives and Government of Pakistan health officials visited a vaccination center in Islamabad to launch a nationwide campaign to vaccinate children with the first batch of 8 million Pfizer COVID-19 pediatric vaccine doses donated by the United States. Since the start of the pandemic, the United States has committed to donate more than 78 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to the people of Pakistan, and thus far more than 70 million of these doses have arrived in-country. The United States is the largest donor of COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan. The U.S. government, through USAID, is supporting the Government of Pakistan's COVID-19 pediatric vaccination campaign for 5- to 11-year-old children. U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome joined the Federal

Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel, to kick off the life-saving campaign today at the Mass Vaccination Center in Islamabad. The campaign is taking place in the capital and selected districts of Sindh and Punjab provinces. Executive Director of NIH Major General Dr. Aamer Ikram, Director of General Health Services Dr. Shabana Salem, and other senior Pakistani government officials also attended the event. Addressing health officials at the inauguration campaign, Ambassador Blome remarked, "Today, we celebrate the next step in protecting all Pakistanis against this devastating disease by launching the pediatric vaccination campaign. Our recent collaboration to protect the children of Pakistan demonstrates the importance of our long-standing partnership to work together and

overcome the global challenge." The Federal Health Minister, Mr. Abdul Qadir Patel, praised the commitment of both countries to combat COVID-19 in Pakistan and said, "Protecting our communities from COVID-19 is a shared priority of both of our governments, and these vaccines will keep millions of children safe from the most devastating impacts of the pandemic." He expressed gratitude for the U.S. government's support to improve health services in Pakistan and noted that it reflects the strong bilateral relations between the two countries. In addition to the vaccines, the U.S. government has also provided over \$80 million in direct and in-kind support to assist the Pakistani people in the fight against COVID-19. This support has included more than 1.2 million N95 masks, 96,000 surgical masks,

52,000 protective goggles, one million COVID-19 rapid diagnostic tests, 1,200 pulse oximeters, and 200 ventilators for 64 Pakistani hospitals – all of which has helped save lives and protect people across Pakistan. The U.S. government also trained over 50,000 health workers, including 30,000 women, across Pakistan on home-based care for COVID-19 patients and established a national network of disease surveillance and response units and teams – providing an infrastructure to combat the current pandemic and building resiliency for the future. In July, the United States also provided four mobile testing labs to Pakistan's National Institute of Health to strengthen Pakistan's ability to diagnose diseases in remote, underserved areas.—DNA

Ahsan urges collective efforts for rehabilitation

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Monday reassured that the government with the collective efforts of all provincial governments will leave no stone unturned to bring normalcy back in the lives of flood victims. "It is high time that every political party should work jointly to provide immediate relief to those who have suffered on account of incessant rains and floods in the country by setting political differences aside," he said while talking to PTV news channel. He called upon all governments institutions and national as well as international NGOs to help flood affectees by providing them shelter, mosquito nets, food and medical facilities. Dealing with the water-borne diseases is yet another big challenge and the provincial governments are required to play their active role in this regard, he stressed. "The federal government will ensure completion of the rehabilitation process of all flood-affectees," he added. He also lauded the NDMA, Army and the ministers concerned for their efforts to ensure early relief and rehabilitation of the affected people.

ANF recovers over 252 kg charras; arrests four

RAWALPINDI: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a raid managed to recover over 252 kg charras and arrested four accused. According to an ANF Headquarters spokesman, ANF in an operation conducted a raid on main Korangi Road Karachi and recovered 252 kg charras tactfully concealed in secret cavities of three cars. The ANF team also arrested four accused during the operation. He said that a case has been registered against the accused.

India continuously violating int'l laws

ISLAMABAD: India is continuously violating all international laws and conventions in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and is using black laws like Public Safety Act (PSA) and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) to arrest innocent Kashmiris. According to Kashmir Media Service, the Modi-led fascist Indian government revoked Kashmir's special status in flagrant violation of international laws in August 2019 and is settling non-Kashmiris in the territory against United Nations resolutions, said a report. It said as part of snatching the Kashmiris' identity, India is granting domicile status to non-locals on a fast-track basis, adding the RSS-backed BJP regime is plotting to deprive Kashmiris of their identity. People are even deprived of basic human rights in IIOJK, it added. —APP

Nine drug peddlers held

RAWALPINDI: The police in an action against suspected drug peddlers on Monday arrested Nine drug peddlers and recovered over five kg charras from their possession. A police spokesperson said that Rattaamral police held Khurram Shehzad for having 1200 grams charras while Pirwadhai police netted Bismaullah Jan and recovered 1310 grams charras. In another raid, Rawat police rounded up Adil Hussain for possessing 1340 grams charras. He informed the district police arrested total nine drug peddlers from different areas and seized 5250 grams charras from their possession. The spokesperson said that separate cases had been registered against all suspects while further investigations were underway. Divisional Superintendents of Police directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations and drug peddlers and bootleggers, he added.—APP

Excise starts vehicles' physical inspection via digital App

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Excise and Taxation Department Monday started physical inspection of vehicles through a mobile 'App' being brought to the office for registration or transferred purpose. The initiative was aimed at ensuring physical presence of the vehicle at the time of inspection to eliminate misappropriation, Director Excise Bialal Azam told APP. The excise officer on examination, he said would take a photo of the vehicles' chassis number and send the same to the integrated system via using digital 'App' to confirm the physical inspection on the other side. The director has appealed the citizens to extend cooperation with the excise teams by ensuring their vehicles' presence at the time of inspection. Since 2019, he said inspection and biometric verification was made mandatory for registering a new vehicle, or transfer. Divulging details of the vehicles' registration and transfer process, he said once an applicant visited the office, he was issued a Form F and Fee challan after inspection of documents including biometric receipt.[The form would have details of the owner and the car]. After the payment of Fee challan at National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) booth or through City Islamabad App the applicant was required to submit the documents at the designated window.The excise official re-examine the documents and issue a registration number (Number Plates is issued for New Number) amid vehicle examination physically via digital App. This rule was applicable to all locally made cars, imported cars and auctioned cars too.The designated inspector would validate the vehicle's information and award it a fitness certificate valid till a certain date. Later after reconfirmation of vehicles' physical inspection through excise system the further process is initiated for printing of card in National and Database Registration Authority (NADRA). The applicant is issued smart card on showing original registration receipt after 10 days of the documents' submission. It is pertinent to mentioned that in Islamabad, the registration of a vehicle consists of the registration fee, advance tax, token tax, income tax and, if the vehicle in question is a commercial one, then professional tax as well. —APP

Food commodities worth \$725.024 mln exported in 2 months

ISLAMABAD: Different food commodities worth \$725.024 million exported from the country during first two months of current financial year (2022-23), where as food items costing \$1.783 billion imported as well to tackle with the domestic requirements. Food group exports from the country during first two months of current financial year grew by 9.70 % as compared the exports of the corresponding period of last year as different food commodities worth \$725.24 million exported from the country during the period from July-August, 2022 as against the exports of \$660.345 million of same period last year. In last two months the exports of commodities which recorded positive growth included rice 0.73%,

fish and fish preparations 52.07%, vegetables 53.12%, pulses 100% and exports of tobacco grew by 97.36% respectively. The commodities that witnessed negative growth in their respective exports including Basmati rice 14.61%, fruits 27.97%, spices 14.03 %, oil seeds and nuts decreased by 40.37%, according the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. On month on month basis, food group exports from the country during August, 2022 witnessed about 13.13% growth as compared the same month of last year.In August, 2022, different food commodities valuing \$366.945 million exported as compared the exports of \$324.349 of same month of last year. Meanwhile, during the period under review, imports of food commodities into the country during first two

months of current financial year witnessed about 21.04% increase as compared the same period of last year and country spent an amount of \$1.783 billion on the import of food products as against the imports of \$1.473 million of same period of last year. The commodities which recorded increase in their respective imports included wheat 1,787.31%, soya bean oil159.33%, palm oil 24.14% and pulses by 5.97 % , the imports of dry fruits decreased by 17.56%, tea 10.86% spices 46.48% and imports of sugar into the country by 97.90 %. During the month of August, 2022 food imports into the country grew by 23.52% and was recorded at \$1.020 billion as compared the imports of 826.018 million of same period last year.—APP

Evacuation warnings after typhoon makes landfall in Japan

IZUMI: Millions of people in Japan were under evacuation warnings on Monday as Typhoon Nanmadol brought strong winds and heavy rain to the southwest of the country after making landfall overnight. The powerful system has weakened since arriving on land Sunday evening around Kagoshima city in the southwestern region of Kyushu, but it has still uprooted trees, smashed windows and left rivers close to overflowing. National broadcaster NHK said one person had been killed and 50 others injured as the storm passed through Kyushu. There was no immediate confirmation of the figures from authorities. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who had been scheduled to leave Monday for the United Nations General Assembly, will delay his trip by a day to check on damage from the storm, his office con-

firmed. Officials from the Japan Meteorological Agency warned that in Miyazaki prefecture, where some areas saw more rainfall in 24 hours than they normally receive in all of September, river levels were high. "Even a tiny amount of additional rainfall could cause the water level to increase, so please remain vigilant about flooding and landslides," Yoshiyuki Toyoguchi from the land ministry told reporters. Still, given the intensity of the storm, which came ashore packing gusts of up to 234 kilometres (145 miles) an hour, damage appeared relatively limited so far."The typhoon has all but disappeared today and the rain and wind are also subsiding now," an official in charge of crisis management in Miyazaki's Saito city told AFP. "But power is out in some places... we're also hearing from many residents that electrical wires have been

severed and trees have been toppled," he said, declining to be named. "Flooding is affecting some areas as well," he added, saying that officials "believe there are still many details of the damage we're yet to grasp". Rare "special warnings" for Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, issued only when weather events seen every few decades are forecast, have been downgraded. But evacuation warnings of various levels remained in place for 9.6 million people on the last day of a holiday weekend in Japan. The warnings are not mandatory, and authorities have at times struggled to convince residents to leave their homes during extreme weather events. In the town of Izumi in Kagoshima prefecture, 30-year-old Yasuta Yamaguchi spent the night in a local hotel to shelter from the storm.—APP

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Briefs

ANF DG reviews operational activities

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Director General (DG) Major General Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik on Monday visited the Pak-Afghan border, Torkham to review ANF deployment and its operational activities at the border.

According to a tweet on ANF's Twitter handle, the DG also interacted with officers and troops of FC (North) deployed on the border.

The DG visited various areas of the Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar, including general checking, cargo, and body scanning, and interacted with ANF staff on duty.

He also visited the ANF Regional Directorate Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and was briefed in detail regarding its organization, functioning and administrative aspects.—APP

President condoles with bereaved families

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday held telephonic conversation separately with the bereaved families of Jawans who embraced shahadat during an exchange of firing with the terrorists from Afghanistan border.

He prayed for the high ranks of Shuhada and for the bereaved families to bear the loss with equanimity, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

The president also paid tributes to the martyred Jawans who laid down their lives for the protection of motherland.

