



Islamabad POST

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UK to announce \$2.63bn military aid to Ukraine for 2023

Detailed News On Page-06

France urges Iran to accept nuclear deal

Detailed News On Page-06

Angelina Jolie meets flood victims in Dadu

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Time to expose Khan's hypocrisy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz said Tuesday while talking to media in Islamabad that former premier Imran Khan was a bully and imposter, adding it was necessary to bring forth the hypocrisy of that imposter. Maryam Nawaz said that Imran Khan had a habit of bullying the institutions whenever he was faced with a difficulty, adding the courts needed to discourage that behaviour for it was in favour of neither institutions nor the country.

Fazl wants action taken against Khan

DNA

LARKANA: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief and Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) supremo Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Tuesday said that he is unhappy with the coalition government for not taking action against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former premier Imran Khan. Talking to media in Larkana, the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam chief said that collective efforts were needed to deal with the destruction caused by floods. "Sindh has been hit hardest by the rains. The flood is a national tragedy, and we all have to deal with it."

Raza calls for "political ceasefire"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Senator Raza Rabbani on Tuesday called for a 'political ceasefire' owing to the calamitous situation caused by devastating floods. Raza Rabbani, former chairman of the Senate and a seasoned parliamentarian, in a statement said that the floods have wreaked havoc in Pakistan and people facing hardships owing to floodwater standing in large parts of the country.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif meets with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of General Assembly session in United Nations. - DNA

EU envoy praises Pakistan Army for flood relief work

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union (EU) Dr Riina Kionka Tuesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa here at General Headquarters (GHQ) and expressed her grief over the devastation caused by catastrophic floods in Pakistan and offered sincere condolence to the families of the victims. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation with European Union (EU) were discussed, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS said Pakistan valued its relations with EU countries, adding, "we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests."

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Cross border firing martyrs soldier

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In another incident of cross-border attacks, a squad of the Pakistan military came under attack from terrorists across the border in North Waziristan, in which a soldier embraced martyrdom. According to a statement released by the military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), a squad of the military near the border came under a gun attack from terrorists on the Afghanistan side. While combating the terrorists, ISPR said that soldier Nazar Muhammad was martyred. Muhammad hailed from the Jafarabad area of Pakistan and fought valiantly against the terrorists.

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PM meets French President, others

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Tuesday attended the opening of the high-level general debate of the 77th Session of UN General Assembly being held in the general assembly hall. The prime minister will also spend a busy day in New York. He also met with the

Continued on Page 06

UNGA session PM to tell story of 'pain and anguish'

PM will also interact with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of UNGA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif arrived in New York, US, on Tuesday to represent Pakistan and highlight the plight of the flood victims in the country at the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The premier announced his arrival in the US on his official Twitter handle and said that he will tell Pakistan's story "of deep anguish & pain arising out of a massive human tragedy caused by floods," during his UNGA address on September 23. "In my address at UNGA & bilateral meetings, I will present Pakistan's case on issues that call for [the] world's immediate attention," he added. The premier attended the reception of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and also met French President Emmanuel Macron. Besides meetings with the Austrian chancellor and Spanish president, he also due to held a meeting with European Union President Council Charles Michael and participated in the Global Food Security Summit. On Wednesday, the premier will meet International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva and World Bank President David Mills.

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UN Chief seeks support for developing states

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urges the developed countries, international financial institutions and fossil fuel companies to come forward to help the developing nations, facing the worst climate change devastations, especially in Pakistan. He said this while inaugurating the High-Level General Debate of the 77th Session of UN General Assembly in New York today. The UN Secretary General said that around 80 percent of the carbon emissions are contributed by G-20 countries, whereas the developing countries make a minor contribution in this regard, but bear the brutal impact of the climate change. Antonio Guterres said he himself witnessed the devastation caused by recent rains and floods in Pakistan.

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Imran mulls steps for economic recovery

Claims to put economy back on track if voted again to power

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said that he will prepare a complete road map for the economic recovery. A meeting of the senior political leadership and economic team of the party was held under the chairmanship of Imran Khan. During the meeting, the country's political situation and deteriorating economic conditions were discussed in detail. A special committee consisting of political and economic experts was established under the chairmanship of former finance minister Shaukat Tarin.

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PTI for rewriting political framework

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhary called upon the political parties and establishment to rewrite political framework and agree on rules of game in order to ensure balance in Civil-Military relationship, because the present system failed. Fawad Chaudhary in a statement on Tuesday stated that they must strive for balance in

Continued on Page 06

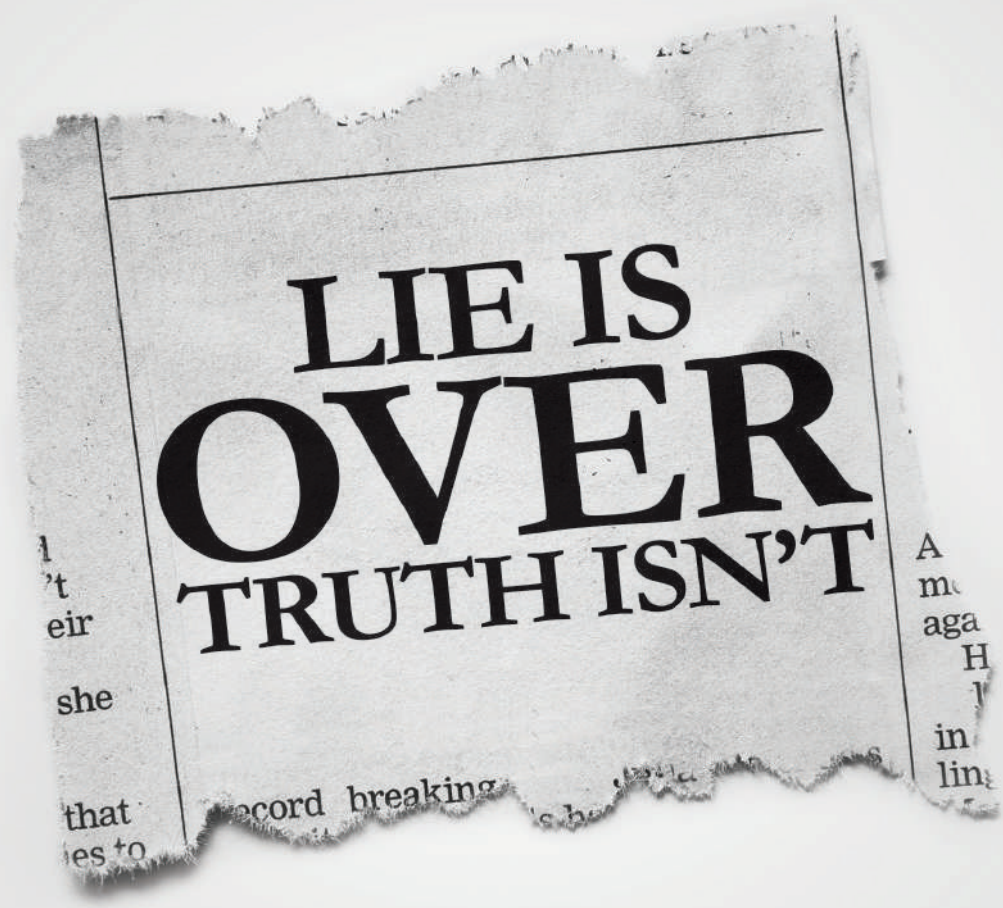
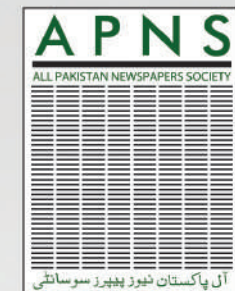
Political hostilities touching boiling point

Comment

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Amidst flood havoics which has badly affected over 30 million people throughout the country and alarming situation in Swat and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa erupted with re-emergence and reactivating of banned TTP, political confrontation between PTI and PDM, especially PML(N) now is at its peak. Along with war of words, now the two sides are registering blasphemy, contempt of court and treason cases against one another. After the Punjab government, now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government also registered treason and blasphemy cases against two federal ministers including Mian Javed Latif and Ms Maryam Aurangzeb. The cases were registered after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly's resolution against the two. Though the thin opposition resisted and opposed the resolution, ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf having overwhelming majority in the provincial assembly succeeded.

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Alvi for further cementing bilateral ties with Turkiye - Page 07

Joint probe finds Abu Akleh's killing 'deliberate' - Page 08



ISLAMABAD: ICCI ladies are present at a dinner hosted by Sahrish Ahsan Bakhtawari, the wife of the presidential candidate of Islamabad Chamber, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, in honor of ladies voter of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry

GSP Plus force multiplier in Pak-EU ties: Mushahid

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ms. Maria ARENA, Chair Subcommittee on Human Rights alongwith Mr. Peter Van Dalen and Mr. Petras AUSTREVIČIUS, Members of the European Parliament met with the members of the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights at the Parliament House.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, leading the delegation from the Pakistani side, thanked EU for support in flood relief but raised three concerns on human rights. He said floods in Pakistan are climate-induced and Pakistanis are suffering due to climate change effects of other countries policies. He said Pakistan is ravaged by floods and Ukraine by war, but Pakistan got 'peanuts' but Ukraine got billions. Surely, he asked the EU Parliamentarians, Pakistanis are not children of a lesser god? He said even UN Secretary General has called for 'climate justice'. Secondly, he said Europe faces a grave threat of right wing racism and religious bigotry, with Islamophobia and

anti-Semitism as electoral trends in Sweden and Italy testify. Third, Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed condemned double standards of European countries: annexation of Crimea by Russia is condemned while annexation of Occupied Kashmir by India is condoned. Ms. Maria ARENA expressed solidarity with the people of Pakistan in the wake of the devastation caused by the recent floods. She also highlighted

the importance of GSP Plus for Pakistan and the need to strengthen work on issues of human rights, labor rights, freedom of expression and environment. Mr. Peter Van Dalen stressed on the need of strengthening the criminal justice system in Pakistan for expedient disposal of cases. Mr. Petras AUSTREVIČIUS highlighted the issue of Taliban in Afghanistan especially its adverse

effect on public life of Afghans. Senators Seemee Ezdi and Abida Azeem brought the attention of the EU Delegation on the climate catastrophe facing Pakistan. They also reiterated the need for assistance from the international community to address the issues of climate change. The meeting which had a frank and candid exchange ended on a note of thanks from both sides.



Tele-healthcare project launched to connect BHUs

MUZAFFARABAD: A leading digital healthcare platform in collaboration with local health and information technology departments, has launched Tele-medicine project in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to connect Basic Health Units (BHUs) with qualified physicians and surgeons in the country and even abroad to provide free consultation to rural poor population, said Dr. Sara Saeed, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the organization while addressing the opening ceremony here Tuesday which was attended by AJK ministers, secretaries and others. Dr. Sara, CEO "Seht Kahani" while revealing the successes of such type of initiative in other provinces of the country, reiterated her commitment to facilitate AJK in line with the Sehat Kahani's organizational mission of enabling access to quality healthcare across the country. Dr. Iffat Zafar Aga, Co-Founder and COO of Sehat Kahani mentioned that Sehat Kahani has begun from 13 BHUs with hope to scale more than 25 BHUs which would impact more than 100,000 lives within the next 2 years with the support and collaboration of the IT department and other stakeholders. "The purpose of this initiative is mainly to address the concerns arising from inadequate supplies of doctors, and to equate the dis-proportionality between women, children, and elderly patients," Sara told the participants. She said through this initiative, 13 existing BHUs and clinical facilities had been already turn into telemedicine facilitation centers in the first three months. - APP

Govt urged to address delay in opening LCs of importers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) said that the business community was facing the problems of unnecessary delay in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for import of raw materials and called upon the government to address this issue on urgent basis for facilitating the growth of business activities. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Muhammad Naveed Malik, former Senior Vice President, ICCI. Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that due to delay in opening of LCs, many industries including food, pharmaceuticals, steel, automobiles, telecom, home appliances etc. were facing the shortage of raw material for

their manufacturing activities and if this issue was not addressed forthwith, it would badly affect the production activities and further hurt the already struggling economy. He said that the government had announced to lift ban on imports, but the business community was still facing a delay in opening of LCs for many important items including machinery and equipment. This situation has created a lot of concerns in the SMEs and large scale manufacturing industry, therefore, he appealed to the finance minister to take urgent notice of this matter and intervene to address this issue of utmost importance for the business community. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice

President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Mian Akram Farid, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Sheikh Amir Wahed, Nasir Qureshi, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Naveed Malik, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Tahir Mehmood, Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Ch. Masood, Malik Najeeb, Ashfaq Chatha, Saeed Khokhar, Mustafa Abbasi and others also spoke at the occasion and said that many industries in Pakistan relied on imported materials, but production activities were badly suffering due to delay in opening of LCs for imports. They emphasized that the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank of Pakistan should take urgent measures to address this issue of vital importance to save the production activities from further problems.