He talked to father of Shaheed Naek Mowiz Khan, brother of Shaheed Naek Muhammad Rehman and brother of Shaheed Sepoy Irfan. Brother of Shaheed Muhammad Rehman told the president that he was also serving in the armed forces and it was his desire to embrace shahadat.—APP

Five held for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested five illegal arm holders and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession during crackdown, informed police spokesman.

During course of action, Sadiqabad police arrested two arm holders Mujahid and Tahir Pervez and recovered two pistols of 30 bore from their possession.

Similarly, Civil Lines police recovered one pistol of 30 bore from Noman Ejaz. While, Taxila police recovered one pistol of 30 bore from Ali Rehman.

Following the operation, Kalar Syedan police held Tasheen and recovered recovered one pistol of 30 bore from his custody.

Police have registered separate cases against all the accused and further investigation was in progress.

City Police Officer CPO Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari appreciated the performance of police teams adding that operation would continue against those carrying illegal arms and weapons.—APP

IRSA releases 185,000 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Monday released 185,000 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 185,800 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, Tarbela Dam has already attained its maximum capacity level of 1550 feet and was 152 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 103,900 cusecs and 103,100 cusecs respectively. The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1193.00 feet, which was 143.00 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.—APP

Pak should have good ties with Ukraine & Russia

National conference was organised by Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution where the Founder and Executive Director IICR Sabah moderated the session



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Experts at the National Conference on "Russia-Ukraine Crisis and Regional Security Apparatus" on Monday said Pakistan should have relations of solidarity and cordiality with both Ukraine and Russia despite the ongoing conflict to ensure neutrality during the ongoing war. The national conference was organised by Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) where the Founder and Executive Director IICR Sabah Hassan moderated the session.

Senior Defence Analyst and Political Scientist, Dr Rifaat Hussain said Ukraine was a large country in the middle of eastern Europe with a history of its borders changing hands several times whenever it were contested. However, the country had developed its independent culture, national posture and identity over the time.

He added that the conflict between Ukraine and Russia occurred mainly due to the reason that the Russians were apprehensive to the European extension of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Dr Hussain mentioned that meanwhile Russia and China after the peaceful rise of the latter in the first decade of 21st century had unanimously agreed to promote multilateralism and non-hegemonic world order.

"The Chinese believe that they are ready to support Russians and Ukraine in multipolar world order." The Chinese, he said had not provided any military support to Russians to carry out its war and could not commit themselves in an unqualified way. However, China was pursuing the policy on Ukraine that served its own purpose.

The Defence Analyst believed that Beijing could not undermine the importance of Moscow and both were working together to make a non-hegemonic world order to promote multipolar world order. "The Chinese are blaming US and larger western world as the center of disturbance and not Russia in the ongoing conflict."

Head of Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Bahria University, Prof Dr Azhar Ahmad said the Ukraine-Russia War was not the first and only conflict in the world.

However, the geopolitical and economic size of the conflict was very large and perhaps was the proxy war of West against Russia.

"It will play an important role in global transition of power from the west to east. According to the UN, the Ukraine-Russia War had resulted into massive loss of human lives. The trade in food and energy sectors are facing the most impact of this war. Ukraine and Russia are the seventh largest suppliers of wheat, barley, maize and natural resources. Ukraine and Russia are also considered to be the food basket of the world." "Ukraine and Russia are key suppliers

of many raw materials and disruption in these supplies will cause many issues."

"The inflation is soaring in Russia and it's economy might shrink to 15% and rely more on China in future to ensure economic supply chains."

He mentioned that Pakistan had developed moderate economic relations with Ukraine.

"The war also resulted in increased prices of LNG and there will be more power outages ahead as Pakistan's fossil fuels purchases have come to a halt. Pakistan was importing steel from Ukraine that was halted and had impacted the country's construction sector."

The Ukraine crisis posed many challenges but it provided an opportunity to Pakistan to realign its geopolitical goals and strategies as the conflict in the long run might lead to the reversal of globalisation casting huge impacts on countries like Pakistan. Chairperson Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Department of Defence and Strategic Studies (DSS), Dr Shabana Fayyaz said power politics was the game of global political politics where the Ukraine-Russia war was nothing new rather a continuity of history.

underlined that in case of reversal of globalisation, the global south and countries like Pakistan would be the victims. "The conflicts have deep impacts on the masses as people suffer the most during conflicts and human security needs to be considered in conflicts."

Referring to the African proverb, she said, "when two elephants fight the one that suffers most is the grass and in Ukraine and

Russia conflict people are the most impacted".

Dr Fayyaz added that the Russians had conceived the larger NATO expansion post-Cold war as a threat to its existence whereas the US was adding more fuel to the conflict of Ukraine.

"Ukraine has the largest border and supply chains with Russia and the conflict is happening in the core region of the world that might transform the European Security Order and potentially may lead to a third world war (WWIII)."

The DSS expert claimed that the western responses were merely restricted to economic sanctions, economic and military assistance to Ukraine, diplomatic isolation of Russia, and enhanced NATO movement in the region along Ukraine.

International Law Expert, Nasir Qadri said that the NATO was initially against Russia and at the moment the vision was the same. Before Ukraine Crisis, there were NATO expansion programme in Ukraine under way that led to the invasion which was also forewarned by Russian President Putin after mobilisation of his troops to Ukrainian borders prior to intervention into Ukraine.

Dr Rifaat Hussain delivered the vote of thanks and said despite the western media's propaganda President Putin would hold influence in the region as neither Putin nor Russian forces will back off. However, the conflict would remain but Pakistan should have relations of solidarity and cordiality with both Ukraine and Russia.

President advises youth to adopt intellectual changes

SAIFULLAH ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has advised the youth parliamentary leaders to bring intellectual change, adopt new emerging technologies and remain abreast with the fast-paced innovations and inventions being perpetually made on the technological front to lead the country towards progress and prosperity. The President gave these remarks during his meeting with members of the Youth Parliament, at Aiiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad, today.

The President said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah accorded high value to the youth of the country who in one of his addresses said, "Pakistan is proud of her youth, particularly the students who are nation builders of tomorrow. They must fully equip themselves with discipline, education and training for the arduous task lying ahead of them". He said that while acting upon the advice of the Quaid, the youth of the country are duty bound to learn the latest techniques and skills in all sectors and embrace the changes taking place at the intellectual level, in the creation of new knowledge and in critical technologies to lead the country on the path of development and prosperity.

He said that the youth had the required time, energy, patience and dynamism to provide leadership to the people of Pakistan towards improving the economy, trade and democratic values in the country. The President said that our Constitution provided a framework for the unity of purpose for all of us and this unity should be reflected in all aspects of national life. He said that all political parties desired unity in our ranks and were committed to the progress and

prosperity of the country in accordance with their respective manifestoes. He added that consultation, democracy and passion coupled with hard work were essential for dealing with issues and challenges faced by the country including the gigantic task of rehabilitation of over 33 million flood victims. The President said that there was a need to further activate the Boys & Girls, Red Crescent and other institutions to build skills and expertise in the youth to help the nation in time of need. He also urged the young leaders to develop the habit of blood donation to enable the health system to store the blood and provide it whenever required to save the lives of the patients. He emphasized the need for young leaders to motivate and encourage the women who made up over 50% of our population to enter into the active economic stream and help them to fully utilize the schemes and incentives announced by the Government for uplifting women and youth of the country. He advised the members of the Youth Parliament to master the CPR and First Aid techniques and impart this knowledge to their friends and relatives and fellow students to provide first aid to the victims of accidents as well as manmade and natural calamities. Earlier, Mr Rizwan Jaffar, Founder and Chairman of the Youth Parliament, briefed about the functioning of the Youth Parliament and said that the Youth Parliament was representing the youth leaders from all parts of Pakistan. He said that all members of the Youth Parliament were helping in the collection of donations and providing relief and rescue to the flood victims in the flood-hit areas in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders, administration and other organizations.

Pakistan's Floods; death toll touches 1,545: NDMA

ISLAMABAD: The total death toll due to devastating monsoon floods across the country on Monday was reported as 1,545 amid property losses whereas no one perished in the past 24 hours. Moreover, 12,860 individuals were reported injured since the onset of the rainy season.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued a 24-hour situation report released on routine basis that accounted overall life, property and infrastructure losses due to the heavy rains which lashed out various parts of the country. The water inundation in many areas due to heavy rains and flash floods caused damage to 14,384 houses and killed 15,910 livestock animals in the flood-hit areas including 3,714 fully damaged and 10,670 got partially damaged during rains. However the cumulative damages so far stated that almost 12,716 km road, 374 bridges and 19,58,362 houses got damaged and 959,819 livestock animals got killed due to the heavy rains in various districts of all the provinces including that of Gilgit Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The NDMA report highlighted that 81 districts across the country were notified as calamity hit areas with some 33,046,329 people affected, 179,281 individuals rescued in various rescue operations and 546,288 people inhabited in camps. The joint surveys for damage assessment were started in 30 districts of Balochistan and some 32 teams were deployed for the survey that was likely to be completed by September 25. In GB, six teams were deployed in the region that started the survey from September 12 and was expected to complete by September 20. In Punjab, three survey teams were deployed in the field that initiated the survey from September 12 and was expected to complete by September 30. In KP, some six teams were on the ground to initiate the survey that commenced on September 15 and would be completed by October 15.—APP

PAF bases, commands continue operations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Bases and Regional Commands were actively participating in relief and rehabilitation operations on the special instructions of Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu. The PAF personnel were working day and night for provision of basic necessities of food, shelter, drinking water and medical assistance to the flood victims, a PAF news release said. The PAF Emergency Response Teams were also assisting civil administration in rehabilitation and provision of medical services specifically in Dengue fever protection campaign in the flood affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Sindh, Baluchistan and South Punjab.

Pakistan Air Force has provided 4,853 Tents, 416,221 Food packages, 3,203.67 tonnes of ration, 242,824 liter fresh water, for the flood affectees. Moreover, PAF has established 45 Medical Camps where 58,353 patients have been treated so far.

Some 20 tent cities accommodating 19,807 people and 54 relief camps have also been established. The PAF also carried out 257 sorties and evacuated 1,521 people from the flood affected areas.—APP

PSX loses 158 points

ISLAMABAD :The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 158.90 points, a negative change of 0.38 percent, closing at 41,520.59 against 41,679.49 points on the last working day.

A total of 148,214,458 shares were traded during the day compared to 219,351,317 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.7,519 billion against Rs.8,892 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 331 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 93 of them recorded gain and 215 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies remained unchanged.

The three top trading companies were TRG Pak Ltd with 24,721,049 shares at Rs.118.34 per share, TLP Properties with 11,399,964 shares at Rs.19.61 per share and Hascol Petrol with 10,783,000 shares at Rs.6.80 per share.

Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum increase of Rs.69.82 per share price, closing at Rs.1,000.82 whereas the runner up was Pak Tobacco with Rs.55.72 rise in per share price to Rs.798.73.—APP

Police established complaint cell to facilitate overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have established a complaint cell here at Central Police Office for Overseas Pakistanis to facilitate them and ensure speedy action on their complaints.

The cell would be headed by Superintendent of Police (SP) Faryal Farid and to functional 24/7 to facilitate the overseas Pakistanis. According to police spokesman, Overseas Pakistanis may lodge complaint through email (opc@islamabadpolice.gov.pk) or through telephone number 051-9259022 or fax number 051-9259390. The complaints regarding non-cognizable nature, he said, would be entertained within 24 hours, whereas in case of cognizable offence, the cases would be marked to the officer concerned to report over the matter. A standard operating procedure (SOP) was also issued to handle/address the complaints. Similarly, the police also intended to set up an online complaint portal, enabling Pakistanis to register their complaints while staying at their host countries.

The Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir Khan took the initiative, following Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah's directions to provide speedy justice to the Pakistanis expats by resolving their complaints on immediate basis and on merit.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliqy called on Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani, on Monday. DNA

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Looming threat of diseases

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed its concern about an impending 'second disaster' of water-borne diseases waiting to spread in the country, particularly in the flood-hit regions of Sindh.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus issued a statement late on Saturday on Twitter and called for donations to "save lives and prevent more suffering" as a potential "wave of diseases and deaths" awaited the country already trying to grapple with the destruction caused by the calamity.

The chief of the international public health body further highlighted how the consumption of contaminated water in flood-hit areas was leading to a surge in diseases including cholera, malaria, dengue and diarrhoea. "Health centres have been flooded, their supplies damaged, and people have moved away from home, which makes it harder for them to access their normal health services," he wrote.

"All this means more unsafe births, more untreated diabetes or heart disease, and more children missing vaccination, to name but a few of the impacts on health," he added.

Ghebreyesus pointed out that swift action against the impending disaster could significantly reduce the risk.

"Health workers in Pakistan are stretched to the limit as they do all they can to deliver critical services amid the destruction," he said, adding that the WHO would be setting up health facilities and medical camps nationwide. "Nearly 2,000 health facilities have been fully or partially damaged," he added. He said the WHO had provided water purification kits and oral rehydration salts to manage diarrhoeal diseases. Furthermore, he stated that the organisation would also be increasing the surveillance of diseases in the region to prevent outbreaks. Pakistan desperately needs help after its worst floods in years, and it needs it fast. If the country doesn't get debt relief, she added, the economy risks "tanking". Catastrophic rain linked to climate change has submerged large parts of the country, killing nearly 1,500 people and affecting roughly 33 million people. Homes, roads, railways, crops, livestock and livelihoods have been washed away in the extreme weather event. With agriculture making up nearly a quarter of Pakistan's economy, officials now say the unprecedented floods may have cost up to \$40bn (£35bn). Across the country, an estimated 800,000 cattle - a key source of income for rural families - have been lost in the floods. Farmers who have not had their crops and livestock washed away are now reportedly running low on feed for their cattle. There will likely be more pain ahead with a food crisis looming.



US should call time on absurd sanctions

The disappointment some anonymous senior United States officials have recently expressed to media outlets in the country over the fact that the sanctions imposed against Russia have not had as big an impact on the Russian economy as they hoped is in sharp contrast with the blind optimism Washington displayed when imposing the sanctions.

Indeed, although the Russian economy contracted about 4 percent between April and June, the most difficult period for it, when the sanctions started taking effect, that was much less than the 15 percent some US politicians had predicted.

The soaring energy prices, which were a predictable consequence of the sanctions, have directly boosted Russia's revenue from selling coal, oil and gas – and it is worth noting that even the US is still buying Russian oil through various channels, since as long as it is refined in a third-party country it is no longer considered to be Russian oil.

Not to mention how much European countries are suffering as a result of the reduced supply of natural gas from Russia, and that other US allies, such as India, have not been willing to bet their relations with Russia on the US' proxy war against it in Ukraine, so that instead of reducing their trade with Russia they have chosen to increase it dramatically.

The financial sanctions that Washington declared in a high profile manner have also had a limited effect as Russia and more and more of its major trade partners are using their own currencies to settle their accounts in international transactions, an existing trend that has been accelerated by Washington's sanctions. The sizable trade and cooperation deals signed between Russia and other countries at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok early this month and the expanded trade and economic cooperation among countries attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, last week, are not because of loopholes in the sanctions but because of Russia's indispensable role in the world economy and trade system, and emerging and developing economies' common demand for post-pandemic recovery through coordinated actions.

Thus the US-led sanctions against Russia, instead of choking Moscow's economy in a short time as anticipated, have increasingly enmeshed the US and its allies, particularly the latter, in a web of their own spinning.

With the Ukraine crisis dragging on, it is time for the world to weigh the gains and losses from the US' sanctions regime, which does not have the authorization of the United Nations and generates global spill-over effects that only the US is the beneficiary of.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization; an opportunity to Bolster Eurasian convergence

Hossein Amir Abdollahian



The total value of economic transactions among the SCO Member States is around 20 trillion dollars, which has increased 13 times compared to the period it was first established

In today's world, East and West have lost their traditional implications and, in a way, have been replaced by regionalism or even continentalism. Hegemonic control and unilateralism are waning and the international community's transition towards a multipolar world and the redistribution of power in favor of independent countries are becoming inevitable trends.

In such a situation, maintaining peace and strengthening

stability in our continent, Asia, is not only a choice, but a necessity. In fact, Shanghai Cooperation Organization could be considered as one of the most successful examples of regional alliances. This organization is formed by a group of like-minded countries that seek to maintain order and the new Asian identity without interference of extra-regional powers. As the world's largest regional organization, the SCO plays an outstanding role in covering more than 40 percent of the world's population, and generating about 25 percent of global GDP. The total value of economic transactions among the SCO Member States is around 20 trillion dollars, which has increased 13 times compared to the period it was first established. Since the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes dialogue, negotiation and diplomacy and rejects unilateral approaches in its relations with other countries in view of compliance with the basic principles of international law such as mutual respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, Tehran prioritized, as an important foreign policy objective, joining the SCO. This was realized in the first year of the presidency of Dr. Raisi when Iran became a full member of the SCO. In this respect, approval of Iran's membership to the SCO during President Raisi's visit to Dushanbe, Tajikistan, by SCO Heads of State Council in September 2021, was a diplomatic triumph which proves our dedication in pursuing a "balanced, smart, active and dynamic" foreign policy approach and the idea of "Asian multilateralism". This achievement also marks a milestone in the development of our cooperation with the SCO Member States in all bilateral, regional and international dimensions. It is time for the SCO Member States to furnish a promising future for the region's nations by taking advantage of the huge capacity and opportunities of multilateral cooperation. These capabilities could strengthen and fortify the organization and its members against the political, security, economic, commercial and cultural challenges. Investment facilitation and expansion of economic cooperation and mutual trade which lead to sustainable development and stable security in the region, would not be feasible without providing security prerequisites.

Therefore, in order to achieve this goal, security threats and challenges in the region, such as the critical situation in Afghanistan, should be quickly brought to the attention of the neighbors and Member States of SCO. The considerable economic capacities and comparative advantage in each and every Member States of the organization grabbed the attention of the international community and provided remarkable opportunities for strategic partnership and extensive interaction among the members. Among the valuable spheres of strategic cooperation between Iran and the SCO could be connectivity in the light of geographical advantages of Iran in proximity of two important bodies of water, i.e. the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf which enable Member and Observer States of the SCO to connect to the global supply chain and transfer and transit of goods and energy to other parts of the world through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As the potential hub of the Eurasian transit and transport corridors and connectivity of the region's infrastructure projects, the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a vital role in bolstering North-South Corridor and linking Central Asia and Russia to the subcontinent. Iran located en route one of the most important and efficient corridors of the "Belt and Road Initiative", namely the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor can bridge East to West Eurasia. Throughout the past years, this route has been activated in the form of rail-road or combined transport. The Islamic Republic of Iran in the character of a responsible member in the region and across the international community enjoys numerous capacities and capabilities in terms of regional cooperation such as sustainable security and stability, rich energy resources, unique tourist attractions, the advantage of geographic coherence and national solidarity, extensive historical and cultural bonds with the SCO Member States and Observers, as well as rich cultural values that can prevent the growth of extremism throughout the region. Among Iran's top ten export partners, China, India, and Pakistan are respectively ranked first, fifth and eighth; China and India are placed as first and fourth among Iran's top five import partners. In 2021,

Iran's trade with the SCO Member States surpassed 37 billion dollars, which accounts for about 30 percent of the country's total foreign trade. During the same period, Iran's export and import to the SCO Member States stood at 20.5 billion and 16.5 billion dollars respectively. Enhancement of relations and cooperation with the SCO countries constitute one of the main pillars of President Raisi's foreign policy especially with regard to boosting and facilitating transport and transit corridors. Iran provides safe, stable and reliable routes on the North-South Corridor and at the same time enjoys remarkable infrastructure in its southern port especially the oceanic port of Chabahar. These are among Iran's strategic policies for the development of regional cooperation and the expansion of dynamic trade exchanges with neighboring countries.

Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in line with the consideration of the principles of the Islamic Revolution enshrined in the Constitution, represents the manifestation of the country's independence and serves to secure our national interests in view of dignity, wisdom and expediency. In this respect, during the past year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has employed all its specialized capabilities in coordination with other relevant domestic organizations and the Secretariat of the SCO to complete the legal and administrative process of full membership in the shortest possible time. President Raisi's trip to Uzbekistan to participate in the Council of Heads of State of Shanghai Cooperation Organization provides a pivotal opportunity to advance the Eurasian diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course, the official visit to Uzbekistan and signing of 17 important documents of cooperation as well as visiting the historical city of Samarkand, the birthplace of Roudaki, the father of Persian poetry, will be considered as a memorable occasion for the Iranian delegation.

The Writer is the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Returning morals and ethics to domestic and foreign policymaking (P-2)

James Dorsey

“Christian nationalism creates this false idol of power and leads us to confuse political authority with religious authority, And in that way causes us to put our patriotism, our allegiance to America, above our allegiance to God,” says Amanda Tyler

Kick starting the process

Changing the foundations on which policies are crafted, and politics are conducted is an almost utopian task. It is likely to be a generational endeavour driven by religious and non-religious, independent civil society groups that harness a combination of activism and education rather than governmental non-governmental organizations that do a regime's bidding. To kickstart the process, media, including social media platforms, would have to play an essential role in changing what voters and the public expect from their leaders, whether elected or not. Similarly, public relations, crisis management, and lobbying firms would have to be held accountable to a code of conduct that emphasizes truthfulness, transparency, and ensuring that campaigns are fact-based rather than built on knowingly false or manufactured information and on genuine grassroots organizations instead of special purpose proxies created to promote a narrative.