Govt taking steps for promoting handicrafts

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to KP CM on Industries & Commerce Abdul Karim Khan said that the provincial government was taking urgent steps for promotion of the handicrafts sector of the province. He was talking to a delegation of the Handicraft Association here in the Board of Investment and Trade (BoIT) on Tuesday. Besides, Vice Chairman, BoIT Said Mahmood and Project Director, Munir Gul, the representatives of SMEDA, Tourism, TDAP, Bank of Khyber and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC) and a large number of women entrepreneurs also attended the meeting. The special assistant said that domestic workers, especially women, would be imparted training to promote their businesses. He further said that the handicraft sector of the province has huge potential to earn foreign exchange for the country. Briefing the special assistant, Chairperson KP Handicraft Association Maryam said that the organization had been working since 15 years and over 1000 women are registered and imparted various kinds of training. -APP

Muqam inaugurates Madyan grid station

DNA

SWAT: Adviser to the Prime Minister for Political, Public Affairs and National Heritage, Engr Amir Muqam here on Tuesday inaugurated the newly rehabilitated and reconstructed 132 KV Madyan grid station after which electricity supply to flood-affected areas of Madyan were restored. Speaking on the occasion, Engr Amir Muqam said restoration of Madyan grid station was a big challenge and all the relevant stakeholders, including PESCO deserve full appreciation for completing the mega project in record shortest possible time. The August 27 floods had washed away about nine main towers of the Madyan grid station in upper Swat and was completely rehabilitated and reconstructed in record 24 days following the directives of the Prime Minister and Engr Amir Muqam.

Following its rehabilitation, power supply to Madyan and adjoining areas was restored, benefiting thousands of domestic, agriculture and domestic consumers. Engr Amir Muqam said the recent devastating floods had affected the entire country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan and its devastation were immense. He said the entire nation, armed forces of Pakistan, district administration, police, PESCO and others departments came for the rescue, rehabilitation and assistance of the flood victims and provided the much needed relief to them.

Over 30 million people were marooned in the record breaking floods in the country and reconstruction of their damaged and destroyed houses was a big task for which philanthropists and donor agencies have to come forward and help the government in rebuilding of their houses, he added. Amir Muqam said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had worked tirelessly during floods situation and personally visited all flood-hit provinces and met with the flood victims there. The Prime Minister personally supervised and monitored the rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations in flood-stricken areas in the country including KP where he reviewed flood damages and the pace of rehabilitation works.

The Prime Minister also visited flood-hit DI Khan twice, Tank, Swat, Kohistan, Charasadda, Mohmand and Nowshera where he inspected relief and rescue operations. Besides Rs. 25,000 for each flood affectee and Rs one million each for heirs of deceased of floods, Amir Muqam said that prime minister led from the front by mobilizing his team to provide relief to the affected population. "If we did not have a leader like the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Rehabilitation work in KP underway on fast track

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Faisal Amin Gandapur has said that all available resources are being utilized to assist and provide relief to the flood affectees and rehabilitation work is underway on a fast track. In this regard, more emergency funds are being released by the KP Finance Department, he said while talking to dwellers of flood affected areas during his visit.

The concerned rescue and district administration authorities also accompanied him on this occasion. Faisal Amin Gandapur said that assessment committees had been formed to ensure fair and transparent distribution of compensation among flood victims for the damages caused to their houses during flooding.

He, however, appealed for full cooperation with these survey teams for this purpose. The Minister appealed to the entire nation and overseas Pakistanis to donate generously in the KP Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund to extend maximum help to the flood victims, as he said, the rehabilitation of the displaced homeless victims is more difficult than the rescue and relief phases. For this purpose, he maintained, extra resources are required while dealing with such natural calamities. - APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Development Division (G&P) (Directorate of Parks Environment Wing)

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis from contractor having valid license by PEC in relevant category for the under mentioned works on the date and time mentioned below:-

S.No.	Name of Work	NIT Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date & Time of Receiving Tender	Date & Time of Opening Tender
1	P/Fixing MS Pipe Fence, Gadgets, Canopies & Construction of Sitout/Walkways At Park Street 67 D-12/2, Islamabad	Rs. 11,677,864/-	Rs. 266,780/-	06.10.2022 11:30 A.M	06.10.2022 12:00 Noon

Conditions:

- Detail of Tender Notice can be seen on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk
- Tender application should accompany with earnest money in shape of deposit at call in favor of Dy. Director Development Division (G&P), CDA issued from any scheduled local bank against firm's account. Name of firm should be clearly mentioned on instrument (Deposit at call). Tender documents shall not be issued without earnest money.
- In case of total bid amount is less than 10% below the NIT amount, the bidder shall submit additional call deposit as performance security equal to the difference between NIT amount and total quoted amount less 10% of NIT amount. The additional performance guarantee (Call Deposit) shall be submitted along with bid. Bids having rates below 10% of NIT without additional call deposit will be rejected. The performance security of the successful bidder shall be released after completion of project.
- Tender documents can be obtained from the office of Dy. Director Development Division (G&P), Environment Wing CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Directorate of Parks (West), CDA, Islamabad on cash payment of Rs. 2000/- (Rupees Two thousand) Per Each Set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on any working day before date of opening against written request which should be on letter head pad having Name, Address, Telephone (Land line) Numbers and signature of the contractor alongwith attested copies of NTN Certificate, valid Professional Tax Certificate, Sole proprietorship/partnership deed, Valid PEC license in relevant category, Moreover General/Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court. The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government, semi Government institute/That Only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents. No tender will be sold on the date of opening of the tender. **Tenders will be sold upto 12:00 Noon on dated 04-10-2022.**
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder. The eligibility criteria of the firm with the relevant experience i.e. at least three number of works in last two financial years may be observed/fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
- The intending bidder will have to provide telephone no of the relevant office/formation issuing work orders for verification purpose.
- No tender will be issued without showing the required documents in "ORIGINAL".
- Tender bids will be received and opened on above date and time in the office of Director Concerned, Environment Wing, CDA located at Mehran Gate No.01, Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad.
- Tender rate on percentage basis should be filled in figures as well as in words.
- The tender documents must be accompanied with non-relationship certificate, NTN Certificate, Non-Judicial Stamp Paper worth of Rs.50/- or above and. No tender will be entertained without these documents.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders as per PPRA Rules. No conditional tender will be entertained.

Deputy Director
Development Division (G&P)
Directorate of Parks (West), Env't Wing,
CDA

PID (I) No. 1798/22

Experts suggest solutions to economic ills at LCCI moot

LAHORE: Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) here Tuesday organized a conference on "Evolution of Social, Economic, Political Order: Past, Present and Future of Pakistan: and its Impact on Creation of Enabling Business Environment" that was largely attended by the government officials, business tycoons, judiciary and various other sectors of economy. The prime objective of the moot was to bring all stakeholders at one platform to identify the factors for economic ills and solutions to the challenges being faced by the trade, industry and the economy. State Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha, Senator Mian Raza Rabbani, DG Walled City of Lahore Authority Kamran Lashari, Justice Shahid Jamil Khan, LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, Chairman Nestle Pakistan Syed Yawar Ali, former Governor State

Bank of Pakistan Dr. Ishrat Hussain, Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Punjab Zafar Masud, former Federal Minister for Agriculture Syed Fakhar Imam, former Chairman FBR Syed Muhammad Shabbir Zaidi, Executive Director Netsol Ayub Ghauri, Chairperson Crescent Foundation Syed Sardar Ali Shah, LCCI Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan and Vice President Haris Ateeq addressed different sessions of the conference. Dr. Aisha Ghaus Pasha said the country was not only facing an economic crisis but our society was also suffering from polarization. She said that environmental changes had become a global issue. Now the country was not facing the problems that it was facing a few months ago. She said that country's spending were higher than income, exports were low and imports were high and these shortcomings would have to be overcome.

She said that volume of remittances was more than US \$ 30 billion but tax revenue was not increasing. "These things cannot go on like this for long," Aisha Ghaus Pasha added. She stressed the need for increasing exports and reduce imports to bridge huge gap, besides taking effective measures for the development of agriculture sector. She mentioned that two million houses had been destroyed in floods while one million cattle had been killed, therefore, all segment of society should join hands for the help of flood affectees. Senator Raza Rabbani said that country was in a dire need of the charter of democracy but the political stability must be brought first. He said the judiciary should play and interpret the Constitution, as making laws and amending the constitution was the job of parliament. Now the civil society and the media should play their role,

he added. LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir said, "In the journey spanning over 75 years, we have witnessed various social, political and economic happenings that shaped the country that we all live in today." He said that in the 1960s, Pakistan's exports were higher than those of Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines etc. In the times of prosperity, Pakistan also contributed fairly in the economic development of the current economic powers like Germany, China, Singapore and Malaysia. It is often quoted that Pakistan's five year economic plan was adopted by South Korea in 1960s which laid the foundation for the emergence of South Korea as one of the strongest economies in Asia. Delegations from various countries, which now rank among the developed economies used to visit Pakistan in 1960s to study our model of Industrialization and growth. DG Walled City of Lahore Au-

thority Kamran Lashari said that the promotion of cultural activities was need of the hour. He said, "We have closed mega events like Basant, New Year celebrations, Food Street, Cattle Show etc. that should be revived." Ex-Governor State Bank Dr. Ishrat Hussain said that flood had caused irreparable damage and the recovery would take years. He said that Pakistan had become the fastest growing country in the world during first 40 years. The growth rate was six percent, all institutions were strong and the decisions were made on merit. At that time, the business community gave money to pay the salaries of the government employees. He said, "We have to focus on universal primary education and should invest in our human resources. Public, private sectors and civil society have to play their role because the state needs it the most." He said that a petrochemical complex should be set up. -APP

National Days and Armed Forces Days

SEPTEMBER

Sept 01 / Libya
Revolution Day

Sept 01 / Tanzania
Defence day

Sept 01 / Uzbekistan
Independence Day

Sept 07 / Brazil
Independence Day

Sept 09 / DPR Korea
National Day

Sept 09 / Tajikistan
Independence Day

Sept 16 / Malaysia
Armed Forces Day

Sept 16 / Mexico
National Day

Sept 16/Papua New Guinea
Independence Day

Sept 18 / Chile
National Day

Sept 21 / Malta
Independence Day

Sept 23 / Saudi Arabia
National Day



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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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Bomb Disposal.....15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/
Islamabad.....1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance..1122
& Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police..9270601-20
Women Police Stations
Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital..9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Members of European Parliament meeting with Raja Pervez Ashraf Speaker of the National Assembly, on Tuesday.— DNA

Nation must join hands to support 3m affectees

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and national coordinator National Flood Response and Coordination Centre (NFRCC) on Tuesday have urged the nation to join hands with the government to address the devastation was colossal and unmanageable.