That was the motto of the late, controversial American strategic advisor, Arthur Rubinstein, credited for the electoral victories of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Victor Orban. Filmmaker Edo Zuckerman, a close association of Finkelstein, who was dubbed 'Arthur the Terrible' by his opponents, quoted the strategist as saying: "During the campaign, you don't lie in anything that you publish. There must be a tested and true basis of truth to what you do." In addition to a measure of honesty, stakeholders and the public would have to push for a return to civil interaction in which opposing parties listen to one another rather than increasingly seek to repress, intimidate, and crowd out divergent and dissenting voices.

One example of an effort to restore inclusive morals and ethics to policy and policymaking is Christian opposition to **Christian nationalism**.

"Christian nationalism creates this false idol of power and leads us to confuse political authority with religious authority, And in that way causes us to put our patriotism, our allegiance to America, above our allegiance to God," says Amanda Tyler, the executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious

Liberty and the lead organizer of Christians Against Christian Nationalism. Moreover, she argues that Christian nationalism violates the teaching of loving your neighbour as yourself. Ms. Tyler's activism underscores the likelihood that morals and ethics embedded in respect of human dignity and rights as the organizing principle of politics and policymaking will be grounded in shared values derived from religion, irrespective of one's attitude towards religion or religiosity.

No alternative to religion

No alternative to religion has emerged as a moral and ethical yardstick for societies and systems of governance, whether religious or secular. Major attempts at creating a yardstick, for example, by Communism, Kemalism, the philosophy on which Mustafa Kemal Atatürk carved the modern Turkish state out of the ruins of the Ottoman empire, or Zionism that sought to transform an amorphous religious and national identity into a more clearly defined Jewish identity, lost their relevance once they were no longer fit for the purpose. As a result, almost no contemporary state, no matter how different, has a societal moral and ethical yardstick that is not inspired by religion. Take, for example, the United States and Saudi Arabia. Both have religiously inspired moral and ethical yardsticks. In the United States, Christianity is the overriding inspiration; in the kingdom, it is Islam. Of course, one significant difference is the positioning of the yardstick. In the United States, it was historically a benchmark rather than a hard and fast rule to which adherence was voluntary. A commitment was, by and large, regulated socially rather than legally. In the kingdom, the yardstick is the religious law that authorities harshly enforced. Perhaps surprisingly, China too fits the bill. It does so in its recognition of the centrality of religion by seeking, often brutally, to control, if not repress, religion.

Laying out a roadmap

Infusing morals and ethics into politics and policy and tackling double standards in applying the law come together in Judge Bates' court case and Mr. Biden's effort to defend democracy at home and abroad. The ability to do so depends on the US administration and civil society. One approach may be that the administration lays out a roadmap that tackles the legitimate charge that US policy is hypocritical by establishing criteria for maintaining morals and ethics in domestic and foreign policy to justify instances where that is not immediately possible. Civil society would have to hold the administration and business' feet to the fire. A draft of the Pentagon's 1992 Defense Planning Guidance seemed to take a stab at crafting a roadmap. The draft stipulated that "while the U.S. cannot become the world's 'policeman' by assuming responsibility for righting every wrong, we will retain pre-eminent responsibility for addressing selectively those wrongs which threaten not only our interests, but those of our allies or friends, or which could seriously unsettle international relations." Irrespective of its merits, the proposed definition was problematic because it was put forward in the context of a strategy that called for a permanent US military dominance in much of Eurasia that would allow the United States rather than the United Nations Security Council to act as the ultimate

guarantor of international peace and security. The strategy envisioned achieving that goal by "detering potential competitors from even aspiring to a larger regional or global role" and by pre-empting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Key elements of that strategy have guided US foreign policy ever since, even if the draft in its final form was watered down after a leak sparked a public uproar because of its overarching imperial character. Those elements were reinforced in the wake of the 9/11 Al Qaeda attacks two decades ago on New York and Washington with devastating consequences. As a senator at the time, Mr. Biden ridiculed the draft as "literally a Pax Americana... It won't work. You can be the world superpower and still be unable to maintain peace throughout the world," he quipped.

A layered approach

Another approach argues that the solution is not an overarching doctrine or construct for American foreign policy because, unlike in the Cold War, the world is confronted with too many challenges that cannot be squeezed into one ideological construct. Moreover, America's rivals, Russia and China, command natural resources, economic heft, and centrality to global commerce that the Soviet Union could only have dreamt about. "That does not mean that the United States should simply wing it and approach every foreign policy issue in isolation. But instead of a single big idea, Washington should use a number of principles and practices to guide its foreign policy and reduce the risk that the coming decade will produce a calamity," says Richard Haass, the president of the New York-based Council on Foreign Relations and former senior State Department and National Security Council official. Mr. Drezner and Ms. Narlikar, the editors of the International Affairs special edition, make a similar point by suggesting that "the margin for policy error is getting thinner across the globe. States in the twenty-first century will be confronting an array of Machiavellian and Malthusian threats: great power competition, political polarization, pandemics, climate change, and so forth." The problem with Mr. Haass' approach is that it amounts to repackaging realpolitik without the guidance of morals and ethics but by the notion of stability rather than principle.

Starting at home Mr. Haass may be right that democracy promotion needs to start in the United States, where democracy is on the defensive. "The biggest risk to US security in the decade to come is to be found in the United States itself. A country divided against itself cannot stand, nor can it be effective in the world, as a fractious United States will not be viewed as a reliable or predictable partner or leader. Nor will it be able to tackle its domestic challenges," he says. To be sure, Mr. Biden's positioning of the preservation of democracy and the strengthening of 'democratic resilience' abroad is the one pillar of his foreign policy that dovetails neatly with his struggle at home to hamper efforts to undermine democratic norms and the principles of fair elections and peaceful transition of power.

Winning friends

Scholar and journalist C. Mohan Raja suggests that one prerequisite for successful cohabitation is a US return to the classical diplomatic effort of winning friends and influencing people.

That, Mr. Mohan Raja says, would have to "involve a decisive shift away from the Western preachiness of the last three decades." Instead, the United States would have to "focus... on the individual concerns, vulnerabilities, and interests of key states in the developing world." The Biden administration's framing of the Ukraine war as a confrontation between democracies and autocracies is a case in point. The administration would have likely found greater resonance in Asia, Africa, and Latin America had it portrayed the conflict in less ideological terms and narrowly stuck to what the war was about: the defense of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity as a matter of international law. Even so, the question remains whether cohabitation and competition are a sufficient basis in the 21st century for ideological and geopolitical rivals to cooperate in tackling global problems such as global inequality, environmental calamity, economic recovery, nuclear proliferation, and emergencies like a pandemic.

The administration's problem is that the line between democracy preservation and democracy promotion is potentially blurry and could be, at best, cosmetic. Mr. Biden has requested hundreds of millions of dollars from Congress for pro-democracy initiatives, including two programs to support anti-corruption efforts, independent journalism, elections, and pro-democracy activists. Whether there is a difference between preservation and promotion is likely to be determined by how and where those funds, if allocated, are distributed. **Reversing course**

The example of Saudi Arabia in the runup and the aftermath of Mr. Biden's July pilgrimage to the kingdom pinpoints the pitfalls of crafting a foreign policy that embraces morals, ethics, and realpolitik. Mr. Bin Salman has stepped up his crackdown on dissent and civil society activism since the Biden visit. For example, two Saudi women arrested in 2021 were sentenced in August by terrorism courts to respectively 34 and 45 years in prison for tweets that allegedly "used the internet to tear the social fabric" of the kingdom and "violated public order by using social media." Furthermore, Saudi Arabia executed 81 people in March when the United States and the kingdom were likely already negotiating the visit. Meanwhile, Mr. Biden departed Saudi Arabia with little, if anything, to show for himself in terms of geopolitical, energy, or human rights gestures, not even the release of US nationals held for political reasons in Saudi prisons or banned from leaving the kingdom. Political scientist Igor Istomin bolsters Mr. Haass' argument by pointing out that foreign interference in the politics of a country by supporting proxies is unlikely to enable those groups to gain power. If they do, they are more likely than not to encounter "difficulties in converting such accomplishments into benefits for an interfering state." Moreover, they will be hindered by "the emotional grievances from unfulfilled expectations." The forever US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are exhibit one. At first glance, much of this may seem to be pie in the sky. Returning to a modicum of inclusive morals and ethics-infused policy and policymaking is not a process that will produce results overnight.

Briefs

IHC directs to remove ATA clauses

FROM PAGE 01
He said the ATA sections could be applied only if the environment of terror or fear was created. The case would give negative impression at international level. The lawyer said that the FIR was registered against his client under ATA on mere a speech to a public rally. After listening arguments, the court reserved its judgment and later ordered to remove the ATA sections from FIR. The court, however, said that the trial would continue under the remaining sections in the case. It may be mentioned here that the Islamabad police had registered an FIR against Imran Khan on his threatening remarks about additional session judge Zeba Chaudhry and police officials during his speech at F-9 Park. The anti terrorism court, however, had granted interim bail to the accused.

ECP reserves verdict in Toshakhana case

FROM PAGE 01
share the details of gifts he purchased from Toshakhana. PTI chairman, in his reply submitted to the ECP, had admitted that he had received gifts and sold these in the same financial year he had received them. He said that the former prime minister had also admitted that he had not mentioned these gifts in his returns submitted to the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) because he thought that disclosing sold assets was not mandatory.

Moeen Ali proud to lead England in Pakistan

KARACHI: "I'm somebody that wants to play cricket in every nation," Moeen says, "and Pakistan especially, after so long." It's been 17 years since England were last here. His decision to play in the PSL in 2020 was, he says, because he wanted to help play his part in "putting Pakistan cricket back on the map". He sees this tour as an extension of that. "I wanted to be part of this. It's a big thing when England come to Pakistan, more than any other country, England's the one that the Pakistani fans really love to see coming here." His phone hasn't stopped ringing since he arrived. He has an uncle who lives here, and plenty of friends too. "I've had so many messages," most of them asking if he can help dig up tickets, "that it's a bit of a killer for me". But he's happy to have the distraction. He's obviously frustrated with the tight security for the tour, and the way he and the team are sealed off from the city in Karachi. He brought his wife and children out when he was playing in the PSL, and they spent time visiting friends and going to cafes. In between training this week, he has been stuck in the team room, reading, chatting, playing cards. - APP

Pakistani fans bash Indian troll for mocking Naseem

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani fans hit back at Indians in young fast-bowler Naseem Shah's support after they made mocked his English-language skills. Taking to Twitter, an Indian user shared Naseem's old video in which he could be heard wrongly pronouncing the word "Lenovo". The video was heavily bashed by Pakistanis for making fun of the pacer after it went viral on social media. Some fans reminded the Indian users about the importance of the game rather than the language while some shared Naseem's bowling against India in the Asia Cup 2022. - APP

Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Chess c'ship held in Islamabad

The Organizers of the championship and Secretary Finance of Chess Federation of Pakistan Raja Gauhar Iqbal congratulated winning players

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Chess Championship held at F-9 Park, Islamabad has concluded. The championship was organized by Chess Federation of Pakistan and Islamabad Chess Association with the support of Directorate of Sports Culture and Tourism, CDA & MCI under the special instructions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Administrator MCI Irfan Nawaz Memon. In the championship professional category, CM Sulaiman Ahmed Ashrafi stood first, NM Sibti Ali second and Salman Ali Khan stood third, while Noor Fatima Rashid stood first, Raja Hattamur Rehman second and Hamza Zaka Mustafa stood third in the women's and under-14 category. More than 100 top players from all over Pakistan participated in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Champi-



onship. Moreover, the young boys and girls were given the opportunity to improve their game by playing with renowned players. Deputy Commissioner of Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon participated in the event as chief guest. Cash prizes were distributed among the first ten players who

won and the winner was awarded with a beautiful trophy. Chess Federation of Pakistan President Hanif Qureshi appreciated the efforts made by Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad to promote mind games. The organizers of the championship and Secretary Finance of Chess Federation of Pakistan Raja Gauhar Iqbal congratulated the winning players. Chairman Chess Federation of Pakistan Mr. Anwar Shaikh said that for the promotion of chess throughout the country, obtaining financing and involvement of government institutions is indispensable, so his aim is to overcome these challenges by using all their abilities. Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Administrator MCI Irfan Nawaz Memon said that ICT administration is also going to establish a chess club in F9 Park and chess activities will be organized on every Sunday in F9 Park Islamabad.

Palestinian schools in Jerusalem strike over Israel-imposed books

"They are doing this under the pretext that they grant private schools licenses, and that they give them funding," said al-Shamali, who lives in the neighbourhood of al-Tur in occupied East Jerusalem

FOREIGN DESK

OCCUPIED EAST JERUSALEM: Palestinian schools in occupied East Jerusalem are observing a general strike in protest at attempts by Israel's Jerusalem municipality to censor and edit Palestinian textbooks, as well as introduce an Israeli curriculum in classrooms. Hundreds of schools shut their doors on Monday morning - the latest in a series of recent steps over the past few weeks led by parents, which included protests and a refusal to teach the Israeli-imposed textbooks. In a joint press release on Sunday, the unified parents committee and the Palestinian National and Islamic Forces in Jerusalem

called for a full strike and demanded international institutions step in to protect Palestinian education. Journalists and residents shared dozens of images of empty classrooms and closed schools on Monday morning. Ziad al-Shamali, aged 56, head of the parents committee union, told Al Jazeera that if Israel's efforts succeed, it "will have control over the education of 90 percent of our students in Jerusalem". There are more than 280 Palestinian schools in Jerusalem, with some 115,000 students from kindergarten to grade 12, according to al-Shamali. He claimed that approximately 90-95 percent of schools were observing the strike. Al-Shamali said that Israel

had been trying to impose a "distorted version of the Palestinian Authority (PA) curriculum" on private Palestinian schools since the beginning of the year. "They are doing this under the pretext that they grant private schools licenses, and that they give them funding," said al-Shamali, who lives in the neighbourhood of al-Tur in occupied East Jerusalem. The existing municipality-run schools for Palestinians in the city have already begun to teach the altered version of the PA curriculum, he continued, while new schools being built by the municipality were being forced to teach the Israeli curriculum. "What is worrying the parents is that they are being cornered between

distorted Palestinian curriculums and Israeli curriculums," said al-Shamali. "There is an Israelisation of Palestinian education going on," he continued, which had existed for the past 10 to 12 years but had intensified over the last three ones. "Now, they are adding their own content like 'Yossi is Mohammad's neighbour', about settlements, about co-existence," said al-Shamali. "They have played with textbooks for Arabic, religion, history and any national references". On Sunday night, videos were shared on social media of residents hanging up posters reading "general strike - yes to the Palestinian curriculum, no to the distorted curriculum".

Murray hopes to play in Davis Cup again

The former world number one said getting the opportunity to play for Britain again would be difficult due to the competition for places in team

LONDON: Britain's Andy Murray said he felt "a bit emotional" over the idea he may have made his last appearance in the Davis Cup but the three-times Grand Slam champion added that he hopes to be selected again. Murray defeated Kazakhstan's Dmitry Popko 6-3 6-4 in Sunday's dead rubber following Britain's losses to the United States and the Netherlands. The 35-year-old led Britain to their first Davis Cup title for 79 years in 2015, but has struggled to regain top form since undergoing two hip surgeries and is currently ranked 43rd in the world. Murray said he felt emotional in the final moments of Sunday's match in front of his home crowd in Glasgow. "I only thought about it at about 5-2 today, to be honest, in the second set," Murray told reporters when asked whether he thought it could be his last Davis Cup match. "I wasn't thinking about it before the weekend or during any of the doubles matches or anything... I lost my focus a bit and felt a little bit emotional about that." The former world number one said getting the opportunity to play for Britain again would be difficult due to the competition for places in the team. "It's obviously not going to be easy with the players that we have... Then obviously don't know which way the captain will go with the doubles after the results here, as well," Murray said. "Don't know what the future holds... But if I'm selected, yeah, I'll definitely be involved," he added. - DNA

Britain bids adieu to Queen Elizabeth II

FROM PAGE 01

one for every year of her life - and stopped a minute before the service began at 11:00 am (1000 GMT). In his funeral sermon, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby praised the queen's life of duty and service to the UK and Commonwealth. "People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer," he told the 2,000 guests, who included US President Joe Biden and Japan's Emperor Naruhito. The coffin was then borne, to the rhythmic strains of funeral marches, towards the queen's final resting place at Windsor Castle, west of London. All along the route, a sea of arms were raised aloft, clutching mobile phones, to record the choreographed display of military precision. The last chants of "God save the queen" were heard as onlookers scattered flowers on the road, and muffled church bells rang in the distance.

The queen - the longest-serving monarch in British history - died at Balmoral, her Scottish Highland retreat, on September 8 after a year of declining health. Her eldest son and successor, King Charles III, dressed in ceremonial military uniform, followed the solemn processions, alongside his three siblings. Charles's eldest son Prince William accompanied them alongside William's estranged brother, Prince Harry, and other senior royals. William's two eldest children, George, aged nine, and Charlotte, aged seven, who are next in line to the throne, also followed behind the coffin in the abbey. Late Sunday, Charles, 73, and his wife, Queen Consort Camilla, 75, said they had been "deeply touched" by the public's flood of messages.

PM attends funeral of British Queen

FROM PAGE 01

the Westminster Abbey Service ahead of the Queen's funeral later in the evening. The prime minister also penned his condolatory message in the official condolence book at the Church House, conveying grief to the royal family, the people, and the Government of the United Kingdom over the demise of Queen Elizabeth II. Earlier, the prime minister was received at the Great West Door by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and escorted to his seat in the Lantern. On Sunday, PM Shehbaz Sharif met King Charles III during the reception hosted by him for the visiting dignitaries and extended condolences to him over the passing of his mother Queen Elizabeth II. The prime minister said the late monarch was a source of inspiration and strength for generations of the Commonwealth citizens. He also recalled that the people of Pakistan had fond memories of Her Majesty's two visits to the country, adding the bond of affection between the Royal family and the Pakistani nation had only strengthened with time. - APP

Karachi's Polo Ground still fertile

KARACHI: Hanif Mohammad and his four brothers learned the game here and today hundreds of cricketers play in overlapping matches. Late Sunday morning, and there is not a scrap of spare ground to be found at Polo Ground in downtown Karachi. Every last patch of its 20 acres of path and grass is taken up with games of tape-ball cricket. There must be 30, 40, 50 overlapping matches - enough, anyway, that it is impossible to count the hundreds of players who are scattered all around, the fielders mixing with each so that, if the man at mid-wicket in one game turned on the spot, he could play cover in another, or fine leg for a third. Outside India, and the Oval Maidan in Mumbai, there is not a sight in cricket quite like it. The place is officially known as the Gulshan-e-Jinnah but no one will be able to give you directions if you call it that. Polo Ground, on the other hand, everyone knows. - APP

Bastianini nails Aragon MotoGP on last lap

ALCANIZ: Enea Bastianini won the Aragon MotoGP with a last lap overtake after mayhem at the start as world champion Fabio Quartararo crashed out to put a severe dent in his hopes of retaining the title. Bastianini shaded Francesco Bagnaia following a nerve-jangling duel over the closing laps to deny the factory Ducati rider a fifth straight win by four-tenths of a second. With Quartararo the victim of first lap drama pole-sitter Bagnaia moved to within 10 points of Yamaha's defending champion with five races remaining. "Enea did an incredible job all weekend, he was very competitive," said Bagnaia, who will have the race winner as his teammate next season. "Fabio (Quartararo) was unlucky. I tried to do my best, but on the last lap I didn't feel I was able to retake Enea as these 10 points are important so I did okay." "It was a really nice race for me," said Bastianini, on a Ducati satellite bike. "I made some mistakes but on the last lap I was in a position to attack this time to win. Amazing!" Aprilia's Aleix Espargaro took third at the end of a breathless 15th round of the championship which

saw six-time world champion Marc Marquez's hopes of a dream return after 112 days out turn into a nightmare. It was Marquez's Honda that Quartararo clipped, sending the Frenchman slithering across the track as his Aragon curse continued at the Motorland circuit where he has never made the podium. Seconds later Honda's Japanese rider Takaaki Nakagami also hit the deck, after contact again with Marquez, who was forced to retire with damage to his bike. Yamaha boss Lin Jarvis reported his star man Quartararo had escaped without serious injury. "Obviously a really bad day for Fabio," he said. "The good news is he's okay. I've just heard from the clinic that he has nothing, no serious problem, only abrasions, but he'll be fine for the next race in Japan. Unfortunately in the middle of the bunch he clipped the rear of Marquez's bike. Fabio is angry, upset, but from what we can see it appears a racing incident." Quartararo, whose miserable day ended with another fall from a scooter leaving the track, said: "I feel bad. For once we had the pace to fight for a good result here, unfortunately that wasn't possible." - DNA



Kremlin dismisses mass burial discoveries as 'lies'

"There's been no light, no electricity, for a week. No water," said a 49-year-old former policeman who gave his name only as Ruslan

DNA

KUPIANSK: The Kremlin on Monday denied its forces were responsible for large-scale killings in east Ukraine and accused Kyiv of fabricating its discoveries of mass graves in recaptured territory. In the latest incident spurring fears of an atomic emergency, Ukraine said that Russian rockets landed precariously close to a nuclear power station in southern Ukraine. Ukraine recaptured Izyum and other towns in the east this month, crippling Kremlin supply routes and bringing fresh claims of Russian atrocities with the discovery of hundreds of graves - some containing multiple bodies. "These are lies," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday. Moscow, he said,

"will stand up for the truth in this story." Fighting in the northeast has raged and AFP journalists heard artillery exchanges in frontline Kupiansk on Monday, as traumatised civilians headed out of the town now mainly in the hands of Ukrainian forces. The streets were strewn with broken glass, spent cartridge casings and the discarded remains of ration packs issued by both forces. Most of the fire is outgoing, with Ukrainian tanks and artillery targeting Russian positions on the west side of the town, over a mess of broken bridges. A column of smoke rose in the distance. At the entrance to the town, cowering from the sounds of Ukrainian tank shells passing overhead towards Russian lines, civilians gathered to hitch rides or join buses to head out into safer

Ukrainian territory. "There's been no light, no electricity, for a week. No water," said a 49-year-old former policeman who gave his name only as Ruslan. Russian-backed authorities in east Ukraine said a "punitive" strike by Kyiv's forces had killed more than a dozen people and wounded more in the separatist stronghold of Donetsk.