In a joint presser flanked by Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof Ahsan Iqbal, Chairman NDMA Lieutenant General Akhtar Nawaz Satti and national coordinator NFRCC Major General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal briefed the nation on the ongoing flood response, relief and rehabilitation efforts in the impacted areas across the country.

Chairman NDMA Lt Gen Satti said the recent monsoon rainfall in the country in general and in Sindh and Balochistan in particular caused huge devastation that no country or government alone could handle. The government through the UN appealed for global support where the UN Secretary General came to Pakistan and visited the flood hit areas and strongly appealed to the international

community to support Pakistan's flood victims.

The government through its embassies abroad and foreign embassies within the country and with the help of media briefed the international community on the gravity of the situation and its needs to address the crisis, he added.

Gen Satti told the media that the efforts resulted into flow of relief items and assistance and so far 114 relief flights had been received from 120 countries and 66 of them were received by NDMA and 13 more were scheduled in the next 10 days. He informed that relief items arrived in 48 of the relief flights were directly dispatched by UNICEF, Red Crescent, USAID, and UNHCR. The NDMA Chair mentioned that out of the total flights 13 were received from Turkiye, 30 from UAE, five from China, four from Oman, three from Qatar and one flight each from other countries. "All flights do not bring relief goods rather some of them bring delegations, and some logistics equipment for pre-deployment." The relief items received so far were 16,938 tents, 3,000 tarpaulins, 37,000 blankets, 11,000 food packs, 182 tonnes dry food, 30 tonnes

medicines, and 58 boats, he said, adding, "Moreover, other than this two trains from Turkiye reached at Dalbandin and six more are on way carrying tents, blankets and ration bags."

He further mentioned that from Tajikistan a relief convoy of 86 trucks reached Pakistan from Torkham Border carrying relief goods including tents, food, blankets, few cement, CGI sheets and household use charcoal. Moreover, medical teams comprising doctors and medicines from Turkiye, Palestine, and Qatar had reached the country providing medical relief in flood hit areas, he added.

D n m a r k had provided a water purification plant that was working in Sindh whereas France provided 75 small level dewatering pumps whereas a relief ship from Oman carrying relief goods reached Karachi on Monday, the NDMA chair told the media. He informed that the federal government had shared proper guidelines to NDMA for disbursement of relief goods that comprised of total population of affected districts, number of affectees, their needs, data of already provided assistance, expenditure of logistics, and most importantly transparency in distribution that was sending the relief

to the deserving. "In this regard, Sindh province is the most affected and therefore 55-60% relief equipment has been provided to Sindh and further more to be sent in the same ratio. The next is Balochistan and 15-20% relief items are sent there and the remaining is being sent to KP, Punjab, GB." After custom clearance, he said the relief goods were handed over to Pakistan Army who distributed this equipment at district and tehsil levels in coordination with the district administration whereas a detailed record was maintained of these goods. "It's an important responsibility and NDMA is striving day and night to ensure clear distribution of relief goods in cooperation with concerned authorities." Other than aid from friendly countries, he underlined that the NDMA is also providing tents, mosquito nets, ration packs, dewatering pumps, and pure drinking water after procurement to affected areas through Pakistan Army and PDMA representatives. He noted that the federal and provincial government, departments and nation were collectively fighting this crisis with all out resources deployed but the affected population needed more assistance as the scale of the disaster was very high.—APP

Motorway Police recovers child, stolen vehicle

ISLAMABAD: The National Highways and Motorways Police (NH&MP) timely and efficient operations on Tuesday recovered a child and stolen vehicle. According to Spokesperson Motorway Police, the Motorway Police officers found a child aged around 10 years in distress near the Havelian Toll Plaza on E-35 Expressway.

On inquiry, it was found that the child ran from a Madrassa due to harassment by some children. The child was going towards Rawalpindi. In view of the situation, the Motorway Police took the child into protective custody and informed his parents. Later he was safely handed over to the family.

Meanwhile in another operation, the Motorway Police found a carry van in an abandoned condition while patrolling near Motorway M2 Islamabad Toll Plaza.

While checking the vehicle on the basis of suspicion, it was found that it belonged to a government department and was stolen from a supermarket in Islamabad. The vehicle was then seized and handed over to the concerned police for further legal action, while the search for the accused was underway.—APP

ANF recovers 110 hashish-filled capsules

ISLAMABAD: Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Tuesday recovered 110 hashish-filled capsules hidden in the accused's stomach at Islamabad International Airport. According to the ANF spokesperson, the accused is a resident of Khyber Agency and was on his way to Bahrain from Islamabad. While in another operation, the force, has recovered heroin of 1.840 kilograms from a parcel booked for Canada at a courier office in Karachi. Cases have been registered against the accused under the Anti-Narcotics Act and further investigation has been started.—APP

Women's role acknowledged

ISLAMABAD: Women's role is essential for the development of better climate adaptation mechanisms and disaster risk resilience efforts as they bring unique perspectives, insights and challenges to the table which must be recognized and integrated into future policy making. The Oxfam analysis showed that during the 2004 Tsunami, 70 percent of the 230,000 people killed were women. Women in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate disasters due to deep-rooted gender inequities that define the moral and social fabric of their societies. Women and children are more likely than men to receive fatal casualties when disaster strikes like recent torrential rains and flash floods in the country. The government, with help from civil society, developed countries and international agencies, is working to ensure that timely relief efforts are put into action. But with one-third of the country under water, it will be years before towns and cities pulverized by the floods can be completely rehabilitated.—APP

Nepotism, corruption seen restraining progress

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is faced with a crisis of governance at all levels, lack of national consensus on critical issues, and non-adherence to national objectives in policy formulation and implementation, according to senior academics and seasoned practitioners. The experts were speaking at the annual meeting of the National Academic Council (NAC) of Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad. The yearly gathering is aimed at delivering intellectual input from a cross-section of veteran scholars and practitioners to IPS' research activities. Presided over by IPS' Chairman Khalid Rahman, the meeting was addressed by Dr. Syed Ju-



naid Zaidi, former rector COMSATS; Ambassador (r) Shamsad A. Khan, former secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Syed Abu Ahmad Akif, former federal cabinet secretary; Dr. Syed Tahir Hijazi, former vice-chancellor, Muslim Youth University; Dr. Waqar Masood Khan, former federal secretary, finance; Dr. Anwar-ul-Hasan Gilani, former vice chancellor, University of Haripur; Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, water and power; Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman IPS; Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqi, director, Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai Shaheed Chair,

University of Balochistan; Dr. Adnan Sarwar Khan, former dean of social sciences, University of Peshawar; Dr. Naveed Butt, senior physician at Federal Government Services Hospital; and Dr. Noreen Sahar, associate professor and chairperson, Department of Anthropology, IIUI.

IT Park in Islamabad to generate 15000 jobs; official

ISLAMABAD: The Information Technology (IT) Park being established in sub-urban area in the federal capital would generate at least 15,000 jobs for IT experts, students and professionals. The foundation stone of the park was laid on Chak Shahzad, last year by Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque, aimed at fulfilling Digital Pakistan Vision. The project would be completed with the total cost of Rs13.72 billion, an official in the Ministry told APP on Tuesday. The official told that another similar park would be set up near Karachi airport to improve

the provision of work space and allied infrastructure facilities for IT and IT-enabled services (ITeS) companies and promote growth of the IT industry. Both the parks, he said would not only mitigate the shortage of infrastructure for IT sector but also facilitate technology transfer through industry and academia linkages, support technology commercialization, links tertiary education and production, promote research and development; besides enhancing IT exports and the industry competitiveness. He said that the projects would also help improve the formation of IT clusters, increase export revenues and showcase Pakistani innovations and services in the IT sector before the international audience and customers. The Ministry of IT wants to establish software technology parks in small and big cities of the country.—APP

ICT, MCI's anti-dengue drive in full swing

ISLAMABAD: A massive campaign against dengue was in full swing after reporting over 1300 positive cases of the deadly fever so far during the ongoing year. The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration in assistance with Metropolitan Corporation Islamabad (MCI) constituted teams to carry out fogging and spraying of anti-mosquitoes pesticides across the city, whereas the assistant commissioners were ensuring compliance to anti-dengue standard operating procedures (SOPs), Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon told APP on Tuesday. He said the health directorate had completed anti-dengue fogging in various urban as well as sub-urban areas in the city including, sectors of G series, BharaKahu, Tarnol and other high risk sites from where more cases of the dengue were reported. The teams were also disseminating educating material among the masses to create awareness to curb the disease and keep citizens safe against the mosquito bite. In order to make anti-dengue campaign successful, the DC said the city was divided into different zones and in each zone, designated teams were deployed. The sanitation directorate carried out special cleanliness operation, in addition to routine cleanliness of the city, especially in the potential breeding areas of the city so that dengue could be eliminated at its larva stage. Memon said additional machinery, vehicles, human resources and other allied facilities were provided to the teams with availability of sufficient quantity of pesticides for smooth functioning of the drive. The teams of environment wing were also engaged for removing wild grass and bushes from the potential larvae breeding areas. The DC has appealed the residents to cooperate with civic agency, maintain the cleanliness of surroundings in addition to ensure the proper drainage of water so that results could be achieved. Meanwhile, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Usman Ashraf presided over a dengue review meeting. The health officials informed the ADC that during the last 24 hours, 55 patients were reported in different hospitals.— APP

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Briefs

President to address Int'l conference in AIOU

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first 3-day international conference of the Pakistan English Language Teachers (ELT) Forum on "Emerging Trends in English Language Teaching in Pakistan: Challenges and Opportunities" is being held today (Wednesday, September 21) at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). President, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Dr. Arif Alvi will be the chief guest of the opening session. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia U-Qayyum will deliver the welcome note. 159 papers will be presented by local and foreign researchers. This conference is being jointly organized by the Department of English, AIOU, Pakistan ELT Forum, and Regional English Language Office (RELO) of the US Embassy. The conference will play a very important role in highlighting the creative and teaching skills of English language teachers in the country. Security and administrative arrangements for the conference have been completed.

5-day COVID vaccination drive for children

ISLAMABAD: Federal Health Minister Abdul Qadir Patel Tuesday urged the parents to vaccinate their children against the COVID-19 during the 5-day immunization drive for children under aged 5-11 which would continue till September 24. "The campaign is successfully continued in Islamabad, Sindh and Punjab schools", he said while talking to PTV news channel.

He also expressed satisfaction that the Covid-19 vaccination campaign for children was moving forward smoothly which would expand all over the country in next phases, adding, over 8 million children would receive two doses of Pfizer vaccine. "The basic aim of the vaccination is to protect the future generation against the virus," he said.

Ministry of Health with the coordination of Ministry of Education have completed NADRA based data of school children for the vaccination, he added.

Government would carry out the vaccination campaign in different stages, he said, adding, in first phase 64 million Pfizer doses were approved upon which 16 million doses were yet to have received.

The children would be administered two doses for full protection against the virus with an interval of 21 days after the first dose, he mentioned. Replying a question, he thanked US government that US through USAID, is supporting the Government of Pakistan's COVID-19 pediatric vaccination campaign for 5 to 11-year-old children.—APP

SMEDA invites applications grants

ISLAMABAD: Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) has invited applications for small business grants (Round-II) for "Growth Stage Start Up" maximum to Rs500,000 to each organization on first come first served basis to promote and encourage SMEs sector of the country.

The Growth Stage Start-Ups grant is aimed at providing financial support to the entrepreneurs to meet the capital or operating needs of their business, official source said adding that the interested enterprises had been requested to submit their applications by September 27.