The rebel head of the region claimed the strike was "deliberate" and said it would "not go unpunished." A court in the neighbouring rebel-region of Lugansk sentenced an employee of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to 13 years for leaking military secrets. Ukrainian civilians in the recaptured northeast region of Kharkiv have recounted months of brutality under Russian occupation.

In Kupiansk, Mykhailo Chindey, told AFP he had been tortured on suspicion of supplying targeting coordinates to Ukrainian forces. "One person was holding my hand and another one was beating my arm with a metal stick. They were beating me up two hours almost every day," he told AFP. "I lost consciousness at some point. I lost a lot of blood. They hit my heels, back, legs and kidneys," he said. Ukraine's nuclear energy agency, Energoatom, said Russia struck the Pivdenoukrainsk nuclear power plant overnight, with a "powerful explosion" just 300 metres (985 feet) from its reactors. The strike damaged more than 100 windows at the station, but the reactors were not damaged, Energoatom said, publishing photos

of glass shattered around blown-out frames. It also released images of what it said was a two-metre-deep crater from where the missile landed. No staff were wounded, it said. Attacks around nuclear facilities in Ukraine have spurred calls from Ukraine and its Western allies to de-militarise surrounding areas. Europe's largest atomic facility - the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Russian-held territory in Ukraine - has become a hot spot for concerns after tit-for-tat claims of attacks. The UN's atomic agency deployed a monitoring team to the site in early September after new fighting. Early in the February invasion, fighting erupted around Chernobyl in the north, where an explosion in 1986 left swathes of the surrounding territory contaminated.



Briefs

Death toll in Kyrgyz-Tajik border clashes rises to 59

DNA

BISHKEK: The death toll from recent border clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan rose to 59, with 144 others getting injured, Kyrgyzstan's Health Ministry said on Monday. In a statement it said another 13 bodies were brought to medical facilities in Kyrgyzstan's Batken region, where fighting at a disputed section of the border started on Wednesday, with the two sides later agreeing to a cease-fire. The previous death toll stood at 46. Batken is under a state of emergency, while a national mourning was declared in Kyrgyzstan on Monday. In a televised address Kyrgyzstan President Sadyr Japarov urged his country to have trust in its army, saying efforts continue to resolve the Kyrgyz-Tajik border issues peacefully. Its Foreign Ministry on Sunday said the Kyrgyz Republic considers the conflict "planned military aggression." Tajikistan's presidency, meanwhile, accused the Kyrgyz side of continuing with "outright lies and insinuations" and "information campaign against Tajikistan, thereby escalating tension in the border area." Last week, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon and Kyrgyzstan's Japarov met at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Samarkand and agreed to resolve the conflict via diplomacy.

Lebanon-Israel demarcation talks 'in final stages'

DNA

BEIRUT: Lebanese President Michel Aoun said Monday border demarcation talks with Israel over Lebanon's southern borders are in "their final stages." Aoun met with UN Special Coordinator in Lebanon, Joanna Wronecka, in the Baabda Palace in the capital Beirut. He said the ongoing talks are about technical details related to the demarcation process "to guarantee Lebanon's rights to explore for gas and oil in the specified fields in the exclusive economic zone," the Lebanese Presidency said in a statement. Aoun said communication with US mediator Amos Hochstein is ongoing to address the technical details of the demarcation process. He voiced hope that the exploration for oil and fuel "would contribute to the revival of the Lebanese economy," which is witnessing severe deterioration. Last week, Israeli public broadcaster KAN said, citing an Israeli official, that Tel Aviv has "especially cautious optimism" that a deal can be reached with Lebanon on their disputed maritime border.

World's first fossil fuel registry launches

DNA

LONDON: The world's first database for tracking global fossil fuel production, oil and gas reserves, and emissions is set to launch on Monday, according to the Carbon Tracker and Global Energy Monitor. The Global Registry of Fossil Fuels is built using data for more than 50,000 fields in 89 countries, which covers about 75% of global reserves, production and emissions. Its launch coincides with climate talks taking place at the United Nations General Assembly in New York. While there has been private data available for purchase, this database is available for public use, a first for a collection of this size. It differs from public data maintained by the International Energy Agency, which looks at demand for fossil fuel, as it tracks what is yet to be burned. "With the Registry, it will be much easier to include expected future emissions into the analysis, and thus to identify and prioritize the companies with the greatest risk of harboring assets likely to become stranded," said Eric Christian Pedersen.

China hits back after Biden vows to defend Taiwan

"There is only one China in the world, Taiwan is part of China, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate govt of China," Mao said, referring to US attempts to violate the "One China" principle

DNA

BEIJING: China has lodged "stern representations" with Washington after US President Joe Biden said American forces would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion. Speaking at a regular media briefing on Monday, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning stressed that Beijing reserves the right to take all necessary measures in response to activities that split the nation apart.

"We are willing to do our best to strive for peaceful reunification. At the same time, we will not tolerate any activities aimed at secession," Mao said. She called on the US to handle Taiwan-related issues "carefully and properly", and not send "wrong signals" to Taiwan's independence separatist forces. "There is only one China in the world, Taiwan is part of China, and the government of the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government of China," Mao

said, referring to the US attempts to violate the "One China" principle. Under the internationally-approved "one-China" policy, nearly all countries, including the US, recognize Beijing's sovereignty over Taipei. However, in violation of its own stated policy, and in an attempt to undermine Beijing, Washington continues to court the secessionist island, engaging in diplomatic contact with its anti-China government and supplying it with massive shipments of arms.

The Chinese official's remarks came on the heels of a move by the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee to pass the Taiwan Policy Act of 2022, which now heads to the Senate floor. The US government claims that the act is passed in a bid to designate Taiwan as a "Major Non-NATO Ally" and to provide "almost \$4.5 billion in security assistance" to the self-ruled island "over the next four years." The Taiwan Policy Act of 2022 is described as the most comprehensive restructuring of

US policy toward the wayward island since the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. China denounced the new policy, imposing sanctions against CEOs of two major US defense contractors for their role in the US-planned arms package for the Chinese Taipei. Mao noted that the sanctions against Raytheon CEO Gregory J. Hayes and Boeing Defense CEO Ted Colbert will "defend China's sovereignty and security interests" against US "military contact" with Taiwan. Earlier this month, the Biden

administration notified Congress of its intent to transfer \$1.1 billion worth of military equipment to Taiwan, including 100 air-to-air missiles contracted with Raytheon. Mao condemned the sales, saying they "gravely undermine China's sovereignty and security interests, and severely harm China-US relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait." She called on the US to lay off arms sales to Taiwan and "stop creating factors that could lead to tensions in the Taiwan Strait."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Said Al Malki calls on Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah. – DNA

Kazakh President's decree on renaming capital comes into force

President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev signed the decree two days earlier in another move to distance himself from his predecessor, Nursultan Nazarbaev

NUR SULTAN: The presidential decree to change the name of Kazakhstan's capital city back to Astana from Nur-Sultan came into force on September 19 after its text was officially published in state media. President Qasym-Zhomart Toqaev signed the decree two days earlier in another move to distance himself from his predecessor, Nursultan Nazarbaev. Toqaev first changed the name of the capital from Astana to Nur-Sultan in 2019, one day after Nazarbaev, who had run the tightly controlled former Soviet republic with an iron fist for almost three decades, announced he was resigning and that Toqaev was his handpicked successor. Though he officially stepped down as president, Nazarbaev retained sweeping powers as the head of the country's powerful Security Council. He also enjoyed substantial powers by holding the title of "elbasy" or leader of the nation. Even after Nazarbaev's stepping down, many Kazakhs remained bitter about the oppression felt during his reign. Those feelings came to a head in January when unprecedented antigovernment nationwide protests started over a fuel price hike, and then exploded into countrywide deadly unrest over perceived corruption under the Nazarbaev regime and the cronyism that allowed his family and close friends to enrich themselves while ordinary citizens failed to enjoy any of the oil-rich Central Asian nation's wealth. Toqaev subsequently stripped Nazarbaev of his Security Council role, taking it over himself. Since then, several of Nazarbaev's relatives and allies have been pushed out of their positions or resigned. Some have been arrested on corruption charges. In June this year, a Toqaev-initiated referendum removed Nazarbaev's name from the constitution and annulled his status as elbasy. Kazakh critics say Toqaev's initiatives were mainly cosmetic and did not change the nature of the autocratic system in a country that has been plagued for years by rampant corruption and nepotism. – DNA

US military base in Syria targeted by rocket attack

DAMASCUS: A rocket attack has been launched against the United States military's Green Village base in northeast Syria, but failed to hit the US or coalition forces and equipment, the US Central Command said. Three 107-mm (4.2-inch) rockets attacked the base on Sunday and a fourth rocket along with rocket tubes was found at the launch point, about five kilometres (three miles) away, the command said in a statement. The Green Village base was hit last month during violence between the US military and Iran-backed re-

bels leaving at least one US military service member in Syria with a minor injury. The incident triggered a US response that killed two or three fighters conducting the attacks. The Central Command said it was investigating the latest failed attack, which struck at approximately 7:05pm local time (16:05 GMT) in Syria. It gave no further details. In last month's attack, at least two fighters, described by US Central Command as "suspected Iran-backed militants", were also killed, in what the US military described as rocket attacks on

two facilities. It said that several rockets landed inside the perimeter of Mission Support Site Conoco in northeast Syria, quickly followed by another near Mission Support Site Green Village, run by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a US-backed Kurdish-led group. The developments came a day after the US said it had carried out raids in Deir Az Zor, a strategic oil-rich province that borders Iraq, on groups linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). US forces first deployed in Syria during the Obama

administration's campaign against ISIL, partnering with the SDF. There are about 900 US troops in Syria, most of them in the east. Brett McGurk, the White House coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, said last year that US troops have four main objectives in Syria: to reduce violence, maintain military pressure on ISIL (ISIS), address Syria's humanitarian crisis, and support Israel. The Syrian government has constantly expressed its opposition to the US role in Syria, and demanded that US forces withdraw. – Agencies

Russia welcomes actions to resolve Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict

MOSCOW: Russia is ready to welcome actions, not words, that could contribute to the settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, the Kremlin spokesman said Monday on US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Yerevan. "Everything that is not in words, but in actions – and not a high-profile statement, not a populist one, but in reality, quiet and in a businesslike way – can contribute to the normalization of relations, can contribute to the stabilization of the situation on the border, all this can be welcomed," said Dmitry Peskov at a press briefing in Moscow. Pelosi's visit came after Azerbaijan and Armenia reached a cease-fire on Wednesday following border clashes.