SMEDA's Grant Programme offers funding to the eligible SMEs to acquire machinery, equipment required for carrying out the production operation, testing apparatus/ equipment required to conduct product, process inspection or quality testing, office equipment including IT equipment required for carrying out business operation.—APP



ISLAMABAD: President RCCI Nadeem Rauf presenting a souvenir to the Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi during his visit to RCCI Headquarters.- DNA

Envoy highlights women role in Indonesian development

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Adam Tugio participated in the International Conference on Pakistan Export Potentials-Women Led Business by Faisalabad Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FWCCI) at Islamabad Serena Hotel.

At the event, the Ambassador shared best practices on the role of women in Indonesia as the impetus of the Indonesian economy through MSMEs. They also contributed to creating jobs and improving the community's social welfare.

The Ambassador informed the participants that the number of MSMEs units in Indonesia was 64 million units in 2021 and contributed to a gross domestic product (GDP) of about 61.97 per cent. They covered wholesale and retail trade (46.17%), accommodation and food & beverages such as restaurants, cafes and catering (16.53%), as well as the processing industry of raw materials into semi-finished or finished products (16.53%). The percentage of women entrepreneurs in Indonesia is 21% and they have performed well in MSMEs.

Furthermore, MSMEs have high resilience that can support the country's economy during the pandemic.



Lockdown policies, introduced by the government during COVID-19 have restricted the mobility of people.

But there is always light in the end of tunnel. This situation has allowed MSMEs to know and embrace e-commerce and digital payment services. Ambassador Tugio underscored the important of digital literacy for women entrepreneurs and access to financial services. Developing connectivity between Indonesian and Pakistani women entrepreneurs was also highlighted. Exchange visits, training, and capacity building were important to explore creative ideas for promoting women entrepreneurs. The Ambassador said that his country was a gateway for \$2.9 trillion economy of ASEAN region and Pakistan should tap it for trade and exports by developing close cooperation with Indonesia.

He said that China was enjoying a bilateral trade of around \$ 600 billion with ASEAN, but Pakistan-ASEAN bilateral trade was less than 1%, which should be increased to achieve better results.

He stressed for promoting cooperation among women entrepreneurs of Pakistan, Indonesia and ASEAN region that would give boost to trade among these countries.

Ambassador Adam said that his embassy was planning to organize a dialogue on economy involving B2B and G2G meetings between the two countries besides holding an exhibition of the products of both countries to highlight their potential for bilateral trade

Pakistan first beneficiary of Saudi programme for workers



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Arabia launched a skill verification programme in Pakistan, with the South Asia nation becoming the first beneficiary of Riyadh's new scheme for skilled workers. Under the newly launched programme, a dozen examination centers will conduct written and practical tests of skilled workers in Pakistan before they could apply for a Saudi work visa. Saudi Arabia is home to more than 2.5 million Pakistani expatriates and one of the biggest sources of remittances to Pakistan.

Saad Aiaqil, director-general of the Saudi skill verification program, said Pakistan was the first country to utilize the skilled workers' scheme. "We have a very strong strategic relationship with Pakistan and have selected it as the first country

to start this program," he said in an interview with Arab News. The initiative is aimed at ensuring skilled workforce comes to the kingdom, Aiaqil said. "In the first phase we have selected five occupations for the program and these five have further 160 smaller categories for the workers," he added. In 2020, Saudi Arabia announced new plans to ease foreign workers' contractual restrictions, abolishing a seven-decade-old sponsorship system known as kafala. The plans, which took effect in March 2021, aim to make the Saudi labour market more attractive by granting foreign workers the right to change jobs and leave the country without employers' permission. Saudi Arabia is seeking to boost its private sector, part of an ambitious plan to diversify its oil-dependent economy.—APP

Mobile import decrease 64.38%

ISLAMABAD: The import of mobile phones has witnessed a decrease of 64.38 percent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan imported mobile phones worth the US \$101.864 million during July-August (2022-23) as compared to the imports of US \$285.947 million during July-August (2021-22), showing a decline of 64.38 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile on a year-to-year basis, the import of mobile phones also witnessed a decline of 62.17 percent during the month of August 2022, as compared to the same month of last year.

The import of mobile phones during August 2022 was recorded at \$63.060 million against the exports of \$166.710 million in August 2021. On a month-on-month basis, the imports of mobile phones however increased by 62.51 percent during August 2022. —APP

FIA given time to review case against TV anchor

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday granted time to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for answer in a plea against alleged harassment of TV anchor Sami Ibrahim. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the case filed by the TV anchor. The FIA officials adopted the stance that the anchor had tried to create fear among officers through TV program. The anchor had targeted the state institutions in his program, they added.

The FIA further said that the TV anchor

had many followers and he could play a role in influencing public opinion. The chief justice said that one's point of view could be wrong but what was the crime in it. The FIA said that the anchor had threatened the officers. The official said that the state was a complainant in this case. The court remarked that this matter didn't fall in jurisdiction of the FIA as the state was not a natural person. Whether there was any other allegation against the said TV anchor besides this speech, it asked. - APP

PAF extending full support to flood victims



ISLAMABAD: The recent massive flash floods have caused catastrophic situations in KPK, Sindh, Balochistan and South Punjab. In order to facilitate the fellow country-men during this hour of need, Pakistan Air Force has dedicated maximum efforts towards relief and rehabilitation operations for flood affectees.

Recently, the contaminated water has further aggravated the problems of flood victims in the form of pandemic diseases. PAF has started providing swift medical relief to counter prevailing diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, Diarrhea, Cholera and Dysentery in the flood affected areas. Different medical Lab Collection Points have

been established for rapid diagnosis of waterborne diseases and prompt medical services are being provided to save precious lives. PAF helicopters and transport fleet are also actively participating in transportation of food and medical supplies along with safe evacuation of the flood victims. During the last 24 hours, Pakistan

Air Force has distributed 18,510 cooked food packs, 300 water bottles and 1920 ration packs consisting of basic food commodities amongst the needy families. Moreover, in addition to the provision of free food and shelter, 1440 patients were also attended by the medical teams of Pakistan Air Force in Field Medical Camps of PAF.—DNA

Sanjrani eulogizes WHO for providing relief

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Tuesday eulogized Country Director World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Pulitha Gunrathana Mahipala for his efforts to providing relief to far-flung areas and underprivileged population of Balochistan.

During his visit to WHO office here accompanied by Senator Naseebullah Bazai, he said the organization should focus on providing clean water and food to the people of the area. Sadiq Sanjrani said that WHO's efforts to protect people from epidemics and diseases in affected areas were commendable. He said that a special health committee had been established on the request of the WHO chief and the committee would work with the advice of the organization and play a key role in providing basic health services to the people of Pakistan and especially in Balochistan. "WHO has played an excellent role in providing basic health facilities to remote and backward areas of flood-affected Balochistan.—DNA

Fifth flight from Oman lands

ISLAMABAD: A relief assistance flight from the Sultanate of Oman landed at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi on Tuesday. This is fifth flight from Oman carrying relief goods for the flood-affected people in Pakistan. The consignment was received by Omani Council General Sami Abdullah Salim Al Khanjari along with the representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority. Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar in a statement said, "Relief assistance from Sultanate of Oman is welcomed with warmth and gratitude."

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Water-borne diseases

THE dengue fever cases in Pakistan continue to increase as a significant number of patients were reported in parts of the country during the last 24 hours, health authorities said. One person died and a total of 276 patients were diagnosed with the disease in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province in the last 24 hours, the provincial health department reported on Monday night. The number of active cases in KP is 1,610 and the total number of cases this year has reached 4,980. Moreover, 152 new cases of dengue were reported in eastern Punjab province in the last 24 hours, the provincial health department said on Monday. Punjab's Rawalpindi city reported 71 patients while 47 people were diagnosed in its capital Lahore. The total number of patients in Punjab throughout the year has moved up to 3,437. The Pakistani government has launched an anti-dengue campaign including raising public awareness in response to the alarmingly high level of cases in the country, and has taken special measures at the dengue hotspots in order to curb the spread of the disease. Sindh officials said more than 500,000 people are still displaced by the calamity and living in makeshift camps across the province. Meanwhile, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Tuesday said the death toll in the catastrophic floods has risen to 1,559. Pakistan was battered by record rains and melting glaciers beginning in the middle of June. The floods at one point submerged one-third of the nation of 220 million people, destroying more than a million homes and dozens of roads, railways and bridges. The government, already facing an economic crisis, estimates the total financial losses due to the floods at \$30bn and has appealed to the global community for help. Officials in Sindh, home to 48 million people, said more than 137,000 cases of diarrhoea, over 10,000 cases of dysentery and at least 4,000 confirmed cases of malaria were reported in the province this month, adding that they have set up 450 medical camps to tackle the health crisis. It is pertinent to mention that earlier this week, WHOI chief warned of potential for a second disaster in Pakistan: a wave of disease and death following this catastrophe, linked to climate change, that has severely impacted vital health systems leaving millions vulnerable.

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Sino-Russian ties

AS two of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as two major pillars of the United Nations-centered international system, both China and Russia consider it a shared responsibility to deepen their strategic coordination to prevent the law-based international order from being hijacked by the United States and its clique for their own narrow ends. In doing so, the two countries have formed a model for the relationship between major countries that is characterized by mutual respect. Shortly after the leaders of the two countries met during the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, last week, top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi co-chaired the 17th Round of the Strategic Security Consultation between China and Russia with Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation, in Fuzhou, Fujian province, on Monday. The consultation has undoubtedly initiated the implementation of the consensus reached by the two countries' leaders on deepening the two countries' cooperation and the need for joint efforts to uphold fairness and justice in the international system. Thus Yang and Patrushev exchanged views on better coordinating and targeting their actions to maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, and discussing the situations in Afghanistan and Ukraine, among other issues. Those who feel uneasy or even fearful at the normal collaboration between Beijing and Moscow should do some soul-searching on their own motives, rather than racking their brains to speculate on the two countries having ulterior motives. The two countries' focus is on improving the common good of the two peoples and contributing to world peace and stability. Their relations have never been at the mercy of third parties. They have not changed and will not change their original vision or course due to drastic changes in the international landscape or under pressure from third parties. Their adherence to the principles of non-alignment, non-confrontation and not targeting third parties while handling bilateral ties guarantee that Sino-Russian relations will withstand the tests of various kinds of challenges, and they will continue to work together to safeguard the security interests of the region as well as the common interests of developing countries and emerging market economies. That is in stark contrast to the behavior of some Western countries that are intent on sowing seeds of discord around the world and provoking confrontation. The times are changing and the historical forces driving the change call for political trust, openness and inclusiveness, not aspersion, confrontation and exclusion.

Israeli attacks on Palestinians and the International response

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



Biden administration's response to this has been largely muted, only asking that Israel should provide reasons for the raids. The permanent closure of these NGOs by such actions will have dire consequences for their problems and the constituencies they serve. Including the possibility of severe repression by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, there will be far-reaching implications for Palestinian civil society

IN the third week of August, Israeli forces raided and forcibly closed the offices of six Palestinian non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including three leading human rights organizations in the occupied West Bank. The move follows Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Gantz's decision to designate six civil society groups as "terrorist" organizations in October last year. These groups include the oldest and the most prominent human rights NGO in Palestine and one of the oldest in the Arab world, along with the Adamir Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Defense for Children-International, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees as well as Center for Research and Development, and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees was included. All six institutions, several of which have been at the forefront of advancing ongoing cases against Israel at the International Criminal Court, are respected and have strong ties to foreign NGOs and governments. These groups receive foreign financial support, including from many European governments. This move has also been seen as an attempt to shut down organizations by cutting off their funding. The moves were seen with shock and outrage by Palestinians, who described the move

as a brazen attempt to stifle criticism of Israeli policies. Representatives of European governments, many of which have funded the named groups for years, expressed similar concerns and asked Israel to provide evidence of the allegations. The Biden administration's response to this has been largely muted, only asking that Israel should provide reasons for the raids. The permanent closure of these NGOs by such actions will have dire consequences for their problems and the constituencies they serve. Including the possibility of severe repression by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, there will be far-reaching implications for Palestinian civil society. In response to the international criticism, Israel promised to provide evidence, including a secret document containing evidence of the groups' alleged terrorist ties, but has so far failed to convince a single government or donor. The European Union investigation concluded that Israel's evidence did not meet the required standard of proof. A group of United Nations human rights experts similarly said Israel had failed to provide any public concrete and credible evidence against the groups. In July, the EU's nine donor countries Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany,

Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Sweden issued a joint statement categorically rejected the Israeli allegations and citing a lack of evidence. They announced their intention to continue funding to Six Palestinian NGOs, though reportedly the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), have found nothing to back up the Israeli allegations, and the Biden administration has largely avoided commenting on the matter. Last week, during the military crackdown on NGOs has drawn even more outcry from the international community. The United Nations Human Rights Office has described this move by Israel as completely illogical. In a very public show of solidarity on the day of the raids, representatives of EU diplomatic missions including Germany, Mexico, Poland, the UK and others met with representatives of the six targeted groups, even forcing the US to break its silence. They forced to publicize that it was "concerned" about Israel's closure of organizations and for the first time expressed that the evidence provided by Israel did not support any justification that civil society take action against organizations. Until the international community, and particularly the United States, are prepared to pressure Israel to change the course of incursion, such gestures may force Israeli authorities for some pause.

OHCHR Report on China's Xinjiang: Negating the realities

Irfan Shahzad Takalvi



The situation on the ground in Xinjiang is totally different. The autonomous region has witnessed all-round development and progress over past seven decades, much more so in recent few years, and all the ethnic groups are reaping the benefits of this turn around. China's policy of fighting terrorism and extremism is a notable success; and it has ensured durable peace not only inside Xinjiang and rest of China

WHAT value does a document released by the head of an international body just minutes before her retirement actually assume, especially so when the document is clearly aimed at portraying a certain country or a region in a negative way? Nothing indeed! A lie repeated a thousand times does not become a truth, in any way. The recently released report of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on China's Xinjiang serves only one purpose: to malign and vilify China on the basis of acts that China never committed. It is not hard for experts of the subject and global researchers with any sound standing to ascertain the intellectual weight of an assessment which itself admits that "... the available information at this stage does not allow OHCHR to draw firm conclusions" but in the same sentence goes on to add that "... it is clear that the highly securitized and discriminatory nature of the VETC facilities, coupled with limited access to effective remedies or oversight by the authorities, provide fertile ground for such violations to take place on a broad scale." And VETC here stands for Vocational Education and Training Centers in Xinjiang that China has actually wound up for long, after having served their purpose. Further, the report itself mentions that it is based on "40 in-depth interviews with individuals with direct and first-hand knowledge of the situation" in addition to researches of think-tanks and reports of the media. Can a document of this nature and scope be expected to do justice to such a complex issue? Of course not. The document is hardly anything more than yet another move in the series of consistent attacks on China in the name of human rights' violations in Xinjiang. And the propaganda, all of it, derives only from false, concocted, angled reporting on

sections of international media; biased and unverifiable researches and accounts of a handful of exiles' from Xinjiang living abroad. The situation on the ground in Xinjiang is totally different. The autonomous region has witnessed all-round development and progress over past seven decades, much more so in recent few years, and all the ethnic groups are reaping the benefits of this turn around. China's policy of fighting terrorism and extremism is a notable success; and it has ensured durable peace not only inside Xinjiang and rest of China, but has also contributed positively to safety and security of countries bordering Xinjiang. I, as a researcher and media contributor, have to repeat here once again that I have been lucky to visit Xinjiang some ten times during past decade and a half; the first visit being in 2008 and the last one in 2019. I have personally met and interacted with people of almost all ethnic groups living in Xinjiang. Beyond visits, virtual contacts with friends in/from Xinjiang are a regular feature for me. People, an overwhelming majority of them, are happy and content; living fulfilling, joyous lives. Their living standards, quality of life, livelihoods have been transformed immensely - all for the better - in recent years; thanks to the untiring efforts of China's central and Xinjiang's regional authorities. They are free to practice, preserve and develop their faiths, beliefs and cultures: the same is supported by the state and authorities, rather. VETCs actually educated, trained and prepared a large number of victims of extremist agendas for better lives; equipping them with skill sets needed to thrive in a fast developing, modernizing economy. Ironically, the contents of OHCHR's assessment are also contrary to what the former High Commissioner herself expressed, on the conclusion of her visit to the region, in May this year.

Xinjiang today is not only developing fast internally, but playing a pivotal role in forwarding the regional and global agenda of integration and cooperation - the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). I personally see it as precisely the reason that why the West, particularly the US, is so bent upon painting Xinjiang in a specific, negative light. Economies of all regional countries are so closely linked with that of Xinjiang; and I have written already that attacking Xinjiang actually amounts of attacking the 'Heart of Eurasia.' It - Xinjiang - is exactly so, the heart of the re-emerging Eurasian continent. If Xinjiang grows, the entire region would benefit. Trade figures already prove that. Heinous efforts to arrest the development of Xinjiang may better be seen in this context. Attacking Xinjiang means attacking the core of BRI; it means attacking the long awaited Eurasian integration. A large number of counties - actually around a half of the UN membership - have repeatedly challenged the unfounded propaganda against Xinjiang in recent months and years; and many also called upon OHCHR not to release the report which serves no constructive purpose. Yet, the OHCHR went ahead with its plans, visibly in very questionable manner. In fact, subjecting the people of Xinjiang to sanctions, targeting their economy and development, and casting dark shadows over the future of the region's inhabitants in the name of perceived violations is itself one of the worst forms of human rights' violations. The people of Xinjiang are unfortunately suffering from this violation of human rights at the hands of a handful, powerful, dominant nations; without any logical, ethical and legal basis. This must end, immediately. - The author is Founding President of the Eurasian Foundation Institute (ECI), Islamabad-Pakistan and may be accessed at irfanzad@gmail.com

Briefs

PM to tell story of 'pain and anguish'

FROM PAGE 01
Apart from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, PM Shehbaz will also hold a bilateral meeting with Iran's President Seyed Ibrahim Raisi. He will host a luncheon in honour of President Erdogan and his wife. Other engagements of the premier include meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaqob, UNGA president, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, the UN secretary-general as well as Nobel laureate Malala Yousofzai.

UN Chief seeks support...

FROM PAGE 01
He said the climate change crisis is a case study for moral and economic injustice, being done to the developing world. The UN Secretary General said the present-day world is facing multiple crises, including food security, climate change, and higher prices of agri inputs. Talking about geo-political divide in the world, Antonio Guterres said, dialogue is the only option to resolve conflicts in the world, which needs collected efforts as no single power can call the shots. The UN Secretary General said negative propaganda in the digital platforms is also creating problems in the society.

PM meets French President...

FROM PAGE 01
French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the Session. Similarly he met with the Austrian Chancellor as well. Earlier, the prime minister reached UN Headquarters to attend a welcome reception hosted by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres for the Heads of States/Governments participating in the 77th Session of UN General Assembly (UNGA77). During the reception, the prime minister interacted with Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern. Besides this, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with President of the Republic of France Emmanuel Macron, Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria Karl Nehammer, President of Spain Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon and President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sayyed Ebrahim Raisi. In the afternoon, the prime minister will visit 'The Times Centre' for an interview with the New York Times's editorial board. In the evening, the prime minister will be called on by John Kerry, US Special Envoy for Climate Change.

Political hostilities touching...

FROM PAGE 01
So far contingents of military and paramilitary troops have been dispatched to Swat mountainous areas and the militants have been asked to wind off and go back (to hideouts across the border in Afghanistan) on Wednesday morning otherwise face military action. Ironically, neither the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government nor the Federal government owns the proposed military operation. Similarly, people from Swat are also doubtful about the sincerity of the military establishment as almost all of its top brass are always proud of what they call "Taliban militants are our assets." Still Swat people are apprehensive of 2005-2006 situations whereas no other than military establishment through its secret Agencies strengthened the banned TTP in Swat and later helped it in crossing over and sheltering in Afghanistan. Unlike the past, this time Tehrik-e Taliban Afghanistan also called Emirati Islami Afghanistan is not only divided on relations/links with Pakistan but even does not trust Pakistan. Some top leaders like Interior Minister Siraj Ud Din Haqqani are silent but Defense minister Mullah Yaqob and others are publicly criticizing Pakistan for its negative policies towards Afghanistan.

England beat Pakistan in first T20I

England are on their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years to play seven Twenty20 internationals. England debutant paceman Luke Wood finished with 3-24, while spinner Adil Rashid took 2-27.

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: England on Tuesday defeated Pakistan by six wickets in the opening T20I match between the two sides. England comfortably chased down the target of 159 runs with six wickets in hand. Opener Mohammad Rizwan continued his good batting form with an attractive 46-ball 68 to take Pakistan to 158-7 in the first Twenty20 cricket international against England in Karachi on Tuesday. Rizwan, top run-getter in the Asia Cup earlier this month with 281, knocked six boundaries and two sixes and put on 85 for the first wicket with skipper Babar Azam

(31) after England won the toss and fielded. England are on their first tour of Pakistan in 17 years to play seven Twenty20 internationals. England debutant paceman Luke Wood finished with 3-24, while spinner Adil Rashid took 2-27. Keeping an eye on next month's T20 World Cup, both sides will look to draw first blood. With bitter memories of their shocking defeat in the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka in Dubai still fresh, the home team will go all out for an emphatic victory in the series, England's first in this country in 17 years. The tourists, on their first trip to the country since 2005, will play four of the seven matches in Karachi on September 20, 22, 23 and 25 and the remaining three at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on September 28, 30 and October 2. England skipper Jos Buttler will not be able to participate in any of the four games in Karachi due to injury, therefore Ali will perform captaincy duties. Haider Ali, Usman Qadir and Shahnaaz Dahani have returned to the playing XI whereas Shan Masood is making T20I debut.



KARACHI: Pakistani batter Muhammad Rizwan plays a shot during first T20I match between Pakistan and England cricket teams. - DNA

EU envoy praises Pak Army for flood relief work

FROM PAGE 01
The COAS congratulated the ambassador for assuming her new appointment. Both the dignitaries hoped to further enhance bilateral engagement based on common interests. The visiting dignitary offered full support to the people of Pakistan. She also appreciated Pakistan's Army efforts for assisting civil administration in rescue and relief efforts in the flood affected areas and pledged to play her role enhancing relations between Pakistan and EU. The COAS thanked for the EU's support and reiterated that assistance from the global partners would be vital in rescue and rehabilitation of the victims.

Cross border firing martyrs soldier

FROM PAGE 01
The military condemned the use of Afghan soil against Pakistan and urged Kabul to take action which prevents such an incident from taking place again. Pakistan Army is determined to defend Pakistan's borders against the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve. It added that the military was resolute in its resolve to protect the borders of the country.

Imran mulls steps for economic recovery

FROM PAGE 01
The committee set up will also recommend measures to protect the poor and needy from the worst effects of the economy and help them. On this occasion, Imran Khan said that a good, stable and developing economy was brought to ruin by foreign conspiracy, while the country was subjected to political instability and a bunch of incompetent people was imposed without preparation, he added. The PTI Chairman went on to say that the hard work done to stable the economy was destroyed within weeks. The only way to get the country out of the mire of economic disaster is transparent and early elections, said the former premier.