At the wreath laying ceremony at an Armenian monument, Pelosi was seen wiping away her tears, an act some observers said was orchestrated to gain political mileage. Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry claimed that Pelosi's Armenia visit aims to gain support for the Armenian lobby as the period of midterm elections of the US Congress is approaching. Recent border clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia resulted in hundreds of casualties on both sides. The two countries fought a war in 2020 at the end of which Azerbaijan liberated several cities and over 300 settlements and villages that were under Armenian occupation for nearly three decades. The fighting ended with a Russia-brokered deal. – APP

Türkiye expects US's co-op in fight against PKK/YPG

The president said he hoped to resolve the issues between Türkiye and the US "on the basis of common interests" while developing cooperation with Washington

DNA

NEW YORK: Türkiye expects the US to act in cooperation with it in the fight against terrorist groups such as the PKK/YPG and the Fetullah Terrorist Organization (FETO), President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday. "We expect our American friends to act in cooperation in our fight against the PKK, YPG and FETO in a manner befitting the spirit of alliance," Erdogan said at a dinner event organized by the Turkish American National Steering Committee (TASC) at Rockefeller Center in New York City. Erdogan said Turkish authorities have been "meticulously" working with their

US counterparts to bring FETO leader Fethullah Gulen and the group's members to Turkish justice. The president stressed that Türkiye will continue to fight against the FETO, PKK/YPG and Daesh terrorist groups, adding: "We will remove the dark shadow of terror from our region." FETO orchestrated the defeated coup of July 15, 2016 in Türkiye, in which 252 people were killed and 2,734 injured. Ankara accuses FETO of being behind a long-running campaign to overthrow the state through the infiltration of Turkish institutions, particularly the military, police and judiciary. - Resolving issues between Türkiye, US. The president said he hoped to resolve the issues between Türkiye and



the US "on the basis of common interests" while developing cooperation with Washington. Erdogan said there is no issue between the US and Türkiye that can't be resolved as two strong partners and allies for 70 years, adding that both nations are together in NATO.

"Be it funding, be it land forces, Türkiye is one of the top five most important partners that provide this support" in NATO, said the Turkish president. "Therefore, Türkiye's position should be well understood, well-known, and decisions and steps should be taken accordingly."

Erdogan also said that Türkiye and the US have similar stands on many regional and global issues despite differences on issues about Ankara's national security, adding that he and US President Joe Biden have agreed to strengthen the friendship and cooperation between their nations. Turning to Russia's war in Ukraine, Erdogan said Türkiye will continue efforts to end the war through diplomacy and eliminate its regional and global impacts. "The Istanbul Agreement, which was achieved as a result of our efforts with the UN to export Ukrainian grain in the Black Sea, is the most concrete example of these efforts," said the Turkish president. "We want to translate the positive climate we have

achieved here into a cease-fire and then lasting peace," he added. Türkiye, the UN, Russia and Ukraine signed an agreement in Istanbul on July 22 to resume grain exports from three Ukrainian Black Sea ports which were paused after the Russia-Ukraine war began. - Hatred against Muslims The president noted that there has been an increase in hate speech, Islamophobia and prejudices against Muslims around the world, saying the Turkish-American community and Muslim Americans are sometimes subjected to such attacks. Erdogan also urged the US to take "strong" precautions against the distorted mentality that likens Islam to terrorism and hatred against Muslims.

Finland heading for recession

DNA

HELSINKI: Finland's ministry of finance announced on Monday that the country may fall into recession due to the accelerating inflation and stagnant growth. The ministry said in a statement that the country is facing a period of "stagnant growth and the risk of the economy ending up in a recession cannot be ruled out." The ministry predicted that the inflation will hit on average 6.5 % this year, which is up from June's 5.8%, while next year, the inflation is expected to rise to 3.2% and not to 2.7% as previously thought. The gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to grow by 1.7 % this year, while in 2023, it will be 0.5 % which is a lot less when compared to the 1.1% predicted in June this year. Accelerating inflation is cutting households' purchasing power and consumption opportunities as "uncertainty, energy shortages, fast inflation, decaying purchase power and rising rates will cut into the growth of consumption and investments everywhere," said the ministry. Russia's attack on Ukraine, which began at the end of February, cast a shadow over the economic outlook, and it threatens to push not just Finland but entire Europe's economy into recession.

Azerbaijan defuse 122 Armenian-planted mines

DNA

BAKU: The Azerbaijani army's engineer-sapper units have defused some 122 Armenian-planted mines in the liberated Lachin District, Azernews reports, citing the Defense Ministry. The engineer-sapper units are demining the territory and supply roads mined by the Armenian armed units' sabotage groups amid a large-scale provocation on the state border with Armenia, the ministry added. As a result of demining operations in Lachin, 122 E-001 M type anti-personnel mines produced in Armenia in 2021 were discovered and transported from the ravine gap in the northeastern part of the Boyuk Ishigli Mount and disposed of in line with safety regulations on September 18, the ministry detailed. The engineering support activities are being undertaken in the liberated lands, the report added. Similarly, as a result of demining activities carried out by engineer-sapper units in Azerbaijan's Dashkasan, Kalbajar, Lachin districts, 100 Armenian-made PMN-E and eight PMN-2 anti-personnel mines, as well as 10 anti-tank mines were found and neutralized on September 17. Earlier the Azerbaijan Mine Action Agency reported that a massive number of PMN-E type mines, the use of which is prohibited under international humanitarian law, were discovered in Lachin. The discovered mines were produced in Armenia in 2021 following the 44-day war (2020).

India deprives religious tourists from Mujaddid Alf Sani's Urs

ISLAMABAD: India has deprived religious tourists from the annual Urs of Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani Rahmatullah Alaih (RA) at the eleventh hour as they did not proceed for Sirhind Sharif, India on Monday. In an exclusive talk with APP, the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Spokesperson Muhammad Umar Butt informed that India had declined to issue visas to Pakistani pilgrims along with organizers. He said the ministry submitted 199 people's passports in the Indian High Commission, Pakistan including five officials, but it issued visas to 155 pilgrims refusing 44 including officials of the ministry who had to manage all the state of affairs of the pilgrims in collaboration with Pakistani High Commission, India. He said this was first time in the history that India had excused to provide visas to pilgrims along with organizers and also made individual police verification mandatory. He said the ministry, owing to the security risk, had decided not to proceed the pilgrims who had been issued visas without organizers. – APP

Briefs

Scholz to visit Saudi as Germany seeks energy supplies

NEWS DESK

BERLIN: Chancellor Olaf Scholz will visit Saudi Arabia and meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as part of a Gulf trip, his spokesman said Monday, as Germany rushes to secure energy supplies. Scholz, whose two-day trip next weekend will also take him to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, becomes the latest Western leader to meet with the crown prince. Bin Salman was until recently regarded as a pariah in the West due to his suspected role in the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018. But he is being courted again as Europe and its allies urgently seek fresh sources of fossil fuels after Russia cut gas supplies amid soaring tensions over its invasion of Ukraine. Scholz, accompanied by a business delegation, will visit Saudi Arabia on Saturday, where he will meet with the crown prince and – if his health permits it – King Salman, government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit said. He did not go into detail about the reasons for Scholz's Gulf visit but said he would be "very surprised" if the topic of energy was not discussed. The spokesman also offered assurances that "the murder of Mr Khashoggi will certainly figure in discussions". It is the latest sign of bin Salman's international rehabilitation – in July, French President Emmanuel Macron held talks with him in Paris, and US President Joe Biden visited the kingdom.

China mulls measures to boost foreign investment

BEIJING: China will take measures to boost foreign investment, with the manufacturing industry as a priority, the country's top economic planner said Monday. China will facilitate the exchange of business personnel of foreign companies on the premise of strictly implementing epidemic prevention, as part of the efforts to address their outstanding problems, Meng Wei, spokesperson for the National Development and Reform Commission, told a press conference. Alignment between the foreign trade and foreign companies and their upstream and downstream counterparts will also be strengthened, Meng said. China is accelerating the revision of the industry catalog that encourages foreign investment, with a focus on channeling more investment into sectors such as advanced manufacturing, high-end technologies and modern services, as well as the central, western and northeastern regions of the country, Meng noted. The country will also organize promotion activities for industry investment and cooperation to set up an exchange platform for multinationals and localities. – APP

World Bank delegation meets Dr Yasmin

LAHORE: A delegation of the World Bank met Punjab Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid in the Department of Specialized Health Care and Medical Education, here on Monday. Special Secretary Muhammad Usman and Mian Zahidur Rehman were present on the occasion. Provincial Health Minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid and the delegation of the World Bank discussed family planning in Punjab. The delegation also expressed desire for research on family planning in one of the medical universities of Punjab. Dr. Yasmin Rashid said the Punjab Health Department was taking steps with regard to family planning, adding that the population growth was becoming a serious problem in Pakistan. – APP

Women empowerment a key to sustainable development

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ethiopia to Pakistan Jewel Beker says women have huge potential to work in different sectors

DNA

ISLAMABAD: As the first ever Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, it is an honor for me to represent the Government Ethiopian at such a significant event of Pakistan Export-Women led business Conference held in Islamabad on 18 September 2022. Those of you who do not know Ethiopia, Ethiopia the third diplomatic center in the world, HQ for Africa Union, UNCECA. It is the land of origin, human fossil Lucy 3.2 million years of age which is the complete human fossil, Coffee, and a source of Nile, longest river in the world. And it is a land of Bilal Al-Habash, late King Nejash, first hijira to Ethiopia where we are connected with other Abrahamic Religions as well. The ambassador expressed these views while speaking on the occasion of a seminar arranged by Faisalabad women chamber of commerce and industry. He added he would like to thank you for this opportunity to share his leadership experiences with you. He congratulated the Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI), and its President Mrs. Nighat Shahid for taking this initiative on basically introducing Pakistan export potentials- women led business and investment opportunities in Pakistan to the rest of the world. Economic, education, skills, and knowledge empowerment of women is very important and linked to economic and social transformation and development of any country. AS Bringham Young said: when you educate a man, you educate a man, when you educate a woman, you educate the generation. In the same token when you empower women you empower

the society, and the nations. My country since Dr. Abiy Ahmed took the Premiership of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in which half of the cabinets are women, and 50 percent of the parliament are also women. The Ambassador said, women have huge potential to work in different sectors of the economy including trade and investment, governance, and leadership. Many of the most significant and meaningful moments during my Ambassadorship will devote on issues that affect women and girls and I am proud of all that our Embassy team will be able to accomplish, especially when it comes to having important discussions like we will have today. 'Woman empowerment is a life-time priority for me that I take it very seriously. Strong girls, and strong women are critical to success of our societies and nations and a key to sustainable development. Leadership and mentoring women has always been a top priority for me. As I reflect on my career where I serve as a program coordinator for women affairs long time back and my today's successes were built on that service'. Obviously, the exchange of information and ideas during this conference will help you all better understand Pakistan's potential and, I hope, result in new and profitable export deals. I am confident that women led business will continue to grow and that the Pakistan export sector will continue to revive, survive, and thrive in the time to come. Ethiopia has been and will continue to be a committed partner in the development of Pakistani export sector its Chamber of Commerce and Industry starting from now onwards. Ambassador Jewel said his country Ethio-



pia saw Pakistan as a preferred partner and was keen to expand trade, business, investment, and tourism relations. In actual fact, our business and economic relations have not been adequately developed and in this regard, I leave no stone unturned to change this scenario. We have observed that very few items are being traded between Ethiopia and Pakistan for the last many years. The main reason of such a low level of two way trade were due to little knowledge about each other's markets and lack of relationships. Indeed, this gathering can be considered as a window of opportunity for Pakistani Women

export entrepreneurs to harness huge, availed prospects. To this end, one of the major priorities of our Embassy would be to link the Ethiopian chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations with Pakistani Chamber of Commerce and Industry, sign a memorandum of understanding which its implementation would help increase bilateral trade, business to business and people to people cooperation. In collaboration with the responsible Pakistan government institutions, and as well as chambers like you, the Embassy will work diligently for exchange of trade delegations between the two countries, and I assure you, I myself would bring a delegation of Ethio-

opian businesspeople to Pakistan Faisalabad soon. 'Over the last four years, my country has embarked on an ambitious roadmap of economic reforms aimed at energizing private sector growth, attracting greater FDI, and stimulating the country's nascent knowledge economy through deep and penetrating reform. To this end, it developed home-grown economic reform that have already had a significant impact on the business and investment environment in Ethiopia – an environment, which we believe is more fertile than ever for foreign investment'. He said many of the Pakistani companies here today are all well placed to benefit from the possibilities opening up in a country that is truly a Lion of Africa and economically set to roar on the world stage. Yes, there are challenges which need to be resolved. Yes, you need patience and a long-term approach. But for many companies with a global vision, Ethiopia is a huge and growing market which you should not and cannot ignore. He disclosed that Ethiopia Airlines, the biggest airlines in Africa that has more than 127 international destinations was going to fly to the sky of Pakistan soon. Indeed, the commencement of Ethiopia Airline will boost the trade, investment and tourism between Ethiopia and Pakistan the rest of Africa as well the globe. Ambassador Jewel added, Ethiopia offered tremendous potential, and we look forward to working with the government and people of Pakistan. The next stage requires solid partnership with the private sector to develop its manufacturing sector, boost exports and increase employment.

Islamophobia reaching alarming level, says FM

NEW YORK: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Monday urged the OIC to approach the UN Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy - or at least a focal person - on Islamophobia, which, he said, had reached an alarming level worldwide, especially in Europe. "What is most worrisome is that Islamophobia continues to find strong resonance in political spheres in Europe, ultimately leading to the institutionalization of Islamophobia through new legislations and policies such as discriminatory travel bans and visa restrictions," the foreign minister told a meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Muslims in Europe held on the sidelines of UN General Assembly's 77th session. The UN General Assembly last year adopted the landmark resolution, introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries, designating March 15 as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. "The momentum generated by this resolution should be maintained," FM Bilawal said. "Today, one of the worst manifestations of such Islamophobia is in Hindutva-inspired India," he said, adding, "Driven by the ideology of hate against Muslims, the (ruling) BJP-RSS regime is executing its century-old plan to obliterate India's Islamic legacy and to transform India into an exclusive Hindu state." Noting that the rise in hate crimes against the Muslims in Europe are well documented, FM Bilawal said, "The gender aspect of Islamophobia is also gaining prominence, with Muslim girls and women being targeted due to mode of their dress and the general notion that Muslim women are oppressed and thus must be 'liberated'." In this regard, he proposed: 1. OIC needs to further strengthen the OIC observatory to monitor all such incidents. – DNA

US dollar inches up vs Rupee

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The US dollar on Monday gained Rs1.01 paise against the local currency and reached Rs237.91 in interbank trading. Karachi forex traders said that the American currency has reached Rs238 from Rs236.84, however, closed at Rs237.91. On the other hand, Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed positive trading at the start of the first day of the trading week as KSE-index gained 77 points and reached 41756. This US dollar flight is continued and the federal government authorities tasked FIA to control the US flight and it has been decided to launch crackdown against hoarders and hundi dealers. Earlier, International Monetary Fund (IMF) Resident Representative to Pakistan Esther Perez Ruiz Sunday offered sincere condolences on the devastations caused by the flood in Pakistan. She said that Pakistan will be supported under the loan program along with other international institutions. Esther said that IMF is very saddened by the damages caused by the flood in Pakistan and stands in support of the flood victims.

Warnings after typhoon makes landfall in Japan

IZUMI: Millions of people in Japan were under evacuation warnings on Monday as Typhoon Nanmadol brought strong winds and heavy rain to the southwest of the country after making landfall overnight. The powerful system has weakened since arriving on land Sunday evening around Kagoshima city in the southwestern region of Kyushu, but it has still uprooted trees, smashed windows and left rivers close to overflowing. National broadcaster NHK said one person had been killed and 50 others injured as the storm passed through Kyushu. There was no immediate confirmation of the figures from authorities. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who had been scheduled to leave Monday for the United Nations General Assembly, will delay his trip by a day to check on damage from the storm, his office confirmed. Officials from the Japan Meteorological Agency warned that in Miyazaki prefecture, where some areas saw more rainfall in 24 hours than they normally receive in all of September, river levels were high. "Even a tiny amount of additional rainfall

could cause the water level to increase, so please remain vigilant about flooding and landslides," Yoshiyuki Toyoguchi from the land ministry told reporters. Still, given the intensity of the storm, which came ashore packing gusts of up to 234 kilometres (145 miles) an hour, damage appeared relatively limited so far. "The typhoon has all but disappeared today and the rain and wind are also subsiding now," an official in charge of crisis management in Miyazaki's Saito city told AFP. "But power is out in some places... we're also hearing from many residents that electrical wires have been severed and trees have been toppled," he said, declining to be named. "Flooding is affecting some areas as well," he added, saying that officials "believe there are still many details of the damage we're yet to grasp". Rare "special warnings" for Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, issued only when weather events seen every few decades are forecast, have been downgraded. But evacuation warnings of various levels remained in place for 9.6 million people on the last day of a holiday weekend in Japan. – Agencies

Omani Ship carrying relief items reaches Karachi

STAFF REPORT

KARACHI: Under His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, Sultan of Oman, directions, a navy ship from the Sultanate of Oman, carrying relief items for flood-affected people in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, reached Karachi Port Monday. "Al-Nasser" ship of Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) carrying tons of food stock, shelter, and medical supplies for flood victims reached Karachi Port. The relief items will be supplied to the flood victims in Pakistan. The relief assistance shipment from Oman was received by representatives from the Pakistani Government including Senator Faisal Subzwari – Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs, Saqib Rauf – Deputy Chief of Protocol – MOFA (Camp Office), Commodore. M. Nasir Iqbal – Commander Sub Marine S.I., Col. Sajid – Director General - NDMA, as well as the Sultanate's Consul General to Karachi Eng. Sami Abdullah Al Khanjari and officials, where a relief aid ship was sent through the Royal Navy of Oman, in collaboration with Oman Charitable Organization (OCO). The Sultanate of Oman has continued to assist flood victims in Pakistan. Earlier, four military planes from Oman landed at Nur Khan Base, Rawalpindi and another four military flights are to land this week at Jinnah International Airport Karachi, bringing relief goods for the flood victims in the country.

Iran police say woman's death was 'unfortunate'

TEHRAN: Tehran's police chief says the death of a woman in custody last week was an "unfortunate" incident that he does not want repeated, local media report. Mahsa Amini, 22, collapsed hours after she was detained by morality police for allegedly violating strict hijab rules. Witnesses accused officers of beating her, sparking protests in the capital and her home province of Kurdistan. But Police Brig-Gen Hossein Rahimi called such claims "cowardly" and insisted she suffered no physical harm. "We will wait until the day of judgement, but we cannot stop doing security work," the hard-line Fars news agency quoted him as saying on Monday. Ms Amini, an ethnic Kurd who was from the western city of Saqez, died in hospital on Friday after spending three days in a coma. She was detained outside a metro station in Tehran on Tuesday by morality police. – APP

Marriyum, Javed Latif booked in terror case

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: A terrorism case was registered against Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and senior PML-N leader Javed Latif in Lahore on Monday for allegedly "using religion to instil and spread hatred" against PTI chief and former prime minister Imran Khan. The first information report (FIR) was filed by a citizen – an imam of a local mosque – at Green Town Police Station of the provincial capital. The FIR was lodged under sections 9 (punishment for acts intended or likely to stir up sectarian hatred) and 11X-3 (responsibility for creating civil commotion). Pakistan Television Managing Director Sohail Khan and controller programme Rashid Baig have also been nominated in the case. The complaint said the press conference was shown on national television. According to the FIR, a copy of which was tweeted by Punjab Home Minister Col (retd) Muhammad Hashim, the complainant said he came across a press conference of PML-N's Latif on Sep 14 in which he hurled disturbing accusations.

Palestine relief mission starts humanitarian work

The Palestinian Disaster Response Team includes 27 professional Palestinian members formed by the Ministry of Health, the Palestinian Red Crescent and the Civil Defense

DNA

DERA ISMAEL KHAN: A team of doctors, members of the Red Crescent and the Civil Defence of Palestine that arrived in Pakistan on Saturday has started its work in Dera Ismael Khan. Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rebai arranged a media interaction with the visiting team with a view to apprise members of Pakistani mass media about the objectives and mandate of the Palestine relief team. It may be mentioned here that Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada Minister of Human Rights, Mr. Musawwar Abbas Shah, Director Middle East Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Palestine and all the Embassy staff welcome the Palestinian team at Islamabad Airport. The Palestinian Disaster Response Team includes 27 professional Palestinian members formed by the Ministry of Health, the Palestinian Red Crescent and the Civil Defense. These actions are going to be Part of the Palestinian People campaign "In loyalty to Pakistan ... Jerusalem with you" which was launched by The Palestinian Presidency last month for victims of Pakistan's floods. Imad M. Zuhairi, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates for IR/ PICA Director General is leading the team, which is scheduled to stay in Pakistan for eight days. The team shall be taking care of the humanitarian and relief operations in Dera Ismael Khan. Mr. Zuhairi told this newspaper that this is the first mission whose mandate is to carry out relief and humanitarian work while another mission shall arrive soon that will take care of infrastructural jobs.