PTI for rewriting political framework

FROM PAGE 01
Civil-Military relationship and power must be transferred to people of Pakistan. "I call upon political parties and establishment let's rewrite political framework and let's agree on rules of game," he added. Fawad Chaudhry urged that they needed to look up for fair rules, as the present system has failed Pakistan. Talking about PML-N decisions, he stated that the PML-N leadership have taken extremely apolitical and stupid decisions hitherto. He raised a questions, if elections were held six months ago, would it have been better for the PML-N or are they better today? He said that now they cannot eat burgers outside, fearing that the people would break into their houses after four months due to crippling economic situation of the country. About the media organizations, Fawad Chaudhry said that the media organizations, which remained tight-lipped over the worst media censorship in Pakistan, were making hue and cry over legitimate and valid criticism of their owners. He went on to say that such organizations were constituted in Pakistan at the behest of the media's owners with the sole purpose to protect the interest of the Seths. Fawad said that it was inevitable to fight against these mafias.

Palestinian Authority arrest raid sparks West Bank clashes

"The authority has positioned itself as an exclusive agent of occupation (Israel) in face of our Palestinian people," the statement said

AGENCIES

NABLUS: A rare operation by the Palestinian Authority security forces to arrest a Hamas member sparked clashes in the West Bank city of Nablus on Tuesday, killing one. A statement from the security forces confirmed the death of bystander Firas Yaish and said they were "waiting for a medical report," on the circumstances of his killing. He was killed "in a place where no security personnel were present," forces spokesman Talal Dweikat said in a statement. Unrest persisted through the morning, with hundreds of youths hurling rocks at PA armoured vehicles and the sound of gunfire ringing out across the city centre, AFP correspondents reported. Ahmed, 26, a protester who declined to give his family name citing personal security concerns, told AFP the protesters' anger was fuelled by "security coordination between the PA and the occupation (Israel)." "Go away Abu Mazen," he said, referring to Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.



"You are not the Palestinians but only one man - and a man who wants to fill his pocket with money," he said. Hamas, historic rivals of the Abbas's secular Fatah movement that controls the PA, condemned the arrest of 30-year-old Musaab Shtayeh, calling it a "kidnapping... a national crime" and a

"stain" on the PA's image. It demanded the immediate release of Shtayeh and Ameer Tbaileh, who was arrested with him, and blasted the PA for keeping up security coordination with Israel. "The authority has positioned itself as an exclusive agent of the occupation (Israel) in the face of our Pales-

tinian people," the statement said. While Abbas's forces maintain security ties with Israel, which has occupied the West Bank since 1967, PA raids targeting Hamas members are not common. Fatah and Hamas have made various reconciliation attempts in recent years but relations remain tense. Hamas has controlled Gaza since 2007, when it ousted PA forces from the coastal enclave in deadly street battles. The northern West Bank has suffered near daily violence in recent months. Israel has conducted dozens of night-time raids in the area, particularly in Jenin, pursuing wanted individuals. Dozens of Palestinians, including fighters, have been killed in the raids that began after a series of deadly attacks against Israeli targets in March. Israel has put mounting pressure on the PA to crack down on alleged militants in the West Bank. Last week, after two Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in clashes near Jenin, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said he would "not hesitate to act in any place that the Palestinian Authority does not maintain order."

ICC introduces certain changes in saliva, pitches rules

ISLAMABAD: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday announced certain changes in its playing conditions especially relating to the hybrid pitches and saliva being used to shine the ball.

The international cricketing body has allowed use of hybrid pitches for all Men's and Women's ODI and T20I matches and banned use of saliva permanently.

The Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) ratified recommendations from Sourav Ganguly-led Men's Cricket Committee, which

discussed MCC's updated 3rd Edition of the 2017 Code of the Laws of Cricket and shared its conclusions with Women's Cricket Committee, which endorsed the recommendations to CEC, said a press release.

The Playing Conditions that come into effect on October 1, allow the use of hybrid pitches for all Men's and Women's ODI and T20I, if agreed by both teams. Currently, hybrid pitches can only be used in Women's T20I matches. Meanwhile, the other changes to the Playing Con-

ditions that come into effect include- Batters returning when caught: When a batter is out Caught, the new batter will come in at the end of the striker was, regardless of whether the batters crossed prior to the catch being taken.

Use of saliva to polish the ball: This prohibition has been in place for over two years in international cricket as a COVID-related temporary measure and it is considered appropriate for the ban to be made permanent. Incoming batter ready to face the ball: An incom-

ing batter would now be required to be ready to take strike within two minutes in Tests and ODIs, while the current threshold of ninety seconds in T20Is remains unchanged.

Striker's right to play the ball: This was restricted so as to require some part of their bat or person to remain within the pitch. Should they venture beyond that, the umpire will call and signal Dead Ball. Any ball which would force the batter to leave the pitch will also be called No ball. - APP

Moeen prepares to lead in landmark series

KARACHI: It is fitting that Moeen Ali will lead England men's cricket team in their first match in Pakistan for 17 years. All-rounder Moeen, whose family originates from Pakistan, is captain in place of Jos Buttler, who will miss at least the early stages of the seven-match Twenty20 tour because of a calf injury. The series sees two of the most talented T20 teams face each other as they prepare for the upcoming World Cup. But this tour is about much more than runs and wickets. It promises to leave an important legacy for a younger generation of Pakistanis who have rarely seen their national side play at home since an attack on the Sri Lanka team by gunmen in 2009 and will not have seen England play there before. "It was meant to be," Moeen told BBC Sport before the first T20 in Karachi on

Tuesday. "It feels amazing that after such a long time the timing is right for me to lead England there. "I've played in Pakistan before but representing England for the first time there, that's special and amazing. I'm really excited and hopefully we can play some good cricket and entertain the crowd." No international cricket was played in Pakistan for six years after the 2009 attack, with the national team playing the majority of their home matches in the United Arab Emirates. Zimbabwe were the first team to return, for a one-day international series in 2015, before Pakistan hosted Sri Lanka in the first men's Test in the country for 12 years in 2019, while Australia played three Tests, three ODIs and one T20 there earlier this year. "Other teams have toured there already but when England go there, that's when cricket in Pakistan will really feel like it's back," said Moeen, 35. "It's really important because Pakistan have always been a really talented team but they need to play in front of their own crowds and their own kids so they can inspire the next generation coming through." - DNA

French FM urges Iran to accept nuclear deal

"We are repeatedly saying... there is no better offer for Iran," she said. "It's up to them to make a decision"

PARIS: France's foreign minister called Monday on Iran to accept a proposal to revive a nuclear deal, warning that it will not get anything better. At the start of the annual UN General Assembly in New York, Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna did not rule out that President Emmanuel Macron would meet his counterpart Ebrahim Raisi. "We'll see what this week brings," she told reporters. "The window of opportunity seems ready to close again." "We are repeatedly saying... there is no better offer for Iran," she said. "It's up to them to make a decision." Raisi, in an interview with CBS News' "60 Minutes," said he was open to a "good" deal but pressed for guarantees from President Joe Biden that the United States will not again leave the accord under a future leader - a promise that the US administration considers impossible. Former president Donald Trump pulled out of the 2015 deal under which Iran drastically scaled back nuclear work in return for promises of sanctions relief. The Biden administration says the deal remains the best way to restrict Iran's nuclear program but has been increasingly pessimistic that Tehran will agree to a compromise negotiated by European Union mediators. Separately, Colonna said she met Monday in New York with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. She said she urged him to allow a security zone around the Zaporizhia nuclear plant in Ukraine, whose occupation by Moscow has raised mounting concerns. Colonna also plans meetings with her counterparts from China, India and Australia, whose relationship with France was badly strained last year when it canceled a major submarine deal in favor of US nuclear models. - DNA

UK to announce \$2.63B military aid to Ukraine for 2023

"My message to the people of Ukraine is this: the UK will continue to be right behind you every step of the way. Your security is our security." The UK is already the second largest military donor to Ukraine, committing £2.3 bln in 2022, according to statement

DNA

LONDON: Britain's new Prime Minister Liz Truss will pledge to match or exceed £2.3 billion (\$2.63 billion) of military aid to Ukraine for the year 2023, a government statement said Tuesday. Truss will make the announcement at the UN General Assembly this week in New York, where she went following the state funeral for Queen Elizabeth II on Monday. Truss will "solidify the UK's commitment to Ukraine's security and territorial integrity, with the announce-

ment that the UK will match or exceed our record 2022 military support to Ukraine next year." "The Prime Minister will point to this success as evidence of what the Ukrainian people can do with the backing of fellow democracies," the statement said, adding that the world has "witnessed a significant moment in the war in Ukraine, with territory in the east of the country liberated by the Ukrainian Armed Forces," in the last 2 weeks. Truss said: "Ukraine's victories in recent weeks have been inspirational. Time and time again these brave

people have defied the doubters and showed what they can do when given the military, economic and political support they need. "My message to the people of Ukraine is this: the UK will continue to be right behind you every step of the way. Your security is our security." The UK is already the second largest military donor to Ukraine, committing £2.3 billion in 2022, according to the statement. "We have trained 27,000 members of the Ukrainian Armed Forces since 2015, and in the last year we have provided hundreds of rockets, five air defence

systems, 120 armoured vehicles and over 200,000 pieces of non-lethal military equipment." The statement added that the "precise nature of UK military support in 2023 will be determined based on the needs of the Armed Forces of Ukraine." "However, it is expected to include equipment like the Multiple Launch Rocket System, provided to Ukraine by the UK and others, which has been decisive in allowing Ukraine to re-gain over 3,000 square kilometres of territory in recent days." The statement said that

President Vladimir Putin is "using Russia's grip on European energy supplies to economically blackmail the people of Europe," as he "struggles to maintain his hold in eastern Ukraine." Truss will use her meetings with fellow leaders and CEOs in New York "to catalyse global efforts to stop Russia from profiting off its energy exports while ending energy dependence on authoritarian regimes."

referring to the closure of the main gas pipeline to Europe. She said that "too many lives in Ukraine, Europe and around the world are being manipulated by a dependence on Russian energy. We need to work together to end this once and for all." In her first week in office, the prime minister took "comprehensive action" to help the people of the UK struggling with the cost of living, the statement said, adding that efforts include the creation of a new energy supply task force to increase the global supply and reduce the price of gas.

Briefs

US court
overturns
Adnan Syed's
prison
sentence

WASHINGTON: A US judge on Monday overturned the murder conviction of Adnan Syed, who was convicted for the 1999 killing of his former girlfriend.

Baltimore Circuit Judge Melissa Phinn vacated the conviction of Syed, granted a new trial, and ordered his immediate release after 22 years in prison. Syed, now 41, was found guilty of murdering his ex-girlfriend Hae Min Lee and sentenced to life in prison plus 30 years. He had always maintained his innocence. The judge acknowledged that the state had failed to share exculpatory evidence – known as a Brady violation – that could have helped his defense at trial. "Judge Phinn's motion acknowledges that the State has proven that there was a Brady violation in Mr. Syed's case and that new evidence has come to light," Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City said in a statement, adding that Phinn placed Syed on home detention with GPS monitoring.

The state's attorney, Marilyn Mosby, added: "Justice has prevailed with the outcome of today's hearing. After a nearly year-long investigation reviewing the facts of this case, my team successfully argued that Mr. Syed deserves a new trial where he can be adequately represented and the latest evidence can be presented." Prosecutors have 30 days to schedule a new trial or drop the murder charge.—APP

1st meteoroid
impacts
on Mars
detected

NEW YORK: NASA's In-Sight lander has detected seismic waves from four space rocks that crashed on Mars in 2020 and 2021, representing the first impacts detected by the spacecraft's seismometer since it touched down on the Red Planet in 2018.

In a statement, NASA said it was the first time seismic and acoustic waves from an impact were detected on Mars. A new paper published Monday in Nature Geoscience details the impacts, which ranged between 53 and 180 miles (85 and 290 kilometers) from InSight's location, a region of Mars called Elysium Planitia. The first of the four confirmed meteoroids – the term used for space rocks before they hit the ground – made the most dramatic entrance: It entered Mars' atmosphere on Sept. 5, 2021, exploding into at least three shards that each left a crater behind.

"After three years of InSight waiting to detect an impact, those craters looked beautiful," said Ingrid Daubar of Brown University, a co-author of the paper and a specialist in Mars impacts. Seismic data offers various clues that will help researchers better understand Mars. Most marsquakes (quakes on Mars) are caused by subsurface rocks cracking from heat and pressure, according to the US agency for space exploration.—APP

Russia to
suspend
Power of
Siberia gas
pipeline

MOSCOW: Russian energy giant Gazprom will temporarily suspend gas flow through the Power of Siberia pipeline that carries Russian gas to China due to "planned maintenance work," Gazprom announced Tuesday. Deliveries through the pipeline will be halted for eight days between Sept. 22 and Sept. 29. "In accordance with the Gas Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Eastern Route between Gazprom and the Chinese company CNPC, preventive maintenance of equipment and systems of the Power of Siberia gas pipeline is carried out twice a year: in spring and autumn," Gazprom explained. Gazprom began gas supplies to China via the Power of Siberia gas pipeline in 2019 as part of a 30-year contract.—APP

Alvi for further cementing
bilateral ties with Turkiye

Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Turkiye which are described by expressions as 'heart to heart' and 'two countries as one nation'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday called for further cementing brotherly relations between Pakistan and Turkiye by bringing the trade volume at par with the excellent bilateral ties. president said this while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Turkiye, Dr Yousaf Junaid, who called on him, at Awan-e-Sadr. He congratulated the Ambassador-designate on his appointment and said that Pakistan remained committed to furthering bilateral trade and investment ties with Turkiye. He recalled that signing of the Trade in Goods Agreement would pave the way for achieving the bilateral trade target of US\$ 5 billion in the medium term. He acknowledged

the support of Turkiye to Pakistan's efforts in countering Islamophobia in the world, especially in India, where Muslims were being intimidated and harassed on daily basis.

He also expressed his gratitude for Turkiye's support to Pakistan on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and asked the Ambassador-designate to convey the sentiments to the Turkish side. The president assured the ambassador-designate that Pakistan remained committed to supporting Turkiye on its core issues. Pakistan enjoys excellent relations with Turkiye which are described by expressions as 'heart to heart' and 'two countries as one nation'. In total, over 190 Agreements/MoUs have been signed between the two sides since the establishment of relations.

Hungary's anti-graft measures
to get blocked EU funds

EU would have to decide on the commission proposal via a qualified majority vote, which requires 15 of the 27 countries representing a total of at least 65 percent of the bloc's population

AGENCIES

BUDAPEST: The government of Hungarian nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban is proposing a raft of anti-graft measures to unlock billions of euros in blocked EU funds as the country confronts an economic downturn. The government tabled amendments in parliament on Monday with more to follow on Friday for a total of 17 key changes, which are expected to be waved through. The measures aim to create independent anti-corruption watchdogs to monitor the use of EU funds and make the legislative process more transparent. They follow a proposal on Sunday by the European Union's executive arm to suspend 7.5 billion euros (\$7.5 billion) in financing for Hungary. The proposed suspension is over concerns that Orban, who has ruled Hungary since 2010, is undercutting the rule of law and using EU money to enrich cronies. On Thursday, the European Parliament declared that Hungary was no longer a "full democracy" – a symbolic vote that infuriated Budapest. Miklos Ligeti, head of legal affairs at

the NGO Transparency International Hungary, said under Orban checks and balances had been dismantled and "a highly dysfunctional rules system" put in place. "There is no way of getting rid of the systemic corruption just by changing some laws," he told AFP, adding "not much can be achieved".

Transparency International ranks Hungary as the second lowest in the EU in its corruption perception index. "Orban cannot really afford professional anti-corruption scrutiny as too many relatives and personal friends are involved," said Peter Akos Bod, a professor at the Corvinus University of Budapest. While the European Commission is "under pressure" to get Hungary to reform, it "does not have many tools at its disposal," said Eulalia Rubio, a senior research fellow at the Paris-based Jacques Delors Institute. The final decision on the commission's proposal to suspend funds will be taken by EU states within three months. "The European Union does not want to take a decision that will have an impact on the population," Rubio told AFP. It also does not want to alienate Hungary as Budapest "can harm other negotiations", she added, such as re-

jecting more sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

The EU would have to decide on the commission proposal via a qualified majority vote, which requires 15 of the 27 countries representing a total of at least 65 percent of the bloc's population. Poland – another eastern EU member accused of flouting the rule of law – said it would fully oppose any measure depriving Hungary of the funds. As the rest of Europe, Hungary's economy has been hard hit by ripple effects from the Ukraine war, with a weakening currency and fast-rising inflation. The central European nation of 10 million people depends heavily on EU funds, according to experts. Akos Bod, who was a central bank governor in the 1990s, said the funds were "badly needed", with Hungary risking to have its credit rating downgraded. "A downgrade may provoke capital flight and certainly further depreciation of the Hungarian forint," he told AFP. Opposition politicians have painted a dark picture. "The country is starting to shut down due to lack of money," European Parliament member Anna Julia Donath said in a social media post.

UN 'alarmed' at
Tehran's response
after woman's death

NEWS DESK

GENEVA: The UN Human Rights Office on Tuesday expressed "alarm" at the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young woman detained under Iran's so-called "morality police" enforcing strict hijab rules. UN Human Rights Office spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani quoted at a press conference Nada Al-Nashif, acting UN high commissioner for human rights, on Amini's death and "the violent response by security forces to ensuing protests." "She (Amini) fell into a coma shortly after collapsing at Vozara Detention Centre. Amini, who also goes by the Kurdish name Jhina, died three days later," said Shamdasani. Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian woman from the Kurdish minority, was with her brother in Tehran when she was arrested on Sept. 13 for what was perceived to be "improper" wearing of her hijab. "There are reports Amini was beaten on the head with a baton, and her head was banged against the vehicle by the so-called morality police. Authorities have stated she died of natural causes," the

UN official said. Al-Nashif said that Amini's death and allegations of torture and ill-treatment must be promptly, impartially, and effectively investigated by an independent competent authority. Iranian authorities must ensure, in particular, that Amini's family has access to "justice and truth," she urged. Al-Nashif said the compulsory veiling laws remain of concern in Iran, where appearing in public without a hijab is punishable by imprisonment. Shamdasani said that in recent months, the morality police have expanded street patrols, subjecting women perceived to be wearing "loose hijab" to verbal and physical harassment and arrest. The UN Human Rights Office has received "numerous, and verified, videos of violent treatment of women, including slapping women across the face, beating them with batons and throwing them into police vans," she added. "The authorities must stop targeting, harassing, and detaining women who do not abide by the hijab rules." The UN rights office called for the repeal of all discriminatory laws.

Kyrgyzstan,
Tajikistan
sign protocol
to end border
clashes

ANKARA: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have signed a protocol to end border clashes that claimed scores of lives, Kyrgyz media reported on Tuesday. In line with earlier agreements on cease-fire and de-escalation, the deal signed late Monday envisions total termination of hostilities, withdrawal of troops and military equipment to their permanent duty stations, joint inspection of border outposts and command posts, and a thorough investigation of the armed clashes, according to AKIpress news agency.

The protocol was signed by Kyrgyzstan National Security Committee chairman Kamchibek Tashiev and his Tajik counterpart Saimumin Yatimov. Clashes broke out at a disputed section of the border in Kyrgyzstan's Batken region on Sept. 14, with the two sides later agreeing to a cease-fire. But both sides accused each other of breaching the truce, and a state of emergency was declared in the region.

As the country observed a national day of mourning, Kyrgyzstan's President Sadyr Japarov in a televised address on Monday said efforts continued to resolve the border issues peacefully. Last week, Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon and Kyrgyzstan's Japarov met at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan and agreed to resolve the conflict via diplomacy.—APP

8 more grain
ships leave
Ukrainian
ports

ANKARA: Eight more ships have left Ukrainian ports under the landmark Istanbul grain export deal, the Turkish National Defense Ministry said on Tuesday. A ministry statement, which did not disclose the ships' points of departure or destinations, said the shipments from Ukrainian ports are continuing as planned.

Turkiye, 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 in February. A Joint Coordination Center with officials from the three countries and the UN was set up in Istanbul to oversee the shipments. Since the first vessel sailed under the deal on Aug. 1, more than 150 ships have carried over 3 million tons of agricultural products from Ukraine.—APP

Floods in
Nigeria
displace more
than 100,000
people

ABUJA: More than 100,000 people have been displaced in Nigeria due to floods triggered by torrential rains. Speaking to reporters, Mustapha Habib Ahmed, the director general of the National Emergency Management Agency, said Monday that many residents are going through a difficult period.

More than 300 people have been killed due to the floods and over 100,000 have been left homeless in 29 states as well as the capital Abuja, Ahmed said. At least 500 people have been injured and more than 500,000 have been adversely affected by the disaster, he added. Some of the flood victims have temporarily taken shelter in schools and public buildings in the surrounding area, he said, adding the government has set up temporary camps for some of them. Efforts have been launched to deliver humanitarian aid to the public, he said, noting that infectious diseases such as cholera and malaria have also emerged due to the floods. Climate change and environmental experts have warned that 53 million people in the country are at risk from flooding.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Neak Oknha Sear Rithy, Chairman & Board Of Directors, World Bridge Group of Companies, of Cambodia interacting with Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi and Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir at a reception.

UN chief warns that world is in 'great peril'

NEW YORK: Warning that the world is in "great peril," the head of the United Nations says leaders meeting in person for the first time in three years must tackle conflicts and climate catastrophes, increasing poverty and inequality – and address divisions among major powers that have gotten worse since Russia invaded Ukraine.

In speeches and remarks leading up to the start of the leaders' meeting Tuesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres cited the "immense" task not only of saving the planet, "which is literally on fire," but of dealing with the persisting Covid-19 pandemic. He also pointed to "a lack of access to finance for developing countries to recover – a crisis not seen in a generation" that has seen ground lost for education, health and women's rights.

Guterres will deliver his "state of the world" speech at Tuesday's opening of the annual high-level global gathering. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said it would be "a sober, substantive and solutions-focused report card" for a world "where geopolitical divides are putting all of us at risk."

"There will be no sugar-coating in his remarks, but he will outline reasons for hope," Dujarric told reporters Monday. The 77th General Assembly meeting of world leaders convenes under the shadow of Europe's first major war since World War II – the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, which has unleashed a global food crisis and opened fissures among major powers in a way not seen since the Cold War. Yet nearly 150 heads of state and government are on the latest speakers' list. That's a sign that despite the fragmented state of the planet, the United Nations remains the key gathering place for presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers to not only deliver their views but to meet privately to discuss the challenges on the global agenda – and

hopefully make some progress.

At the top of that agenda for many: Russia's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, which not only threatens the sovereignty of its smaller neighbor but has raised fears of a nuclear catastrophe at Europe's largest nuclear plant in the country's now Russia-occupied southeast.

Leaders in many countries are trying to prevent a wider war and restore peace in Europe. Diplomats, though, aren't expecting any breakthroughs this week.

The loss of important grain and fertilizer exports from Ukraine and Russia has triggered a food crisis, especially in developing countries, and inflation and a rising cost of living in many others. Those issues are high on the agenda. At a meeting Monday to promote U.N. goals for 2030 – including ending extreme poverty, ensuring quality education for all children and achieving gender equality – Guterres said the world's many pressing perils make it "tempting to put our long-term development priorities to one side."



But the U.N. chief said some things can't wait – among them education, dignified jobs, full equality for women and girls, comprehensive health care and action to tackle the climate crisis. He called for public and private finance and investment, and above all for peace.

The death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and her funeral in London on Monday, which many world leaders attended, have created last-minute headaches for the high-level meeting. Diplomats and U.N. staff have scrambled to deal with changes in travel plans, the timing of events and the logistically intricate speaking schedule for world leaders. Daily newsletterReceive essential international news every morning Subscribe

The global gathering, known as the General Debate, was entirely virtual in 2020 because of the pandemic, and hybrid in 2021. This year, the 193-member General Assembly returns to only in-person sessions, with a single exception – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Over objections from Russia and a few allies, the assembly voted last Friday to allow the Ukrainian leader to pre-record his speech because of reasons beyond his control – the "ongoing foreign invasion" and military hostilities that require him to carry out his "national defense and security duties."

By tradition, Brazil has spoken first for over seven decades because, at the early General Assembly sessions, it volunteered to start when no other country did. The U.S. president, representing the host country for the United Nations, is traditionally the second speaker. But Joe Biden is attending the queen's funeral, and his speech has been pushed to Wednesday morning. Senegalese President Macky Sall is expected to take Biden's slot.—APP

Briefs

NATO not at war with Russia: Top official

DNA

BRUSSELS: NATO is not waging war against Russia even as it supports Ukraine with large quantities of weapons to help its fight against Moscow, the chair of the NATO Military Committee Robert Bauer said on Tuesday. During an interview with Estonian public broadcaster ERR, Bauer was asked whether the massive aid packages that Ukraine receives from NATO mean that the alliance is "at least partially" at war with Russia. Bauer, however, dismissed the notion.

"NATO is not at war with Russia. I have to state this very clearly," he said, but added that this would be the case if Moscow attacked one of the bloc's own members. Bauer said the alliance is trying to make that "as clear as possible" to Russia, "that we would defend every inch of our ally's territory" in such a scenario. "Then [in case of an attack] there will be a conflict between Russia and NATO. But until then, NATO is not at war with Russia," he stressed. In Bauer's view, while it is up to Kiev to decide how the conflict should end, one of NATO's principal goals should be to protect Ukraine's sovereignty. In the short-term, the objective, he argued, should be for the borders to return to what they were on February 24, the date when Moscow began its offensive.

Since the beginning of Russia's military operation in Ukraine, NATO countries have been supplying Ukraine with massive quantities of military hardware as well as financial aid. NATO's support has been ongoing since 2014, however, with the bloc sending military aid and equipment to prepare it for such a conflict, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said in March. Moscow has repeatedly urged the US and other Western nations to stop "pumping" Ukraine with weapons and other military hardware.

FIA summons Shaukat Tarin, Jhagra

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday summoned former finance minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shaukat Tarin and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Minister for Finance Taimur Khan Jhagra in audio leak case tomorrow. An audio of a telephonic conversation between Tarin and Jhagra had gone viral not long ago in which the former could be heard telling the latter to write a letter to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) against the government of Pakistan ahead of the country's deal with the international money lending organisation. The coalition government tried to portray it as an effort by the PTI to scuttle the expected agreement with the Fund, which was round the corner in those days.

CONSTITUTION AND NATIONAL DAY OF NEPAL



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Khurram Dastgir Federal Minister for Power, Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari, Vice Admiral Mohan Wijewickrama High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Ms. Farzana Zahir High Commissioner of Maldives, Mr. Ruhul Alam Siddique BANGLADESH High Commissioner, Dr. Suresh Kumar Charge D Affaires of the Indian High Commission, SAPM Faisal Karim Kundi, Sahibzada Ammad Malik cutting cake to celebrate Constitution and National Day of Nepal. – DNA

Joint probe finds Abu Akleh's killing 'deliberate'

The probe examined the Israeli sniper's precise angle of fire, and concluded that the sniper was able to clearly tell that there were journalists in the area

NEWS DESK

LONDON: A joint investigation by a London-based multidisciplinary research group and a Palestinian rights group has uncovered further evidence that refutes Israel's account that the killing of veteran Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was a mistake. Forensic Architecture and Al-Haq said that Abu Akleh's killing was deliberate.

Abu Akleh, who was with Al Jazeera for 25 years and known as the "voice of Palestine", was shot in the head and killed by Israeli forces on May 11 while she was covering an army raid in the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank. The probe examined the Israeli sniper's precise angle of fire, and concluded that the sniper was able to clearly tell that there were journalists in the area. It also ruled out the possibility of confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Jenin at the time of the attack. According to the investigation, for which Al Jazeera provided mate-



rial, the Israeli sniper shot for two minutes, and deliberately targeted those who tried to rescue Abu Akleh. The sniper shot three times, releasing six bullets the first time, then after eight seconds, seven more. One of these bullets was the one that killed Abu Akleh, hitting her just under her helmet.

Two minutes later, the sniper shot three more bullets, to stop efforts to rescue her. The findings come on the same day that Abu Akleh's family formally submitted an official complaint to the International Criminal Court (ICC), demanding justice for her killing. Her brother Anton said the family

would do whatever it takes to ensure accountability for her killing.

"Like we said before, and like other reports said previously, there were more than 16 shots fired towards Shireen and the media and her colleagues who were standing in that ally," he told Al Jazeera. "They even targeted the person who was trying to pull her into safety after she was shot down." The complaint is supported by the Palestinian Press Syndicate and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ).

Earlier this month, Israel said that there was a "high possibility" that its forces had killed Abu Akleh, but said it would not be launching a criminal investigation. Multiple investigations carried out by the United Nations, Israeli and Palestinian human rights organisations, and leading news outlets have concluded that Abu Akleh was killed by an Israeli soldier.

State responsible for recovery of missing persons: Rana

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Admitting that the recovery of missing persons was the responsibility of the state, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Tuesday that the government would make all possible efforts so that these persons could be reunited with their families.

Addressing a press conference along with the leaders of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) at the latter's headquarters in Bahadurabad, Karachi, he said he knew that each and every second was extremely painful for the family members of these persons. "All my prayers and sympathies are with them, and I will meet them to listen to their grievances," he added. Speaking on the occasion, MQM-P Convenor Khalid Maqbool Siddique said whisking away people was a crime.

Angelina Jolie interacts with flood victims

DNA

DADU: International humanitarian and Hollywood actor Angelina Jolie is visiting Dadu District in Sindh, which is one of the worst-affected areas due to the heavy flooding, to interact with the victims. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said that Jolie was visiting Pakistan to support communities affected by the devastating floods. Heavy rains and floods across the country have killed over 1,500 people, impacted 33 million, and submerged one-third of the country under water. Jolie is visiting to witness and gain an understanding of the situation and to hear from people directly affected by the floods.

11 children killed in Myanmar air strike: UNICEF

YANGON: At least 11 schoolchildren died in an air strike and firing on a Myanmar village, the UN children's agency said, an attack the country's junta said targeted rebels hiding in the area. Myanmar has been in chaos since the military seized power in a coup in February last year, with nearly 2,300 civilians killed in a crackdown on dissent according to a local monitoring group. The Sagaing region in the country's northwest has seen some of the fiercest fighting, and amid clashes between anti-coup fighters and the military, entire villages have been burned down. The UN children's agency UNICEF condemned Friday's incident in Depeyin township in Sagaing. "On 16 September, at least 11 children died in an air strike and indiscriminate fire in civilian areas," UNICEF said in a statement issued Monday. It said schools must be safe and never targeted. "At least 15 children from the same school are still missing," UNICEF said, calling for their immediate safe release. Video footage obtained from a local community group shows a classroom with blood on the floor, damage to the roof and a mother crying over her son's dead body.

The junta confirmed they had sent troops in helicopters to the village after receiving a tip-off that fighters from the Kachin Independence Army – an ethnic rebel group – and from a local anti-coup militia were moving weapons in the area. The military accused the rebel fighters of using civilians as human shields, and said it had seized mines and explosives from the village. Save the Children Asia Regional Director Hassan Noor expressed condolences to the families and said schools should be off limits and the safety of students protected. – DNA

Russia triggers plan to formally annex occupied regions

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Two Russian-controlled regions in eastern Ukraine announced plans to hold referendums on joining Russia later this week and an ally of President Vladimir Putin said the votes would alter the geopolitical landscape in Moscow's favour forever.

The move, which seriously escalates Moscow's standoff with the West, comes after Russia suffered a battlefield reversal in northeast Ukraine and as Putin ponders his next steps in a nearly seven-month-old conflict that has caused the most serious East-West rift since

the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. The Russian-backed, self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and the neighbouring Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) said the planned referendums would be held from September 23-27.

In a post on social media addressed to Putin, DPR head Denis Pushilin wrote: "I ask you, as soon as possible, in the event of a positive decision in the referendum – which we have no doubt about – to consider the DPR becoming a part of Russia."

Earlier on Tuesday, Russian-installed officials in the southern Kherson region, where Moscow's forces control around 95 per cent of the territory,

said they had also decided to hold a referendum. Pro-Russian authorities in part of Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region were expected to follow suit.

Ukraine and the United States have said such referendums would be an illegal sham and have made clear that they and many other countries would not recognise the results. Dmitry Medvedev, a former president who is currently deputy chairman of the Security Council, suggested before the announcements that the outcome of such votes would be irreversible and give Moscow – which has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world – carte blanche to defend what it would regard as legally its own territory.

Russia ready to supply petrol on deferred payments

ISLAMABAD: Russia is ready to provide Pakistan with gasoline on a delayed payment basis, media reported on Tuesday. This major development comes after last week's meetings of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit. Matters regarding oil, gas and wheat supplies to

Pakistan from Moscow were discussed during the three meetings. The report added that the US has also not opposed the proposed deal openly amid Pakistan's severe economic crisis caused by deadly floods. Addressing a press conference on September 18, Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif revealed that Russia proposed that its gas pipeline infrastructure which was in place till

Central Asian states could be extended to Pakistan through Afghanistan. The two leaders also expressed commitment to expand bilateral cooperation between their countries in all areas of mutual benefit, Khawaja Asif said. On September 15, Russian President Vladimir Putin told PM Shehbaz Sharif that the installation of a pipeline for the supply of gas to Pakistan from Moscow is possible. President Putin also expressed solidarity and support for the flood-hit population in Pakistan after he was informed about the devastating impact of the climate-induced calamity. – DNA

Britain looks to future after queen's funeral

LONDON: Flags on government buildings returned to full mast and an epic clean-up operation was underway on Tuesday as British public life resumed after the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, although the royal family remains in mourning for another week. Around a quarter of a million people queued round the clock to view the queen's coffin as it lay in state in the days leading up to the funeral, the UK government said. Liz Truss, appointed prime minister by the queen just two days before she died on September 8, flew to the UN General Assembly hours after delivering a biblical reading at the lavish funeral. En route to New York, Truss praised the "huge outpouring of love

and affection" shown towards the late monarch, as well as the "huge amount of warmth towards" her successor, King Charles III. Charles, 73, and his family will remain in mourning for another seven days. That means no official engagements after he spent an exhausting week touring his new kingdom and attending to the ornate pageantry of a role that he has spent a lifetime preparing to take on. The royal Twitter account published a picture of the queen hiking in 1971 at her Scottish retreat of Balmoral, where she died at the age of 96 as Britain's longest-reigning monarch. The photograph was accompanied with the words: "May flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest. In loving memory of Her Majesty The Queen."

The quotation is from the tragic conclusion of Shakespeare's play "Hamlet", and was also used by Charles in his first national broadcast as king the day after his mother passed away. Britain's National Grid said there was a drop-off of two gigawatts in usage on the UK power network – the equivalent of 200 million lightbulbs being switched off – from 10:30 am to 11:00 am (0930 to 1000 GMT) on Monday. "This was because people were stopping their usual activities in time for the funeral," a spokesman told AFP. Following a public holiday for the funeral, business life was resuming, and workers were busy clearing up the debris left by the estimated million-plus people who lined the streets of London on Monday. – APP

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